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**Report Name:** WTO Notified Measures for Plant Propagation Materials

**Country:** China - People's Republic of

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**Report Highlights:**

On August 7, 2023, the People's Republic of China (PRC) notified Measures for the Quarantine Administration of Imported Plant Propagation Materials (Revised Version) to the World Trade Organization (WTO) under G/SPS/N/CHN/1282. This report provides a translation of the notified measures and a comparison with the current version. Comments may be submitted to the PRC SPS National Notification and Enquiry Center at [sps@customs.gov.cn](mailto:sps@customs.gov.cn) until October 6, 2023.

## Summary:

On August 7, 2023, the PRC notified [Measures for the Quarantine Administration of Imported Plant Propagation Materials \(Revised Version\)](#) to the WTO under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1282](#). According to the notification, “Based on the actual situation of quarantine supervision work in recent years, the management measures have made further detailed regulations on the quarantine approval of imported plant propagation materials, port quarantine, post-entry quarantine and other related matters, but no new requirements have been put forward for overseas related parties.”

The current Administration Measures came into effect on January 1, 2000, and minor amendments were made in 2018 through the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) [Decree 238](#) and [Decree 240](#). According to the PRC [interpretation](#) (link in Chinese) on the Measures, one of the key reasons for updating the measures is to align requirements with the Biosafety Law with regards to designated ports of entry and risk assessment.

Notable changes in the notified measures include:

- (1) Clarifies that imported plant propagation materials should enter through designated ports, which is an effective measure to implement the relevant provisions of the Biosafety Law of the People's Republic of China and prevent quarantine pests from being introduced into China along with imported plant propagation materials. (Article 8 of revised version)
- (2) Requirements such as advance declaration and acceptance letter are cancelled to simplify procedure. (Article 8, 10, and 15 of current version)
- (3) Clarifies the responsibilities for supervision and management of isolated quarantine of imported plant propagation materials. (Article 8, 10, 19, 20 and 21 of current version)
- (4) Integrated the relevant content in the "Measures for the Management of Isolated Quarantine Gardens of Imported Plant Propagating Materials". After the issuance of these measures, the "Management Measures for Isolation and Quarantine Gardens of Imported Plant Propagating Materials" will be abolished.

This report provides an unofficial translated of the notified measures and the current version of the measures in a comparison table format.

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Current Version	Revised Version
<b>Chapter 1 General Provisions</b>	<b>Chapter 1 General Provisions</b>
<p><b>Article 1</b> In order to prevent dangerous plant pests from being introduced into China along with imported plant propagation materials and protect the safety of agricultural and forestry production in China, these Measures are formulated in accordance with the provisions of the "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine " and its implementation regulations and other relevant laws and regulations, Formulate these measures.</p>	<p><b>Article 1</b> In order to prevent quarantine pests and other dangerous biological factors from being introduced into China along with imported plant propagation materials and protect China's biosecurity, ecological security and agricultural and forestry production safety, these Measures are formulated in accordance with the "Biosecurity Law of the People's Republic of China", the " Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and its implementing regulations, and the Plant Quarantine Regulations and other relevant laws and regulations.</p>
<p><b>Article 2</b> These Measures apply to the quarantine management of trade and non-trade imported plant propagation materials through various means (including trade, production, processing of supplied materials, propagation on behalf of others, scientific research, exchange, exhibition, aid, gifts, and imported plant propagation materials for public or personal use by foreign institutions and personnel enjoying diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities)</p>	<p><b>Article 2</b> These Measures apply to the quarantine management of plant propagation materials entering the country through trade channels (including propagation materials entering special customs supervision areas and bonded supervision sites) and non-trade channels.</p>
<p><b>Article 3</b> The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) shall uniformly manage the quarantine work of imported plant propagation materials across the country, and the competent customs shall be responsible for the quarantine, supervision and management of imported plant propagation materials in the areas under its jurisdiction.</p>	<p><b>Article 3</b> The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) shall be responsible for the supervision and administration of port quarantine of imported plant propagation materials and the isolation and quarantine of imported plant propagation materials subject to special quarantine permit.. Each customs office is responsible for the port quarantine of imported plant propagation materials within its</p>

