

Published explanations on Decree 248* – 2021.06.25

General Administration of China Customs (GACC) published on 13 April 2021 Decree 248: Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food, which is to take effect 1 Jan 2022

<http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/302270/302272/3735889/index.html>
(Unofficial translation of key aspects)

Some key changes highlighted below:

1. Expand food categories that require overseas facility registration

Current regulations

- Meat products, aquatic products, dairy products, honey and bird's nest

New regulations

- All overseas producers, processors and storage companies that export food to China.

2. Adjustment in ways of manufacturer registration

Current regulations

- Recommended by the competent authorities of the export country/region or other specified way

New regulations

- According to the food categories, either to be recommended by the competent authorities of the export country/region or to file the applications by the companies themselves

New regulations have specified the food categories that are applicable to authority recommendation or company application

Food categories authorities recommend for registration	Food categories companies can apply for
18 kinds: Meat and meat products, casings, aquatic products, dairy products, bird's nest and bird's nest derived products, egg products, edible oil and fats and oil-bearing seeds, stuffed pasta, cereals, grain and grain milling industry products, preserved and dried vegetables and dry beans, seasoning, nuts and seeds, dried	All other foods except for 18 kinds.

fruit, non-cured coffee beans cocoa beans, special supplement products, health foods	
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Note: GACC keeps the right to update the methods for manufacturer registration as well as the document and material to be submitted according to the risk of different food categories.

3. Innovated assessment ways of overseas manufacturers

Current regulations

New regulations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GACC organizes experts or designated agencies to review the application materials and conduct on-site review as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GACC to conduct evaluation through document review, video inspection, on-site inspection or the mix of above.
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4. Updated registration number management and labelling

Current regulations

New regulations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of the registration number on the outer packaging of imported food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of the Chinese registration number or the registration number approved by the competent authority of exporting country on both inner and outer packaging of imported food.
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5. Extend the validity of the registration of foreign production enterprises

Current regulations

New regulations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validity period: 4 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validity period: 5 years
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6. Clarify the registration management requirements

Current regulations

New regulations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for renewal of registration one year before the expiry of the registration period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for renewal of registration within 3 to 6 months before the expiration of the validity period
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7. Strengthen the main responsibility of enterprises and ex-post supervision

Current regulations

New regulations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only provide cancellation of registration for applicable circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly add in 'registration change, renew and cancellation' circumstances; refine 'withdraw of registration' circumstance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only provide measures from official review of enterprises do not meet the registration requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New: 'registered enterprises when find out on their own they do not meet the registration requirements, they should take initiative to suspend exports to China and immediately take corrective measures to meet the requirements' . • Clarify the responsibility of foreign official agencies to urge registered companies to continue to meet the registration requirements

New regulations to take effect on 1 Jan 2022. Relevant overseas production companies to prepare registration work are not only take note of above changes, but also ensure products exported to China complies with Chinese relevant laws and food safety requirements.