

How to export food products to China: procedures, documents and advice



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A formal procedure


- China's attempts to raise its standards to the level of Western countries has led to a scrupulous control procedure on imported food.
- At the same time, since 2006, the process has been simplified: the label check on imported food is done together with the AQSIQ (Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine) control. Thus no more preliminary check is required (Art.2).
- If the product is found to be non-compliant with standards, the law specifies that it is be either destroyed or sent back.
- The main source of law is "Regulations on the Enforcement of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Inspection of Import and Export Commodities."

Process features

- These procedures require between one and three weeks for completion and are handled by the China Inspection and Quarantine authorities (CIQ).
- All the charges for these services are included in the inspection fees. Therefore it should not happen that “additional or specific charges will be levied for label examination and approval” (Art.5).
- The CIQ will check the compliance of imported goods to standards and the truthfulness and accuracy of quality-related information(Art.3).



Positive result: the authorities will give a certificate attesting that products are “in keeping with laws”



Negative result: the exporter has only the right to send the goods back.
Need to notify customs in writing.

Necessary Documents

Before sending the goods, the exporter should be sure that the documents are complete and filled properly.

- 1) Contract
- 2) Invoice
- 3) Packing list
- 4) Cargo manifest
- 5) Bill of lading
- 6) Certificate of origin
- 7) Label sample conforming to Chinese regulations
- 8) Copies of label sample translated in Chinese
- 9) Certifications required for specific products
- 10) Mail certificate
- 11) Sanitary certificate to export

Label information

It is particularly important is to complete the label properly

- Name of the product

- Date of production
- Dates and conditions of storage

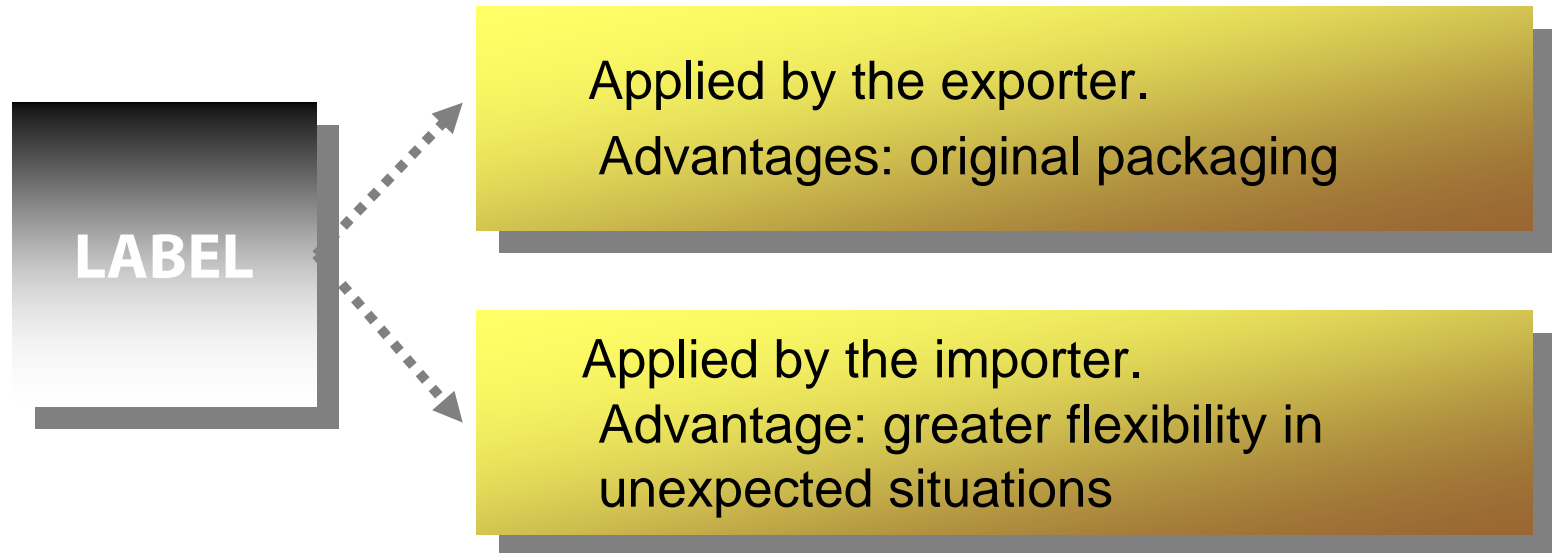
- Ingredients and eventual colourings, additives and preservatives
- Quantitative and proportions of ingredients
- Net weight