	jurisdiction and the isolation and quarantine of imported plant propagation materials subject to special quarantine approval
<p><b>Article 4</b> The term “plant propagation materials” as mentioned in these Measures is a general term for plant seeds, seedlings and other propagation materials, and refers to the whole or part of cultivated or wild plants that can be propagated, such as plants, seedlings (including test tube seedlings), fruits, seeds, rootstocks, scions, cuttings, leaves, buds, roots, tubers, bulbs, corms, pollen, cell culture materials (including genetically modified plants), etc.</p>	<p><b>Article 4 (please refer to Article 6 (1) on the left)</b> GACC is responsible for the special quarantine approval of prohibited plant propagation materials imported from abroad for scientific research and other needs.</p> <p>Quarantine approval for imported plant propagation materials other than those requiring special quarantine approval shall be responsible by the authorities specified in the Plant Quarantine Regulations.</p>
<p><b>Article 5</b> The quarantine management of imported plant propagation materials is based on pest risk assessment, and risk-level management is implemented according to the level of quarantine risks.</p> <p>GACC is responsible for the risk assessment of various types of imported plant propagation materials and publishes the results.</p>	<p><b>Article 5</b> GACC shall implement risk management on imported plant propagation materials based on risk assessment.</p>
	<p><b>Article 6 (newly added)</b> Imported plant propagation materials shall not contain dangerous biological factors such as quarantine pests, nor shall they contain soil.</p>
	<p><b>Article 7 (please refer to Article 9 on the left)</b> As necessary, GACC shall conduct quarantine registration on overseas plant propagation material planting farms (nurseries) that export plant propagation materials to China. If necessary, with the consent of the official plant quarantine department of the exporting country (or region), it may send quarantine personnel to conduct pre-inspection or epidemic investigation at the place of production.</p>

	<p><b>Article 8 (please refer to Article 7 on the left)</b> Imported plant propagation materials shall enter the country through ports designated by the customs, and designated ports shall set up designated supervision sites for imported plant seedlings. The designated ports for imported plant propagation materials and the conditions for setting up designated supervision sites for imported plant seedlings shall be formulated and announced by GACC.</p>
<p><b>Chapter 2 Quarantine Approval</b></p>	<p><b>Chapter 2 Quarantine Approval</b></p>
<p><b>Article 6</b> When importing plant propagation materials, quarantine approval procedures must be completed in advance, and the quarantine requirements imposed by quarantine approval must be stated in the trade contract. The quarantine approval of imported plant propagation materials shall be handled by the corresponding departments according to the following different situations:</p> <p>(1) If plant propagation materials that are prohibited from entering the country need to be introduced from abroad due to special reasons such as scientific research and teaching, the introduction unit, individual or their agent must apply to GACC for special quarantine approval procedures in accordance with relevant regulations.</p> <p>(2) When introducing plant propagation materials that are not prohibited from entering the country, the introducing units, individuals or their agents must apply for foreign introduction quarantine approval to the agricultural or forestry administrative department of the State Council and the agricultural (forestry) departments (bureaus) of all provinces,</p>	<p><b>Article 9 (please refer to Article 6 on the left)</b> The introduction unit or its agent that imports plant propagation materials must go through the quarantine approval procedures in advance, and specify the quarantine requirements imposed by the quarantine approval in the trade contract.</p>

