

Regulation of the People's Republic of China on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Food

(Decree No. 280 of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, promulgated on October 14, 2025, effective from June 1, 2026)

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1

To strengthen the registration and administration of overseas manufacturers of imported food, these Regulations are formulated in accordance with the *Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China* and its Implementing Regulations, the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Import and Export Commodity Inspection* and its Implementing Regulations, the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine* and its Implementing Regulations, and the *Special Provisions of the State Council on Strengthening the Supervision and Administration of the Safety of Food and Other Products*, as well as other relevant laws and administrative regulations.

Article 2

These Regulations apply to the registration and administration of overseas enterprises that produce, process, or store food for export to China (hereinafter collectively referred to as "overseas manufacturers of imported food").

The above definition does **not** include enterprises engaged in the production, processing, or storage of food additives or food-related products.

Article 3

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) shall be the competent authority for the centralized administration of the registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food.

Article 4

Overseas manufacturers of imported food shall obtain registration approval from the GACC.

Article 5

In accordance with the principle of risk management, the GACC shall, based on the assessment and review of the food safety management system and food safety conditions of the country (or region) where the enterprise is located, and taking into account the level of food risk, implement classified management of overseas manufacturers of imported food. The GACC shall determine the corresponding registration methods, application materials, review procedures, and other registration management requirements.

Where risk assessment or evidence indicates that food safety risks have changed, the GACC may adjust the corresponding registration requirements.

Chapter II Registration Conditions and Procedures

Article 6

Based on analysis of factors such as the source of raw materials, production and processing

technologies, food safety data, consumer groups, and consumption methods, and in line with international practice, the GACC shall determine and publish a *Catalogue of Imported Foods Requiring Official Recommendation for Registration* (hereinafter referred to as “the Catalogue”).

Article 7

The registration conditions for overseas manufacturers of imported food are as follows:

1. The enterprise is approved and effectively supervised by the competent authority of the country (or region) where it is located;
2. The enterprise has established an effective food safety, hygiene, and protection system, lawfully produces and exports within its jurisdiction, and ensures that the food exported to China complies with Chinese laws, regulations, and national food safety standards;
3. The enterprise meets relevant inspection and quarantine requirements agreed upon between the GACC and the competent authority of the exporting country (or region). For foods listed in the Catalogue, the overseas manufacturer shall also obtain recommendation from its competent authority.

Article 8

For foods listed in the Catalogue, the competent authority of the exporting country (or region) shall conduct an audit and inspection of the enterprises, and issue an audit report and recommendation letter for those that meet the registration requirements.

Article 9

Overseas manufacturers of imported food shall submit, either directly or through an agent, the following application materials to the GACC:

1. Enterprise registration application information;
2. Proof of legal entity, such as a business license or certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country (or region);
3. A declaration of compliance with these Regulations.
For foods listed in the Catalogue, enterprises shall also submit the audit report and recommendation letter issued by the competent authority of the exporting country (or region).
Where necessary, the GACC may require enterprises to provide additional materials such as food safety and hygiene protection systems, production types, and production capacity information.

Article 10

The registration application information shall include the enterprise name, country (or region), address of production site, legal representative, contact person, contact information, registration number approved by the competent authority of the exporting country (or region), and categories of food applying for registration.

Article 11

Application materials shall be submitted in **Chinese or English**.

The competent authority of the exporting country (or region) and the overseas manufacturer shall be responsible for the authenticity, completeness, and legality of the submitted materials.

Article 12

Based on the level of food safety risk, the GACC shall, either directly or through designated institutions, conduct assessments and reviews of applicant enterprises by means of **documentary review, video inspection, on-site inspection**, or a combination thereof. The overseas manufacturer and its competent authority shall cooperate with such assessments and reviews.

Article 13

Based on the assessment results, the GACC shall register enterprises that meet the requirements and issue a **China registration number**, notifying the enterprise in writing. For enterprises that do not meet the requirements, registration shall be denied, and the enterprise shall be notified in writing.

