



Exporting Meat Products to China

2025 REPORT



Funded by
the European Union

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EXPORTING MEAT PRODUCTS TO CHINA

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of these guidelines is to serve as a resource for European SMEs eager to explore opportunities for exporting meat to China, the world's largest meat import market. Despite a downturn in market growth in 2024, with imports falling by 11.2% in volume and 16.9% in value compared to 2023,¹ China remains a compelling market for meat exporters.

By May 2025, sixteen EU countries had successfully established export protocols, resulting in the approval of 514 EU establishments, with 64% producing pork. To succeed, European SMEs must rise to the challenge of diversifying their product offerings by introducing a greater variety of meats and value-added products that align with evolving consumer preferences.

China's regulatory system for food safety and imported food and beverages has significantly strengthened in recent years. In January 2022, Decree 248 and Decree 249 came into effect, creating new challenges for companies wishing to enter the Chinese market, especially for so called high-risk category products like meat.

Notably, the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) plans to amend Decree 248 in the nearest future, highlighting the importance of staying updated with the latest regulations, which can be particularly challenging for EU SMEs.

These guidelines will cover aspects of the export process, including protocols and company approvals, requirements for exporters, an overview of the main laws and regulations regarding meat imports, as well as the primary challenges faced by European SMEs and tips on how to overcome them.

For the purposes of this report, meat products are those which fall under HS codes 02, 1601 and 1602, as detailed below:

HS Code Description

0201	Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled
0202	Meat of bovine animals, frozen
0203	Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen
0204	Meat of sheep or goats, fresh, chilled or frozen
0205	Meat of horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen
0206	Edible offal of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats, horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen
0207	Meat and edible offal of poultry fresh, chilled or frozen
0208	Other meat and edible meat offal, fresh, chilled or frozen
0210	Meat and edible meat offal, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
1601	Sausages and similar products. Preparations of meat, meat offal or blood
1602	Other prepared or preserved meat, meat offal or blood (e.g. cooked ham)

¹ <http://gdfs.customs.gov.cn/customs/302249/zfxzgk/2799825/302274/302277/302276/6271368/index.html> (accessed 12 June 2025).

2. OVERVIEW OF CHINA'S MEAT MARKET

China plays a significant role in the global meat industry as one of the leading producers, consumers, and importers of meat products. Pork remains the most widely consumed meat in China, accounting for the majority of both supply and demand. Meanwhile, there has been a noticeable rise in demand for imported beef.

The 2023–2032 China Agricultural Outlook Report, published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in 2023, predicts that beef imports will increase from 2.79 million tons in 2024 to approximately 3.12 million tons by 2033.

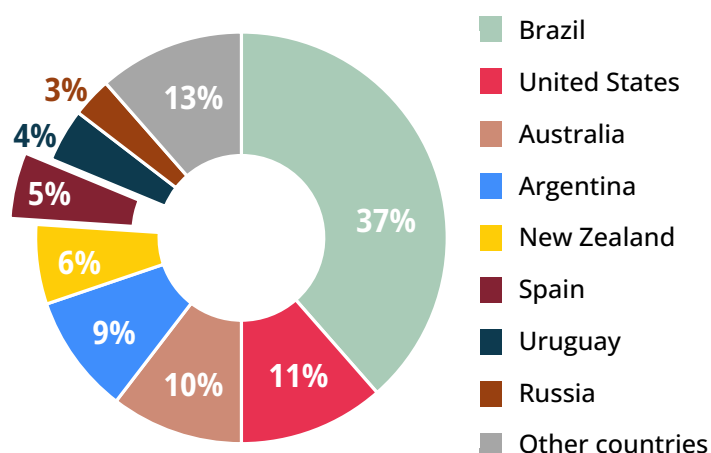
Conversely, pork imports are expected to decline, dropping to 1.55 million tons in 2024, then further to 1.19 million tons by 2028, and approximately 1.07 million tons by 2033. Additionally, poultry imports are projected to slightly decrease from 1.25 million tons in 2024 to around 1.05 million tons by 2033.²

Meat Imports in 2024

According to data from China Customs, imports of meat and meat products (including offal) reached USD 22.76 billion in 2024. The primary suppliers were:

- Brazil: 37% of total imports
- United States: 11%
- Australia: 10%
- Argentina: 9%
- New Zealand: 6%
- Spain: 5%

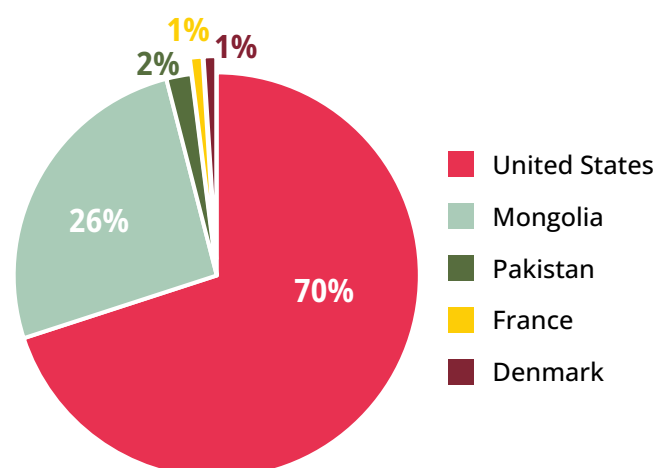
**Chart: Meat exports to China in 2024
(chapter 02 – meat and edible meat offal)**



Source: compilation data of Chinese Customs

Notably, 98.80% of all meat products imported by China are categorised under Chapter 02 (meat and edible meat offal), while only 1.20% fall under meat preparations (headings 1601 and 1602).

**Chart: Exports of meat preparations to China
(headings 1601 & 1602): Jan–Nov 2024**



Source: compilation data of Chinese Customs

Pork Meat Imports from the EU

EU countries are significant suppliers of pork and edible offal to China. In 2024, pork imports from EU countries accounted for 51% of China's total pork imports. The distribution of market share among EU countries was as follows:

- Spain: 29% (leading the market)
- Netherlands: 7%
- Denmark: 6%
- France: 6%
- Ireland: 5%
- Austria: 1%

Brazil remains a strong competitor, holding 25% of the market share.

For edible offal, EU exports to China reached 49%, **with Spain contributing 21%**, placing it second after the United States, which held 28% of the market. Other contributions included:

Netherlands: 9%
Denmark: 8%
France: 7%
Ireland: 2%
Finland and Belgium: 1% each.

² China's agricultural outlook 2024-2033: <https://www.dcz-china.org/2024/10/14/study-chinas-ag-outlook-2024-2033/> (accessed 12 June 2025).

Impact of African Swine Fever (ASF)

China is the second-largest importer of pork globally. The first outbreaks of African Swine Fever were reported in 2018, leading to a heavy reliance on imports to meet domestic protein needs. By 2022, China had managed to control the situation with only one new outbreak reported. The current goal is to produce 95% of its pork domestically to reduce dependency on imports.

Beef and Poultry Imports

China is also the largest importer of bovine and poultry meat. From 2019 to 2023, the annual growth in the value of beef exports to China increased by 18%. China accounts for 40.2% of global imports of beef, primarily sourcing from:

- Brazil: 44.3% of market share
- Argentina: 16%
- Australia: 9.4%

Among EU countries, Ireland was the most significant exporter of beef to China, though it ranks thirteenth in terms of market share (2%) with a -71% decline in import value from 2019 to 2023.³

In terms of poultry, China is the leading importer in the world, accounting for 12% of global imports in 2023. Brazil dominates this market, holding 46.7% of the total market share.⁴ Due to the non-recognition of regionalisation related to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), only two EU countries currently have access to China's poultry market:

- Finland: Recognized as HPAI-free;
- France: Signed a bilateral agreement on HPAI regionalisation in May 2024.

In 2024, imports of poultry from France to China were valued at USD 441,287 (ranking 9th) and from Finland USD 367 (ranked last 11th place)⁵.