<p>autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government in accordance with relevant regulations.</p> <p>(3) When carrying or mailing plant propagation materials into the country, if it is impossible to go through the quarantine approval procedures in advance due to special reasons, the carrier or mailer shall apply to the customs directly under GACC in the jurisdiction of the port of entry.</p> <p>(4) If plant propagation materials with soil or growth medium are introduced for special reasons, the introduction unit, individual or their agent must apply to GACC for the special quarantine approval of imported soil and growth medium.</p>	
<p><b>Article 7</b> When going through the quarantine approval procedures, GACC shall put forward quarantine requirements and designate the port of entry based on the plant epidemic situation of the origin of the approved items, their purpose after entry, and the mode of use. The port of entry or the customs directly under GACC in jurisdiction of the place where the approved items are quarantined shall check the epidemic prevention measures and conditions of the storage, use or quarantine place, and conduct quarantine according to relevant quarantine requirements.</p>	<p><b>Article 10 (please refer to Article 6 (1) on the left)</b> If plant propagation materials that are prohibited from entry are introduced from abroad for special needs such as scientific research, the introduction unit or its agent must apply to the customs directly under GACC in the jurisdiction of the location where the isolation and quarantine site is located to handle special quarantine approval procedures.</p> <p>The introduction unit or its agent must provide written materials such as the quantity, purpose, and method of introduction, biosafety and ecological safety risk self-assessment report of plant propagation materials, isolation and quarantine plan and epidemic prevention measures after entry, and project approval documents from relevant competent authorities.</p>
<p><b>Article 8</b> The introducing units, individuals or their agents shall obtain the "Entry Animal and Plant Quarantine</p>	<p><b>Article 11 (please refer to Article 7 on the left)</b> The customs directly under GACC in the jurisdiction of the place</p>

<p>Permit" or the "Introduced Seeds and Seedlings Quarantine Approval Form" before the plant propagation materials enter the country, and go through the filing procedures with the customs directly under GACC at the port of entry 10-15 days before entry.</p> <p>For quarantine approval forms that do not comply with relevant regulations, the customs directly under GACC may refuse to go through the filing procedures.</p>	<p>where the isolation and quarantine place is located is responsible for accepting applications for special quarantine approval and organizing and implementing the written preliminary review. Epidemic prevention measures and conditions of the isolation and quarantine places should be verified during the preliminary review process. Isolation and quarantine sites should have isolation greenhouses or isolation planting beds, and their isolation conditions, facilities, equipment, personnel, and management measures should meet corresponding standards and requirements.</p>
	<p><b>Article 12 (newly added)</b> For those who pass the preliminary review, GACC shall organize an expert review to evaluate the risk of infectious plant epidemics, ecological environmental impact, and risk prevention and control measures. If it meets the requirements after review, its introduction will be allowed and the "People's Republic of China Entry Animal and Plant Quarantine License" will be issued by the customs directly under GACC.</p>
	<p><b>Article 13 (newly added)</b> Plant propagation materials returned for export shall be handled by the agencies specified in the "Plant Quarantine Regulations" on entry quarantine approval procedures.</p>
	<p><b>Article 14 (please refer to Article 6 (3) on the left)</b> When carrying or mailing plant propagation materials into the country, if it is impossible to go through the quarantine approval procedures in advance due to special reasons, the carrier or mailer shall go through the quarantine approval procedures at the port.</p>
<p><b>Chapter 3 Entry Quarantine</b></p>	<p><b>Chapter 3 Port Quarantine</b></p>

<p><b>Article 9</b> As necessary, GACC shall conduct quarantine registration on overseas plant propagation material planting farms (nurseries) that export plant propagation materials to China. If necessary, with the consent of the official plant quarantine department of the exporting country (or region), it may send quarantine personnel to conduct pre-inspection or epidemic investigation at the place of production.</p>	<p><b>Article 15 (please refer to Article 10 on the left)</b> The introduction unit or its agent shall declare to the customs before the plant propagation materials enter the country with the phytosanitary certificate issued by the official plant quarantine department of the exporting country (or region), certificate of origin, invoice and other necessary documents. The customs conduct systematic automatic comparison and verification of the electronic data of quarantine approval documents processed by the quarantine approval authorities.</p>
<p><b>Article 10</b> After the introduction unit, individual or their agent has verified and filed the "Entry Animal and Plant Quarantine Permit" or "Introduced Seeds and Seedlings Quarantine Approval Form", they shall, 7 days before the entry of plant propagation materials, apply to the designated customs for inspection with the phytosanitary certificate issued by the official phytosanitary department of the exporting country (or region), certificate of origin, trade contract, invoice and other necessary documents.</p> <p>Introduced upon entrustment by the introduction unit, the relevant entrustment agreement must be provided when applying for inspection.</p>	<p><b>Article 16 (please refer to Article 11 and 12 on the left)</b> After the imported plant propagation materials arrive at the port of entry, if the goods and certificates are verified to be consistent, the customs shall implement on-site quarantine and sampling for inspection in accordance with the mandatory requirements of relevant laws and regulations, national standards, technical specifications and the quarantine requirements listed in the quarantine approval.</p>
<p><b>Article 11</b> When plant propagation materials arrive at the port of entry, quarantine personnel must check whether the cargo and certificates are consistent and go through write-off procedures based on variety, quantity (weight), and place of origin.</p>	<p><b>Article 17 (newly added)</b> On the premise of effectively ensuring biological safety, incoming plant propagation materials that show no abnormalities during on-site quarantine at the port and have been sampled and submitted for inspection may, upon application by the enterprise, implement conditional removal facilitation measures and it is allowed to be removed and stored in a place that meets epidemic prevention requirements outside the port customs supervision area before the</p>

