



Guidelines on GACC/CIFER Registration For European Food & Beverage Establishments

2024 UPDATE



Funded by
the European Union

These guidelines were written by the EU SME Centre's in-house experts, based on numerous enquiries received by EU F&B establishments, as well as input received by various EU Member States bodies and a training organised with GACC officials in May 2024.

This EU SME Centre report is an update of the *Guidelines on mandatory GACC registration for EU F&B establishments (Decree 248)* published in May 2022: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/mandatory-gacc-registration-for-european-food-beverage-establishments-2/>.

© EU SME Centre 2024

Disclaimer

This document is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal, investment or other professional advice on any subject matter. Whereas every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this document is accurate, the EU SME Centre accepts no liability for any errors, omissions or misleading statements, and no warranty is given or responsibility accepted as to the standing of any individual, firm, company or other organisation mentioned. Publication as well as commercial and non-commercial transmission to a third party is prohibited unless prior permission is obtained from the EU SME Centre.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union and its contents are the sole responsibility of the EU SME Centre. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

Contents

Executive summary	3
1. Overview of GACC Decree 248	5
2. Step-by-step guide for completing GACC registration.....	9
2.1 High-risk categories: Registration through competent authority.....	9
2.2 Low-risk categories: Individual, self-registration.....	18
2.3 Common aspects and tips.....	26
3. Requirements on packaging and labelling.....	30
3.1 General rules and standards on packaging and labelling	31
3.2 Additional requirements for specific high-risk product categories.....	31
4. Filing requirements for trading companies	33
5. FAQ on CIFER registration	35
Annex: List of food safety competent authorities in EU Member States.....	42

Guidelines on GACC/CIFER Registration for European F&B Establishments

2024 Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

China's food safety governance has been significantly strengthened over the past years.¹ The overarching governing framework is represented by the *Food Safety Law (Second Revision)*,² and the more detailed *Implementing Regulations of the Food Safety Law*.³ The two documents set out comprehensive and clear requirements for the production, import, export, sale, recall, and traceability of food products in China, aimed at establishing a whole-process supervision and control system.

A key element outlined by the *Food Safety Law* is that all F&B operators shall be liable for the safety of F&B products that they produce or distribute within the Chinese market. On this basis, in April 2021, the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) issued the *Administrative Provisions on Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Foods* – commonly referred to as **GACC Decree 248**.⁴ The Provisions, which came into force on 1 January 2022, stipulate that **all overseas establishments that produce, process, or store any type of F&B product that is exported to China must register through a dedicated platform, obtain a registration code from GACC, and display it on the product's inner and outer packaging** – before the product is exported to China. Together with another GACC regulation which came into force at the same time – **GACC Decree 249** – the regulation significantly increases the responsibility and liability of overseas F&B establishments and of the food safety competent authorities in their countries.

Initially, **the entry into force of GACC Decree 248 generated significant doubts, uncertainty, and**

questions from overseas F&B establishments, mostly as a result of a lack of clear guidelines and awareness-raising efforts, as well as a number of technical issues with the dedicated registration platform (CIFER system). A frequent outcome was the rejection of applications for registrations submitted by overseas F&B establishments. Nowadays, after more than two and a half year of implementation, **the situation has significantly improved** and it is now relatively straightforward to complete the CIFER registration. However, a number of challenges still remain, especially involving those F&B products placed under the so-called “high-risk” categories. Many EU F&B establishments continue to reach out to the EU SME Centre seeking assistance with their specific cases.

For this reason, we are producing these guidelines to assist European F&B establishments to complete the mandatory GACC registration process.

In the first section, we provide an overview of the key elements of GACC Decree 248, focusing in particular on the scope of application, different risk levels of F&B categories, packaging requirements, as well as overall significance and impact.

The second, core section illustrates the **key steps that European F&B establishments must follow to complete the CIFER registration**, for both so-called “high-risk” and “low-risk” F&B categories (i.e., registration through competent authorities, and self-registration). This section is supported by screenshots taken directly from the system as well as tips on how to avoid mistakes.

1 For a detailed overview of China's food safety governance, its evolution over the years, as well as its commonalities and differences with the EU food safety system, see a publication completed in 2018 with the financial support of the EU: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3624d0f7-736a-11e8-9483-01aa75ed71a1> (accessed: 10 Jun 2024).

2 The Law was revised in 2015, full text in Chinese available at: http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2015-04/25/content_2853643.htm (accessed: 10 Jun 2024); an unofficial translation in English is available at: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/china-china-s-food-safety-law-2015> (accessed: 10 Jun 2024).

3 Issued in 2019, full text in Chinese available at: http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2019-10/31/content_5447142.htm (accessed: 10 Jun 2024); an unofficial translation in English is available at: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/china-china-implements-food-safety-law-implementing-regulations> (accessed: 10 Jun 2024).

4 Full text in Chinese available at: https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2021/content_5616161.htm (accessed: 10 Jun 2024); an unofficial translation in English is available at: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/china-overseas-facilities-registration-regulation-decree-248> (accessed: 10 Jun 2024).

The third section focuses on the **packaging and labelling requirements** for F&B products exported to China, for different product categories.

The fourth section – a newly added section that did not exist in the first version of the guidelines – provides a practical overview of the **requirements that trading companies have to complete when exporting F&B products** to China. These requirements differ from the registration on the CIFER system. They are relatively simple but nonetheless mandatory.

The fifth section provides a summary of **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs) that the EU SME Centre has received from European F&B establishments, and which were addressed by a team of experts – often after several rounds of calls with CIFER operators as well as a training with GACC officials held in May 2024.

Finally, a **list of the food safety competent authorities in EU Member States is provided**, as close coordination with them will be required for certain F&B product categories.

The main targets of these guidelines are individual establishments in the EU that produce, process or store F&B products that are exported to China. The guidelines are not oriented to food safety competent authorities in the EU. These authorities are responsible for supervising, reviewing and approving the registration of F&B establishments within their jurisdiction; they do so through their own CIFER account, granted by GACC, although the functions are significantly different from the CIFER accounts available to individual establishments. If needed, an user manual for food safety competent authorities can be downloaded directly from the CIFER system.



1. OVERVIEW OF GACC DECREE 248

This chapter provides a detailed overview of the key requirements and provisions of the *Administrative Provisions on Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Foods* – commonly referred to as GACC Decree 248.⁵ All European establishments that produce, process, or store F&B products that are exported to China must abide by its requirements.

Scope of application

According to Article 2 of GACC Decree 248, all overseas establishments producing, processing, or storing F&B products exported to China are required to **register on a dedicated system** (i.e., CIFER system) **before the products are shipped to the Chinese market**. This does not apply to overseas establishments producing, processing, or storing food additives or other food-related products (such as packaging): these are exempted from the registration. It also does not apply to trading companies (*see chapter 4 of these guidelines*).

According to Article 50 of the *Food Safety Law*, 'production' and 'processing' refer to the transformation of food and raw materials, or semi-finished products, into products suitable for human consumption, through labour, machinery, energy, or similar processes.

Before the entry into force of GACC Decree 248 in January 2022, the requirement to register and be officially approved by GACC was applicable only to four high-risk product categories: meat, dairy, aquatic and bird's nest products. GACC Decree 248 **extended this requirement by making it mandatory for all food product categories**, including low-risk ones.

Competent authority

According to Article 3 of Decree 248, GACC is the agency responsible for supervising and managing the registration of overseas establishments producing, processing, or storing F&B products exported to China.

Specifically, as part of the **registration management process**, GACC conducts risk analysis to determine the specific registration procedure that overseas establishments must follow. It also negotiates the requirements and application materials with the competent authority of the country or region where the establishment is based (*see chapter 2.1 of these guidelines*). Finally, it reviews the applications submitted by

overseas establishments and/or overseas food safety competent authorities through the dedicated CIFER system, document examination, video checking, on-site reviewing – or a combination of these. If approved, GACC will assign a **China registration code** to the registered overseas manufacturers of imported food, and uniformly publish the list of registered overseas manufacturers of imported F&B products.

On the operational side, the CIFER system is run and managed by the China E-Port Data Centre, a public institute directly under GACC.

Product categories and registration procedures

Articles 6 and 7 of GACC Decree 248 distinguish between two product categories: so-called 'high-risk categories', and so-called 'low-risk categories'. Each category must follow a specific registration procedure:

- (so-called) High-risk product categories: **Registration through competent authority** (long procedure). Overseas establishments must complete the registration in coordination with the food safety competent authority of the country or region where they are based. The process involves a physical inspection of the establishment by local food safety officers / veterinarian, review and approval by the competent authority, and a final review of GACC. *More details in chapter 2.1 of these guidelines.*
- (so-called) Low-risk product categories: **Independent, self-registration** (short procedure). The registration can be done independently by the overseas establishment, without the need of inspection/approval from food safety competent authorities of the country or region where they are based. Once the application for registration is submitted, it is immediately received by GACC for review. *More details in chapter 2.2 of these guidelines.*

According to Art. 7 of GACC Decree 248, a total of **18 food product categories are considered high-risk**. These include four product categories that were already considered high-risk and required registration before the entry into force of GACC Decree 248 (i.e., meat, dairy, aquatic and bird's nest products). It also includes 15 "new" product categories. Overseas establishments of all these categories must complete the registration

⁵ Full text in Chinese: https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2021/content_5616161.htm. Unofficial translation in English: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/china-overseas-facilities-registration-regulation-decree-248> (both links accessed on 6 Jun 2024).

of their products through their competent authorities, a process which is relatively complex and lengthy. All the other F&B categories are considered as low-risk. These overseas establishments may complete the

registration of their products independently without the involvement of their food safety competent authorities, a process which is relatively straightforward and short.

So-called high-risk vs low-risk product categories

Category	Products	Registration Procedure
High-risk categories (19 specific categories)	(i) Meat and meat products (ii) Casings (iii) Edible bird's nests and bird's nest products (iv) Bee products (v) Eggs and egg products (vi) Edible oils fats and oils (incl. oilseeds) (vii) Stuffed pasta/pastry products (viii) Edible grains (ix) Grain milling industrial products and malts (x) Fresh/dehydrated vegetables, dried beans (xi) Natural plant spices/seasonings (xii) Nuts and seeds (xiii) Dried fruits (xiv) Unroasted coffee beans and cocoa beans (xv) Food for special dietary purposes (xvi) Health food (functional food/supplements) (xvii) Dairy products (incl. infant formula) (xviii) Aquatic products Frozen fruit*	Registration through competent authority (long procedure)
Low-risk categories	All other F&B product categories	Independent, self-registration (short procedure)

* The case of frozen fruit is peculiar: to complete the CIFER registration, production establishments will need to have their accounts certified by their respective food safety competent authorities, in line with the requirements of high-risk product categories (see section 2.1 of these guidelines). However, according to the CIFER system, the registration procedure to follow is the one for low-risk product categories (see section 2.2 of these guidelines), unless they are "from countries where signed protocol or inspection and quarantine announcement issued by GACC requires that frozen fruit producers shall be recommended by competent authorities".

Packaging and labelling requirements

After the application for registration is review and approved by GACC, a 18-digit **China registration code** (在华注册编号) will be obtained. The code is formed by: C + 3 digits for country code, 4 digits for product category code, 6 digits for date, and 4 digits as a serial code.

According to Article 15 of GACC Decree 248, the code must be **clearly marked on both the inner and outer packaging of the product exported to China**. 'Inner packaging' refers to the packaging of the minimal sales

unit of the product, while 'outer packaging' refers to the external packaging used for the transportation of the product from the exporting country to China. Certain high-risk categories might also present additional requirements – for instance the labels of health food and food for special dietary purposes must be printed, rather than affixed through a sticker. More details on packaging and labelling requirements are provided in [chapter 3 of these guidelines](#).

Significance and impact

The fundamental purpose of GACC Decree 248 is to enhance and ensure the safety of F&B products imported into China, and thus the health of Chinese consumers. This is in line with the country's *Food Safety Law* and its implementing rules. All the registration requirements and application materials to be submitted by overseas establishments shall be interpreted in this way.

GACC Decree 248 (as well as other relevant regulations such as the *Measures of the People's Republic of China for the Administration of Import and Export Food Safety*, commonly referred to as GACC Decree 249)⁶ marks a clear shift in China's approach to track the sources of imported F&B products, by extending the registration requirement to all F&B products and not only certain high-risk categories as in the past (meat, dairy, aquatic products, and bird's nest products). In doing so, the **responsibility and liability of overseas food safety authorities and individual establishments are increased**. For the former, clear requirements are set for overseeing and ensuring compliance of the establishments within their jurisdictions, adopting rectification measures as necessary, and maintaining prompt communication with GACC. For the latter, clear requirements are set in terms of authenticity of the information submitted during the registration process, production conditions, as well as rectification measures and voluntary suspension of exports when potential issues arise.

Another goal of GACC Decree 248, as indicated by GACC officials during a training organised by the EU SME Centre in May 2024, is to promote the smooth and safe importation of foreign F&B products into the Chinese market. By completing the CIFER registration, the customs inspection and clearance procedure are simplified and shortened.

Situation after over two years of implementation

The CIFER system has been significantly improved since it was launched at the end of 2021. Numerous technical issues were addressed, and doubts solved by enhancing the clarity of the system and supporting documents available. GACC has also maintained ongoing dialogue with foreign authorities, especially the EU and its Member States, which has been extremely valuable and appreciated. On top of this, the EU SME Centre has organised numerous training sessions and

provided one-to-one free assistance to individual EU establishments to address their challenges.

Yet, a number of challenges still remain for many EU establishments. These mostly involve:

- **The so-called "high-risk" product categories**, which are subject to surprisingly long and unclear approval timelines (sometimes lasting several months), which bring significant uncertainty for EU establishments. Furthermore, the approval process is often subject to political considerations, i.e. establishments approved as result of official state visits or government agreements, or suspended following deterioration of political relations.
- **The so-called "low-risk" product categories** are overall straightforward to register. However, this is not the case for those products which present complex supply chains, e.g. raw materials or ingredients provided by a number of suppliers in different countries (directly or through brokers), or when different establishments are involved in the production process (e.g. bottling of a beverage outsourced to others).
- **Uncertainty regarding the appropriate HS and CIQ codes.** While the CIFER system provides a useful function to determine the right HS and CIQ codes applicable in China for a specific product category, sometimes these do not match the HS codes used in other countries. In other cases, descriptions are not sufficiently clear, leading to establishments making wrong choices which, in turn, lead to rejection of the application for registration through the CIFER system. Furthermore, HS and CIQ codes are constantly adjusted by GACC, without prior information to foreign competent authorities and establishments, thus causing significant trouble for products already shipped to China with the previously valid HS code. Therefore, EU F&B producers are strongly advised to verify the validity of their HS codes every time they are preparing a shipment to China.
- **Lack of adequate assistance in case of problems or doubts**, reported by a number of EU establishments. Although a direct contact line with CIFER operators has been established (+86 010-95198), this is available only in Chinese; English may be used only via email (eport@chinaport.gov.cn). However, the CIFER operators are responsible only

⁶ Full text in Chinese: https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2021/content_5621202.htm (accessed: 10 Jun 2024); an unofficial translation in English is available at: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/china-administrative-measures-import-and-export-food-safety> (accessed: 10 Jun 2024).

for answering questions about the submission of applications or other technical issues; they do not assist in clarifying doubts (e.g. on the appropriate HS and CIQ codes) or in explaining approval/rejection decisions made by GACC.