In June 2024, Poland signed a MoU aimed at working on regionalisation related to HPAI, but so far, no agreement has been signed.

2.1 LAWS, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

Exporting meat to China involves a complex regulatory framework. Meat exports must comply with China's food safety standards, including regulations on hygiene, quality, and safety as outlined in Food Safety Law (Second Revision) and Implementing Regulations of the Food Safety Law.

Key Laws and Regulations

- **Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China (Second Revision) and Implementing Regulations:** Govern hygiene, quality, and safety requirements for all food products.
- **Law on Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and Implementing Regulations:** Mandate inspection and quarantine protocols for imported meat.
- **Law on Import and Export Commodity Inspection:** Ensures compliance with technical standards for traded goods.
- **Administrative Measures for Import and Export Food Safety (Decree 249):** Strengthens supervision of food safety risks, including traceability and labeling.
- **Regulations on Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Food (Decree 248):** Requires registration of foreign producers via GACC's CIFER/Singlewindow system.

According to Chinese laws and international practices, a country intending to export meat products to China must complete the following steps:

1. **Application Submission:** The exporting country must submit a written application to China's General Administration of Customs (GACC). China will decide whether to initiate the evaluation process based on the exporting country's animal disease status. If approved, China will provide the exporting country with a risk assessment questionnaire for the relevant meat products.
2. **Questionnaire Response:** The exporting country must reply to the questionnaire and provide technical documentation, including:

³ Data source: <https://www.trademap.org/> (accessed 12 June 2025).

⁴ Data source: <https://www.trademap.org/> (accessed 12 June 2025).

⁵ Data according to <http://stats.customs.gov.cn/> (accessed 12 June 2025).

- Legal and regulatory frameworks for veterinary and public health;
 - Organizational structure and veterinary service systems;
 - Production methods for the products;
 - Food safety and hygiene control systems;
 - Residue monitoring systems;
 - Animal disease surveillance and monitoring data.
- 3. Risk Assessment:** Chinese authorities will evaluate the responses and documentation. If the exporting country's meat products are deemed to meet acceptable safety and hygiene standards, China will dispatch an expert team to conduct an on-site inspection in the exporting country.
- 4. Bilateral Negotiations:** Both parties will negotiate inspection and quarantine requirements for meat exports to China. Upon reaching an agreement, a protocol will be signed, and the content and format of the health certificate will be finalized.
- An **Entry Animal and Plant Quarantine Permit of the People's Republic of China** must be acquired before importing meat products.
 - Imported products must comply with Chinese inspection and quarantine requirements. Upon arrival at Chinese ports, goods will undergo inspection by Chinese customs authorities.
 - Exported meat products must also comply with international wildlife protection regulations.⁶

Impact of Decrees 248 and 249 (2022)

Decree 248 introduced more stringent registration requirements for overseas manufacturers, particularly for high-risk products like meat. This involves technical reviews, facility inspections, and documentation audits during the registration process. Decree 249 enhanced customs supervision, including traceability measures. While initially burdensome, EU exporters have adapted to these requirements, although registration remains a time-intensive process, often taking couple of months.

Post-Evaluation Requirements

- After completing the above steps, meat processing enterprises in the exporting country must register with Chinese authorities in accordance with relevant regulations (Decree 248).
- The exporting country must submit product categories and information about official veterinarians responsible for signing health certificates to GACC.
- Approved enterprises will be listed in the **"List of Countries/Regions Eligible to Export Meat Products to China"** published on [GACC's official website](http://www.gacc.gov.cn/).

Import Procedures

- Chinese importers must obtain importer registration qualifications and apply for import permits for products from registered overseas enterprises.

Proposed 2025 Revisions to Decree 248

GACC's draft revision introduces "system recognition" which, in theory, aims to streamline approvals for countries/regions that meet specific criteria, such as passing GACC's food safety system inspection, signing a food safety cooperation agreement with China, establishing an AEO mutual recognition agreement, or having other bilateral agreements covering food safety. However, uncertainty remains, as key terms like "system recognition" lack precise definitions. The adoption timeline and final text are pending, with the draft available for review via the [WTO](http://www.wto.org/).

National Food Safety Standards

Meat producers from EU should remember that their products must meet National Food Safety Standards for Meat and Meat Products. In the table the next page, you can find the most relevant mandatory standards for meat.

⁶ <http://www.customs.gov.cn/spj/zwgk75/2706880/jckrljgzyxx33/2812357/index.html> (accessed 12 June 2025).

Most relevant mandatory standards for meat products

Standard number	Standard in Chinese	Standard in English
GB12694-2016	畜禽屠宰加工企业卫生规范	Code of Hygienic Practice for the Livestock and Poultry Slaughtering Enterprise
GB20799-2016	肉和肉制品经营卫生 规范	Code of Hygienic Practice for the Storage, Distribution and Sale of Meat and Meat Products
GB2707-2016	鲜(冻)畜、禽产品	Fresh and Frozen Livestock and Poultry Products
GB2726-2016	熟肉制品	Cooked meat products
GB31650-2019	食品中兽药最大残留 限量	Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Food
GB31650.1- 2022	食品中 41 种兽药最大 残留限 量	Maximum Residue Limits for 41 veterinary Drugs in Foods
GB19303-2003	熟肉制品企业生产卫生规范	Hygienic practice of cooked meat and meat-products factory
GB2760-2015	食品安全国家标准 食品添加剂 使用标准	National Food Safety Standard for Safety Food Additive
GB5749-2006	生活饮用水卫生标准	Standards for drinking water quality
GB14881-2013	食品安全国家标准 食品生产通 用卫生规范	National Food Safety Standard General Hygienic Specification for Food Production
GB/T20809-2006	肉制品生产HACCP应用规范	Evaluating specification on the HACCP certification of the meat products
GB/T27341-2009	危害分析与关键控制点(HAC- CP)体系 食品生产企业通用 要求	Hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system – General requirements for food processing plant
GB2730-2015	食品安全国家标准 腌腊肉制品	Standard for Preserved and Cured Meat Products
GB2762-2022	食品安全国家标准 食品中污染 物限量	Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods
GB 2763-2021	食品安全国家标准 食品中农药 最大残留限量	Maximum Residue limits for Pesticides in Food
GB7098-2015	食品安全国家标准 罐头食品	Standard for Canned Foods
GB7718-2011	预包装食品标签通则	Standard for Labeling of Prepackaged Foods
GB31661-2025 (will enter into force March 16,2026)	国家卫生健康委员会,国家市场 监督管理局	Food Safety Standard Code of Hygienic Practice of Producing Prepared Meat Products
GB 31616-2025 (will enter into force March 16, 2026)	食品安全国家标准 食用畜禽副 产品加工卫生规范	Safety Standard Code of Hygienic Practice for Livestock and Poultry Edible Offal and By-Products

2.2 EU MS PROTOCOLS WITH CHINA

Protocols are bilateral agreements established between the GACC and the relevant food safety authorities in exporting countries. These agreements outline the veterinary and health requirements for meat products intended for export to China. Under these protocols, the responsibility for inspection and quarantine of the meat products shifts to the authorities in the exporting country. An export health certificate is required to confirm compliance with these specified requirements.

Protocols typically follow a standardized format. Below is a summary of the most common provisions related to the export of meat products:

1. Legal Compliance:

All exports must adhere to the relevant food safety, animal health, and inspection laws of both the exporting and importing countries.

2. Permitted Products:

Only specific types and cuts of meat that meet defined safety and health standards are allowed for export.

3. Requirements for Exporting Enterprises:

- Exporting facilities must operate under official supervision and comply with applicable veterinary health regulations.
- Facilities need to be registered with the relevant authorities in the importing country.

4. Animal Health Management:

- The exporting country must ensure the absence of specific animal diseases through monitoring and reporting.
- A reliable traceability system must be established to track the meat's origin.

5. Conditions for Live Animals:

- Animals must be born, raised, and processed within the exporting country, with identification and traceability to their origin.