	laboratory quarantine identification results are issued.
<p><b>Article 12</b> The quarantine of imported plant propagation materials must be strictly implemented in accordance with relevant national standards, industry standards and regulations.</p>	
<p><b>Article 13</b> After the imported plant propagation materials are quarantined, they shall be processed as follows according to the quarantine results:</p> <p>(1) Those belonging to low risks, no hazardous harmful organisms are found during quarantine, and the restricted non-quarantine pests do not exceed relevant regulations, they will be released; hazardous harmful organisms are found during quarantine, or the restricted non-quarantine pests exceed relevant regulations, they will be released after effective quarantine treatment; entry will not be allowed without effective quarantine treatment.</p> <p>(2) Those belonging to high or medium risks, and no quarantine pests are found during quarantine, and restricted non-quarantine pests don't exceed relevant regulations will be transported to designated isolated quarantine nurseries for isolated quarantine; hazardous harmful organisms are found during quarantine, or the restricted non-quarantine pests exceed relevant regulations, they will be transported to designated isolated quarantine nurseries for isolated quarantine after effective quarantine treatment; entry will not be allowed without effective quarantine treatment.</p>	<p><b>Article 18 (please refer to Article 13 on the left)</b> The imported plant propagation materials shall be subject to on-site quarantine and laboratory quarantine identification, and shall be dealt with as follows based on the quarantine results.</p> <p>(1) For those no need for isolated quarantine or isolated planting (trial planting), entry is allowed if the following harmful organisms are not found during quarantine including quarantine pests, harmful organisms prohibited from being carried listed on the quarantine approval document, and other harmful organisms that pose a serious danger to agriculture and forestry, and an inspection and quarantine certificate for entry goods shall be issued upon the application of the importing unit; If the above-mentioned harmful organisms are discovered during quarantine, the plant propagation materials will be allowed to enter the country after effective harmful organisms control treatment. If the plant propagation materials have not been effectively disinfested, they will not be allowed to enter the country and will be returned or destroyed.</p> <p>(2) For those isolated quarantine or isolation planting (trial planting) are required, it is allowed to be transferred to the isolation and quarantine (planting, trial planting) place designated by the quarantine approval authority if the following harmful organisms are not found during quarantine including</p>