Finally, a number of EU establishments for the so-called “high-risk” products also reported to the EU SME Centre problems with their own food safety competent authorities. These involved, for instance, lack of familiarity by local inspectors of the requirements and procedures requested for CIFER registration; and more in general, “bad” or not fluent communication with competent authorities. Therefore, EU food safety authorities should continue planning **training and awareness-raising activities with all the actors involved in their countries.**

Overall, the CIFER registration process has become clear; the experience gained by relevant actors with the system is abundant. EU F&B establishments are strongly encouraged to get in touch with the food safety competent authorities in their countries, and/or with the EU SME Centre which is always ready to assist with individual cases. In any case, EU F&B establishments are advised to begin the CIFER registration as soon as possible, as the process may take very long and negatively impact their exports to the Chinese market.



2. STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR COMPLETING GACC REGISTRATION

All overseas establishments producing, processing, or storing F&B products exported to China are required to **complete registration with GACC before the products are shipped to the Chinese market**. If a product is shipped to China without having successfully completed the registration, or if the registration code is not displayed on the product in accordance with the requirements of GACC Decree 248 and other national standards, **the product will not be cleared by the customs officers at the Chinese port of entry**.

The registration must be completed through the *China Imported Food Enterprise Registration* system – commonly referred to as **CIFER system**. The CIFER system is accessible through GACC’s Single Window platform, as well as through the following link:
<https://cifer.singlewindow.cn>.

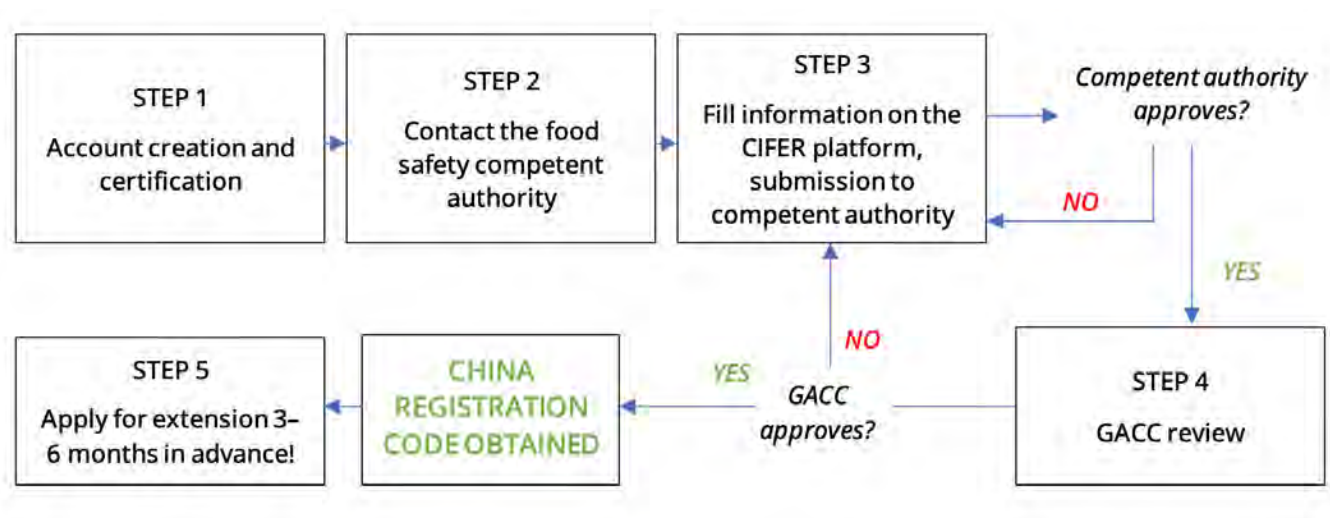
This chapter illustrates the necessary steps that all overseas establishments must follow to obtain the China registration code and to be able to export their F&B products to China. The chapter is divided into two parts, the first for the so-called high-risk product categories, and the second for the so-called low-risk product categories. Furthermore, **an official user manual in English was prepared by GACC and can be downloaded from the CIFER system**.⁷

The **first step for overseas F&B establishments is to assess the risk level of their products**, based on whether they belong to any of the 19 high-risk categories or not. If they do, they should follow the procedure described in [section 2.1 of these guidelines](#); if they do not, they can follow the procedure described in [section 2.2](#). In case an individual establishment needs to apply for the registration of both high-risk and low-risk products, both procedures must be followed. **Spoiler alert:** the procedure for high-risk products is highly complex and may require several months of review.

IMPORTANT! The CIFER system is the only official portal through which the registration must be completed. **The registration is totally free – no fees will ever be charged by GACC.**

BEWARE of any website offering the registration against a fee, even if they use elements associated with GACC, such as its logo, name, etc. **These are fake websites with fraudulent intentions.** The only legitimate portal will always be: <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn>

2.1 HIGH-RISK CATEGORIES: REGISTRATION THROUGH COMPETENT AUTHORITY



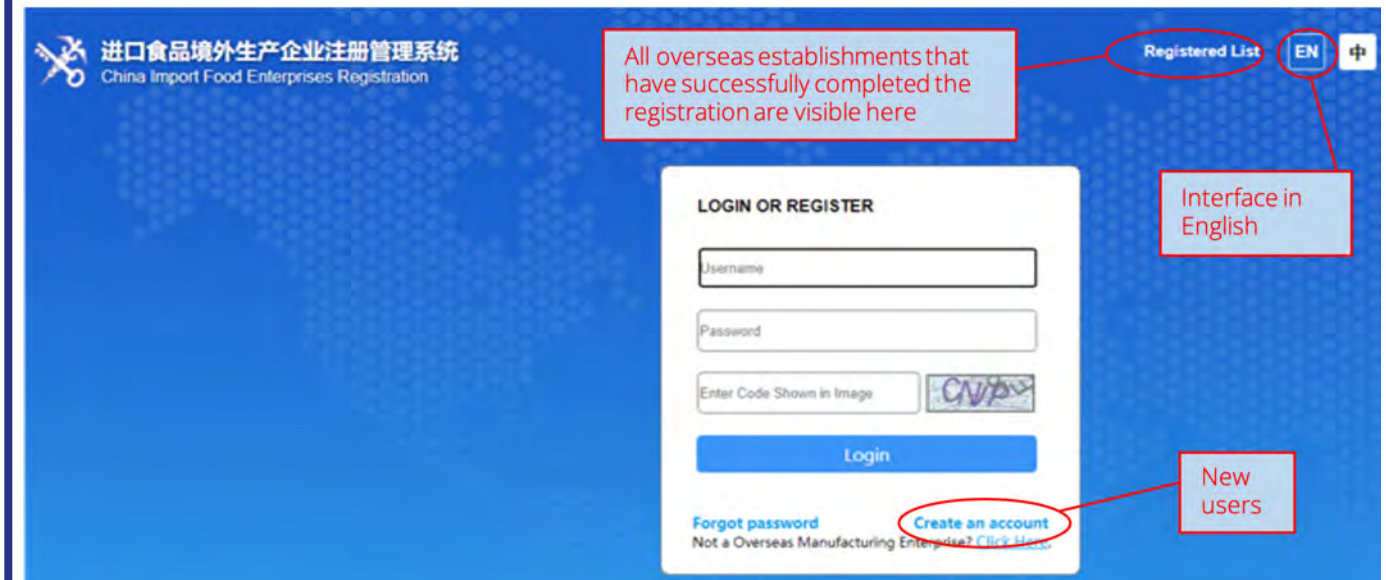
⁷ https://cifer.singlewindow.cn/deskserver/sw/deskIndex?menu_id=cifer002 (accessed on 7 June 2024).

Step 1: Account creation and certification

The first step for overseas establishments is to **create an account on the CIFER system**. It is not uncommon in practice that establishments entrust a third party (i.e. a consulting company, a chamber of commerce, etc.) to

manage the registration on their behalf. Although this involves sharing a large number of detailed information (see step 3), the process is the same.

Screenshot of CIFER system's home page



By clicking '**Create an account**', the applicant will be redirected to a page to fill out basic information about the establishment. Compulsory fields are marked with a red asterisk * and cover the information regarding username and password, location of the enterprise, workplace, contact person, number, email address, as well as the registration number used by the establishment in its country. Among the fields to fill in, the 'Registration number' is usually issued by the competent authority.

It is recommended to use an email address which is checked regularly, as any notification from GACC will be sent to that address.

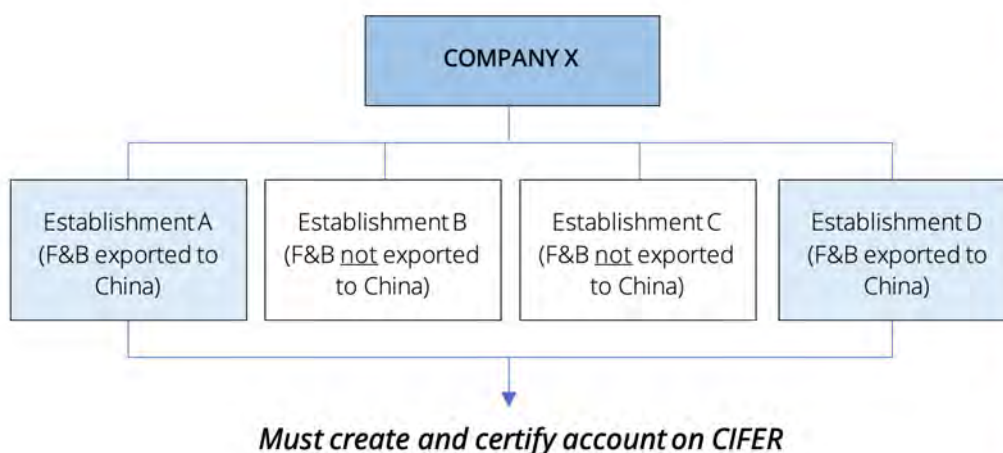
After filling the information required, overseas establishments **must have their accounts certified by their competent authorities**. This can be done by clicking '**Account certification**' on the left menu. This is a fundamental step without which overseas establishments cannot proceed with the registration. The competent authorities will receive a request through their CIFER accounts – which have different functions compared to establishments – and approve after verifying the validity of the information filled.

Screenshot of CIFER system after login



NOTE: one account must be created in the CIFER system for each individual establishment that produces, processes or stores F&B products exported to China, even if belonging to the same company. See example below.

Separate registration of establishments belonging to the same company



ATTENTION! Once an account is successfully created, information such as the username, the country/region location, and the registration number of the country/region **cannot be changed or modified**. Make sure to fill in this information correctly!

Step 2: Contact the food safety competent authority

After having successfully certified the CIFER account, overseas establishment must get in contact with the food safety competent authorities in the country or region where they are established. Competent authorities shall **organise an inspection of the establishment and its high-risk products to be exported to China**, verifying that: the establishment’s qualification is legally valid; the establishment complies with relevant inspection and quarantine requirements agreed between the GACC and the competent authority of the manufacturer’s country/region, especially for those product categories that require an *ad hoc* government protocol to be exported (e.g., meat, aquatic products, fruits and vegetables, etc.); and that the establishment’s safety and health management situation meets the safety requirements of the country and those of Chinese laws, regulations and national food safety standards.

Within the EU, food safety competent authorities are within the jurisdiction of individual Member States; even within one Member State, there may be different competent authorities responsible for different high-risk

categories. **A full list of the relevant competent authorities in each EU Member State is provided in Annex** of these guidelines, together with their contact details.

The **specific inspection and review procedures of food safety competent authorities differ significantly in each EU Member State**. In larger Member States, individual establishments may need to get in touch with the provincial- or regional-level division of the food safety authority, rather than the central authority; in smaller Member States, direct contact with the central authority is normally established.

In any case, an inspection officer (food safety official or veterinary) will be dispatched in the establishment to conduct an on-site inspection. The inspection needs to verify a **checklist provided by GACC for each category of product**, sign-off and issue an inspection report.⁸ The process may take several weeks – so it is strongly advised to begin as soon as possible!

Example of the checklist for grain milling industrial products and malts

Part 2 - Enterprise Location and Workshop Layout				
2.1 Site Selection and Plant Environment	1. Articles 3.1 and 3.2 of National Food Safety Standards - General Hygienic Regulation for Food Production (GB 14881)	2.1.1 Provide a plant plan, indicating the names of different operation areas. 2.1.2 Provide pictures of the environment of the area where the plant is located, indicating the ambient information (urban, suburban, industrial, agricultural, and residential areas).	1. The plant layout meets the needs of production and processing. 2. There is no pollution source around the plant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Conformity <input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity
Self-Assessment Comment and Supporting Materials reviewed.				
<p>GB14881: Article 3.1 Site selection</p> <p>3.1.1 The areas that have large contamination on foods shall not be selected for the plant. If a place has obviously adverse effect which can't be improved by taking measures on food safety and stability, the plant shall not be built there.</p> <p>3.1.2 Sites where hazardous waste, dust, harmful gas, radioactive substance, and other diffusive contaminants cannot be eliminated effectively shall not be selected for the plant.</p> <p>3.1.3 Regions where flood disaster can usually occur should not be selected for the plant. If it's difficult to keep it away, necessary precaution measures shall be taken.</p> <p>GB14881: Article 3.2 Plant Surroundings</p> <p>3.2.1 Potential contaminant risk of the surroundings to food production shall be considered and appropriate measures shall be taken to reduce it to the maximum level.</p> <p>3.2.2 The plant shall be arranged reasonably; each functional area shall be obviously divided with proper separation or partition measures to prevent cross contamination.</p> <p>3.2.3 The roads in the plant shall be paved with concrete, tar or other hard materials. Necessary measures shall be taken for vacant land, e.g. cement, floor tile or tarmac shall be paved to maintain clean surrounding and prevent raising dust and accumulated water under normal weather.</p> <p>3.2.4 Plant greening shall be kept an appropriate distance from the production workshop, and vegetation shall be maintained on regular basis to prevent insect pest from breeding.</p> <p>3.2.5 The plant shall be equipped with proper drainage system.</p> <p>3.2.6 Living area such as dormitory, canteen or recreation facilities of employees shall be kept an appropriate distance or partitioned from the production areas.</p>				

⁸ The checklists, officially titled *GACC Registration Conditions and Key Points of Control Inspection for Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of [Product Category]*, are available in Chinese on GACC’s website: <http://online.customs.gov.cn/static/pages/guide/s/000129012000/000129012000.html> (accessed on 6 June 2024). English versions of the checklists may also be available to EU Member States authorities.