- Name, address and contact details of importer and distributor
- Name, address and contact details of the manufacturer

- Standard code of the product
- Mark of quality
- Other compulsory information

The role of the importer

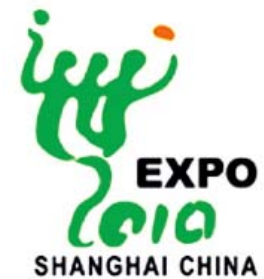
- Direct importation into China is unusual. It is therefore crucial to find the proper importer.
- The importer will: help with the documents; provide the import license (either directly or through a related company); take care of customs procedures and of related fees



Final Remarks

- This procedure has to be carried out carefully. The set of documents has to be complete and filled properly. The importer has to be reliable.
- The import of certain categories of food may be even forbidden by law (ex. meat products): it is necessary to check the regulations before.
- In a developing country, such as China is, there can be always differences between written laws and standard practices.
- It is advisable to be guided through this process, at least initially; and to take the trouble to find a reliable partner.

The next slides provide a brief summary of the provisions that regulate the export of food for the **2010 Shanghai Expo**



World Exposition Shanghai China 2010, Special Regulation No. 7

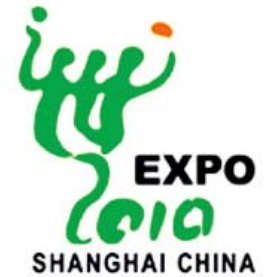
Taxes and Charges

According to the Laws and Regulations, official participants shall be responsible for the taxes and charges. (Art. 5)

Transportation Plan and Arrangement

Each official participant shall submit in advance to the Organizer a detailed transportation plan for all goods to be used during the Exposition. For goods to be transported from overseas, the transportation plan shall be submitted to the Organizer at least 45 days prior to the first shipment. (Art.7)

For goods imported by sea and by air, the official participant shall provide the Organizer prior to the shipping with additional information including names of the conveyance, voyage or flight numbers, departure places and dates, arrival dates, reference numbers of transportation bills, dimensions and weights of cargos, and types of the packaging material, as well as the names and contact information of the international freight forwarders concerned. (Art. 7)



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Labeling Instructions

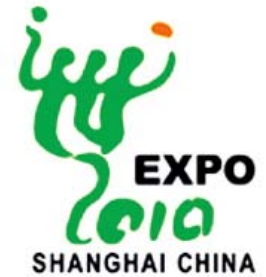
Each piece of shipment shall be labeled at least on two sides of the package with standard shipping marks, using standard metric units to indicate the dimensions and weight. The shipping marks shall indicate information such as the title of Expo 2010, name of the official participant, contact person and his/her telephone number, booth and pavilion numbers, gross (net) weight, dimensions, package number, and country of origin. (Art. 10)

Documents for Customs Clearance

According to the Laws and Regulations, official participants shall submit the following documents for customs clearance:

- (1) two copies of the list of exhibits indicating their names, H.S. coding, quantity, value, style, model, and major parts and accessories;
- (2) one copy of the original bill of lading or the original airway bill;
- (3) one copy of the original packing certificate;
- (4) invoices;
- (5) packing list;
- (6) other documents for customs clearance as required by the Customs and inspection and quarantine authorities. (Art. 11)

World Exposition Shanghai China 2010, Special Regulation No. 7



Special Provisions for food, beverage and cosmetics

The entry and exit of food, beverage and cosmetics shall comply with the Laws and Regulations of China concerning public health.

The food, beverages and cosmetics carried into China for self-use shall not be sold and shall be released within a reasonable quantity by the Customs.

According to relevant provisions, the food, beverage and cosmetics shall be subject to inspection and quarantine in advance if necessary.

The Customs shall, against the Note for Customs Clearance of Inward Goods issued by the inspection and quarantine authorities, complete the customs clearance for the food, beverage and cosmetics which exceed the quantity for self-use. (Art. 20)

For any further doubt visit the link with the full text
<http://en.expo2010.cn/a/20080821/000004.htm>