- They must come from disease-free sources and comply with regulations concerning vaccinations and veterinary treatments.

6. Processing Requirements:

- Meat must be processed in facilities that adhere to health and safety regulations, ensuring thorough inspections.
- All unsafe parts or contaminants must be effectively removed during processing.

7. Certification:

- Each shipment must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate or equivalent documentation that verifies compliance with legal and health standards.
- Relevant documentation must be provided for verification by the importing nation.

8. Storage and Transport:

- Meat must be stored and transported under specified temperature controls to ensure safety and prevent spoilage or contamination.
- Proper labeling is required, detailing the contents, origin, and compliance information.

The following pages provide an overview of the protocols on meat products signed between EU countries and China up to May 2025. They also include the List of Animals and Animal Products Prohibited from Importation due to Epidemic Animal Diseases (updated as of April 2025). For the most current List of Countries/Regions and Meat Products Eligible for Export to China, please visit the GACC website (available in Chinese only) [GACC - Eligible Meat Products](http://jckspj.customs.gov.cn/spj/xxfw39/cpjgzyxx/lswywxsp/fhpgscyqdgjhdqshrlcpmd/6032333/index.html).⁷

⁷ <http://jckspj.customs.gov.cn/spj/xxfw39/cpjgzyxx/lswywxsp/fhpgscyqdgjhdqshrlcpmd/6032333/index.html> (accessed 12 June 2025).

1. AUSTRIA / 奥地利

Products included

Frozen pork products

Frozen swine carcass (bone-in);
Frozen swine carcass (boneless);
Frozen Unrendered swine Fat (edible, excluding visceral fat)

Date of signature: 2/29/2024

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products.

Scrapie: Sheep and related products,

Bluetongue: Ruminants and related products.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Poultry and related products.

Newcastle Disease: Poultry and related products.

Other swine offal: frozen swine esophagus;
Other swine offal: frozen swine throat bone.

Date of signature: 4/7/2009

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE): Bovine animals and related products (excluding boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age).

Scrapie: Sheep and related products.

Bluetongue: Ruminants and related products.

Schmallenberg virus disease: Bovine embryos, ovine semen, ovine embryos.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI): Ornamental birds, wild birds, and their products.

Newcastle disease (regionally-defined/zoned): Poultry and related products

2. BELGIUM / 比利时

Products included

Frozen pork products

Frozen swine carcass (boneless);
Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding visceral fat);
Frozen swine heart;
Frozen swine kidney;
Frozen swine tongue;
Frozen swine tail;
Frozen swine ear;
Frozen swine testicles;
Other swine offal: frozen swine nose;
Other swine offal: frozen swine feet;
Other swine offal: frozen swine face;
Other swine offal: frozen swine lips;
Other swine offal: frozen swine jaw;
Other swine offal: frozen cardiac tube of swine;
Other swine offal: frozen swine skin;
Other swine offal: frozen swine head;
Other swine offal: frozen swine diaphragm;
Other swine offal: frozen swine cartilage;
Other swine offal: frozen swine trachea;

Products included - Pork

Frozen pork products

Frozen swine carcass (bone-in);
Frozen swine carcass (boneless);
Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding visceral fat);
Frozen swine heart;
Frozen swine liver;
Frozen swine kidney;
Frozen swine tongue;
Frozen swine tail;
Frozen swine ear;
Frozen whole swine feet;
Frozen swine testicles;
Frozen swine stomach;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine nose;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine trotters;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine face;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine lips;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine jaw;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine heart tube;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine toes;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine skin;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine head;

Other swine offal: Frozen swine brain;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine diaphragm;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine cartilage;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine trachea;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine esophagus;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine throat bone;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine penis;
 Other pork offal: Frozen pork bone.

Date of signature: 8/15/2000

Canned Pork Products

Luncheon meat;
 Cooked pork sausage;
 Chopped pork;
 Pork in cans;
 Frankfurters.

Cooked Pork Products

Frankfurters;
 Dried sausage;
 Italian sausage;
 Cooked ham sausage;
 Cooked Smoked Products:
 Cooked dried sausage;
 Cooked spicy sausage.

Date of signature: 5/3/2017

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE); Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef from animals under 30 months old).

Bluetongue; Ruminants and related products.

Schmallenberg virus; Bovine embryos, ovine semen, ovine embryos.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI); Poultry and related products.

4. FINLAND/芬兰

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products

Frozen swine carcass (bone-in);
 Frozen swine carcass (boneless);

Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible; excluding visceral fat);
 Frozen swine heart;
 Frozen swine kidney;
 Frozen swine tongue;
 Frozen whole swine feet;
 Frozen swine tail;
 Frozen swine liver;
 Frozen swine ear;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine trachea;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine heart tube;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine esophagus;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine bone;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine cartilage;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine trotters;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine jaw;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine nose;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine head.

Date of signature: 9/18/2019

Products included – Poultry

Frozen poultry products

Frozen whole chicken (excluding giblets and gastrointestinal tract);
 Frozen chicken breast;
 Frozen chicken leg;
 Frozen chicken claws;
 Frozen whole chicken wings;
 Frozen chicken wing root;
 Frozen chicken wing middle;
 Frozen two-section chicken wings;
 Frozen chicken wing tip;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen chicken knee cartilage;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen other chicken cartilage;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen chicken liver;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen chicken heart.

Date of signature: 2023-11

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE): Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age).

Scrapie: Sheep and related products.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI): Ornamental birds, wild birds, and related products.

5. FRANCE / 法国

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products: frozen swine carcass (bone-in);
Frozen swine carcass (boneless);
Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding visceral fat);
Frozen swine heart;
Frozen swine liver;
Frozen swine kidney;
Frozen swine tongue;
Frozen swine tail;
Frozen swine ear;
Frozen whole swine feet;
Frozen swine testicles;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine nose;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine trotters;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine face;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine lips;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine jaw;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine heart tube;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine skin;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine head;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine brain;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine diaphragm;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine cartilage;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine trachea;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine esophagus;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine throat bone;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine bone.

Date of signature: 10/23/2000

Cooked Swine Products

Cooked swine ham;
Cooked swine sausage;
cooked swine chunks;
Cooked ham;
Cooked sausage;
Meat sauces (cooked meat sauce, meat jelly, meatballs).

Cooked swine products must be produced using frozen swine meat permitted for import into China as a raw material. They must not contain swine intestines, stomachs, blood, etc., which are not permitted for import into China, nor any other animal-derived ingredients.

Date of signature: 12/5/2013

Cured Swine Products

Dried sausage;
Hard sausage;
Dry-cured ham;

Air-dried cooked swine chunks.

Registered product types for cured swine producers:

1. Dried sausage;
2. Dry-cured ham;
3. Air-dried cooked swine chunks.

Cured swine products must be produced using frozen swine meat permitted for import into China as a raw material. They must not contain swine intestines, stomachs, blood, etc., which are not permitted for import into China, nor any other animal-derived ingredients.

Date of signature: 12/5/2013

Products included – Beef

Frozen beef products*

Frozen boneless beef (under 30 months old);
Frozen unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding visceral fat, under 30 months old);
Frozen beef mince (under 30 months old).

Chilled Beef Products

Chilled boneless beef (under 30 months old);
Chilled unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding visceral fat, under 30 months old);
Chilled beef mince (under 30 months old).

**Items in red have been suspended. See "Suspensions" below for more details.*

Date of signature: 6/25/2018

Suspensions – Beef

Suspension of acceptance of import declarations for beef products exported to China from France for shipment starting from 5 September 2024 inclusive.