Step 3: Fill information on the CIFER platform, submission to competent authority

After the inspection of the competent authority, the establishment will need to start the product registration itself by clicking the **'Application for registration'** option in the menu. Applicants must choose their product category and specific subcategory (note: if the

establishment's account has not been certified by the competent authority – step 1 – these options will be blocked and inaccessible), before being redirected to the next page.

Screenshot of CIFER: Application for registration




At this point, the applicant must **add information about its establishment and relevant product(s)**. Four sections of information will need to be completed: (i) basic information; (ii) product-related information; (iii) declaration information; and (iv) attachment information. In each section, the fields marked with a red asterisk * are compulsory to fill in; if a field is not mandatory, it is recommended not to fill it.

The first section requires the applicant to fill in basic information about the establishment. The CIFER system will automatically fill out some of the requested information based on the **'Registration number approved by local competent authority'** provided when creating the user account; while other fields will need to be filled in by the applicants themselves, such as the name of the enterprise, the date when the manufacturing plant was built/commissioned, the legal representative's name, contact number, email address, etc.

Note: the fields 'registration number (in China)', 'registration date (in China)', and 'registration expiration date (in China)' cannot be selected and will be automatically filled out by the CIFER system after the registration process is completed and approved by GACC.

Screenshot of CIFER: filling in 'basic information'



The screenshot shows the 'Basic information' tab of the 'Application for registration' form. The form includes the following fields:

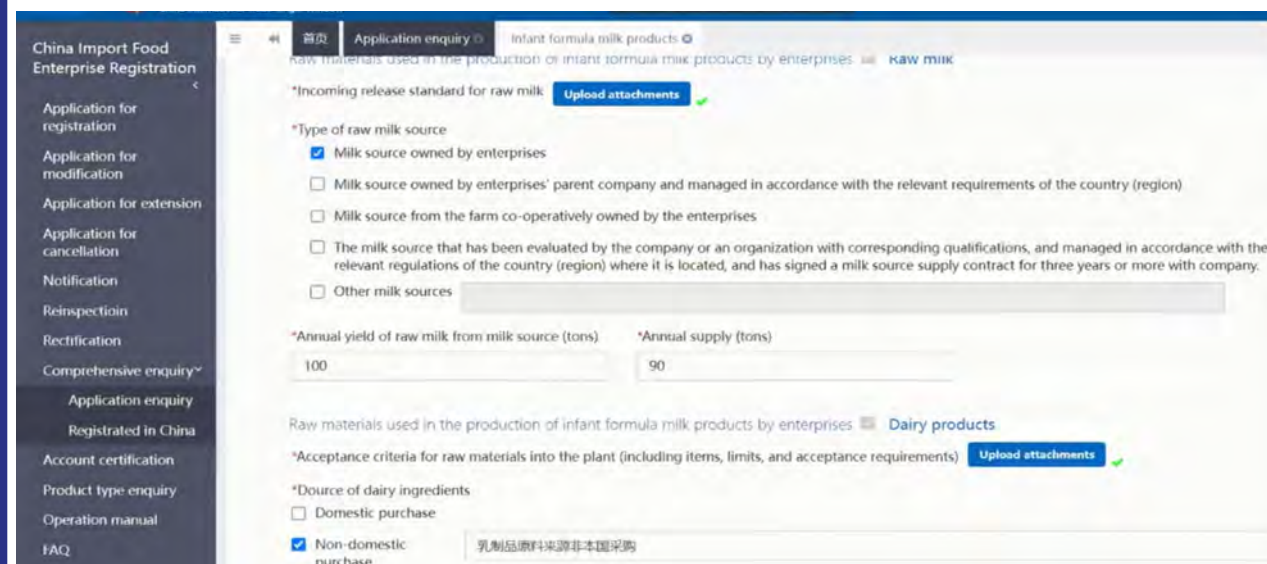
- Country (Region):** 比利时-Belgium
- Registration number approved by located competent authority:** 1
- Name of the registration approval competent authority:** (empty)
- Registration number (In China):** (empty)
- Registration date (In China):** (empty)
- Registration expiration date (In China):** (empty)
- Enterprise name:** EU SME Centre
- Plant establishment time:** (empty)
- State/Province/Territory:** (empty)

Buttons for 'Save' and 'Delete' are visible. A message indicates 'current state: Enterprise temporary saved'. A note states: 'Enterprises registered through CIFER system should be an imported food production, processing, and storage enterprises, non-abovementioned enterprises do not need to apply for registration through this system.'

In the second section, applicants must add information related to the specific product(s) to be exported to China, by clicking 'Add' under '**Products to be registered/added to China**'. First, the applicant must choose its role in the production process of the product, i.e., 'production', 'processing' and/or 'storage'. In general, *if an establishment completes the majority of the production and finishes the product, then it can be considered as 'production'; if an establishment is involved only in one part of the production process, then it can be considered as 'processing'*. Then, the HS code and CIQ code of the product must also be selected: it is fundamental to ensure that both codes are right, especially the CIQ code; if in doubt, it is suggested to verify with the Chinese importer. **If the HS code is not found in the list, then the product does not need to complete the CIFER registration** (though it might need other kinds of approval).

Applicants will then need to add additional information about the production specifications and conditions. These vary for each specific high-risk product category, but generally include detailed information about the food safety standards executed, **raw materials or ingredients** of the product, the suppliers of the raw materials/ingredients (names are required), the names of other actors involved in the production process, as well as the description of the production and processing techniques used for the product, floor plans, and the involved staff. If the product had already been exported to China in the past, information on the trade history may be added in order to demonstrate more effectively the establishment's understanding and compliance with China's food safety and import-export regulations.

Screenshot of CIFER: filling in 'product-related information', example of infant formula



The screenshot shows the 'product-related information' form for 'infant formula milk products'. The form includes the following fields and options:

- *Incoming release standard for raw milk:** Upload attachments
- *Type of raw milk source:**
 - Milk source owned by enterprises
 - Milk source owned by enterprises' parent company and managed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the country (region)
 - Milk source from the farm co-operatively owned by the enterprises
 - The milk source that has been evaluated by the company or an organization with corresponding qualifications, and managed in accordance with the relevant regulations of the country (region) where it is located, and has signed a milk source supply contract for three years or more with company.
 - Other milk sources
- *Annual yield of raw milk from milk source (tons):** 100
- *Annual supply (tons):** 90
- Raw materials used in the production of infant formula milk products by enterprises:** Dairy products
- *Acceptance criteria for raw materials into the plant (including items, limits, and acceptance requirements):** Upload attachments
- *Source of dairy ingredients:**
 - Domestic purchase
 - Non-domestic purchase: 乳制品原料来源非本国采购

The next step will be to download, sign and stamp the **'Declaration of the manufacturer'**, declaring that all the information filled in is true and complete. Another page will provide a summary of all the **attachments** that must be uploaded during the registration

process. These vary significantly on the specific product category registered, but must always include the **signed checklist and the inspection report signed by the officer** dispatched by the competent authority (see step 2).

Screenshot of CIFER: example of attachments required for infant formula

Item No.	Description	Status	File Name	Actions
8	Logistic flow diagram of workshop	Yes	测试.jpg	Delete Download
9	HACCP system hazard analysis worksheet	No	-	-
10	HACCP plan	No	-	-
11	HACCP system certificate from the third party	No	-	-
12	HACCP plan and its precondition program	No	-	-
13	Sources of hazards and corresponding prevention and control measures	No	-	-
14	Site-cleaning procedures for production changeover	No	产品间消毒场操作程序.png	Delete Download
15	Environmental microbiological monitoring plan	Yes	环境微生物监控计划 (2).png	Delete Download
16	The latest 2 test reports for implementation of the environmental microbial monitoring plan	Yes	环境微生物监控计划执行最近2次检测报告.jpg	Delete Download
17	List of chemicals	Yes	化学物品一览表.jpg	Delete Download
18	Water supply and drainage diagram of production workshop	Yes	生产车间给排水图.jpg	Delete Download
19	Monitoring plan on water used in production (including ice and steam in direct contact with food)	Yes	生产用水监控计划.jpg	Delete Download
20	The latest 2 test reports for water used in production (including ice and steam in direct contact with food)	Yes	生产用水最近2次检测报告.jpg	Delete Download
21	Inspection items and sampling plan for the finish products	Yes	终产品出厂检验项目及取样方案.jpg	Delete Download
22	Incoming release standard for raw milk	Yes	生乳原料入厂检验标准.jpg	Delete Download

The final step will be to preview the application and proceed to submission. **Once submitted, the application will be received by the competent authority**, instead of GACC. Through its own account on CIFER (which has different functions compared to the accounts of individual establishments), the competent authority will need to review all the information and attachments included in the application, and in turn upload an official **Letter of recommendation**, duly signed and stamped.

As the review process might be relatively lengthy, it is recommended that individual establishments maintain constant dialogue with their competent authority to ensure a smooth review. **If necessary, the competent authority may request the establishment to amend or supplement some of the information:** in this case, the application will be returned and the review temporarily suspended. If no changes are needed, the competent authority will directly approve the application through the system, which is then received by GACC.

Step 4: GACC review

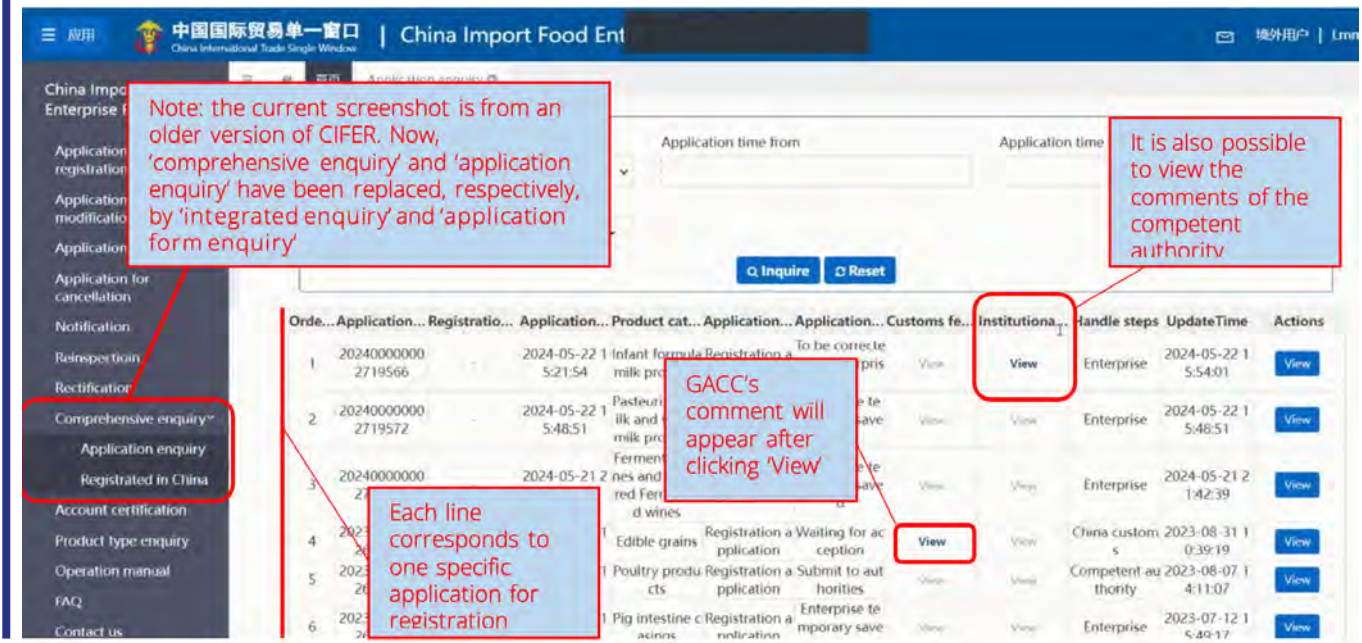
Once the application for registration is received by GACC, the formal review process begins. Normally, the process should be straightforward if the competent authority has carefully reviewed the application. However, **GACC may also request additional documents to both the individual establishment and the competent authority**: in this case, the application will be returned and the review suspended.

How long will it take? There is no clear timeline for GACC review. The process may take a few weeks or last several months, depending on the complexity of the product, the history of the establishment, as well as the overall food safety situation in the country of origin (e.g., ongoing diseases or

food safety risks). Furthermore, **political factors might also play a role**, potentially speeding up or slowing down the review process. It is therefore recommended to start the process as soon as possible.

It is possible to view GACC's feedback in the section **'Integrated enquiry' > 'Application form query'** in the menu. In this section, all the applications for registration submitted are visible. By clicking 'View' in the corresponding line, GACC's comments will appear via a pop-up window. **Spoiler alert**: often, GACC's comments are extremely short and unclear: it is recommended to liaise with the competent authorities directly for assistance.

Screenshot of CIFER: viewing feedback from GACC and/or competent authority



The screenshot shows the CIFER system interface. The top navigation bar includes the logo for 'China Import Food Enterprise' and the text 'China International Trade Single Window'. The left sidebar contains a menu with options like 'Application registration', 'Application modification', and 'Comprehensive enquiry'. The main area displays a table of application registrations with columns for 'Order...', 'Application...', 'Registration...', 'Application...', 'Product cat...', 'Application...', 'Application...', 'Customs fe...', 'Institutiona...', 'Handle steps', 'UpdateTime', and 'Actions'. A 'View' button is highlighted in the 'Actions' column for the first row. Callouts provide additional information: 'Note: the current screenshot is from an older version of CIFER. Now, 'comprehensive enquiry' and 'application enquiry' have been replaced, respectively, by 'integrated enquiry' and 'application form enquiry''; 'It is also possible to view the comments of the competent authority'; 'GACC's comment will appear after clicking 'View''; and 'Each line corresponds to one specific application for registration'.

