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This table summarises the general requirements and standards for food and agricultural imports into China.

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Food Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• China is a member of WTO• Food Safety Law (A complete analysis of this law is provided in GAIN Report CH9019. GAIN reports are available at www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp)• Law on Farm Product Quality and Safety - focuses on clarifying inspection and enforcement responsibilities• Food Hygiene Law- governs hygiene for all food, materials, instruments, equipment, detergents and disinfectants, as well as food production and marketing operations, locations, and facilities; establish an application system for the use of transgenic food and food ingredients in food manufacturing or processing along with an evaluation system for transgenic food quality and safety
Regulatory Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Health (http://www.moh.gov.cn/)• State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA - http://www.sfda.gov.cn/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of drugs, biological products, medical devices, food supply and cosmetics• General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (GAQSIQ - http://english.aqsiq.gov.cn/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- responsible for quality supervision, commodities inspection, hygiene and quarantine, animals and plants quarantine, certification and accreditation, etc for import-export activities• Standardization Administration of China (SAC - http://www.sac.gov.cn/)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- seeks harmonization of domestic and international standards
Import Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Importation of food without a national food safety standard or importation of a new food additive variety or new food related product for the first time, the importer shall submit an application and relevant safety assessment materials to the executive department of health under the State Council. The executive department of health under the State Council shall decide whether to approve or reject such applications according to Article 44 of the Law and shall develop corresponding national food safety standard in a timely manner.• Overseas food producers exporting food to China shall get registered at the national exit-entry inspection and quarantine agency.• Food importers shall establish a food import and sale record of information such as the

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	<p>product name, specification, quantity, production date, production or import batch number, shelf life, name and contact information of the exporter and buyer, and delivery date, which shall be maintained for at least two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key documents that importers should evaluate are included in GAIN Reports CH9051 and CH9065. These documents deal with food safety standards, food without Chinese standards, and registration of new products in China.
Quarantine Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animals, plants and their products required by law to be quarantined shall be attached with a quarantine label or certificate.
Certificate of Origin/Certificate of Free Sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Either/both required to accompany the export consignment of all food and agricultural products, including processed and packaged food• Certificate of Free Sale acts as de facto product certification• Issued by the relevant authority of the exporting country's government, local or state Chambers of Commerce, state government, industry association, or manufacturer/supplier• This certificate should mention the order number, container number, port of discharge, buyer's name, and product description, in addition to a declaration along the following lines:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "The undersigned for (relevant organization) declares that the following mentioned goods as consigned above (or below) are the products of the <country> and are eligible for free distribution and use within the <country>. We hereby certify the goods to be of <country> origin."
Quarantine Inspection Permit (QIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required to import any agricultural good into China• The importer must supply documentation regarding the volume of the shipment to AQSIQ with the QIP application
Meat Quarantine Import Permit (MQIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required to import any meat product into China• The importer must supply documentation regarding the volume of the shipment to AQSIQ with the MQIP application.
Automatic Registration Form (ARF) on Poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administered by MOFCOM for poultry importers
Sanitary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For milk and milk products to attest that "Product has been heat treated and conforms to processing requirements of country."

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Phytosanitary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Tree Nuts, & Forest Products, including wheat and other grains/oilseeds• Certifies product is free of quarantine pests
Certificate of Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for some products such as tree nuts
Labelling	
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Standard for the Labeling of Foods<ul style="list-style-type: none">- National Standard (GB7718-1994) governs food labeling for all food related items for sale in China; adopts 1991 CODEX STAN 1• National Standard for Labeling of Flavorings• Import-Export Food Labeling Management Regulation<ul style="list-style-type: none">- provides for more stringent verification and inspection for the enforcement of import and export food product labeling• National Standard for Special Nutritional Food Labeling<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This MOH National Standard (GB13432-1992) refers to and adopts (CAC) CODEX STAN 146-1985 "Standard For the Labeling and Notation of Pre-packaged Special Purpose Food"
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chinese• In addition to Chinese characters, the Chinese pinyin and/or languages of minority ethnic groups may also be used on the label of prepackaged food, but the size of words shall not be larger than the corresponding Chinese characters• In addition to Chinese characters, foreign languages may also be used corresponding to the Chinese characters<ul style="list-style-type: none">- except the name and address of the manufacturer of the imported food; the name and address of the overseas distributor; and website address- The foreign letters shall not be larger than the corresponding Chinese characters (except for registered trademarks)
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-packaged food shall be labeled on the package, which indicate the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name, specification- Net content- Date of production- Table of ingredients or formulation- Producer name, address and contact information- Shelf life