Products included – Poultry

Frozen poultry products

Frozen chicken (whole or in pieces; excluding frozen chicken breast and legs);
Frozen chicken breast;
Frozen chicken legs;
Frozen whole chicken (excluding giblets and gastrointestinal tract);
Frozen chicken claws;

Frozen whole chicken wings;
 Frozen chicken wing root;
 Frozen chicken wing middle;
 Frozen two-section chicken wings;
 Frozen chicken wing tip;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen chicken feet bones;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen chicken knee cartilage;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen other chicken cartilage;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen chicken combs;
 Other chicken offal: Frozen chicken skin;
 Frozen chicken breast;
 Frozen chicken legs;
 Frozen chicken claws
 Frozen whole chicken wings;
 Frozen chicken wing root;
 Frozen chicken wing middle
 Frozen two-section chicken wings;
 Frozen chicken wing tip;
 Frozen duck (whole or in pieces; excluding frozen duck breast and legs);
 Frozen duck breast;
 Frozen duck legs
 Other duck offal: Frozen duck liver;
 Other goose offal: Frozen goose liver;
 Frozen duck wings (excluding wing tips);
 Frozen duck wings (including wing tips);
 Other duck offal: Frozen duck wing tips;
 Other duck offal: Frozen duck necks;
 Frozen duck claws;
 Frozen goose breast;
 Frozen goose legs;
 Frozen goose claws;
 Frozen goose wings (excluding wing tips);
 Frozen goose wings (including wing tips);
 Other goose offal: Frozen goose wing tips;
 Other goose offal: Frozen goose necks.

Date of signature: 3/26/2019

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE): Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age).

Scrapie: Sheep and related products.

Bluetongue: Ruminants and related products.

Schmallenberg virus: Bovine embryos, ovine semen, ovine embryos.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) (regionally-defined): Poultry and related products.

Newcastle disease (regionally-defined): Poultry and related products

6. GERMANY/德国

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products*

Frozen swine carcass (bone-in);
 Frozen swine carcass(boneless);
 Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding visceral fat);
 Frozen swine heart;
 Frozen swine liver;
 Frozen swine kidney;
 Frozen swine tongue;
 Frozen swine tail;
 Frozen swine ear;
 Frozen swine testicles;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine nose;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine trotters;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine face;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine lips;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine jaw;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine heart tube;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine skin;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine head;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine brain;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine diaphragm;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine cartilage;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine trachea;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine esophagus;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine throat bone;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine penis;
 Frozen whole swine feet.

**Items in red have been suspended. See “Suspensions” below for more details.*

Date of signature: 9/1/2008

Suspensions – Pork

Pork product shipments from Germany to China originating on or after September 11, 2020, are suspended.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Swine, wild boar, and related products.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE): Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age).

Scrapie: Sheep and related products.

Foot-and-mouth disease: cloven-hoofed animals and their related products

Bluetongue: Ruminants and related products.

Schmallenberg virus: Bovine embryos, ovine semen, ovine embryos.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI): Poultry and related products.

7. HUNGARY/匈牙利

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products*

Frozen swine carcass (bone-in);
Frozen swine (boneless);
Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding visceral fat);
Frozen swine heart;
Frozen swine liver;
Frozen swine kidney;
Frozen swine tongue;
Frozen swine tail;
Frozen swine ear;
Frozen whole swine feet;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine head;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine brain;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine nose;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine trotters;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine face;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine lips;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine throat bone;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine heart tube;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine trachea;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine esophagus;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine jaw;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine skin;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine diaphragm.

**Items in red have been suspended. See "Suspensions"*

below for more details.

Date of signature: 10/16/2009

Suspensions – Pork

An outbreak of African swine fever has occurred in Hungary, suspending the import declaration and inspection of pork products destined for China for shipments departing from 7 May 2018 onwards.

Products included – Beef

Frozen beef products

Frozen boneless beef;
Frozen beef (bone-in, excluding spine and skull);
Frozen unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding visceral fat).

Date of signature: 11/13/2014

Suspensions – Beef

The acceptance of import declarations for beef products shipped from Hungary to China was suspended starting from March 8, 2025 (inclusive).

Products included – Duck

Frozen duck products

Frozen duck (bone-in);
Frozen duck (boneless);
Frozen duck breast;
Frozen duck legs;
Frozen duck liver.

Date of signature: 8/28/2003

Suspensions – Duck

Suspension of the export of poultry meat products from Hungary to China from 15 January 2020 onwards.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Swine, wild boar, and their products.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): Poultry and their products.

Ovine rinderpest: sheep, goats, and their related products.

Foot-and-mouth disease: cloven-hoofed animals and their related products.

8. IRELAND/爱尔兰

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products

Frozen swine (bone-in);
 Frozen swine (boneless);
 Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible; excluding visceral fat);
 Frozen swine heart;
 Frozen swine liver;
 Frozen swine kidney;
 Frozen swine tongue;
 Frozen swine tail;
 Frozen swine ear;
 Frozen whole swine feet;
 Frozen swine testicles;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine nose;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine trotters;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine lips;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine jaw;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine heart tube;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine skin;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine head;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine brain;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine diaphragm;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine cartilage;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine trachea;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine esophagus;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine throat bone;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine penis;
 Other swine offal: Frozen swine bone.

Date of signature: 1/18/2005

Products included – Beef

Frozen beef products*

Frozen boneless beef (under 30 months old);
 Frozen unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding visceral fat, under 30 months old).

**Items in red have been suspended. See "Suspensions" below for more details.*

Date of signature: 4/18/2017

Suspensions – Beef

Ireland has voluntarily suspended beef exports to China for shipments originating on or after September 19, 2024.

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE): Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef from animals under 30 months old).

Scrapie: Sheep and related products.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): Poultry and related products.

9. ITALY/意大利

Products included – Pork

Heat-Treated Pork Products*

(All registered companies exporting heat-treated boneless pork products to China must reach a core temperature of 70°C for 30 minutes)

Mortadella sausage;
Cooked ham;
Roasted ham;
Truffle-cooked ham;
Cooked pork shoulder;
Smoked pork sausage;
Sausage with pork skin;
Roasted pork tenderloin;
Frankfurters;
Cooked pork stomach;
Cooked pork sausage;
Roasted suckling pig;
Stewed bacon;
Laoncini Italian bacon.

Boneless Cured Pork Products

(Boneless cured products from provisionally registered establishments producing cured pork for export to China must be labeled with an approved Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) mark)
Parma ham;
San Daniele ham.

Date of signature: 12/6/2004

Frozen pig products

Frozen boneless swine;
Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding visceral fat);
Frozen whole swine feet;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine trotters;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine skin;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine tail;
Other swine offal: Frozen swine cartilage.

**Items in red have been suspended. See “Suspensions” below for more details.*

Date of signature: 3/23/2019

Suspensions – Pork

Italy voluntarily suspended the issuance of health certificates for pork and pork products exported to China from January 7, 2022. Shipments of pork and pork products from Italy to China originating on or after January 24, 2022, are suspended.

Products included – Beef

Frozen beef products

Frozen beef (boneless, under 30 months of age);
Frozen unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding offal fat, under 30 months of age).

Chilled beef products

Chilled beef (boneless, under 30 months of age);
Chilled unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding offal fat, under 30 months of age).

Date of signature: 4/8/2020

Suspensions – Beef

Suspension of import declaration for meat products shipped to China from Italian beef enterprises starting February 6, 2024.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef under 30 months of age)

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Schmallenberg Virus: Cattle embryos, sheep semen, sheep embryos

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

Newcastle Disease (regionalized): Birds and related products

10. NETHERLANDS/荷兰

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products

Frozen swine (with bones);
 Frozen swine (boneless);
 Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding offal fat);
 Frozen swine heart;
 Frozen swine liver;
 Frozen swine kidney;
 Frozen swine tongue;
 Frozen swine tail;
 Frozen swine ear (excluding inner ear);
 Frozen swine trotter (whole trotter);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine snout);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine foot ring);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine face);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine jaw);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine skin);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine head excluding inner ear);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine diaphragm);
 Other swine offal (frozen swine cartilage);
 Frozen swine stomach (swine tripe).

