**Administrative Measures on Import and Export Food Safety**

**(General Administration of the Customs of the P.R.C. - GACC Decree 249)**

**Summary**

**Main requirements.** China will implement an evaluation and review of a foreign Country’s food safety management system. New requirements are provided as for the packaging, labelling of imported food (also the GACC registration number must be printed on the Chinese label of imported food). Export food producers are required to set up a food safety and sanitation control system and a supplier evaluation system.

**Entry into force**: January 1st, 2022.

**Brief overview on the content of the Decree:**

* China will implement an evaluation and review system for foreign counties’ food safety management system, **for the purpose of determining the applicable inspection and quarantine requirements**.
* Articles 11 to 17 of the Decree set out in detail the conditions, contents, review methods, review materials and application of results of the review and assessment by GACC for foreign countries, and stipulate that GACC may organize experts to implement the assessment and review through such ways as information review, video inspection and on-site inspection, and their combinations.
* Food importers should establish a review system for overseas exporters and overseas manufacturers. The review shall focus on the formulation and implementation of food safety risk control measures; and the assurance that their food conforms to the provisions of Chinese laws, regulations, and national food safety standards.
* The packaging, labels, and markings of food imports shall conform with the provisions of Chinese laws, regulations, and national food safety standards; if product instructions are required, instructions in Chinese shall be attached. The Chinese labels of imported health food and foods for special dietary purposes must be printed (not affixed) on the smallest packages for sales. The GACC registration number must be printed on the Chinese label of imported food
* If food safety incidents abroad may cause risks to food safety in China, or Customs detects noncompliant food imports in its oversight work, or detects other food safety problems, GACC and its authorized Customs offices may, based on risk assessment results, impose control measures on food imports, such as increasing the proportion of inspections and sample testing.
* **Export food producers are required to establish a complete and traceable food safety and sanitation control system**, and guarantee effective operation of the system, ensure the production, processing, and storage process comply with the relevant laws, regulations, and health and safety requirements for export food producers of China; if the laws and regulations of the importing country (region) and relevant international treaties and contracts have special requirements, such requirements shall be followed.
* **Export food producers shall establish a supplier evaluation system**, a receiving inspection record system, a production record keeping system, a delivery inspection record system, a traceability system for food exports, and a disposal mechanism for noncompliant food. Relevant records shall be authentic and valid and be kept for at least six months after the expiry of the food shelf life; if the shelf life is not specified, the records shall be kept for no less than two years.