Order...	Application...	Registration...	Application...	Product cat...	Application...	Application...	Customs fe...	Institutiona...	Handle steps	UpdateTime	Actions
1	20240000000 2719566		2024-05-22 1 5:21:54	Infant formula milk pro	Registration a	To be correcte pris	View	View	Enterprise	2024-05-22 1 5:54:01	View
2	20240000000 2719572		2024-05-22 1 5:46:51	Pasteuriz ilk and milk pro	Registration a	to te ave	View	View	Enterprise	2024-05-22 1 5:46:51	View
3	20240000000 2719572		2024-05-21 2 1:42:39	Ferment nes and red wine	Registration a	to te ave	View	View	Enterprise	2024-05-21 2 1:42:39	View
4	2023-08-31 1 0:39:19			Edible grains	Registration a	Waiting for ac ception	View	View	China custom	2023-08-31 1 0:39:19	View
5	2023-08-07 1 4:11:07			Poultry produ cts	Registration a	Submit to aut horities	View	View	Competent au thority	2023-08-07 1 4:11:07	View
6	2023-07-12 1 5:49:17			Pig intestine c arcins	Registration a realization	Enterprise te mporary save	View	View	Enterprise	2023-07-12 1 5:49:17	View

Once the application is approved by GACC, the **China registration code** (在华注册编号) will be assigned by GACC and automatically appear under the column 'Registration number in China'. The code consists of a total of 18 digits, specifically C + 3 digits for the country code, 4 digits for the product category code, 6 digits for date, and 4 digits as a serial code. At this stage, the relevant product can be exported to China. The code will need to be displayed on both the inner and outer packaging of the product (more details in [chapter 3 of these guidelines](#)).

Approved registrations might also be modified to add new products within the same category (e.g. different brand of infant formula), more details in [chapter 2.3 of these guidelines](#).

Step 5: Apply for extension in advance!

As stipulated in Art. 16 of GACC Decree 248, the validity of the registration of overseas establishments lasts for 5 years. An **'Application for extension' must be submitted through the CIFER system – not less than 3 months, and not more than 6 months before the expiration date.** This will allow GACC sufficient time to review the information, ultimately ensuring that the overseas establishment continues to export its F&B products to China without interruption.

In case an establishment is asked by the CIFER system to modify / update its registration information, it shall do so before applying for extension; it is not possible to do both simultaneously. Sufficient time must be allocated! Failure to do so might lead to establishments missing the window for application extension, and subsequently to start the CIFER registration from scratch.

Failure to submit an application for extension within this time frame will result in the impossibility to do so at a later stage; **a totally new registration must be started again, from scratch!**

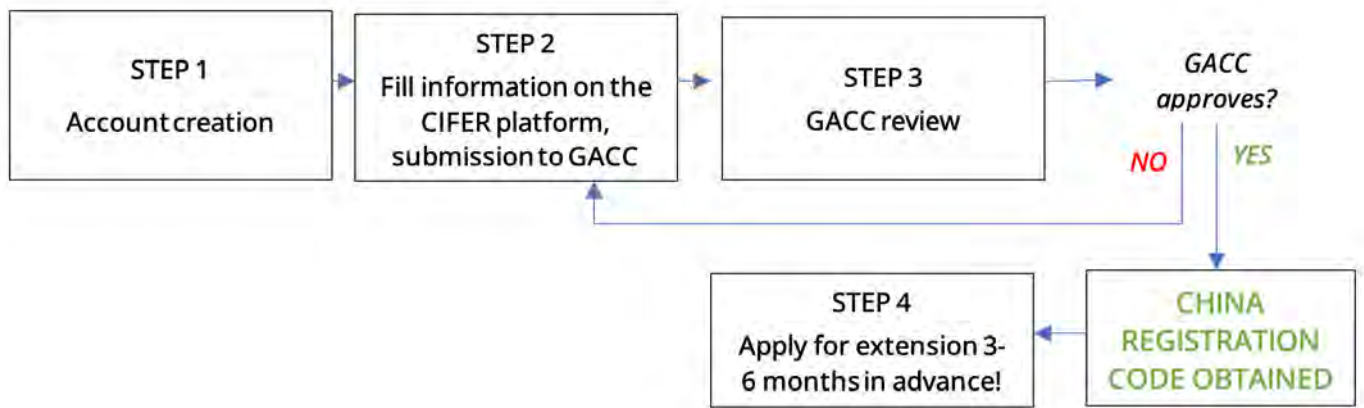
Screenshot of CIFER: Application for extension

*According to Article 20 of 《Regulations of People's Republic of China on Registration and Administration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Food》,If an overseas manufacturer of imported foods intends to renew its registration,it shall,within three to six months before the registration expires,apply to the GACC for renewal of registration through the registration application path.

Applications for renewal of registration can only be submitted the GACC within 3 to 6 months before the expiry of the validity period of enterprise registration.

Orde...	Application serial numb...	Product category	Registration number in ...	Expiration date	Actions
No matching records found					

2.2 LOW-RISK CATEGORIES: INDIVIDUAL, SELF-REGISTRATION

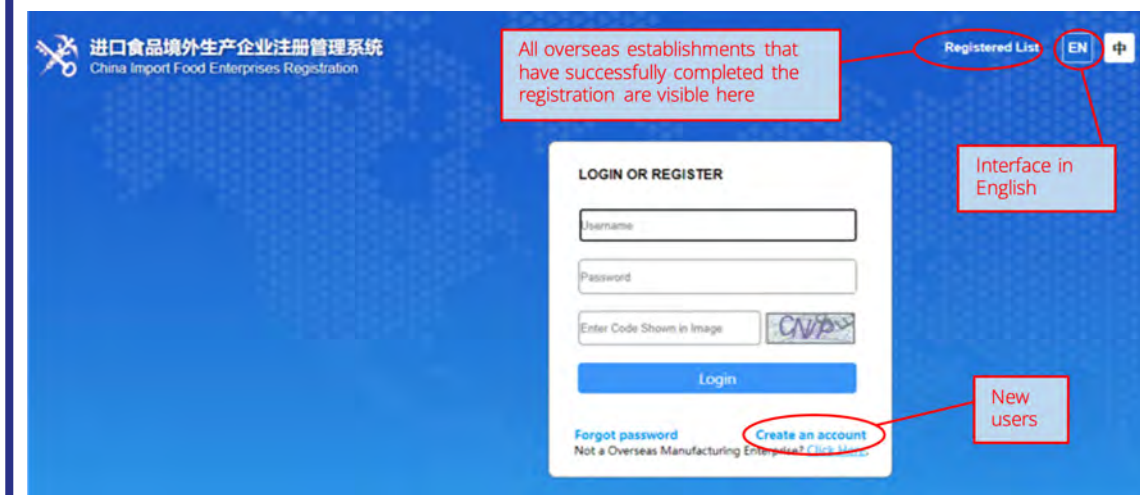


Step 1: Account creation

The first step for overseas establishments is to **create an account on the CIFER system**. It is not uncommon in practice that establishments entrust a third party (i.e. a consulting company, a chamber of commerce, etc.) to

manage the registration on their behalf. Although this involves sharing a large number of detailed information (see step 2), the process is the same.

Screenshot of CIFER system's home page



By clicking '**Create an account**', the applicant will be redirected to a page to fill out basic information about the establishment. Compulsory fields are marked with a red asterisk * and cover the information regarding username and password, location of the enterprise, workplace, contact person, number, email address, as well as the registration number of the establishment

in its country/region. Among the fields to fill in, the '**Registration number**' refers to the business registration number, tax number or VAT number that the establishment uses in its country or region; although it is not marked as a mandatory field, in practice, this information is required in order to proceed with the following steps.

Screenshot of CIFER system's account creation page

*User Name

*Password

*Re-enter Password

*Country/Region

Registration Number !

*Organisation Name Please make sure to fill in the Located Country/Region Register Number. If you need to use the China Registration system. Otherwise, your normal use will be affected. Thank you!

Department

Job title

*Contact

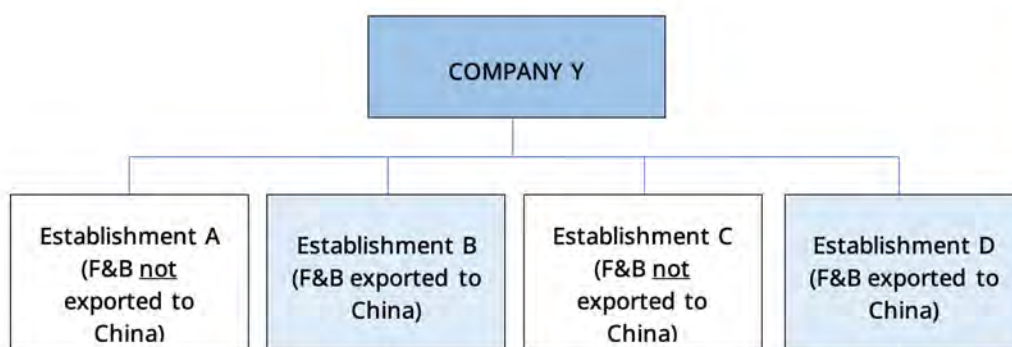
*Contact Number

Contact Fax

It is recommended to use an email address which is checked regularly, as any notification from GACC will be sent to that address.

NOTE: one account must be created in the CIFER system for each individual establishment that produces, processes or stores F&B products exported to China, even if belonging to the same company group. See example below.

Separate registration of establishments belonging to the same company



Must create and certify account on CIFER

ATTENTION! Once an account is successfully created, information such as username, the country/region location, and the registration number of the country / region **cannot be changed or modified**. Make sure to fill in this information correctly!

Step 2: Fill information on the CIFER platform, submission to GACC

Once the user account is successfully created and activated, the applicant can immediately begin the registration process by clicking **'Application for registration'** on the menu bar to the left side of the page.

Applicants must choose their product category and specific subcategory (note: high-risk categories are automatically blocked by the system, only low-risk ones are enabled), then proceed to the next page.

Screenshot of CIFER: Application for registration



At this point, the applicant must **add information about its establishment and relevant product(s)**. Four sections of information will need to be completed: (i) basic information; (ii) product-related information; (iii) declaration information; and (iv) attachment information. In each section, the fields marked with a red asterisk * are compulsory to fill in; if a field is not mandatory, it is recommended not to fill it.

Note: the fields 'registration number (in China)', 'registration date (in China)', and 'registration expiration date (in China)' cannot be selected and will be automatically filled out by the CIFER system after the registration process is completed and approved by GACC.

The first section requires the applicant to fill in basic information about the establishment. The CIFER system will automatically fill out some of the requested information based on the **'Registration number approved by local competent authority'** provided when creating the user account; while other fields will need to be filled in by the applicants themselves, such as the name of the enterprise, the date when the manufacturing plant was built/commissioned, the legal representative's name, contact number, email address, etc. The production license issued by the competent authority where the applicant is based (translated in Chinese or English) will also need to be uploaded on the system at a later stage.

Screenshot of CIFER: filling in 'basic information'

The screenshot displays the 'China Import Food Enterprise Registration' web portal. The main navigation bar includes the logo and text '中国国际贸易单一窗口 | China Import Food Enterprise Registration'. The left sidebar lists various application types, with 'Application for registration' selected. The main content area shows the 'Basic information' tab, which is highlighted with a red box. Below the tabs are 'Save' and 'Delete' buttons, and a status indicator 'current state : Enterprise temporary saved'. A yellow warning message states: 'Enterprises registered through CIFER system should be an imported food production, processing, and storage enterprises, non-abovementioned enterprises do not need to apply for registration through this system.' The form fields are organized into a grid:

Basic information of the enterprises		
*Country (Region) 比利时-Belgium	*Registration number approved by located competent authority	Name of the registration approval competent authority
Registration number (in China)	Registration date (in China)	Registration expiration date (in China)
*Enterprise name EU SME Centre	*Plant establishment time	*State/Province/Territory
*Address of manufacturing facility		

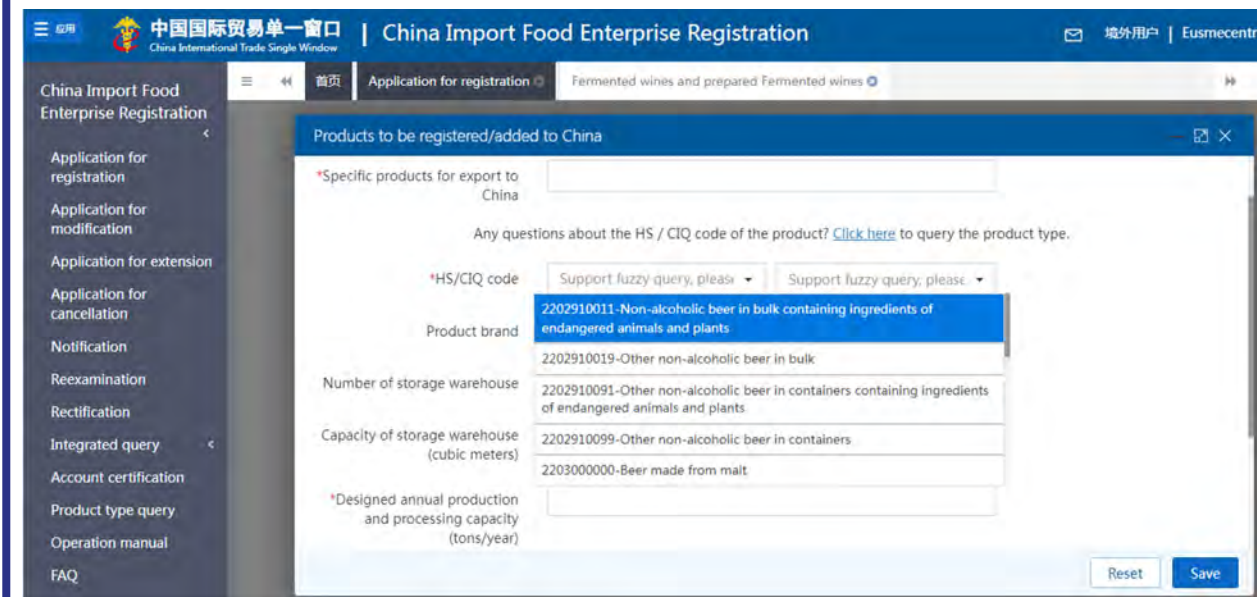
In the second section, applicants must add information related to the specific product(s) to be exported to China, by clicking 'Add' under '**Products to be registered/added to China**'. Firstly, the applicant must choose its role in the production process of the product, i.e., 'production', 'processing' and/or 'storage'. In general, *if an establishment completes the majority of the production and finishes the product, then it can be considered as 'production'; if an establishment is involved only in one part of the production process, then it can be considered as 'processing'*. Then, the HS code and CIQ code of the product must also be selected: it is fundamental to ensure that both codes are right, especially the CIQ code; if in doubt, it is suggested to verify with the Chinese importer. **If the HS code is not found in the list, then the product does not need to complete the CIFER registration** (though it might need other kinds of approval).

NOTE: it is recommended to include all products available to the establishment, regardless of whether they are already or about to be exported to China at the time of the registration.

