



# F4/19: China: Plant-based Pet Food

## Plant Products

23 January 2019

- (1) This FYI cancels and replaces FYI16/18.
- (2) In November 2018, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) concluded negotiations with China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) for a wider range of pet food products able to be exported to China.
- (3) This FYI provides the new requirements for export of plant-based pet food to China, which will enter into force in March 2019.
- (4) These plant-based pet food products include plant-based pet food ingredients, retail-ready pet food and pet supplements such as oil and flakes, but do not include animal feeds and feed additives such as horse feed.

## 1 Application

- (1) This FYI applies only to pet food which is solely derived from plant material and contains no animal material.
- (2) China Overseas Market Access Requirement (OMAR) outlines the requirements for export of pet food to China that contains a mix of plant and animal materials. The OMAR is accessible to exporters, operators or third party agencies or service providers in New Zealand that are registered with MPI under the Animal Product Act 1999.

## 2 Definitions

- (1) **Retail-ready pet food** means all pet food products, including main diet, pet treats, pet biscuits, pet dentals and pet supplement, which are ambient, chilled, frozen, dried, hermetically sealed, retorted, pouched, freeze dried or heat treated that are in consumer ready packs, without requiring further processing or packaging, for retail sale in China and is otherwise labelled in accordance with Chinese requirements.

## 3 Prohibitions/Restrictions

- (1) Export cannot commence until the establishment registration is completed by GACC.
- (2) Pet food from establishments not registered by GACC are not permitted entry into China.

## 4 Official Approvals

- (1) The list of GACC registered pet food establishments is available on the MPI country listing website under [China: Pet food](#).
- (2) Establishments providing ingredients to pet food manufacturers in New Zealand do not need to be registered unless they are directly exporting pet food (including ingredients) to China.

- (3) From March 2019 onwards, establishments wishing to obtain new GACC registration or registered establishments wishing to request modification or deletion their GACC registration may contact MPI Market Access for further information.
- (4) Operators should notify MPI Market Access in the first instance of any anticipated changes in the information on the GACC registration list, and not export new products and/or product categories under the new name and/or or address until MPI notifies the operator that GACC has updated its list.
- (5) There is no defined maximum time from when an operator submits an addition, modification or deletion application to MPI to when GACC revises and approves the request. Therefore operators and exporters should factor a considerable time delay into their production and sales planning.
- (6) Import of pet food and pet food ingredients into China involves two Chinese government authorities: China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) is responsible for product approval, and GACC is responsible for import, border clearance, product registration and establishment registration. Full details of MARA requirements and registration should be determined in consultation with exporter's agents and importers in China.

## 5 Requirements

For export of plant-based pet food products to China, China will expect the following requirements to be met:

- (1) Plant materials are to be processed sufficiently to minimise any phytosanitary risk.
- (2) Pet food and its ingredients are to be freely available for sale in New Zealand.
- (3) The outer packaging of products are to be labelled in accordance with Chinese requirements, such as:
  - a) be in Chinese and English;
  - b) state either "Not for human consumption" or "For use as pet food only"; and
  - c) include at least the following:
    - i) product name;
    - ii) net weight/volume;
    - iii) production date;
    - iv) shelf life or best before or use by date;
    - v) storage conditions (if applicable);
    - vi) unique identifier/number;
    - vii) name and address of manufacturer; and
    - viii) country of export i.e. "Product of New Zealand".

*Note: For more detailed labelling requirements or Chinese translation of labels, exporters should contact their agents or importers in China. Exporters should note that the Chinese authorities expect products to comply with Chinese labelling legislation and that failure to meet these requirements may result in the consignment being rejected by GACC custom officers at the border, or in severe circumstances the premises may become delisted.*

- (4) Products are to be protected from contamination after processing and packed in new packaging materials.
- (5) Products are to be refrigerated, stored and transported at an appropriate temperature to maintain the preservation of the product, and transferred between locations appropriately to avoid spoilage.
- (6) Operators are to have procedures and methods to distinguish ineligible products from eligible products.

## 6 Official Assurances

- (1) A written assurance is available through [MPI Verification Services Auckland Certification](#) to enable export.

## Contact for further information

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)  
Policy and Trade Branch  
Market Access Directorate  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
Email: [market.access@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:market.access@mpi.govt.nz)

## Disclaimer

This "For Your Information" is intended for use as a guideline only and should not be taken as definitive or exhaustive. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) endeavours to keep this information current and accurate. However, it may be subject to change without notice. MPI will not accept liability for any loss resulting from reliance on this information.