Date of signature: 4/27/2024

Pig fat (edible)

Date of signature: 7/2/2018

Products included – Veal

Frozen veal products*

Frozen beef (boneless, under 12 months of age);
 Frozen unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding offal fat, under 12 months of age).

Chilled veal products

Chilled beef (boneless, under 12 months of age)
 Chilled unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding offal fat, under 12 months of age).

**Items in red have been suspended. See "Suspensions" below for more details.*

Date of signature: 7/2/2018

Suspensions – Veal

The Netherlands has voluntarily suspended the export of veal to China for shipments starting from January 30, 2023.

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products (excluding veal under 12 months of age)

Scrapie: Sheep and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Schmallenberg Virus: Cattle embryos, sheep semen, sheep embryos

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

11 POLAND/波兰

Products included – Poultry

Frozen poultry products*

Frozen chicken (whole or in pieces, excluding frozen chicken breasts and frozen chicken thighs);
Frozen chicken breasts;
Frozen chicken thighs;
Frozen chicken wing (wing) roots;
Frozen chicken mid-wings;
Frozen chicken drumettes (excluding wing tips);
Frozen turkey (whole or in pieces, excluding frozen turkey breasts and frozen turkey thighs);
Frozen turkey breasts;
Frozen turkey thighs;
Frozen turkey wings (excluding wing tips).

**Items in red have been suspended. See “Suspensions” below for more details.*

Date of signature: 7/3/2018

Suspensions – Poultry

Suspension of acceptance for import declaration of poultry meat products shipped from Poland to China starting from September 4, 2024 (inclusive).

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products

Date of signature: 5/24/2010

Suspensions – Pork

Suspension of import declaration of pork meat products shipped from Poland to China.

Products included – Beef

Frozen beef products

Frozen beef (boneless, under 30 months of age)

Date of signature: 6/21/2023

Suspensions – Beef

Suspension of acceptance for import declaration of beef products shipped to China from the Polish registered beef enterprise with registration number 30090201, starting from May 15, 2024.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef under 30 months of age)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

12. ROMANIA/罗马尼亚

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products*

Frozen swine (bones-in);
Frozen swine (boneless);
Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding offal fat);
Frozen swine heart;
Frozen swine liver;
Frozen swine kidney;
Frozen swine tongue; Frozen swine trotter (whole trotter)
Other swine offal: frozen swine head, excluding brain and eyes;
Other swine offal: frozen swine skin;
Other swine offal: frozen swine feet;
Other swine offal: frozen swine jaw.

**Items in red have been suspended. See “Suspensions” below for more details.*

Date of signature: 11/25/2013

Suspensions – Pork

Suspension of imports of pork products destined for China for shipments starting from 27 July 2017 due to an outbreak of African swine fever in Romania.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products

Scrapie: Sheep and related products

Ovine rinderpest: Sheep, goats, and related products

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

Newcastle Disease (regionalized): Birds and related products

13. SPAIN/西班牙

Products included – Pork

Cured swine products

Cured ham/shoulder (with or without bones)

Jamon paleta curado;

Serrano ham (with or without bones)

Jamón Serrano;

Iberian ham/shoulder (with or without bones);

Cured loin;

Chorizo;

Salchichón;

Frozen and chilled pork products

Frozen swine (bone-in);

Frozen swine (boneless)

Frozen unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding offal fat);

Frozen swine heart;

Frozen swine liver;

Frozen swine kidney;

Frozen swine tongue;

Frozen swine tail;

Frozen swine ear;

Frozen swine testicles;

Other swine offal: frozen swine snout;

Other swine offal: frozen swine foot ring;

Other swine offal: frozen swine face;

Other swine offal: frozen swine lips;

Other swine offal: frozen swine jaw;

Other swine offal: frozen swine coronary arteries;

Other swine offal: frozen swine skin;

Other swine offal: frozen swine head;

Other swine offal: frozen swine brain;

Other swine offal: frozen swine diaphragm;

Other swine offal: frozen swine cartilage;

Other swine offal: frozen swine trachea;

Other swine offal: frozen swine esophagus;

Other swine offal: frozen swine throat bone;

Other swine offal: frozen swine whip;

Other swine offal: frozen swine bones;

Frozen swine trotter (whole trotter);

Chilled swine (with bones);

Chilled swine (boneless);

Chilled unrendered swine fat (edible, excluding offal fat);

Frozen swine heart;

Frozen swine liver;

Frozen swine kidney;

Frozen swine tongue;

Frozen swine tail;

Frozen swine ear;

Frozen swine trotter (whole trotter);

Frozen swine snout;

Frozen swine coronary arteries;

Frozen swine skin;

Frozen swine head;

Frozen swine diaphragm;

Frozen swine cartilage;

Frozen swine trachea;

Frozen swine esophagus;

Frozen swine bones;

Frozen swine heart;

Frozen swine liver;

Frozen swine kidney;

Frozen swine tongue;

Frozen swine ear

Frozen swine coronary arteries;

Frozen swine skin;

Frozen swine head;

Frozen swine brain;

Frozen swine diaphragm;

Frozen swine cartilage;

Frozen swine trachea;

Frozen swine esophagus;

Frozen swine throat bone;

Frozen swine whip;

Frozen swine bones;

Frozen swine trotter (whole trotter).

Date of signature: 11/28/2018

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef under 30 months of age)

Sheep and Goat Pox: Sheep, goats, and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Schmallenberg Virus: Cattle semen, cattle embryos, sheep semen, sheep embryos.

14 LATVIA/拉脱维亚

Products included – Beef

Frozen beef products

Frozen beef (bone-in);

Frozen beef (boneless);

Frozen unrendered beef fat (edible, excluding offal fat).

Date of signature: 6/16/2014

Products included – Lamb

Frozen sheep products

Frozen lamb (bone-in);

Frozen lamb (boneless);

Frozen unrendered lamb fat (edible, excluding offal fat).

Date of signature: 6/16/2014

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

15. LITHUANIA/立陶宛

Products included – Beef

Frozen beef products*

Frozen beef (bone-in);

Frozen beef (boneless).

**Items in red have been suspended. See "Suspensions" hereafter for more details.*

Date of signature: 5/24/2017

Suspensions – Beef

Suspension of acceptance of import declarations of Lithuanian beef for shipments departing from or after 9 February 2022 (inclusive).

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

16. PORTUGAL/葡萄牙

Products included – Pork

Frozen pork products

Frozen pork (bone-in);

Frozen pork (boneless);

Frozen unrendered pork fat (edible, excluding offal fat);

Frozen pork trotter (whole trotter).

Date of signature: 5/28/2019

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products

Scrapie: Sheep and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (regionalised): Birds and related products

Newcastle Disease (regionalised): Birds and related products

17. BULGARIA/保加利亚

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Classical Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Foot and Mouth Disease: Cloven-hoofed animals and related products

Sheep and Goat Pox: Sheep, goats, and related products

Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia: Cattle, sheep, and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

Newcastle Disease (regionalised): Birds and related products (limited to Kyustendil and Vidin regions)

18. CZECHIA/捷克

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef under 30 months of age)

Scrapie: Sheep and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Schmallenberg Virus: Cattle semen, cattle embryos, sheep semen, sheep embryos

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

19. ESTONIA/爱沙尼亚

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

20. GREECE/希腊

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Sheep and Goat Pox: Sheep, goats, and related products

Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia: Sheep, goats, and related products

Nodular dermatitis of cattle: Cattle and related products

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Pet birds, wild birds, and related products

21. CROATIA/克罗地亚

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Classical Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products

22. CYPRUS/塞浦路斯

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

Foot and Mouth Disease: Cloven-hoofed animals and related products.

Scrapie: Sheep and related products.

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: ornamental birds, wild birds, and related products.

23. LUXEMBURG/卢森堡

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products.

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products.

Schmallenberg Virus: Cattle semen, cattle embryos, sheep semen, sheep embryos.