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Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Code of product standard(s)- Storage requirements- Generic name of the food additives as used in the national standard- Production License Number- Country of origin- Name and address of the Chinese distributor- Batch identification (if necessary)- Instructions for use (if necessary)• Other information that must be indicated in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and food safety standards.• The labels of staple and supplementary food dedicated to babies and other specific populations shall also indicate main nutritional ingredients and their contents.• Where the largest surfaces area of a package (container) of prepackaged food is more than 35 cm², the minimum size of the words, symbols and numerals in the mandatory labeling information shall not be less than 1.8 mm in height.
Prepackaged food whose largest surface area is less than 10 cm ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only the following information has to be declared:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- name of the product- net weight- name and address of the manufacturer or distributor- name of the country of origin- the name and address of the agent, importer or distributor registered in the People's Republic of China
List of ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In descending order of their weights; except for those ingredients constituting less than 2% of the food• Where the labeling of a food places special emphasis on the presence of or adding one or more valuable and/or characterizing ingredients or components, the percentage of the emphasized ingredients added at the time of manufacture or the content of the emphasized components shall be declared
Net content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please refer to the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (GAIN report CH10021) for the minimum font size required for items of different net weights.
Date Marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The date coding shall be marked in the sequence of the year, month and day, otherwise the order of the date coding shall be declared, e.g.:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2010年3月20日; 2010 03 20; 2010/03/20; 20100320;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (month/day/year: 03 20 2010; 03/20/2010; 03202010; • The following prepackaged foods can be exempted from declaring the date of minimum durability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcoholic beverages with $\geq 10\%$ alcohol content, where vinegar, salt, and sugar is in solid form or monosodium glutamate.
Biotech Product Labeling Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for approved agricultural biotech products: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soybean seed, soybeans, soybean powder, soybean oil and soybean meal; 2. Corn seeds, corn, corn oil and corn powder; 3. Rape seed for planting, rape seed, rape oil and rape meal; 4. Cotton seed; 5. Tomato seed, fresh tomato and tomato paste. • China's labeling regulations, governed by Ministry of Agriculture Decree 10 (CH7053) spell out the type of labeling required as well as the specific language that is required on the individual labels.
Irradiated foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The label of a food which has been treated with ionizing radiation shall be marked "irradiated food" in close proximity to the name of the food. • Any ingredient which has been treated with ionizing radiation shall be declared in the table of ingredients
Other Information	
Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The food safety regulatory departments shall not grant exemptions on food inspection. • The executive departments of quality supervision, industry and commerce, and food and drug administration at the county level or above shall conduct sample testing regularly or irregularly on food products. They shall pay for the samples to be tested and shall not collect testing fees. • Imported food shall be inspected and cleared by the exit-entry inspection and quarantine agencies. Customs shall release the imported food upon receipt of a clearance certificate issued by the exit-entry inspection and quarantine agency.
Packaging and Container Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Requirements of Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics" specifies the restrictions on excessive packaging of foods and cosmetics, as well as the calculation methods for determining permitted packaging, including the requirements for spacing ratio, packaging layer and package cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This standard has gone through many previous revisions and was originally reported on as GAIN report CH7054.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygienic Standard for melamine-formaldehyde products used as food containers and packaging materials sets forth the requirements for raw materials, hygienic requirements, testing methods, labeling, packaging, transportation, and storage for melamine-formaldehyde products used as food containers and packaging materials, as well as food industry equipment and instruments that are processed from melamine-formaldehyde resin.
Food Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOH is the regulatory body with statutory authority over food additives. • National Standard of Flavorings specifies the requirements, test methods, inspection rules, marks, packing, transport, storage and shelf-life of flavorings • MOH Standard (GB2760-1996) governs the use, extent, and dosage of existing categories of food additives permitted for use in China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food additives not mentioned in this standard and food additives not approved for extension to foods may still be subject to regulation and registration - Please refer to Food Hygiene Standard – GAIN Report CH1046
Pesticides & Other Contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods (CH6064) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issued by MOH and the SAC on January 25, 2005 - Combines and replaces 13 hygienic standards for chemical contaminants - Most standard requirements for these contaminants are adjusted to comply with Codex Alimentarius Committee standards except where a Codex standard is absent.

Reference: USDA FAS GAIN Report

Standardization Administration of China (SAC - <http://www.sac.gov.cn/>)**DISCLAIMER:**

This document has been prepared by SPRING Singapore with the intention of assisting Singapore based exporters of food products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this document, the information may not be completely accurate as policies may have changed or clear and consistent information on these policies were not available. They cannot be taken as the official interpretation of the regulations. It is highly recommended that Singapore based exporters verify the full set of certification and import requirements with the relevant authorities in importing country. **Please note that final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by custom officials at the point of entry.**