	<p>quarantine pests, harmful organisms prohibited from being carried listed on the quarantine approval document, and other harmful organisms that pose a serious danger to agriculture and forestry; If the above-mentioned harmful organisms are discovered during quarantine, the plant propagation materials will be allowed to be transferred to the isolation and quarantine (planting, trial planting) place designated by the quarantine approval authority after effective harmful organisms control treatment; The above-mentioned disposal shall be based on the application of the importing unit to issue an inspection and quarantine certificate for entry goods; If the plant propagation materials have not been effectively disinfested, they will not be allowed to enter the country and will be returned or destroyed.</p>
<p><b>Chapter 4 Isolated Quarantine</b></p>	<p><b>Chapter 4 Isolated Quarantine</b></p>
<p><b>Article 14</b> All high- and medium-risk imported plant propagation materials must be isolated quarantined in isolated quarantine nurseries designated by the customs.</p> <p>The customs shall handle the transfer and quarantine procedures based on the acceptance letter and isolated quarantine plan issued by the designated isolated quarantine nursery, and supervise the entry relevant plant propagation materials into the isolated quarantine nursery.</p>	<p><b>Article 19 (please refer to Article 18 on the left)</b> The customs shall supervise and manage the transportation, storage and isolated quarantine of imported plant propagation materials approved for special quarantine permit.</p>
<p><b>Article 15</b> Inbound propagation materials that need to be transferred out of the jurisdiction of the customs directly under GACC at the jurisdiction of the port of entry for isolated quarantine shall be transferred out by the customs at the port of entry based on a letter of consent issued</p>	<p><b>Article 20 (please refer to Article 14 on the left)</b> The customs is responsible for supervising the implementation of isolated quarantine, epidemic monitoring plans, epidemic prevention measures, etc., of the introduction unit (locations for isolated quarantine). At the same time, in</p>

<p>by the customs directly under GACC at the isolated quarantine location.</p>	<p>accordance with the regulatory requirements for special quarantine permit, sampling testing or epidemic monitoring of imported plant propagation materials shall be carried out.</p>
<p><b>Article 16</b> Isolated quarantine nurseries for imported plant propagation materials are divided into national isolated quarantine nurseries, professional isolated quarantine nurseries and local isolated quarantine nurseries according to facility conditions and technical levels. The customs' quarantine management of isolated quarantine nurseries shall be implemented in accordance with the "Measures for the Administration of Isolated Quarantine Nurseries of Imported Plant Propagation Materials".</p>	<p><b>Article 21 (please refer to Article 18 and 19 on the left)</b> The introduction unit is responsible for implementing epidemic prevention measures for the transportation and storage of imported plant propagation materials, conducting daily management of plant propagation materials in isolated quarantine, and recording the planting and epidemic monitoring of the introduction batches. Plant propagation materials approved for special quarantine permit in isolated quarantine may not be transferred, processed, or used without the consent of the customs.</p>
<p><b>Article 17</b> High-risk imported plant propagation materials must be quarantined in the national isolated quarantine nursery.</p> <p>Isolated quarantine for high-risk imported plant propagation materials introduced for scientific research, teaching, etc. can be implemented in professional isolated quarantine nurseries after approval by GACC.</p>	<p><b>Article 22 (please refer to Article 19 on the left)</b> If harmful organisms are found in plant propagation materials approved for special quarantine permit during the isolated quarantine period, the introduction unit shall report immediately to the customs and relevant local authorities. If risk assessment conducted by the customs determines that it has quarantine significance, the introduction unit shall take emergency measures under customs' supervision to ensure biosafety.</p>
<p><b>Article 18</b> The customs shall implement quarantine supervision over the isolated quarantine of imported plant propagation materials. Without the consent of the customs, no unit or individual may transfer, process or use imported plant propagation materials without authorization.</p>	<p><b>Article 23 (please refer to Article 20 on the left)</b> After completion of the isolated quarantine, the introduction unit shall submit an isolated quarantine report to the local customs of the location for isolated quarantine. The customs shall conduct a comprehensive assessment based on the supervision situation, testing- or monitoring results and reports of the isolation period, and complete quarantine supervision for this batch of the plant</p>

	<p>propagation materials approved for special quarantine permit, and upon application by the importing unit issue the Certification of Inspection and Quarantine of Entry Goods.</p>
<p><b>Article 19</b> The isolated quarantine nursery is responsible for the daily management and epidemic records of plant propagation materials entering the isolated quarantine nursery. If an important epidemic situation is discovered, it should be reported to the local customs in a timely manner.</p>	
<p><b>Article 20</b> After the isolate quarantine is completed, the isolated quarantine nursery is responsible for issuing the isolated quarantine results and relevant quarantine reports. The customs where the isolated quarantine nursery is located is responsible for reviewing the relevant results and reports, making corresponding handling based on the entry quarantine results, and issuing relevant documents.</p> <p>If quarantine is carried out in a local isolated quarantine nursery, the customs responsible for quarantine shall issue quarantine results and reports.</p>	
<p><b>Chapter 5 Quarantine Supervision</b></p>	
<p><b>Article 21</b> The customs shall implement quarantine supervision and management of the transportation, processing, storage, and isolated quarantine of imported plant propagation materials. Units responsible for the transportation, processing, storage, and isolated quarantine of imported plant propagation materials must strictly comply with customs quarantine requirements and implement epidemic prevention measures.</p>	
<p><b>Article 22</b> The introduction unit or import</p>	