Article 14

Enterprises that have obtained registration shall indicate their **China registration number** or the **registration number approved by their local competent authority** on the food packaging when exporting to China.

Article 15

The registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food shall be valid for **five years**. When granting registration, the GACC shall specify the start and end dates of the validity period.

Article 16

The GACC shall **publish a unified list** of registered overseas manufacturers of imported food.

Article 17

Where the food safety management system of the exporting country (or region) has been recognized by the GACC, and one of the following conditions is met, the GACC may, through written agreement with the competent authority of that country (or region), adopt a **list-based registration system** for its enterprises:

1. A bilateral agreement on import and export food safety cooperation has been signed with the GACC;
2. An agreement, memorandum of understanding, or joint statement with China covering food safety cooperation has been signed;
3. Other circumstances where the GACC determines, through risk assessment, that a list-based registration approach may be applied.

Article 18

For list-based registration, the competent authority of the exporting country (or region) shall submit the following materials to the GACC:

1. A list of food manufacturers recommended for registration in China;
2. The application information specified in Article 10 of these Regulations;
3. A declaration confirming that the recommended enterprises meet the requirements specified in the first paragraph of Article 7;
4. A declaration committing to continuously fulfil responsibilities set forth in bilateral cooperation documents.

Upon review, the GACC shall register enterprises on the list that meet the requirements and issue China registration numbers. For enterprises that do not meet the requirements, registration shall be denied, and the competent authority shall be notified in writing.

Chapter III Supervision and Management

Article 19

The General Administration of Customs shall, on its own or by entrusting relevant agencies, conduct reviews of overseas imported food manufacturers to determine whether they continue to comply with registration requirements, based on the level of safety risk for imported food.

Overseas imported food manufacturers and the competent authorities of their respective countries (regions) shall assist in conducting such reviews.

Article 20

If the registration information of an overseas imported food manufacturer changes during the registration validity period, the manufacturer shall submit a change application to the General Administration of Customs through the registration application process, along with the following materials:

- (1) A comparison table of registration item changes;
- (2) Supporting materials related to the changed information.

If the General Administration of Customs deems the change appropriate after evaluation, the change will be granted. However, if the relocation of the production site, change of the legal representative, or change in the registration number granted by the country (region) in which the manufacturer is located significantly impacts the manufacturer's food safety and hygiene management and protection system, the General Administration of Customs will not grant the change and will notify the manufacturer to reapply for registration. The registration number in China will then become invalid from the date of notification.

Article 21

Upon expiration, an enterprise's registration will be automatically renewed for a period of five years, except in any of the following circumstances:

- (1) The imported food is included in the list of foods not automatically subject to renewal;
- (2) The enterprise is undergoing rectification due to non-compliance with registration requirements;
- (3) The General Administration of Customs has, in accordance with the law, suspended the import of relevant foods from the country (region) where the overseas manufacturer of the food is located.

The General Administration of Customs shall announce the list of imported foods not automatically subject to renewal of registration as provided in the first item of the preceding paragraph separately.

Article 22

Overseas manufacturers of foods included in the list of foods not automatically subject to renewal of registration who need to renew their registration shall submit a renewal application to the General Administration of Customs through the registration application channel within three to twelve months prior to the expiration of their registration. The renewal application materials include:

- (1) Renewal application information;
- (2) A statement of commitment to continue to meet the registration requirements;
- (3) Overseas manufacturers of listed foods shall also submit a statement of continued compliance with the registration requirements issued by the competent authorities of their country (region).

The General Administration of Customs will grant a renewal registration to enterprises that meet the registration requirements, extending the registration validity period by five years.

Article 23

If a registered overseas manufacturer of imported food falls under any of the following circumstances, the General Administration of Customs will cancel its registration, notify the overseas manufacturer, inform the competent authorities of the country (region) where it is located, and make this announcement:

- (1) Failure to apply for registration renewal in accordance with regulations;
- (2) The competent authorities of the country (region) where it is located or the overseas manufacturer of imported food voluntarily applies for cancellation;
- (3) No longer meets the requirements of Article 7, Paragraph 1, and Item 1 of these Regulations.