Newcastle Disease: Birds and related products.

24. MALTA/马耳他

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products.

25. SLOVENIA/斯洛文尼亚

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products.

26. SLOVAKIA/斯洛伐克

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products.

Classical Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products (excluding boneless beef under 30 months of age).

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products.

27. SWEDEN/瑞典

No protocol has been signed.

Export ban due to animal disease

African Swine Fever: Pigs, wild boars, and related products.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Cattle and related products.

Scrapie: Sheep and related products.

Blue Tongue Disease: Ruminants and related products.

Schmallenberg Virus: Cattle embryos, sheep semen, sheep embryos.

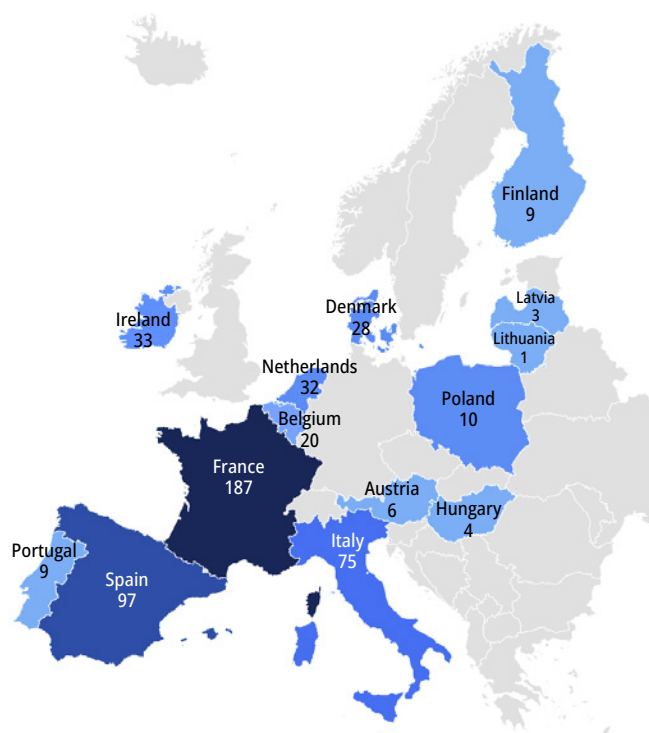
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Birds and related products.

Newcastle Disease (regionalized): Birds and related products.

2.3 EU MEAT EXPORT REGISTRATIONS: KEY INSIGHTS

The graphs below present a list of all registered meat enterprises in EU countries and the percentage of these enterprises with active registration status.

EU Meat Enterprises Registered with GACC/CIFER



Percentage of EU Meat Enterprise with Active Registration Status



FRANCE

- Holds 36% of all EU meat registrations:
 - ◊ 97 pork producers
 - ◊ 60 beef producers
 - ◊ 14 poultry producers
 - ◊ 16 producers of other meat products within HS 1601 (sausages, meat preparations)
- 60% of enterprises retain active export rights.
- Beef exports have been suspended for shipments since September 5, 2024, due to the suspension of the import declarations.

SPAIN

- Ranks second in registrations with 19% of the EU total:
 - ◊ 81% of register enterprises are pork producers
 - ◊ The remaining export to China products within HS 1601 (sausages, meat preparations)
- 95% of enterprises maintain active export rights.

ITALY

- Third in registrations, accounting for 15% of the EU total.
- All meat exports have been suspended since 2022 for pork and since 2024 for beef.

OTHER EU COUNTRIES

Denmark, Belgium, Portugal, Finland, Lithuania: 100% of registered enterprises are export-eligible.

Ireland: Only 27% of enterprises are active due to a voluntary suspension of beef exports effective September 19, 2024.

Netherlands: 69% of enterprises are active; veal exports have been suspended since January 30, 2023.

Poland, Hungary, Lithuania: Exports are banned due to animal disease outbreaks (HPAI/BSE/Blue tongue) and lack of Chinese recognition of regionalisation.

The primary challenges for EU Member States in exporting meat to China involve the lack of recognition of regionalisation regarding HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) and BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), which are classified as trade barriers (Barriers ID 10790 and 10786). Progress in discussions has been slow, with France being the only EU country to have signed a regionalisation agreement concerning HPAI and ASF (African Swine Fever) with China, achieved through bilateral negotiations.

In addition to existing bans, there has been a recent suspension of meat imports due to concerns related to bluetongue disease. On October 14, 2024, the European Commission submitted a letter to GACC objecting to these restrictions, stating they did not align with international standards from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). On November 8, 2024, China responded, citing a high risk to its animal health from the bluetongue outbreak in EU member states. As of May 2025, the restrictions on EU meat imports remain in place affecting most of EU countries: Poland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Czechia.⁸

2.4 COMPANY REGISTRATION WITH GACC/ CIFER

Once a country of origin has signed a protocol with China for specific meat products, enterprises must adhere to the following registration procedures.

As of January 1, 2022, the Administrative Provisions on Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Foods (commonly referred to as GACC Decree 248) came into effect. All companies involved in the production, processing, or cold stores intended for export to China must register on a dedicated system and obtain a registration code at: [GACC CIFER System](https://cifir.singlewindow.cn/).⁹ Failure to complete this registration will result in products being rejected at the port of entry by Chinese customs, which may lead to either their return to the country of origin or their destruction. Meat products are classified as “high risk,” meaning they must receive official recommendations from the respective country competent authorities to GACC.

Step-by-Step Registration Procedure for Meat Companies:

- 1. Obtain Access:** Acquire an account and password for the GACC/CIFER system from the competent authority (CA) of your country, or obtain account certification from the CA if the enterprise created the account independently.
- 2. Confirm Product Codes:** Verify the HS/CIQ code for the products intended for export to China. Incorrect selection may result in delays or detentions at the port. Please note that before registering a product, it is crucial to understand the structure of the HS code, according to Chinese regulations. The structure consists of six digits, which are common in international nomenclature, followed by four digits specific to exports to China. Additionally, there are three digits that represent the CIQ code for inspection and quarantine. This results in a total of 13 digits, including the CIQ code.
- 3. Submit Application:** Complete and submit the registration application to the CA via the GACC/ CIFER system under the meat and meat products category. Ensure that all required information (marked with a red asterisk) is filled out, and attach the following documents:
 - ◇ Licensed Production Certificate issued by the relevant country or regional authority (scan of the original version and translation into the Chinese or English)
 - ◇ Declaration of the Manufacturer (available to download directly from the system).
 - ◇ Product photo (marked as not required but recommended by GACC).
- 4. Prepare Documentation:** In close collaboration with the CA, prepare the necessary documentation and fill out the *Conditions and Key Point Control Inspection for Registration of Overseas Production Enterprises of Imported Meat and Meat Products*.
- 5. CA Review:** The CA reviews the application and, after attaching all required materials in the CIFER/ GACC system, forwards it to GACC.
- 6. GACC Evaluation:** GACC reviews the application, with an expert group evaluating it through a

⁸ https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/barriers/details?barrier_id=18442&sps=true (accessed 12 June 2025).

⁹ <https://cifir.singlewindow.cn/> (accessed 12 June 2025).

combination of document reviews, online inspections, or other reasonable inspection methods.

7. **Approval or Rejection:** GACC will either approve or reject the registration and will provide feedback to both the CA and the enterprise via the CIFER/GACC system.
8. **Registration Number:** Enterprises that are approved for registration will receive a China registration number and will be listed on the official website at [CIFER Query](#).

Before shipping meat products to China, EU enterprises must ensure they possess a Chinese registration number, valid registration, and correctly registered HS/CIQ codes. All applications for registration of new establishments, modifications of currently approved establishments, and extensions of registration must be submitted through the GACC/CIFER system. Under the current provisions of Decree 248, registration is valid for five years.

WHO SHOULD REGISTER?

