

China's Inspection and Quarantine Policies of Agricultural Imports

I. China's Laws and Regulations Concerning Inspection and Quarantine of Agricultural Products

1. Law of the People's Republic of China on Import and Export
Commodity Inspection (effective on August 1, 1989)
2. Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's
Republic of China on Import and Export Commodity Inspection
(effective on December 1, 2005)
3. Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal
and Plant Quarantine (effective on April 1, 1992)
4. Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's
Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine
(effective on January 1, 1997)
5. Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China
(effective on May 1, 1987)
6. Rules for the Implementation of Frontier Health and Quarantine Law
of the People's Republic of China (effective on March 6, 1989)
7. Law of the People's Republic of China on Quality and Safety of
Agricultural Products (effective on November 1, 2006)

8. Food Hygiene Law of the People's Republic of China (effective on October 30, 1995)

9. Regulations for the Origin of Imports and Exports of the People's Republic of China (effective on January 1, 2005)

II. Inspection and Quarantine Procedures of China's Agricultural Imports

1. Risk Analysis

Pest risk analysis shall be applied to the plant and related products entering the China's territory for the first time. Then the administrative measures can be determined based on the level of the risk. Pest risk analysis helps to ensure that decisions on the control of imports and exports are based on sound science, and it is in compliance with the international requirements for China's plant quarantine as well as the scientific way of administrating quarantine practice.

2. Quarantine Permit

To go through the legal procedure for obtaining a quarantine permit, consignees, or their agents, who will transfer, import goods or objects prohibited from entering the country should submit applications to the local inspection & quarantine authorities and get the approval or disapproval upon the authorities' examination. The practice aims to realize the prevention of quarantine objects prior to their entering the country and take measures of control upon the objects' entry.

3. Inspection and Quarantine Declaration

The legal procedure of inspection and quarantine declaration requires consignees or their agents who import and export objects or transport transit objects shall declare and apply to the inspection and quarantine authorities on time. Quarantine objects to be declared include the entry, exit, and transit objects, containers and materials used for carrying objects, botanic packaging and matting materials for entry objects, as well as containers, means of transport, carriers from an animal and plant epidemic area.

4. On-the-Spot Inspection and Quarantine

On arrival of inspection and quarantine objects, personnel from the inspection and quarantine authority shall perform checks and take samples to make preliminary decisions whether the objects conform to the legal requirements. Ways of inspection include spot check, spot sample check, X-ray equipment check, quarantine detector dog check, macroscopic check and sieve check.

5. Laboratory Testing

It shall be a legal procedure in which harmful organisms, poisonous and harmful substance in the samples are identified and inspected with the aid of laboratory apparatus or equipment. The testing ways cover the specific gravity test, dyeing test, washing test, sprout moisture test, isolated culture test, differential host test, serological test, major

component test, pesticides and veterinary drug residues test, heavy metal test, genetic mortification test, radiation test, etc.

6. Quarantine Treatment

Quarantine treatment is to kill the harmful organisms in plants, plant products and other quarantine objects with physical or chemical ways. There are types of treatments by means of radiation, fumigation, disinfection, cooling, heating, rejection and destruction.

7. Inspection and Quarantine Certification

Based upon the results of inspection, quarantine and treatment to the imports, exports and other quarantine objects, the inspection and quarantine authorities shall determine whether to issue the legally binding papers to approve the entry and exit. Inspection and quarantine certificates include “Phytosanitary Certificate”, “Veterinary Certificate”, “Certificate of Quality”, “Certificate of Sanitation”, “Fumigation/Disinfection Certificate”, “Phytosanitary Certificate for Re-export”, and other certificates of inspection and quarantine.

8. Inspection and Quarantine Supervision

Inspection and quarantine supervision requires that the whole process of the cultivation, production, processing and storage of animals and plants, products of animal or plant origin for export & import and

other quarantine objects shall be under the supervision and surveillance of inspection and quarantine organs. The supervision practices include quarantine at places of origin, pre-clearance, quarantine throughout the process, isolation quarantine, epidemic situation surveillance, and fix-point processing supervision.

III. Agreements between China and Central Asian Countries on Agricultural Imports

1. Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic for Plant Quarantine (effective on May 9, 1992)

2. Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Animal Quarantine and Animal Hygiene (effective on December 10, 2004)

3. Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Plant Protection and Quarantine (effective on December 10, 2004)

4. Protocol between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Wheat from Kazakhstan to China (effective on November 17, 2006)