



AQSIQ

EXPORT CERTIFICATES IN GLOBAL FOOD TRADE

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AQSIQ

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Roles of Official Certification for Food

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Nowadays, official certificates are used commonly for trade.

Certificates may be issued either by competent authorities or by third party certification bodies.

Certificates vary from healthy certificate, phytosanitary certificate, to quality certificate, etc.

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Roles of Official Certification for Food

The importing country's competent authority may, as a condition for clearance of food presented for international trade, require importers to present official certificates issued by or with the authority of the exporting country's competent authority.

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Roles of Official Certification for Food

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To help importing countries to achieve their objectives relating to food safety and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

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Roles of Official Certification for Food

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Official certificate requirements reflect the requirements of the importing member economy.

Acceptance of official certificates reflect the trust and confidence to the competent authority of the exporting member economies.

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Format and Content of Official Certificate

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Official certificates normally consist of two parts---Identification and attestation.

Identification includes the identification of the commodity being certified and identification of the certificate itself.

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Format and Content of Official Certificate

- ❖ Identification of the commodity normally includes the following information:
- ❖ Nature of the food, Name of product
- ❖ Quantity, in the appropriate units
- ❖ Description of the commodity and consignment,
- ❖ Means of transport, security seal number(s)
- ❖ Date coding
- ❖ Name and address of the producer/manufacturer of the food and/or storage establishments and their approval number
- ❖ Name and address of the exporter or consignor
- ❖ Name and address of the importer or consignee
- ❖ Country and port of dispatch
- ❖ Country of destination.

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Format and Content of Official Certificate

Identification for the certificate normally consist of :

- ◆ Name of the certificate
- ◆ Number of the certificate
- ◆ Security measures the official identifier of the competent authority
- ◆ Signature, name and official position of the certifying officer
- ◆ Date of which the certificate is signed and issued
- ◆ Period of time for which the certificate will remain valid

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Format and Content of Official Certificate

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The attestation section contains the attestation required by the importing member economy which ensure that food safety and/or fair practices in the food trade requirements are met.

Based on the agreement of the two economies, the certificate may bear other information.

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Format and Content of Official Certificate

Certificates issued by some member economies may bear statements required by their own regulation/law that is not required by the importing country.

For example, the certificate issued for meat from the U.S. to China have statements:

A knowingly false entry or false alteration of any entry on this certificate may result in a fine of no more than 10,000 dollars or imprisonment for no more than five years or both.

This certificate is received in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any other of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States department of agriculture.

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Format and Content of Official Certificate

Certificates may be shown in the form of table or as text.

Certificates may be presented as a hard copy or in an electronic format.

Electronic certificates may be shown as a layout or a group of data + text document.

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Use of Official Certificate

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Official certificates are popularly used in food trade.

Exporting member economies provide assurances by issuing official certificates to the importing economies.

Exporting member economies issue certificates based on a range of inspection activities which may include continuous on-line inspection, auditing of quality assurance systems, and examination of finished products.

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Use of Official Certificate

All relevant attestations and identifying information required by the importing country should be included on a single official certificate, where possible, to avoid multiple or redundant certificates.

One certificate may consist of several pages.

It is also possible for certain certificates to apply to multiple consignments if agreed by the importing country. In such cases multiple consignment certificates should have a fixed duration.

Additional pages such as test report may be required as part of the certificate.

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Roles of Enterprises in Certification

The competent authority of the exporting country is ultimately responsible for any certificate it issues or authorizes to be issued. BUT

Each certificate represents a specific commodity, WHILE the producer/owner of it should be responsible for the safety and wholesomeness of the commodity.

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Roles of Enterprises in Certification

The producer/owner of the trading food should ensure that all requirements have been met during processing and storage.

The traders should provide detailed information so that the certifying body can verify which shipment the certificate pertains to.

The traders and the transportation agencies should take responsibility to assure that the certified food is being handled appropriately and complies with the requirements of the importing member economies.

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Roles of Enterprises in Certification

Enterprises should ensure the certificates issued by the competent authorities are kept and used properly.

Any problems such as lost certificates, incorrect information, destruction of the official certificates, etc. should be notified to the certifying body.

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Roles of Enterprises in Certification

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The importers should submit the original copy of the official certificates to the competent authority of the importing member economy, and make sure the certificate matches with the commodity, and will only use the certificate or information contained on it with regards to the appropriate shipment/commodity.

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Roles of Enterprises in Certification

The testing body may also play a very important role, because the testing report may be required as part of a certificate. In this case, accurate and proper information and clear prints are required.

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Chinese Practice in Official Certifying

Chinese government attaches great importance to food safety and food certification.

AQSIQ and its local CIQ are the competent authorities for food certification----issue certificates for exported food and check the certificates accompanying imported food.

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Chinese Practice in Official Certifying

Chinese certification bodies believe:

Importing and exporting member economies and related enterprises share the responsibility to have an efficient and effective certificate.

Cooperation and communication play very important roles in determining good certification.

Hard copy and electronic certificates are acceptable and available.

Welcome electronic certificates.

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Chinese Practice in Official Certifying

For the certificates of imported food :

Chinese government requests the exporting member economies to issue official certificates for meat, eggs, dairy and their products, fishery products, vegetable, etc, to be exported to China.

AQSIQ will discuss the format and content of certain certificates, and keep in touch with the exporting member economies.

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Chinese Practice in Official Certifying

For certificates of exported Food :

To ensure the conformity of the export certificates, AQSIQ has developed a certification system, and the format of the export certificates have been printed.

All stamps and the ink used are produced specially to minimize fraud.

China is open to discussion with the importing member economies on certification issues, and would like to meet their reasonable requirements.

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中华人民共和国出入境检验检疫
ENTRY-EXIT INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

卫生证书 编号 No. :
SANITARY CERTIFICATE

收货人名称及地址
Name and Address of Consignee

发货人名称及地址
Name and Address of Consignor

品名
Description of Goods

报检数量/重量
Quantity /Weight Declared

包装种类及数量
Number and Type of Packages

产地
Place of Origin

合同号
Contract No.

到货地点
Place of Arrival

启运地
Place of Despatch

运输工具
Means of Conveyance

标记及号码
Mark & No.

到货日期
Date of Arrival

卸毕日期
Date of Completion of Discharge

检验日期
Date of Inspection

中华人民共和国检验检疫局及其工作人员不承担因签发本证书所引起的一切法律责任。No financial liability with respect to this certificate shall attach to the enterprise inspection and quarantine authorities of the P. R. of China or to any of its officers or organizations.

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Chinese Practice in Official Certifying

China's certification experience indicate that:

Official Certificates play very important roles in food trade and food safety, especially for identification, traceability, and food incident management.

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Chinese Practice in Official Certifying

China's certification experience indicates that:

Communication between the competent authorities of the trader partners is essential to the determination of the format and the attestations of the official certificates.

Electronic copy of the certificate can effectively prevent the fraudulent activities.

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Suggestions

- ◆ Enterprises should take over the responsibilities of food safety and fair trade.
- ◆ Usage of official certificates should be based on mutual trust and cooperation.
- ◆ The format and content should be determined through discussion of the trade partners.
- ◆ Technology should be used to minimize the potential for fraud.



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Thanks