A common question among EU SMEs is who is required to register. Slaughtering, processing (including cutting and storing), and cold storage facilities intending to export meat to China must register in the GACC/CIFER system, as outlined in Article 2 of Decree 248. These facilities must be supervised by the competent authorities of EU Member States; for example, the General Veterinary Inspectorate for Poland and the Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate General for Food for France. Additionally, they must adhere to all relevant laws and regulations concerning veterinary health and public health. Prior approval for slaughter, processing, and cold storage establishments is essential to ensure compliance with the provisions of the applicable protocol.

For more information about the registration process in the GACC/CIFER system, we encourage you to read our guidelines on GACC/CIFER Registration for European Food & Beverage Establishments.



3. IMPORT PROCEDURES

3.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR MEAT IMPORTERS IN CHINA

According to Decree 249, China's meat import regulations mandate strict compliance with national food safety laws, technical standards (GB standards), and any additional requirements outlined in international agreements. Importers are responsible for ensuring that all products meet these standards, which encompass hygiene, labeling, and pathogen control measures.

Conformity Assessments by GACC

The GACC conducts conformity assessments to evaluate the food safety systems of exporting countries. This process involves inspections of overseas production facilities and reviews of documentation such as health certificates and production records. Overseas meat production facilities, including slaughterhouses, processing plants, and cold storage units, must register with GACC through the GACC/CIFER system and obtain a unique Chinese Registration Number.

Pre-Shipment Requirements

Prior to shipment, importers or their agents must secure a Quarantine Import Permit (QIP) via GACC's "Internet + Customs" platform. This permit is mandatory and must be obtained before signing trade contracts, not during customs clearance. The QIP application requires details such as product type, origin, and intended port of entry. This step aligns with the AQSIQ Public Notice 73 (now integrated into GACC's regulatory framework), which mandates quarantine reviews for animal products.

Port Inspections

All meat imports are subject to on-site inspections at GACC-designated ports, such as Shanghai, Tianjin, or Shenzhen. During inspections, GACC officials verify packaging integrity, labeling compliance (e.g., production dates and Chinese-language information), and conduct laboratory tests to detect pathogens like African swine fever (ASF), avian influenza or another animal disease. Non-compliant shipments may be rejected, destroyed, or recalled.

Post-Import Obligations

Importers must retain detailed records (e.g., product names, quantities, production dates, and supplier information) for at least two years from the import date. Safety incidents, such as contamination or adverse health effects linked to the product, must be reported to GACC within 24 hours. Failure to comply may result in enhanced inspections, import suspensions, or blacklisting.

Designated Ports

Meat imports are permitted only at GACC-approved designated ports, with the list of eligible ports updated annually. As of February 2025, please refer to the [official GACC website](#) (only in Chinese)

Shipments will be denied entry if they originate from facilities not registered with GACC, lack a valid QIP, or are routed through non-designated ports.

3.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN MEAT EXPORTERS

A. Establishment Approval

Foreign meat producers (slaughterhouses, processing plants, and cold storage facilities) must register with the GACC and obtain a China Overseas Registration Number. Approved facilities are listed on the [GACC Official Website](#).¹⁰ Failure to register will result in export ineligibility.

B. Registration Filing for Exporters/Agents

Exporters or their agents must file their details through GACC's "Internet + Customs" Platform ([海关总署官网](#)).¹¹

Steps:

1. Log in to the platform.
2. Navigate to "Enterprise Management and Audit" → "Filing of Importer and Exporter of Imported Food and Cosmetics" → "Exporter/Agent Filing of Imported Food and Cosmetics".
3. Submit the required business licenses, facility registration numbers, and product specifications.

See the GACC screenshot on the next page.

¹⁰ <http://english.customs.gov.cn/> (accessed 12 June 2025).

¹¹ <https://online.customs.gov.cn/> (accessed 12 June 2025).



Exporters are strongly advised to collaborate with their importers to ensure that products intended for export comply with China's requirements. They should also work closely with importers to understand the relevant Chinese standards for meat and meat products.

Document Preparation for Meat Exporters

Chinese customs will verify all required information, licenses, and documents according to applicable regulations and rules. It is crucial that all declared information is consistent and accurate; discrepancies may result in the rejection of goods. Required documents include:

- Health Certificate (issued by the competent authority of the exporting country)
- Certificate of Origin (if required)
- Trading Contract
- Invoice
- Packing List
- Bill of Lading
- Any other documents requested by port customs.

Occasionally, local port customs may request supplementary information or additional documents to support the customs declaration.

Assess your readiness to enter the Chinese market in an interactive way with our Self-Diagnosis Tool. Take one of the five business quizzes for SMEs and get a list of relevant publications according to your answers.



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You can also reach out to the EU SME Centre's experts with your questions.



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

4. PACKAGING AND LABELING STANDARDS

4.1 PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEAT PRODUCTS IN CHINA

General Packaging Standards

Under Decree 249 (Article 30), meat product packaging must comply with China's national food safety standards. Packaging must remain free from contamination, damage, soaking, or penetration and must not include statements like "not for human consumption" or "for feed only." Labels, logos, and instructions on both inner and outer packaging must align with Chinese laws, administrative regulations, and GACC requirements.

Labeling Requirements

For fresh and frozen meat, labels must be in Chinese and English or Chinese and the exporter's language, securely fixed and legible. The inner packaging must display the country of origin, product name, GACC facility registration number, and batch number. The outer packaging requires a Chinese label specifying the product's production date, shelf life, storage temperature, destination ("People's Republic of China"), and the exporter's official inspection/quarantine seal.

Pre-Packaged Meat Products

Additionally to requirements enclosed in Decree 249, pre-packaged items (e.g., ham, sausages) must comply with GB 7718-2011 (General Rules for Pre-packaged Foods). Labels must include:

- Ingredients
- Name, address, and contact details of the manufacturer and/or local distributor
- Expiration date
- Product standard code
- Storage conditions
- Generic names of additives according to national standards
- Any other information required by laws, regulations, or food safety standards.

It is important to note that on March 27, 2025, China's National Health Commission (NHC) and the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly released **General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods, GB 7718-2025, which will replace GB 7718-2011**. A two-year transition period will be established for the enforcement of this new standard, which is set to take effect on March 16, 2027.¹²

Main Changes Compared to Previous Standards

- **Date Marking:** Labels must now include both the date of manufacture and the shelf-life expiration date, moving beyond a sole focus on shelf-life periods.
- **Ingredient Declaration:** Ingredients must be listed in descending order by weight, and compound ingredients must specify each original component.
- **Allergen Information:** Specific allergens must be clearly declared on labels, with a new appendix detailing the mandatory format for allergen declarations.
- **Digital Labeling:** New provisions for digital labeling have been introduced, enabling enhanced information access through QR codes and other technologies.
- **Label Design and Presentation:** Labels must feature clear, durable, and legible printing, meeting established standards for font size and placement.

Requirements for Imported Foods

- **Chinese Labeling:** Imported foods must have a Chinese label that directly corresponds with the original language label, ensuring no deceptive claims are made.
- **Origin Declaration:** Labels must state the country of origin. If products are processed in multiple regions, the region of significant transformation must be specified.
- **Compliance with Local Laws:** All visible content must conform to Chinese food safety laws and standards, with specific exemptions applicable to certain labeling requirements.

The new Food Labeling Supervision and Management Measures will impose stricter penalties for labeling violations, impacting both domestic and imported products.

¹² <http://www.nhc.gov.cn/sps/c100088/202503/e8a432507f7d4f08a877e76a9b0578ce.shtml> (accessed 13 June 2025).

5. COMMON CHALLENGES IN MEAT EXPORT

China's selective imports of meat products are based upon the principle of one-by-one negotiation with potential partners. Exporters in the EU cannot benefit from a common trade policy and are kept in competition with each other and with the rest of the registered companies from approved countries to try to get their part of the Chinese market share.