<p>agency unit must go through registration and filing procedures with the local customs; the isolated quarantine nursery must be assessed and approved by the customs.</p>	
<p><b>Article 23</b> After arriving at the port of entry, imported plant propagation materials shall not be unloaded from the transport vehicle without customs permission. Due to port restrictions and other reasons, with the approval of the customs, it can be transported to designated locations for quarantine and processing. During the transportation, loading and unloading process, the introduction units, individuals or their agents shall take effective epidemic prevention measures.</p>	
<p><b>Article 24</b> Imported plant propagation materials for exhibition must be subject to quarantine supervision by the local customs during the exhibition period and may not be used for other purposes without customs' consent. After the exhibition, all imported plant propagation materials must be destroyed or returned. If the use needs to be changed due to special reasons, normal entry quarantine regulations shall apply. Plant propagation materials, growth media or packaging materials abandoned at the exhibition will be harmlessly disposed of under customs supervision.</p>	
<p><b>Article 25</b> Inbound plant propagation materials entering bonded areas (including bonded factories, bonded warehouses, etc.) must be well packaged and subject to customs supervision. If it is necessary to leave the bonded area for breeding purposes in the country, it shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of these Measures.</p>	
<p><b>Article 26</b> The customs shall, as</p>	

<p>necessary, regularly conduct epidemic investigation and monitoring of the main planting areas of imported plant propagation materials within the territory, and report any epidemics in a timely manner.</p>	
<p><b>Chapter 6 Supplementary Provisions</b></p>	<p><b>Chapter 5 Supplementary Provisions</b></p>
	<p><b>Article 24 (please refer to Article 4 on the left)</b> Plant propagation materials as referred to in these Measures is a general term for plant seeds, seedlings and other propagation materials, including whole or part of cultivated plants or wild plants that can be propagated, such as plants and seedlings (including test-tube seedlings) , fruits, seeds, rootstocks, scions, cuttings, leaves, buds, root tubers, stem tubers, bulbs, corms, pollen, cell culture materials (including genetically modified plants), etc.</p>
	<p><b>Article 25 (please refer to Article 2 on the left)</b> The trade channels and non-trade channels referred to in these Measures include trade, production, processing of imported materials, reproduction, scientific research, exchange, exhibitions, aid, gifts, as well as public or personal use by foreign institutions and institutions enjoying diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities, etc.</p>
	<p><b>Article 26 (newly added)</b> The designated supervision sites for imported plant seedlings referred to in these Measures are the supervision workplaces set in compliance with customs' specifications for supervision sites and met the needs for plant epidemic prevention and control, with the capacity to conduct detection, inspection, and quarantine to imported plant seedlings.</p>
<p><b>Article 27</b> Units and individuals that violate these Measures shall be punished in accordance with the " Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine"</p>	<p><b>Article 27</b> Units and individuals that violate these Measures shall be punished in accordance with the "Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China" and its implementation</p>

and its implementation regulations.	regulations.
<b>Article 28</b> GACC is responsible for the interpretation of these Measures.	<b>Article 28</b> The GACC is responsible for the interpretation of these Measures.
<b>Article 29</b> These Measures shall come into effect on January 1, 2000.	<b>Article 29</b> These Measures will come into effect on MM/DD, 2023. The "Measures for the Administration of Quarantine of Propagation Materials for Plants Entering China" (Annex 42 of Decree No. 240 of GACC) and the "Measures for the Administration of Quarantine Nurseries for Propagation Materials for Plants Entering China" (Annex 13 of Decree No. 238 of GACC) are abolished at the same time.

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**Attachments:**

No Attachments.