Other mandatory fields to fill relate to the annual production and processing capacity of the establishment, referring to the whole production capacity and not only that for the exports to China; if 'storage' has been selected, further information regarding the storage warehouse need to be submitted. Pictures of the product may also be uploaded.

If the product had already been exported to China in the past, it is recommended to add information on the trade history to demonstrate more effectively the establishment's understanding and compliance with China's food safety and import-export regulations.

Screenshot of CIFER: filling in 'product-related information', selecting HS and CIQ codes



The screenshot shows the 'Products to be registered/added to China' form in the CIFER system. The form includes the following fields and options:

- *Specific products for export to China: [Text input field]
- Any questions about the HS / CIQ code of the product? [Click here](#) to query the product type.
- *HS/CIQ code: [Support fuzzy query, please] [Support fuzzy query, please]
- Product brand: [2202910011-Non-alcoholic beer in bulk containing ingredients of endangered animals and plants] (dropdown menu is open)
- Number of storage warehouse: [2202910019-Other non-alcoholic beer in bulk] (dropdown menu is open)
- Capacity of storage warehouse (cubic meters): [2202910091-Other non-alcoholic beer in containers containing ingredients of endangered animals and plants] (dropdown menu is open)
- *Designed annual production and processing capacity (tons/year): [2202910099-Other non-alcoholic beer in containers] (dropdown menu is open)
- [2203000000-Beer made from malt] (dropdown menu is open)

Buttons: [Reset] [Save]

Applicants will then need to add additional information about the production specifications and conditions. These vary for each specific product category, but include detailed information about the **raw materials or ingredients** of the relevant product (although not mandatory). The 'production correspondence' part requires the applicant to specify details about the **suppliers of the raw materials/ingredients**, as well as of other actors involved in the product's production process; their names, registration number in their countries and eventually in China will be requested. It is thus recommended to collect this information as soon as possible so that the registration process is not delayed. Other parts in this section relate to the water used in the production process and the **description of the production/processing techniques** used: they do

not need to be too detailed, a basic description of the technical manufacturing processes will be sufficient, such as hot/cold treatment, time, temperature, pickling, dehydration, etc. Information about the staff employed by the establishment may be filled in, although not mandatory.

NOTE: The 'production correspondence' part **may become problematic** in case raw materials and ingredients are purchased through brokers and not directly from the producers; or when one establishment does not have stable suppliers. More details on these cases are available in the FAQs in chapter 5 of these guidelines.

Screenshot of CIFER: filling in 'product-related information', example of wine

The screenshot shows the 'Production correspondence' form in the CIFER system. The form is titled 'Production correspondence' and is for 'Fermented wines and prepared Fermented wines'. The form includes the following fields and options:

- *Specific products for export to China: Red Wine
- *Type of affiliated company: Raw material supplier Reprocessing company Other
- Type of other affiliated company: [Empty text box]
- *Name of affiliated company: [Empty text box]
- *Whether the affiliated company obtained the registration number in located country(region): Yes No
- Registration number of the Country(Region) where the affiliated company is located: [Empty text box]

Buttons: Reset, Save

The next step will be to download, sign and stamp the **'Declaration of the manufacturer'**, declaring that all the information filled in is true and complete. Another page will provide a summary of all the **attachments**

that must be uploaded during the registration process. These vary depending the specific product category registered, but in general are easy to prepare (unlike high-risk food categories).

Screenshot of CIFER: example of attachments required for wine

The screenshot shows the 'Attachment information' page in the CIFER system. It includes a table listing required attachments for wine. The table has the following columns: Order No., Attachment type, Requi..., Attachment name, and Actions.

Order No.	Attachment type	Requi...	Attachment name	Actions
1	Licensed production certificate issued by the competent authority of the country (region)	Yes	-	-
2	Declaration of the manufacturer	Yes	-	-
3	Product photo	No	-	-
4	Processing flow chart	No	-	-

Buttons: Submit, Preview

The final step will be to preview the application and proceed to submission. **Once submitted, the application will be received directly by GACC**, which will immediately start the review. Unlike high-risk

categories, there are no intermediate steps involving the competent authorities of the country where the applicant is established.

Step 3: GACC review

Once the application for registration is received by GACC, the formal review process begins. Normally, the process should be straightforward if all the information were filled properly and if the product does not have complex ingredients or specifications. Eventually, **GACC may request additional documents to both the individual establishment and the competent authority:** in this case, the application will be returned and the review suspended.

It is possible to view GACC's feedback in the section **'Integrated enquiry' > 'Application form query'** in the menu. In this section, all the applications for registration submitted are visible. By clicking 'View' in the corresponding line, GACC's comments will appear via a pop-up window. **Spoiler alert:** often, GACC's comments are extremely short and unclear.

How long will it take? There are is no clear timeline for GACC review. The process may take a few work days or last weeks, depending on the complexity of the product and how the information were filled through the system. The process is in any case much shorter than high-risk categories, which may take several months are may be subject to political considerations. In any case, it is recommended to start the process as soon as possible, even before participating to potential trade fairs in China!

Screenshot of CIFER: viewing feedback from GACC and/or competent authority



The screenshot shows the 'Application form query' page in the CIFER system. The interface includes a sidebar menu, a search bar, and a table of application records. Several callout boxes provide additional context:

- Note:** the current screenshot is from an older version of CIFER. Now, 'comprehensive enquiry' and 'application enquiry' have been replaced, respectively, by 'integrated enquiry' and 'application form enquiry'.
- GACC's comment** will appear after clicking 'View'.
- This section** will always be empty for low-risk products.
- Each line** corresponds to one specific application for registration.

Order...	Applicati...	Registrati...	Applicati...	Produ...	Registration	Enterprise t...	Customs ...	Institutio...	Handle st...	UpdateTi...	Actions
1	2022000000 00404106	-	2024-06-07 17:11:03	Fermented wines and prepared Fermented wines	Registration application	Enterprise temporary saved	View	View	Enterprise	2024-06-07 17:11:03	View
2			24-06-06 17:56	Nuts and seeds products	Registration application	Enterprise temporary saved	View	View	Enterprise	2024-06-06 21:27:56	View
3			23-08-30 06:39	Biscuits, cakes and bread	Registration application	Enterprise temporary saved	View	View	Enterprise	2023-08-30 06:36:39	View
	2023000000		2023-07-24	Grain produ...	Registration	Enterprise t...				2023-07-24	

Once the application is approved by GACC, the **China registration code** (在华注册编号) will be assigned by GACC and automatically appear under the column 'Registration number in China'. The code consists of a total of 18 digits, specifically C + 3 digits for the country code, 4 digits for the product category code, 6 digits for date, and 4 digits as a serial code. At this stage, the relevant product can be exported to China. The code will need to be displayed on both the inner and outer packaging of the product (more details in chapter 3 of these guidelines).

Approved registrations might also be modified to add new products within the same category (e.g. different brand of infant formula, different types of wine, etc.), more details in [chapter 2.3 of these guidelines](#).

Step 4: Apply for extension in advance!

As stipulated in Art. 16 of GACC Decree 248, the validity of the registration of overseas establishments lasts for 5 years. An **'Application for extension' must be submitted through the CIFER system – not less than 3 months, and not more than 6 months before the expiration date.** This will allow GACC sufficient time to review the information, ultimately ensuring that the overseas establishment continues to export its F&B products to China without interruption.

Failure to submit an application for extension within this time frame will result in the impossibility to do so at a later stage; **a totally new registration must be started again, from scratch!**

Screenshot of CIFER: Application for extension

The screenshot displays the 'Application for extension' page in the CIFER system. The sidebar on the left includes options such as 'Application for registration', 'Application for modification', 'Application for extension' (highlighted with a red box), 'Application for cancellation', 'Notification', 'Reexamination', 'Rectification', 'Integrated query', 'Account certification', 'Product type query', 'Operation manual', 'FAQ', 'Contact us', and 'Version Description'. The main content area features a 'Query Condition' section with a 'Product range' dropdown menu and 'Inquire' and 'Reset' buttons. Below this, a red box highlights the following text: ***According to Article 20 of 《Regulations of People's Republic of China on Registration and Administration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Food》, If an overseas manufacturer of imported foods intends to renew its registration, it shall, within three to six months before the registration expires, apply to the GACC for renewal of registration through the registration application path. Applications for renewal of registration can only be submitted the GACC within 3 to 6 months before the expiry of the validity period of enterprise registration.** Below the text is a table with columns: 'Order...', 'Application serial numb...', 'Product category', 'Registration number in ...', 'Expiration date', and 'Actions'. The table currently shows 'No matching records found'.

2.3 COMMON ASPECTS AND TIPS

How to check the status of an application

Once an application for registration is started by the applicant, it will be automatically saved in the system. It is possible to view the status of each application by

clicking on **'Integrated query' > 'Application form query'**, on the left menu. Under the column **'Application status'**, the following statuses might appear:

Application status	Explanation
Temporarily saved by enterprise	The application is temporarily saved at the enterprise end, which needs to be submitted to the competent authority of the country/region (high-risk products) or to GACC (low-risk products)
Submitted to the competent authority	The application has been submitted to the competent authority for review (high-risk products)
Submitted to GACC	The competent authority has recommended the enterprise's application to GACC (high-risk) / The enterprise has submitted the application to GACC (low-risk)
Temporarily saved by competent authority	Application information is being processed by the competent authority of the country (region), it is temporarily saved and not yet submitted to GACC.
Recommendation rejected	The competent authority of the country (region) rejects the application of the enterprise. The enterprise cannot modify the application, a completely new application for registration must be initiated.
Successfully sent to GACC	System processing. Applications recommended by the competent authorities or submitted by enterprises were successfully submitted to GACC.
Processing failed	An error or anomaly occurred in the processing of the application. The competent authority or enterprise in the country (region) must submit the application again (without filling in a new application from scratch).
To be accepted (Entered GACC database successfully)	System processing. The application has been received by GACC and will be reviewed in the coming days/weeks.
Accepted	The application has been accepted by GACC and will be reviewed.
Rejected by customs	GACC has rejected the application. A new application for registration must be filled from scratch.
Supplementation and correction by competent authority	The submitted application does not comply with the requirements of GACC. Changes must be made by the competent authority. The competent authority / applicant do not need to fill in a new application for registration from scratch.
Supplementation and correction by enterprise	The submitted application does not comply with the requirements of the competent authority or GACC. Changes must be made by the enterprise. The applicant does not need to fill in a new application for registration from scratch.
Unapproved	GACC rejects the application recommended by the competent authority (high-risk), or submitted by the enterprise (low-risk).
Approved	If the overseas establishment meets all the requirements, GACC approves the application for registration, and grants the China registration number to the establishment.
Revoked	GACC revokes the registration in China of the registered establishment.
Suspended	GACC suspends the validity of the registration of the registered establishment, until rectification are made to ensure compliance.
Rectification	If a registered manufacture no longer conforms to the registration requirements, GACC shall request the manufacturer to rectify within a specified period. Until then, the validity of its registration is suspended. The establishment shall complete the rectification within the specified period and submit to GACC a written report and a written statement confirming it conforms to the registration requirements.

How to check the HS and CIQ codes applicable

A common issue faced by EU F&B exporters in China is uncertainty about the appropriate HS code and CIQ code applicable to their products. In fact, **only the first 6 digits of HS codes are universally equal**; the remaining may vary, and this is very frequent in China.

The CIFER system offers the possibility to identify the right HS code (10 digits) and CIQ code (3 digits) for F&B products. This can be done through the **'Product type query'** function on the left menu. It is possible to search using the first four or six digits of the HS code, or by typing in English the name of the product; all related results will appear in the page, with detailed descriptions of the HS codes and corresponding CIQ code. The results will also indicate whether the corresponding

registration procedure for the product, i.e. registration through competent authority (high-risk products) or individual, self-registration (low-risk products).

NOTE: If the HS code is not found in the list, then **the product does not need to complete the CIFER registration** (though it might need other kinds of approval).

However, **descriptions of the HS codes or CIQ codes might not always be entirely clear**. It is thus recommended to confirm with your Chinese importer whom may have channels to verify with local customs officers. GACC and local customs officers will always have the final say on whether the HS and CIQ codes chosen are appropriate or not.

The screenshot shows the 'Product type query' interface. The search form includes fields for 'HS code' and 'Product name' (containing 'cheese'). Below the form is a table of results. A red box highlights the 'Official...' column in the table, which indicates if registration is required.

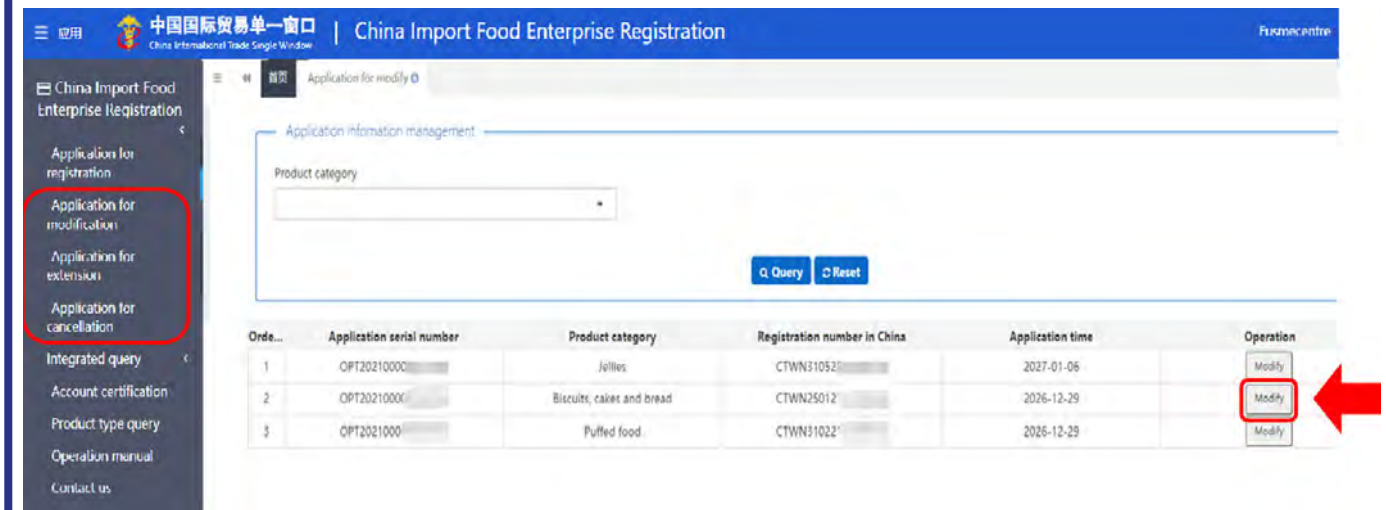
Ord...	HS code	Product name	CIQ code	CIQ name	产品范围	Product cate...	Official...	Remarks
1	0406100000	Fresh cheese (unripened or uncured) (including whey cheese and curd)	101	Fresh cheese (unripened or uncured) (including whey cheese and curd) (non-ripened cheese)	Dairy	Cheese and Process(ed) cheese	Yes	-
2	0406100000	Fresh cheese (unripened or uncured) (including whey cheese and curd)	102	Fresh cheese (unripened or uncured) (including whey cheese and curd) (other cheese)	Dairy	Cheese and Process(ed) cheese	Yes	-
3	0406100000	Fresh cheese (unripened or uncured) (including whey cheese and curd)	103	Fresh cheese (unripened or uncured) (including whey cheese and curd) (cheese made with raw milk)	Dairy	Cheese and Process(ed) cheese	Yes	-
4	0406200000	All kinds of grated or powered cheese	101	All kinds of grated or powered cheese (mould-ripened cheese)	Dairy	Cheese and Process(ed) cheese	Yes	-

How to add new products to a registration which has already been approved by GACC

After the application for registration has been approved by GACC and the registration code obtained, establishments might modify their registration. This is typically required when (i) new products within the same category need to be added to the same registration (because they had not been added at first); (ii) when the raw materials/ingredients or suppliers change; (iii) or when the basic information of the establishment change. This can be done by clicking **'Application for modification'** in the menu, and by selecting **'Modify'** in the corresponding registration. Supporting materials explaining the reason of the requested changes must be submitted during the process.