EU exports are highly dependent on pork meat and edible offal, and EU exporters are vulnerable to external factors that influence the market which also applies to poultry and beef products:

- **Domestic Market Interventions:** China's government frequently stabilizes prices by purchasing domestic pork reserves, suppressing demand for imports during oversupply periods.
- **Geopolitical Disruptions:** Trade bans triggered by disease outbreaks or political tensions can halt exports abruptly.
- **Trade Defense Measures:**
 - In 2024, China initiated an anti-dumping investigation into EU pork, citing unfair pricing.
 - A similar probe for EU beef is anticipated in 2025, reflecting growing trade tensions.

Beijing Municipal Government's pork reserve distribution points

5.1 IMPORT REJECTIONS: COMMON REASONS

2023–2024 Rejection Trends

In 2024, China's customs authorities rejected 776 batches of imported meat products, a sharp 250% increase from the 222 batches rejected in 2023.¹³ Meat products accounted for 18% of all food import rejections during this period, reflecting heightened scrutiny by Chinese regulators. This surge underscores the growing challenges faced by exporters in complying with China's stringent food safety and animal health regulations.

Country-Specific Rejection Patterns

EU enterprises faced significant rejections, with notable disparities among member states. For pork imports, Denmark led with 101 rejected batches, primarily due

to the detection of animal diseases. Spain followed with 35 rejected pork batches, largely linked to excessive testosterone residues that exceeded China's maximum residue limits (MRLs). France, by contrast, saw only four pork batches rejected due to animal disease detection and inconsistent cargo certificates.

For beef imports, Ireland accounted for 27 rejected batches, in most cases due to shipments sent after China had officially suspended Irish beef imports.¹⁴ This highlights the critical importance of adhering to real-time regulatory updates, as even minor timing misalignments can result in entire consignments being turned away.

PRIMARY CAUSES OF REJECTION

Animal Disease Risks

The detection of pathogens in meat products remains the most severe issue, often triggering immediate border rejections and broader trade suspensions. For example, Denmark's pork rejections were tied to failures in meeting quarantine requirements under China's Law on Entry-Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine. GACC maintains a dynamic List of Prohibited Animals and Animal Products from Epidemic-Affected Regions, which is frequently updated in response to global disease outbreaks. Exporters must ensure that their products originate from regions free of listed diseases and that all shipments are accompanied by valid certificates.

Non-Compliance with Food Safety Standards

Hormone residues, such as testosterone in Spanish pork, represent a recurring issue. China enforces strict MRLs for veterinary drugs and growth promoters, as outlined in standards like GB 31650-2021 (National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Residue Limits of Veterinary Drugs in Foods). Similarly, microbial contamination or improper use of additives can lead to rejections.

Administrative and Procedural Inconsistency

Documentation mismatches, such as inconsistencies between health certificates and actual cargo details (e.g., production dates, HS codes), are a common yet avoidable problem. Labeling errors, including non-compliance with Decree 249 (Administrative Measures for Imported and Exported Food Safety) and GB 7718-2011

¹³ Data based on <http://jckspj.customs.gov.cn/spj/xxfw39/fxyj47/4677516/index.html> (accessed 12 June 2025).

¹⁴ Data based on <http://jckspj.customs.gov.cn/spj/xxfw39/fxyj47/4677516/index.html> (accessed 12 June 2025).

(General Rules for Food Labeling), also contribute to rejections. For instance, labels missing mandatory Chinese-language information or inaccurately listing ingredients have led to shipments being denied entry.

The dramatic rise in meat import rejections underscores

the need for exporters to treat compliance as a continuous process rather than a one-time hurdle. By integrating real-time regulatory monitoring, pre-export testing, and cross-border collaboration, businesses can reduce rejection risks and maintain access to China's lucrative but demanding market.

5.2 NAVIGATING CHINA'S REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

China's regulatory environment presents challenging environment for EU SMEs, requiring continuous monitoring and adaptability to ensure compliance. Key considerations include:

Evolving Registration Requirements

The introduction of Decree 248 in 2022 significantly altered registration rules for overseas food producers and processors. After three years of adaptation, EU SMEs now face further uncertainty as the GACC has proposed revisions to the decree. The draft amendments, which was open for public comment, have drawn criticism and already has been classified as a market access barrier.¹⁵ While the implementation timeline remains unclear, businesses must prepare for potential adjustments to documentation, facility inspections, and registration timelines.

Compliance with National Food Safety Standards (GB Standards)

All food products sold in China—including imports—must adhere to GB Standards, which are enforced through rigorous customs inspections.

These standards cover:

- **Microbiological safety** (e.g., limits for pathogens like Salmonella),
- **Chemical contaminants** (e.g., heavy metals, veterinary drug residues),
- **Product shelf-life validation**,
- **Sensory evaluations** (appearance, odor, texture).

GB Standards are categorized into four frameworks:

- **General standards** (e.g., labeling, additives),
- **Product-specific standards** (e.g., frozen pork, beef cuts),
- **Testing methodologies**,
- **Hygienic practices** (production and storage).

EU meat exporters must stay informed about updates to these standards, which are frequently revised to align with shifting domestic priorities.



¹⁵ https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/barriers/details?barrier_id=15522&sps=true (accessed 12 June 2025).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU SMES

Conducting due diligence on potential partners is crucial before engaging with a local importer. Ensure that they are legally established, registered, and have a strong operational history.

Your importer will serve as your primary liaison with relevant government offices, making it essential that they are a trustworthy source of information regarding updated import procedures. Regulations in China can change and be implemented without prior notice, so having a reliable partner is vital. Additionally, it is important to sign a favorable sales and purchase contract. For more information on drafting such contracts, please refer to the guideline available at [EU SME Centre: Sales Contracts](#).

Using the same Chinese port and inspection point consistently can streamline import procedures, as customs officials will become familiar with your shipments. However, be mindful that timeframes and costs can vary significantly from port to port.

Thorough preparation of export documents, packaging, and labeling is essential to minimize the risk of non-compliance during customs clearance. If a shipment fails to meet any requirements, the exporter may face a lowered customs rating. Being listed as having “Bad Records” can lead to stricter import audits, delays in clearance, and increased costs for future shipments, not to mention the potential damage to your reputation in China.

Stay informed about public communications from Chinese food safety authorities regarding unauthorized establishments for import or export, as well as any epidemic outbreaks that may result in border closures or necessitate additional certifications for your shipments.

Building a network of contacts at various levels and within different organizations will be crucial for resolving import issues and succeeding in the Chinese market. It is advisable to reach out to your local embassy as soon as problems arise.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- National Agriculture Food Standards Public Service Platform (in Chinese): <https://www.sdtdata.com/fx/fmoa/tsLibList>
- List of animals and their products prohibited from importing from regions affected by animal epidemics: <http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/dzs/2746776/2753557/index.html>
- List of countries or regions whose meat products meet the requirements for evaluation and review for export to China | Official website of Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine, GACC: <http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/dzs/zcfg87/index.html>
- ChemLinked A Look Back at 2024: China's Rejected Imported Food Review Report: <https://food.chemlinked.com/expert-article/china-records-781-spike-in-food-rejections-in-2024-while-import-value-declines>
- Exporting Pork Products to China | EU SME Centre 2022 Report: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/exporting-pork-products-to-china/>
- Guidelines on GACC/CIFER Registration for European F&B Establishments | 2024 Update: <https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/publications/guidelines-on-gacc-cifer-registration-for-european-fb-establishments-2024-update/>

ABOUT THE EU SME CENTRE

The EU SME Centre is an initiative funded by the European Union to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from EU Member States and countries participating in the Single Market Programme, getting them ready to do business in China.

Our core mission is to facilitate market access and provide a comprehensive range of free first-line services to inform, advise, train, and connect SMEs. The Centre forms partnerships with business support organisations and trade promotion organisations to bring our services and expertise to European SMEs of all sectors.

This initiative created in 2010 is now in Phase IV (2022-2025) and is implemented by 4 consortium partners with 2 associated partners, with networks throughout Europe and China.

Consortium partners



European Union
Chamber of Commerce in China
中国欧盟商会



Associated partners



EU-China
Business Association
欧盟中国贸易协会

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