



# F51/17: China: Food Certification Requirements

## Food Products

29/09/2017

This FYI replaces F42/17 China: Food Certification Requirements.

### 1 China's proposed certification requirements for a wider range of imported foods

- (1) China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has proposed a scheme to commence from 1 October 2017 for all food imported into China to be accompanied by an official certificate with assurances relating to food safety.
- (2) China issued a notification to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade Committee of the proposed certification requirements in June<sup>1</sup>. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) responded with a submission which included the request for a transition period.
- (3) Following consideration of comments from trading partners, including those from New Zealand, China has issued a follow-up notification to the WTO for the proposed measure to have a two year transition period from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2019.
- (4) MPI will continue to engage with AQSIQ on the proposal and is considering regulatory options and policy implications of China's proposed certification requirements.

### 2 Certain animal and plant food products are excluded

- (1) MPI understands that China's proposed certification requirements for all imported foods will not affect products exported to China with an existing agreed certificate. This is yet to be formally confirmed by China.
- (2) MPI understands that animal-based food for human consumption currently exported to China under the Animal Products Act 1999 with MPI certificates prescribed by Overseas Market Access Requirements, and some plant-based food for human consumption currently exported to China under the MPI Export Assurance System may not be affected.

<sup>1</sup> Link to China's WTO notification: [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True&CatalogueIdList=236989&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=371857150](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True&CatalogueIdList=236989&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=371857150)

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