NOTE: Some information cannot be modified after a registration has been approved by GACC, including the registration number in the home country, the legal representative of the company, and the address of the establishment. **Make sure that these details are correct when filling the application for the first time** – otherwise you will need to start a new application for registration from scratch.

Screenshot from CIFER: application for modification



Order...	Application serial number	Product category	Registration number in China	Application time	Operation
1	OPT20210000	Jellies	CTWN31052	2027-01-06	Modify
2	OPT20210000	Biscuits, cakes and bread	CTWN25012	2026-12-29	Modify
3	OPT20210000	Puffed food	CTWN31022	2026-12-29	Modify

If the product belongs to a high-risk category, the application for modification will first need to be reviewed by the establishment's competent authority, and then

submitted to GACC. If the products belongs to a low-risk category, the application for modification goes directly to GACC upon submission.

Suspension or revocation of approved registrations

There may be circumstances when the **China registration code is suspended / revoked** by GACC, resulting in the impossibility for overseas establishments to continue exporting products to China. These are outlined by Article 24 of GACC Decree 248, namely:

- Severe food safety incidents of imported foods caused by the overseas establishment;
- Serious food safety problems detected in F&B products exported to China during the entry inspection and quarantine;
- Significant problems identified in the establishment's food safety and sanitation management, affecting the conformity of the F&B products with China's safety and sanitation requirements;
- The overseas establishment provides false materials or conceals relevant facts;
- The overseas establishment refuses to cooperate with GACC in reviews and incident investigations;
- The overseas establishment leases, lends, transfers, or resells its registration number, or illegitimately claims another overseas establishment's registration number.

GACC may ask for a rectification to be completed within a specific time frame; failure to do so may result in permanent revocation of the China registration code: a totally new application for registration will need to be completed.

Public register of approved registrations

All approved establishments will be included on a **dedicated register** published on the CIFER system: <https://ciferquery.singlewindow.cn/>. This is a public register showing basic information such as the China registration

code and the validity time of the registration. This is also useful to see which establishments of a certain F&B category have been approved from a certain country, so **to identify potential partners or competitors**.

Screenshot of CIFER's register of approved registrations

中华人民共和国海关总署
General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China

进口食品境外生产企业注册信息
Registration information of overseas manufacturers of imported food

港澳地区生产企业注册信息
Registration information of overseas manufacturers of imported food

产品类别
CATEGORY 按空格键检索支持模糊查询

所在国家(地区)
COUNTRY(REGION) 按空格键检索支持模糊查询

所在国家(地区)注册编号
OVERSEAS REG. NO. 请输入所在国家(地区)注册编号

在华注册编号
CHINA REG. NO. 请输入在华注册编号

状态
STATE 全部

企业名称
ENTERPRISE NAME 请输入企业名称

Q 查询 R 重置

序号 NO.	国家(地区) COUNTRY(REGIO...	产品类别 CATEGORY	在华注册编号 CHINA REG. NO.	所在国家(地区)注册编号 OVERSEAS REG. NO.	企业名称 NAME	生产场所地址 ADDRESS	注册日期 REG. DATE	注册有效期至 EXP. DATE	状态 STATE
1	澳大利亚	婴幼儿配方乳制品	CAUS17011404300001	2156	AUSTRALIAN DAIRY PARK PTY LTD	120	2014-04-30	2027-12-31	有效
2	澳大利亚	婴幼儿配方乳制品	CAUS17011404300002	6439	SAPUTO DAIRY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD		2014-04-30	2027-12-31	有效
3	德国	婴幼儿配方乳制品	CDEU17011404300001	DEBY		Heisinger Strasse 6	2014-04-30	2023-05-26	注销
4	德国	婴幼儿配方乳制品	CDEU17011404300002	DEB	nd AG	Füssener Str. 1	2014-04-30	2027-12-31	有效
5	丹麦	婴幼儿配方乳制品	CDNK17011404300001	M165	Aria Foods Ambros Arinco	Maelkevejen 4	2014-04-30	2027-12-31	有效
6	西班牙	婴幼儿配方乳制品	CESP17011404300001	26.00042/MU	HERO ESPAÑA, S.A.	AVDA. DE MURCIA Nº 1	2014-04-30	2023-05-19	注销
7	西班牙	婴幼儿配方乳制品	CESP17011404300002	26.00291/O	INDUSTRIAS LACTEAS ASTURIANAS SA	LG/ ANLEO	2014-04-30	2027-12-31	有效

Direct enquiries with CIFER operators

In practice, individual establishments may still have doubts about certain aspects of the registration, or may encounter technical issues during the process.

GACC has established two direct contact lines with CIFER operators that can be used, for free, by overseas establishments:

By phone (Chinese language only):
+86-10-95198

By email (English and Chinese language):
eport_zixun@customs.gov.cn

The main problem is that the above contact lines provide only assistance with technical or operational issues encountered on the CIFER platform. Any questions or doubts about broader aspects are generally not addressed, such as determination of the HS and CIQ code, explanation about feedback received through the CIFER system, or content of documentation required.

The answers to many questions are often known to EU Member States competent authorities or their national representations in China. Often, alternative contact channels with GACC are also available to them. EU F&B establishments therefore are encouraged to **get in touch with their national authorities!**

The EU SME Centre may also be able to assist!

info@eusmecentre.org.cn




<https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/ask-the-expert/>

3. REQUIREMENTS ON PACKAGING AND LABELLING

According to Article 15 of GACC Decree 248, the China registration code (在华注册编号) obtained from GACC must be clearly marked on both the **inner and outer packaging of the relevant product to be exported to China**. Specifically:

Outer packaging refers to the external packaging used for the transportation of the product from the exporting country to China.

Inner packaging refers to the packaging of the minimal sales unit of the product. If the minimal sales unit contains several individually packaged units that cannot be sold individually, these will not be regarded as the minimal sales unit.

Items	Description of situations	Need to label registration No.?
	Transport packaging (not for sale) (according to Decree 248)	Yes
	Small packaging unit with ten individual packs (minimal sales unit)	Yes (GB 7718 prepackaging food labeling)
	Minimal unit (not for sale)	No

CXXX (four English letters) + 14 numbers
Chinese registration No.: xxxxxxx

Screenshot from EU SME Centre hybrid workshop held in March 2022.⁹

GACC Decree 248 **does not stipulate specific requirements on the font, size and format of the China registration code** to be affixed on the label, besides being easily identifiable and recognisable by consumers. In practice, it is recommended to maintain consistency with the rest of the information included in the label, refraining from using different fonts or smaller sizes.

In addition to the 18-digit China registration code on the packaging and labels, imported F&B products must also conform with the general provisions of other existing laws, regulation and food safety standards in China (see chapter 3.1 of these guidelines). For certain high-risk categories, additional packaging and labelling requirements must be followed (see chapter 3.2 of these guidelines).



Example of China registration code (in red) on the label of an imported pre-packaged food from Spain

⁹ Updates on Customs and Logistics Requirements for Imported F&B Products, recording available at: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/event/2022-03-01/update-customs-and-logistics-requirements-imported-fb-products>.

3.1 GENERAL RULES AND STANDARDS ON PACKAGING AND LABELLING

In general, China's *Food Safety Law* defines packaging materials and containers as products made of paper, bamboo, wood, metal, porcelain, plastic, rubber, natural fibre, chemical fibre, or glass and used to contain food or additives, or coating in direct contact with food or additives. It also requires that food for direct consumption must be contained in small packages, or use non-toxic and clean packaging materials and containers. The respected containers for storing, transporting, and

loading/unloading food must be safe, maintain the food in clean condition, and prevent food contamination.

Labelling requirements are stipulated in Chinese national standards – most of which are for mandatory implementation. Normally, there are specific standards for each product category and subcategory.¹⁰ For pre-packaged foods, the applicable standards are:

Standard in English	Standard in Chinese	Standard Number	Effective Date
General Principles for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (currently under revision)	预包装食品标签通则	GB 7718-2011	20/04/2012
Standard for Nutrition Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (currently under revision)	预包装食品营养标签通则	GB 28050-2011	01/01/2013
Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses (currently under revision)	预包装特殊膳食用食品标签	GB 13432-2013	01/05/2015
General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives	食品添加剂标识通则	GB 29924-2013	01/06/2015

The content of the labels must be legal, true, complete, accurate, and consistent with the information provided during the GACC registration process in the CIFER system. Standard Chinese characters must be used, with the only exception of trademarks and details regarding the manufacturer and their premises. Labels might be either printed on an ad hoc packaging realised for the Chinese market; or stuck on the original packaging (except for health foods and special dietary food products, see chapter 3.2 of these guidelines). The content of the label shall include:

- Product name, specification, net content, and production date;
- Table of ingredients or formulation;
- Name, address, and contact details of the manufacturer and/or the local distributor;
- Shelf life, date of production, or expiration date;
- Code of product standard(s);

- Storage requirements;
- **China registration code obtained from GACC;**
- Warning of allergens;
- Other information for specific products required by laws, regulations, or food safety standards, e.g. for infant formula and products derived from agricultural biotechnology

3.2 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC HIGH-RISK PRODUCT CATEGORIES

In addition to the general requirements, **additional packaging and labelling requirements must be followed for certain high-risk product categories**, as stipulated by GACC Decree 249, which was published and came into force simultaneously with GACC Decree 248. Specifically, these additional packaging and labelling requirements are stipulated in Art. 30 of GACC Decree 249.

¹⁰ For a detailed overview of Chinese labelling standards in the dairy sector see: <https://www.eusmeccentre.org.cn/publications/chinas-dairy-sector/>. For health food: <https://www.eusmeccentre.org.cn/publications/guidelines-on-exporting-health-food-to-china/>. For wine: <https://www.eusmeccentre.org.cn/publications/chinas-wine-markets-drivers-technical-requirements-and-opportunities-for-eu-producers/>. For food additives: <https://www.eusmeccentre.org.cn/publications/food-additives-in-china-regulations-and-practical-cases/>.

Fresh and frozen meat products

For fresh and frozen meat imports, the inner and outer packaging must have labels in Chinese and English, or in Chinese and the language of the exporting country/region. The labels must be securely fixed, clear, and easily recognisable. Both the inner and outer labels must include the following content:

- Country or region of origin;
- Product name;
- Registration number of the manufacturer;
- Production batch/lot number.

At the same time, the outer packaging must also bear the following information in Chinese:

- Specifications;
- Place of origin (detailing country, province, and city);
- Place of destination (clearly marking 'People's Republic of China');
- Date of production;
- Shelf life;
- Storage temperature;
- Official inspection and quarantine mark of the exporting country (region).

Aquatic products

For aquatic product imports, the inner and outer packaging must have labels in Chinese and English, or in Chinese and the language of the exporting country/region. These must be securely fixed, clear, and easily recognisable. The label must include the following content:

- Commodity name and scientific name;
- Product specifications;
- Date of production;
- Batch number;
- Shelf life and storage conditions,

- Production methods (ocean catch, freshwater catch, or aquaculture);
- Production area (marine fishing area, freshwater fishing country or region, country or region where the aquaculture products come from);
- The name/registration number/address (specific city/province/state) of all involved manufacturing and processing facilities (including fishing vessels, processing vessels, transport vessels, and independent cold storage);
- Place of destination (clearly marking 'People's Republic of China').

Health food and food for special dietary purposes

Health food refers to edible products with specific health functions or to supplement vitamins and minerals. Its main function is to help a person to regulate its body, rather than having medical effects such as curing diseases; at the same time, health food must not produce any acute, or chronic harm to the human body.

By contrast, food for special dietary purposes refers to edible products that are specially processed or formulated to meet special physical or physiological conditions, and to meet special dietary needs under conditions such as diseases and disorders. The nutrition and content of other nutrients of this type of food are significantly different from comparable ordinary foods. Special dietary foods include formula foods for infants and children, complementary foods for infants and children, formula foods for special medical purposes, and other special dietary foods (including complementary food supplements, sports nutrition foods, and other special dietary foods with corresponding national standards).

Unlike other product categories, the labels of health foods and food for special dietary purposes cannot be stuck on the product's original packaging, but must be printed on the minimum sales packaging.

At the same time, the label must indicate the suitable groups for the product and indicate the functions as well as highlight the functional and significant ingredients and their content. Food for infants additionally needs to indicate the age range. It is important to mention clearly that labels and instructions do not involve any information implying the prevention or treatment of diseases.

4. FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRADING COMPANIES

A question frequently received by the EU SME Centre relates to whether it is needed for trading companies to complete the CIFER registration. The answer is negative: As clearly stipulated in Article 2 of GACC Decree 248, only overseas establishments producing, processing, or storing F&B products exported to China are required to complete the CIFER registration. Therefore, **companies that only export to China F&B products, without any involvement in the production, processing and storage process, do not need to register.**

However, trading companies are not totally exempted from paperwork. They shall still **complete a filing as an 'Exporter or Agent Overseas'** (境外出口商或代理商). This is done through a separate system, called Registration System for Exporters or Agents Overseas (境外出口商或代理商信息备案系统). Originally, the system could be accessed via the website: <http://ire.customs.gov.cn/>; however, the system has now been integrated into GACC's Internet+Customs platform. The following is a step-by-step guide for trading companies on how to complete the filing.

Login on GACC's Internet+Customs platform

Visit <http://online.customs.gov.cn/> and use your credentials to register or login on the platform (it is possible to use the same account credentials used for the CIFER system).