Article 24

The competent authorities of the country (region) where the overseas manufacturer of imported food is located shall fulfil their food safety regulatory responsibilities, effectively supervise registered manufacturers, and urge them to continuously meet registration requirements. If non-compliance is discovered, they shall immediately implement risk prevention and mitigation measures, suspend the relevant manufacturer's food exports to China, and notify the General Administration of Customs, supervising the manufacturer to rectify the situation until it meets the registration requirements.

If an overseas manufacturer of imported food discovers non-compliance with registration requirements, it shall voluntarily suspend food exports to China and immediately implement corrective measures until the situation meets the registration requirements.

Article 25

If the General Administration of Customs discovers that a registered overseas food manufacturer no longer meets the registration requirements, it shall order the manufacturer to rectify the situation within the prescribed time limit and notify the competent authorities of the country (region) where the manufacturer is located to supervise the rectification. During the rectification period, food imports from the manufacturer shall be suspended.

Once the manufacturer has completed the rectification, it shall submit a supervision and rectification report issued by the competent authorities of the country (region) where the manufacturer is located, along with a written statement demonstrating compliance with the registration requirements.

The General Administration of Customs shall review the manufacturer's rectification and, if it meets the requirements, resume food imports from the manufacturer.

Article 26

If the General Administration of Customs suspends or resumes food imports from registered overseas food manufacturers in accordance with Articles 24 and 25 of these Regulations, the General Administration of Customs shall publish the list of the relevant manufacturers.

Article 27

If a registered overseas manufacturer of imported food has any of the following circumstances, the General Administration of Customs will revoke its registration and make a public announcement:

- (1) A major food safety incident involving imported food occurs due to the manufacturer's own fault;
- (2) Food exported to China is found to have serious food safety issues during entry inspection and quarantine;
- (3) The manufacturer has major problems with its food safety and hygiene management and cannot guarantee that the food exported to China meets safety and hygiene requirements;
- (4) The manufacturer still fails to meet registration requirements after rectification;
- (5) The manufacturer provides false materials or conceals relevant circumstances;
- (6) The manufacturer refuses to cooperate with the General Administration of Customs in conducting re-inspections and accident investigations;

- (7) The manufacturer rents, lends, transfers, resells, or misuses its registration number;
- (8) The manufacturer grants registration to an enterprise that does not meet the application qualifications or registration requirements;
- (9) Other circumstances under which registration may be revoked in accordance with the law.

Chapter IV Supplementary Provisions

Article 28

If the General Administration of Customs suspends the import of relevant food from the country (region) where the overseas manufacturer of imported food is located, it will not accept registration applications from relevant food manufacturers in that country (region) during the suspension period.

Article 29

If relevant countries (regions) and China have other agreements regarding the registration and administration of overseas manufacturers of imported food, such agreements shall prevail.

Article 30

The General Administration of Customs shall separately announce the scope of overseas storage enterprises of imported food subject to registration and administration in accordance with these Provisions.

The General Administration of Customs shall separately formulate the registration and administration of overseas manufacturers of primary edible agricultural products.

The management requirements for overseas manufacturers of imported food for cross-border e-commerce retail shall be handled in accordance with relevant regulations.

Article 31

The competent authorities of the country (region) in these Provisions refer to the official authorities responsible for food production safety and hygiene supervision in the country (region) where the overseas manufacturer of imported food is located.

Article 32

The General Administration of Customs shall be responsible for interpreting these Provisions.

Article 33

These Provisions shall come into force on June 1, 2026. The "Provisions of the People's Republic of China on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Manufacturers of

Imported Food" promulgated by General Administration of Customs Decree No. 248 on April 12, 2021, shall be repealed simultaneously.