

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Registration Required for Foreign Food Product Exporters – Update

Report Categories:

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and
Standards - Certification

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Report Highlights:

On October 1st, new registration requirements for exporters and importers of food products to China will go into effect. This report is intended to provide supplemental information to the original GAIN report published June 29, 2012 announcing this new Measure.

General Information

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Initial Registration

Who must register?

Exporters and importers of food categories listed in Appendix 1 of the Notice (http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn/zwgk/jlgg/zjgg/2011_1/201205/t20120523_218426.htm) are subject to the filing requirements. Products not listed in the categories, such as food additives, some grains, some oil seeds, fruit and live animals are exempt but still must comply with relevant existing rules.

What information is needed for registration?

The Application Form for Food Exporter/Agent Registration can be found at (http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn/zwgk/jlgg/zjgg/2011_1/201205/t20120523_218426.htm) and lists all the information needed to complete the registration application.

In Section 3, regarding information of Chinese trading partners, exporters need only provide information for Chinese trading partners with whom they currently have outstanding contracts. For those partners with whom contracts have completed, the exporter does not need to provide importer information.

In Section 4, “Letter of Commitment”, the word “Contractor” is causing some confusion. Our understanding is that this term refers to the “foreign exporter”, or the “person who is filling the form”.

When Do I Need to Register?

Only exporters who have a contract with an importer to export products to China listed in the Registration Application Form, Section 2 –Food Category of Products - need register with AQSIQ through the system. As it may only take a few working days for the application review and approval, an exporter does not need to register with the system very early.

Where Shall I Register?

The Registration Form is found at <http://ire.eciq.cn>. Foreign exporters will click the Login link under “Filing Management System for Imported Food Exporters or Agents Overseas,” then click “Initial Registration” to begin. The exporter application is bi-lingual (Chinese and English), while the importer filing system is only in Chinese.

Who Reviews the Registration Applications?

CIQs (AQSIQ’s local agencies) are responsible for accepting filing applications by foreign exporters and Chinese importers.

How long will it take to get registered?

After accepting applications and materials, CIQ will complete its review within five working days.

What is the registration serial number for?

The registration serial number can be used to add new importer information, and most importantly, is information the importer can use to facilitate cargo inspection/quarantine by CIQ at the ports. Labels do not need the registration number.

Where can I find the list of registered exporters and importers?

Our understanding is that AQSIQ will periodically publish a list of registered exporters and importers (containing names and country/regions) on its website.

Modifications to Registration

What should I do if I have a new importer in China?

Each time an exporter with a registration number has a contract to export relevant products to China with a new importer, that exporter should add this new information to the system.

Can I delete information of an importer which whom I no longer do business?

AQSIQ prefers the system retain all importer information for traceability purposes.

If a foreign exporter has a registration serial number, and completes a contract with a Chinese importer who already has a registration serial number, does the exporter need to add the importer information to its registration information?

An exporter should add this importer information to its registration before shipping products. If the exporter and importer files do not connect, this may cause clearance delays. Inspection officials will decide on the frequency of sampling for compliance purposes.

Our company exports fresh fruit, shall we register?

Fresh fruit shippers do not need to register with AQSIQ. Only products listed in Section 2-Food Category of Operation- of the Application Form of Food Exporter/Agent are subject to the registration requirements. Exporters of products not listed in the section do not need to register.

For full text of the No.55 Public Notice - Registration Required for Foreign Food Product Exporters, please follow the link:

http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn/zwgk/jlgg/zjgg/2011_1/201205/t20120523_218426.htm

For full test of the GAIN report about the No.55 Public Notice in English, please follow the link:

http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Registration%20Required%20for%20Foreign%20Food%20Product%20Exporters_Beijing_China%20-%20Peoples%20Republic%20of_6-29-2012.pdf