Enter the Registration System for Exporters or Agents Overseas

On the main page, click on Enterprise Management and Audit (企业管理和稽查) → Filing of Importer and Exporter of Imported Food and Cosmetics (进口食品化妆品进出口商备案) → Exporter/Agent filing of Imported Food and Cosmetics (进口食品化妆品出口商、代理商备案).

Screenshot of the registration system for exporters or agents overseas

The screenshot displays the GACC Internet+Customs platform interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for '首页' (Home), '我要办' (What I want to do), '办事指南' (Service Guide), '我要查' (What I want to check), '公共服务' (Public Service), and '好差评' (Good/Bad Review). A search bar is located below the navigation bar, with the placeholder text '请输入您要办理的事项或服务' (Please enter the matter or service you want to process) and a '快速到达' (Quick Access) button. The main content area features a grid of service icons. The icon for '企业管理和稽查' (Enterprise Management and Audit) is highlighted with a red box. Below this icon, a dropdown menu is visible, showing the following options: '企业稽核查' (Enterprise Audit), '企业认证' (Enterprise Certification), '企业信息公示及异议处理' (Enterprise Information Disclosure and Objection Handling), '进出口货物收发货人备案' (Import and Export Goods Receiver/Shipper Filing), '进口食品化妆品进出口商备案' (Import and Export Filing of Importers and Exporters of Imported Food and Cosmetics), and '境外主体备案及其他监管' (Filing of Overseas Entities and Other Supervision). The option '进口食品化妆品进出口商备案' is highlighted with a red box, and its sub-menu is also visible, showing '进口食品进口商备案' (Import Filing of Importers of Imported Food) and '进口食品化妆品出口商、代理商备案' (Filing of Exporters and Agents of Imported Food and Cosmetics). A banner for '国家政务服务平台 上线试运行' (National Government Service Platform Online Trial Operation) is visible on the right side of the interface.

Fill in the information

You will be redirected to the system, which requires you to fill in basic information about the company and the products exported.


Once submitted, the exporter is eligible to export into the Chinese market the relevant product(s) chosen.

However, please note that: **The exporter must ensure that the relevant production, processing or storage**

establishment of the F&B product to be exported has successfully completed the CIFER registration. This is a mandatory requirement that applies regardless of who is the exporter.

The Chinese importer will also need to have completed relevant procedures for importation, such as having obtained an import-export license and having filed information with the customs.

Screenshot of the form to fill in



初次备案 Initial Filing 用户下载 Help document download [Please click on](#) 境外出口商名单查询 Overseas Exporters or Agents list Query [Please click on](#)

说明(Explain): * 为必填项。(Information marked with an * must be submitted.)

第1页——企业资料 Section 1 - Applicant's Information

* 企业名称 (英文)
Name(in English): EU SME Centre

企业名称 (中文)
Name(in Chinese):

* 企业地址 (英文)
Address(in English):

企业地址 (中文)
Address(in Chinese):

* 企业类型
Company Type: 出口商 Exporter 代理商 Agent 出口商或代理商 Exporter or Agent

* 国家地区
Country/Area: 比利时(Belgium) * 邮政编码
Postal Code:

* 联系人姓名
Contact Name:

联系人电话 (请注明国家地区代码及区域码)
Contact Telephone(Include Area/Country/Region Code):

联系人传真 (请注明国家地区代码及区域码)
Contact Fax (Include Area/Country/Region Code):

联系人手机 (请注明国家地区代码及区域码)
Contact Cell Phone (Include Area/Country/Region Code):

* 联系人电子邮箱信箱
Contact E-mail: 请不要填写gmail和hotmail邮箱! Please do not fill out the Gmail and Hotmail mailbox!

第2页——经营食品及化妆品种类 (多选题) Section 2—Food and Cosmetic Category of Operation

5. FAQ ON CIFER REGISTRATION

This section includes a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) received by the EU SME Centre from EU F&B producers and business associations, since November 2021. These were **answered after analysis and consultation with relevant industry professionals and CIFER operators**.

The answers are based on the experience, good practices and practical interpretation of relevant industry practitioners; **they do not constitute in any way a legal advice, and may be subject to different**

interpretations. At the same time, new changes, additions and adjustments are regularly introduced on the CIFER system – which may affect the validity of the answers provided. The aim of the FAQs in this chapter is to provide general guidance on the myriad of cases and peculiarities that may affect EU F&B producers, reflecting the current situations.

A total of 19 FAQs are included, grouped under six main topics, detailed below.

Topic	FAQ
Fill/edit the CIFER registration	<i>Is it free to complete the CIFER registration, or are there any costs involved?</i>
	<i>How can I check the HS and CIQ codes applicable to a product?</i>
	<i>In the EU, business identity documents are generally released in the local languages and not in English. Is it still ok to use these documents during the CIFER registration process?</i>
	<i>How can I check the status of an application for registration/modification submitted?</i>
	<i>Our application for registration on CIFER was approved. However, we need to add new products which were originally not included: How can this be done? What supporting materials should be provided?</i>
	<i>Our application for registration was successfully approved. However, we have realised that the basic information of our establishment provided is wrong. How can we correct it?</i>
	<i>Our application for modification was rejected, because we did not upload a specific checklist in the process, even if it was marked as optional/not mandatory in the system. Why?</i>
Registration of so-called high-risk products	<i>We have submitted an application for registration for a high-risk product. More than three months have passed and we still haven't heard any feedback. Is it normal?</i>
	<i>Health food and infant formula: is CIFER registration enough?</i>
Raw materials, ingredients and suppliers	<i>Our product contains an ingredient which is considered high-risk, or which would normally require a government-level protocol in place to be imported into China. What to do in these situations?</i>
	<i>Our company does not have a regular supplier of raw materials, we change them constantly. How do I fill in the relevant information in the CIFER system?</i>
	<i>Our company purchases raw materials from a broker, not directly from the producer. How do I fill in the relevant information in the CIFER system?</i>

Topic	FAQ
Product produced in different establishments	<i>My product is partially made in one establishment but finished in another location (regardless of whether within the same country): which establishment should be the one registered on the CIFER system?</i>
	<i>Different establishments are involved in the production/processing/storage. All have completed the CIFER registration, but we are not sure which China registration code should be used on the product's label?</i>
	<i>Establishment A procures raw materials and packaging materials, then it outsources the production to establishment B (another company). On the product packaging, it is specified that the product is packaged at the address of establishment B, which of course differs from the address of establishment A. However, establishment A still owns the brand and trademark of the finished product. Should establishment A or establishment B register on CIFER?</i>
Storage establishments	<i>How is the term 'storage establishment' defined? We have a warehouse where we store finished products waiting to be shipped to China, do we have to register this facility on the CIFER system?</i>
	<i>Our establishment is responsible for storing F&B products produced by another establishment (within or outside the same company group); we are not involved in the production/processing process. Should we still register through the CIFER system?</i>
	<i>Our high-risk product is produced in one establishment, but it is stored in another establishment, both of which have already obtained a China registration code. Which of the two establishments' codes should be affixed to the product's packaging? Or maybe both codes should be affixed?</i>
Automatic changes in the system	<i>Our establishment has already registered several products and obtained a China registration code. However, after some time, some of the products successfully registered do not appear anymore in our account, while they did in the past. Is it normal?</i>

Furthermore, official **FAQs are available directly in the CIFER system**, in the dedicated section.



The screenshot shows the 'FAQ' section of the 'China Import Food Enterprise Registration' system. The page title is '中国国际贸易单一窗口 | China Import Food Enterprise Registration'. The left sidebar contains a menu with items: 'China Import Food Enterprise Registration', 'Application for registration', 'Application for modification', 'Application for extension', 'Application for cancellation', 'Notification', 'Reexamination', 'Rectification', 'Integrated query', 'Account certification', 'Product type query', 'Operation manual', 'FAQ', 'Contact us', and 'Version Description'. The main content area lists the following questions:

- How can I check the progress of my application?
- How do I get the reason for the application was refused by the GACC or return to be corrected?
- What should I do if I cannot select the foods shall be recommended by the competent authorities of their countries/regions to the GACC?
- How do I find out which category the product I want to register belongs to?
- The overseas manufacturers has obtained the registration number in China, how to modify the registration information?
- The overseas manufacturers has been registered, how to modify the legal representative name, Address of manufacturing facility and the State/Province/Territory information?
- What should I do if the registration number of the country (region) is entered incorrectly, when overseas manufacturers create account?
- When an overseas manufacturers registers an account, it does not input the information of the registration number of the country (region) where it is located, how to supplement it?
- What if the overseas manufacturers has submitted an application and has not been approved for a long time?

For any doubts or questions, EU establishments are encouraged to get in touch directly with the food safety competent authorities in their countries, and/or with CIFER operators via phone (+86 010-95198, Chinese only) or functional email (eport@chinaport.gov.cn, both English and Chinese).

You are also welcome to get in touch with the EU SME Centre!

 info@eumecentre.org.cn

 <https://www.eumecentre.org.cn/ask-the-expert/>

Fill/edit the CIFER registration

Is it free to complete the CIFER registration, or are there any costs involved?

The CIFER registration is a totally free process: **no fees are ever charged by GACC**. Beware of any website offering the registration against a fee, even if they use elements associable to GACC, such as its logo or its name: these are fake websites with fraudulent intentions, asking for a fee usually up to 900 USD. The only legitimate portal through which the CIFER registration is done is <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn>.

That said, it is not uncommon for individual establishments to hire consultants to complete the CIFER process. In this case, there will be consulting fees, but these cover the service offered by the intermediary and not the CIFER registration itself, which remains free for everyone.

How can I check the HS and CIQ codes applicable to a product?

The CIFER system offers the possibility to identify the right HS code (10 digits) and CIQ code (3 digits) for F&B products. This can be done through the 'Product type query' function on the left menu. It is possible to search by using the first four or six digits of the HS code, or by typing in English the name of the product; all related results will appear on the page, with detailed descriptions of the HS codes and corresponding CIQ codes. The results will also indicate whether the corresponding registration procedure for the product, i.e. registration through competent authority (high-risk products) or individual, self-registration (low-risk products). By contrast, if the HS code is not found in the list, then the product does not need to complete the CIFER registration.

For more details and practical tips on how to check the right HS and CIQ codes, [see chapter 2.3 of these guidelines](#).

In the EU, business identity documents are generally released in the local language, not in English. Is it ok to use these documents during the CIFER registration process?

Business identity documents must be submitted in Chinese or English. If it is not possible to have business identity documents issued directly in other languages, a notarised translation into English or Chinese is required.

However, if there is an agreement between China and your country for Food Entry, Inspection and Quarantine, which stipulates that documentation can be submitted in other languages, then it is possible for you to submit business identity documents in those languages.

Our application for registration on CIFER was approved. However, we need to add new products which were originally not included: How can this be done? What supporting materials should be provided?

New products can be added to the same registration, if belonging to the same low-risk product category (e.g., different flavours of juices or ice cream; different types or brands of sparkling wine, etc.). This can be done by clicking on the 'Application for modification' on the left menu, and by clicking 'Modify' in the corresponding registration. Note: the newly-added products cannot be exported to China until the application for modification has been approved by GACC.

However, supporting materials explaining the reason of the requested changes must be submitted during the process. Currently, there is no standard template to be attached, therefore the establishment can submit any document which is relevant to explain the product to be added, for instance describing the characteristics of the product, image of the product, etc. The system only allows to upload one file, so all relevant supporting documents must be merged into a single file first; creating a legend on the first page of all the documents will help GACC to approve the new additions.

Numerous EU establishments have reported technical issues in the CIFER system when adding new products. It is recommended to add all relevant products and brands when making the application for registration for the first time, even if there are no plans in the near future to export them to China.

How can I check the status of an application for registration/modification submitted?

It is possible to view the status of each application for registration or modification by clicking on 'Integrated query' > 'Application form query', on the left menu. Under the column 'Application status', a number of statuses might appear, indicating the progress. For more details on each status, see chapter 2.3 of these guidelines.

Our application for registration was successfully approved. However, we have realised that the basic information of our establishment provided is wrong. How can we correct it?

As indicated in chapter 2.3 of these guidelines, it is possible to change the basic information of the establishment after the China registration code has been received. This can be done by clicking on 'Application for modification' on the left menu, and 'modify' on the relevant registration.

However, certain cannot be modified after a registration has been approved by GACC, including:

- Registration number approved by the located competent authority
- Legal representative of the company
- Production site is relocated to a new address.

If any of the above information needs to be changed, then a new registration must be submitted from scratch on the CIFER system. Alternatively, the establishment in question may contact the food safety competent authority in the establishment's home country, which

Registration of so-called high-risk products

We have submitted an application for registration for a high-risk product. More than three months have passed and we still haven't heard any feedback. Is it normal?

Unfortunately, the timeline for review and approval of high-risk products remain unclear, but significantly long (normally lasting several months) for most categories, such as meat, aquatic products, dairy, health food, etc. For other high-risk products categories, such as edible oil, the timeline is generally shorter. GACC does not provide general estimates on the duration of the review; furthermore, the approval process is often subject to political considerations, i.e. establishments approved as result of official state visits or government agreements, or suspended following deterioration of political relations.

The only options available to establishments are to check the status of their application under the section 'Integrated enquiry' > 'Application form query' in the

might potentially liaise with GACC to find an easy solution to the issue.

Our application for modification was rejected, because we did not upload a specific checklist in the process, even if it was marked as optional/not mandatory in the system. Why?

The scope of 'application for modification' is very broad: it applies to new products that have to be added, to changes of information on the establishment, or to changes in the product's composition or production process. To make it easier for overseas establishments to modify their registration already approved, as some fields in the CIFER system were intentionally marked as not mandatory. However, if the reason of the application for modification has a direct implication on the safety of the product, then relevant supporting documentation must be provided even if not mandatory by default.

Therefore, in cases where the modification may affect product safety, such as in the case of changes in the product's formula or production process, establishments applying for modification should provide all the documentation supporting the change. In other cases, such as a simple change of company name or addition of a new product / brand, supporting materials will not be required.

menu. Alternatively, they might reach out to their respective competent authority which, in turn, might liaise with GACC.

Health food and infant formula: is CIFER registration enough?

Health food, infant formula and food for special dietary purposes are subject to an additional round of product registration and approval, with the State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR). In practice, the registration with SAMR should be completed before the CIFER registration (as the approval certificate will need to be uploaded on the CIFER platform).

Although the process appears redundant, the two rounds of registration address different aspects of the product: nutritional aspects, functions and efficiency claims for SAMR; production and food safety for GACC. For more information on the SAMR review process, see a dedicated report of the EU SME Centre.¹¹

¹¹ Guidelines on exporting health food to China (May 2023): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/guidelines-on-exporting-health-food-to-china/>.

Raw materials, ingredients and suppliers

Our product contains an ingredient which is considered high-risk, or which would normally require a government-level protocol in place to be imported into China. What to do in these situations?

Some products, especially plant-based beverages, certain types of pastry (e.g., dairy-based pastry), pasta (e.g., squid ink pasta) or certain food preparations (e.g., soups), may feature one ingredient which is considered as high-risk, or which would normally require a government-level protocol in order to be imported into China from that country. This may cause the CIFER registration to be rejected.

The first step is always to check the product's HS code through CIFER's 'Product type query' function, and verify if the corresponding registration procedure. If official recommendation by the competent authority is not marked as required, then establishment can first try with self-registration. If, after review, the application for registration is rejected by GACC:

- For ingredients considered high-risk but for which a government-level protocol is not needed: liaise with the competent authority and follow the registration procedure for high-risk categories (section 2.1 of these guidelines).
- For ingredients for which a government-level protocol is not needed: unfortunately, there are no possibilities other than removing the specific ingredient from the product's formula, or considering alternative methods such as Cross-Border E-Commerce.¹² The same applies to products whose ingredients are forbidden for import into China (e.g. endangered flora species).

To check whether a government-level protocol is needed, see:

- <http://43.248.49.223/> (aquatic products; dairy; and plant-based products, i.e. dried fruits, nuts, frozen fruits, grain-processed products, dehydrated vegetables, seasoning powder)

- <http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/dzs/2746776/3062131/index.html> (agricultural products, i.e. grains and feed, fresh fruits and vegetables, seasonings, coffee and cocoa beans)
- <http://jckspj.customs.gov.cn/spj/zwgk75/2706880/jckrljgzyxx33/2812399/index.html> (meat products)

Our company does not have a regular supplier of raw materials, we change them constantly. How do I fill in the relevant information in the CIFER system?

Normally, at least for low-risk products, such information is in the 'raw material information' and 'production correspondence' sections are not marked with the red asterisk, thus are not mandatory to fill. Whereas for high-risk products, these information might be mandatory.

It is recommended to include all the known suppliers of raw materials, even if are not used at the time of the registration but may be potentially used in the future. It does not matter if in the end you will not use any of the suppliers listed in the registration.

Our company purchases raw materials from a broker, not directly from the producer. How do I fill in the relevant information in the CIFER system?

Normally, at least for low-risk products, such information is in the 'raw material information' and 'production correspondence' sections are not marked with the red asterisk, thus are not mandatory to fill. Whereas for high-risk products, this information might be mandatory.

If possible, it is recommended to obtain the relevant information on the raw material producer from your broker. If not possible, then the information on the supplier with the most direct relationship should be filled, including the broker if none of the suppliers are known.

¹² For a detailed overview of the opportunities of China's Cross-Border E-Commerce, especially for high-risk F&B products, see dedicated guidelines produced by the EU SME Centre: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/selling-to-china-via-cross-border-e-commerce/>.

Product produced in different establishments

Our product is partially made in one establishment but finished in another one (regardless of whether within the same country): which establishment should be the one registered on the CIFER system?

The rule of thumb in such cases is:

- For high-risk products, especially cold chain ones, it is recommended that all the establishments directly involved complete the registration. This is typically encountered for meat products, where an establishment might be in charge of slaughtering, another for cutting, another for storage, etc.
- For low-risk products, the establishment that completes the finished product will need to register through the CIFER system, specifying in the 'Production correspondence' section the details about all the other relevant establishments involved in the process (suppliers, transformation, etc.). Such issues are often encountered for bottled products (e.g. edible oils, wine, etc.), as the bottling process is often outsourced to other establishments.
- The country where the production process is completed will be regarded as the 'country of origin', therefore the food safety competent authorities to involve (in case of high-risk products) will be those of that country.

Different establishments are involved in the production/processing/storage. All have completed the CIFER registration, but we are not sure which China

Storage establishments

How is the term 'storage establishment' defined? We have a warehouse where we store finished products waiting to be shipped to China, do we have to register this facility on the CIFER system?

The fundamental purpose of GACC Decree 248 is to ensure the safety of all F&B products imported into China. Therefore, 'storage' should be interpreted as applicable only to those products which require specific storing conditions to maintain their quality and safety, such as refrigeration, humidity, etc. Therefore, normal warehouses storing finished products waiting to be shipped do not need to register on the CIFER system if no particular storing conditions are required.

registration code should be used on the product's label?

The rule of thumb is to use in the label only the China registration code of the production company, but of course ensuring that the storing company has successfully completed the registration through the CIFER system in case requested during the customs clearance process. This is because, it might be misleading for the consumers to use two different codes, and might raise questions from Chinese customs – resulting in customs clearance delays.

Establishment A procures raw materials and packaging materials, then it outsources the production to establishment B (another company). On the product packaging, it is specified that the product is packaged at the address of establishment B, which of course differs from the address of establishment A. However, establishment A still owns the brand and trademark of the finished product. Should establishment A or establishment B register on CIFER?

Similar to the previous FAQ, the establishment(s) directly involved in the production or processing activity will need to complete registration on the CIFER system. In this case, therefore, establishment B will need to do so, but specifying information about establishment A in the 'Production correspondence' section.

At the same time, if establishment A is the one that exports the finished product to China, then it should complete the filing as an Exporter or Agent Overseas (see chapter 4 of these guidelines).

Our establishment is responsible for storing F&B products produced by another establishment (within or outside the same company group); we are not involved in the production/processing process. Should we still register through the CIFER system?

Yes. GACC Decree 248 applies to enterprises producing, processing or storing F&B products that are exported to China. The registration procedure is roughly the same as that for production establishments (the box 'storage' should be ticked instead of 'production' or 'processing'), but more details will be asked on the specific premises of the storage facility.

Our high-risk product is produced in one establishment, but it is stored in another establishment, both of which have already obtained a China registration code. Which of the two establishments' codes should be affixed to the product's packaging? Or maybe both codes should be affixed?

According to feedback received during a training organised in May 2024 with GACC officials, it is recommended to use in the label only the China registration code of the production company, but of course ensuring that the storing company has successfully completed the registration through the CIFER system in case requested during the customs clearance process. This is because, it might be misleading for the consumers to use two different codes, and might raise questions from Chinese customs – resulting in customs clearance delays.

It must be noted, however, that in practice such cases are not frequent.

Automatic changes in already approved registrations

Our establishment has already registered several products and obtained a China registration code. However, after some time, some of the products successfully registered do not appear anymore in our account, while they did in the past. Is it normal?

This issue started to appear around March/April 2022. After the first months of implementation of the new regulation, GACC made a cleaning of all registrations completed by that time, resulting in the merging of some registrations/products with others which were considered duplicate or very similar. This, however, does not affect products that had successfully gotten the code.



ANNEX LIST OF FOOD SAFETY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN EU MEMBER STATES

As illustrated in these guidelines, production, processing and storage establishments of so-called “high-risk” categories of F&B exported to China, cannot complete the CIFER registration independently; they need to do so in coordination with the competent authority responsible for food safety in the country/region where they are based.

In the EU, the management and implementation of food safety is under the competence of Member States. Therefore, the competent authorities and their procedures differ for each Member State. Furthermore, different competent authorities may exist in one Member State for different product categories, e.g., if the product is of animal origin, plant origin, or if it is a food for special dietary purpose,

etc. In order to facilitate EU F&B producers in the process, and based on numerous requests received, **the EU SME Centre has collected relevant information and contact details of the competent authorities in the EU Member States, which are summarised in the table below.**

The information was collected through direct feedback from EU Member States representations in China. For some competent authorities, the **email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available** to the EU SME Centre but were not included in this section for personal information protection purposes; yet, they can be shared, upon request, with individual SMEs from the respective EU Member State.

Country	Competent authority	Contacts and notes
Austria	Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection / Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz (BMSGP)	peking@advantageaustria.org +86 10 85 27 50 50
Belgium	Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC)	registration_cn@favv-afscs.be
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency	export@bfsa.bg ; fc@bfsa.bg
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products of animal origin: Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate General All other products: State Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia, Sanitary Inspection Sector 	Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.
Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinary Services of Cyprus Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health of Cyprus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> director@vs.moa.gov.cy healthservices@mpha.moh.gov.cy Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.
Czechia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> info@szpi.gov.cz Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.

Country	Competent authority	Contacts and notes
Denmark	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	email@fvst.dk ; +45 72 27 69 00 Or contact through dedicated website form: https://foedevarestyrelsen.dk/
Estonia	Agriculture and Food Board / AFB	+372 5304 5570; +372 5663 9346. Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.
Finland	Finnish Food Authority	kiina@ruokavirasto.fi More information on the official website: https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/en/
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate general for food (DGAL) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meat and meat products; 2. Casings; 3. Seafood and aquatic products – except plant-based foodstuff (DGCCRF) 4. Dairy products; 5. Honey and bee products; 6. Eggs and derived products ▪ Ministry of Economics, Directorate general for competition policy, consumer affairs and fraud control (DGCCRF) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Edible fats and oils – except animal products (DGAL) 2. Stuffed pasta – except animal products (DGAL) 3. Edible grains – except products with phytosanitary agreement (DGAL) 4. Grain milling industrial products and malt 5. Fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans – except products with phytosanitary agreement (DGAL) 6. Seasonings 7. Nuts and seeds, dry fruits – except products with phytosanitary agreement (DGAL) 8. Unroasted coffee beans and cocoa beans – except products with phytosanitary agreement (DGAL) 9. Food for special dietary uses – except animal products (DGAL) 10. Health food – except animal products (DGAL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DGAL: export.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr ▪ DGCCRF: Bureau-4B@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

Country	Competent authority	Contacts and notes
Germany	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety / Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL)	<p>More information on BLV's website: https://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/Aufgaben/05_Exportangelegenheiten/export_node.html</p> <p>German establishments should contact BVL only through their respected Federal Offices of Food Safety issues (for each of the 16 Bundesländer).</p>
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foods of animal origin: Directorate of Public Health Veterinary Services / Ministry of Rural Development & Food ▪ Foods of plant origin: General Directorate of Foodstuffs / Ministry of Rural Development & Food ▪ Special dietary foods (excl. milk-based infant formula): National Organization for Medicines ▪ Functional foods: Hellenic Food Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +30 210 212 5748 ▪ +30 210 2124165 ▪ +30 213 2040000 ▪ +30 213 2145800 <p>Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre!</p>
Hungary	National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Products of animal origin: +36 706451552 ▪ Other products: +36 704360550 <p>Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.</p>
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine ▪ Sea Fisheries Protection Agency 	<p>Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.</p>
Italy	Italian Ministry of Health (MoH) – General Directorate of Hygiene, Food Safety and Nutrition – DGISAN Office 2 – Food Hygiene and Export	<p>Italian F&B producers should submit their requests/enquiries to the Food Hygiene and Nutrition Service (SIAN) of the Local Health Unit (ASL) responsible for the geographical location of the company.</p> <p>More info on MOH's website.</p>
Latvia	Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ pasts@pvd.gov.lv ▪ +371 67095230 <p>More information on the official website.</p>
Lithuania	State Food and Veterinary Service	<p>info@vmvt.lt</p>

Country	Competent authority	Contacts and notes
Netherlands	Netherlands Food Safety Authority (NVWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • export@nvwa.nl
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Products of animal origin General Veterinary Inspectorate ▪ All other products State Sanitary Inspection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ wet@wetgiw.gov.pl ▪ Polish producers may contact the Embassy of Poland in China (email contacts available, please contact the EU SME Centre)
Portugal	Directorate General for Food and Veterinary (DGAV), Ministry of Agriculture / Direção-Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +351 213 239 588 Contact form available on DGAV's website: https://www.dgav.pt/
Romania	National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority / Autoritatea Nationala Sanitara Veterinara si pentru Siguranta Alimentelor (ANSVSA)	office@ansvsa.ro More information and contact details available on ANSVSA's website: https://www.ansvsa.ro/
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic – Export, Import, International Relations Department ▪ Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +421 2 60 257 122 ▪ +421 2 44455643 Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Animals and food of animal origin; plants and food of plant origin:</u> Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection ▪ <u>Food supplements, food for special groups:</u> Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +386 (0)1 300 13 31 ▪ +386 (0)1 280 38 02; gp.zirs@gov.si Email contacts of the officers directly in charge are available, please contact the EU SME Centre.
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Animal Export Area of the General Deputy-directorate general for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control) ▪ Ministry of Health, through the Deputy-directorate general for Foreign Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ +34 913478241; exportacionanimal@mapa.es ▪ +34 915962040; exportacionsanidad@sanidad.gob.es Alternatively, Spanish producers may contact the Office of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at the Embassy of Spain in China: pekin@mapa.es
Sweden	The Swedish Food Agency	exportfragor@slv.se

Test your knowledge with the Self Diagnosis Tool



Do you want to know more details on human resources and mobility in China? **Try our new Self-Diagnosis Tool!** It will allow you to gauge your readiness in entering the Chinese market – in an easy and interactive way: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/self-diagnosis-tool/>

For any questions or free-of-charge consultations, EU SMEs may contact the EU SME Centre via our **Ask-the-Expert** service: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/ask-the-expert/>.

Further resources

The EU SME Centre has over 200 **reports, guidelines, webinars and case studies** in its Knowledge Centre, the following may be relevant to you:

REPORTS

- Guide on Chinese trade fairs: good practices before, during and after participation (March 2024): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/guide-to-trade-fairs-in-china-2024-update/>
- China's wine market(s): Drivers, technical requirements and opportunities for EU producers (November 2023): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/chinas-wine-markets-drivers-technical-requirements-and-opportunities-for-eu-producers/>
- China's dairy sector: Market, technical requirements and opportunities (June 2023): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/chinas-dairy-sector/>
- Guidelines on exporting health food to China (May 2023): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/guidelines-on-exporting-health-food-to-china/>
- Results of the EU SME Centre F&B survey on the CIFER system (May 2023): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/fb-survey-results-customs-processes-and-the-cifer-system-2/>
- Selling to China via Cross-Border E-Commerce (March 2023): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/selling-to-china-via-cross-border-e-commerce/>
- Food additives in China: Regulations and practical Cases (December 2022): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/food-additives-in-china-regulations-and-practical-cases/>
- How to draft sales contracts when exporting to China (October 2022): <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/drafting-sales-contracts-when-exporting-to-china-2022-update/>

About the EU SME Centre

The EU SME Centre is an EU-funded initiative created to provide free first-line services to small and medium-sized enterprises from EU Member States and countries participating in the Single Market Programme, getting them ready to do business in China.

To find out more, visit our website: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn>

Consortium partners



Associated partners



Funded by
the European Union