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Current Situation about Food Safety in China and Foodstuffs Import and Export Management

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Current Situation about Food Safety in China

1. The enforcement of the Food Safety Law strengthens the Government supervision, the corporate responsibilities and consumer protection.

The Enforcement of the Food Safety Law has improved the legal system for food safety and the legality of government work. In this law, obligations and duties of governments (at all levels), business and consumers are clearly defined. It also emphasizes the whole process supervision of food chain, as well as the risk assessment of food safety. What is more, the rules of inspection, supervision and the unified standards further complete the mechanisms of accident handling and emergency response. Its effectiveness is underlined by the fact that accidents concerning food safety has significantly declined over the past few months.

Current Situation about Food Safety in China

2. Major measures adopted to strengthen food safety management

- a. According to the instructions of the State Council, two National Food Safety Inspections were organized to back up the activities of "Year of Quality and Security".
- b. Specific investigations on dairy products, honey products, additives, starch etc. were carried out as a special renovation to small business that producing foodstuffs.
- c. Severe attacks were dealt to counterfeit and fake goods.
- d. Rules and regulations on food administration, such as on food additives were further completed, e.g. regulations on DHA, ARA or other additives in nutritious health products.

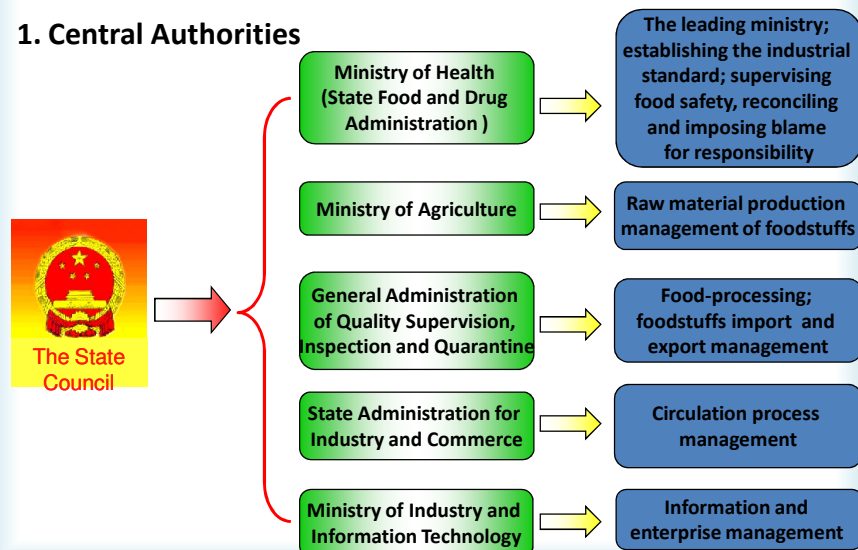
Current Situation about Food Safety in China

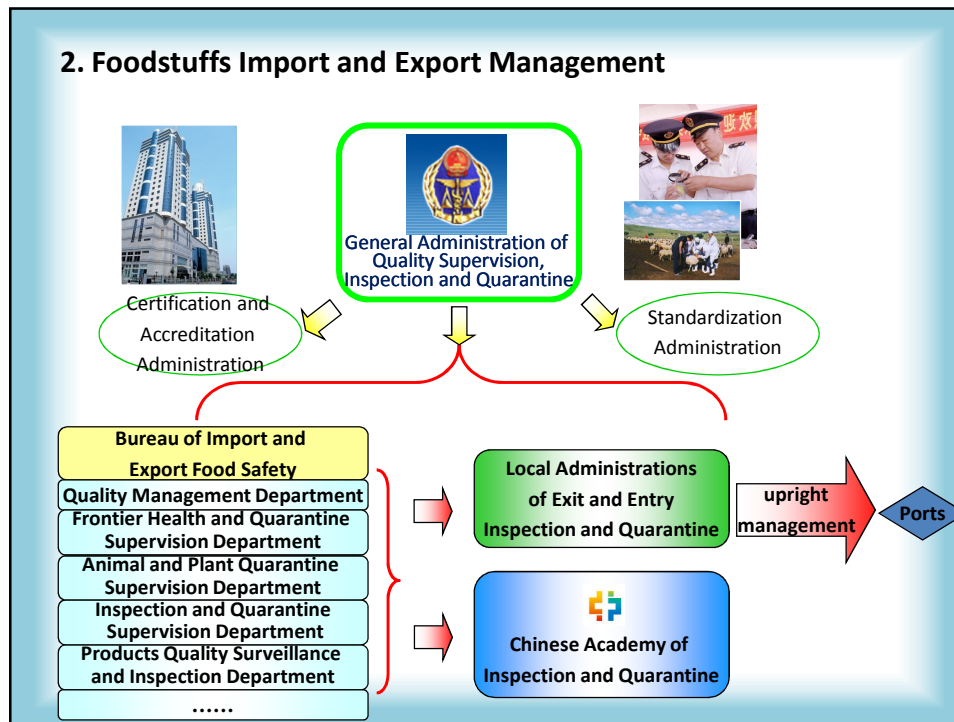
3. Weaknesses to be strengthened regarding food safety

- a. **Protection of human health and food safety against environmental pollution**
Pollution of the water supply (rivers, lakes and nearby seas etc.) has directly or indirectly - through livestock and poultry, aquatic products and processed foods from contaminated waters- increased harm to human health, which requires concrete and effective measures to reduce pollution at source and to consolidate supervision management.
- b. **Identification and standardization of the safety margin of food additives**
Hard use or abuse of food additives have represented a fundamental impact on food safety and consumers' health. Therefore, it is imperative for us to identify and standardize the safety margin of food additives. For example, DHA and ARA, which promote good health, may lose their effect if not added considering the *de minimis* level, and thus leads to cheating on consumers.
- c. **Public and media supervision**
On the one hand, media and the public play an important role in supervising food enterprises. On the other hand, there must be laws to abide by, so as to protect industries against unlawful and incorrect accusations by the public.

Foodstuffs Import and Export Management

1. Central Authorities





3. Laws and Standards of Foodstuffs Import and Export

a. Laws and regulations

Laws and regulations on foodstuffs import and export in China includes laws, rules and regulations, and the specifics whereby the laws will be implemented.

Laws

- FOOD SAFETY LAW
- FRONTIER HEALTH AND QUARANTINE LAW
- LAW ON IMPORT AND EXPORT COMMODITY INSPECTION
- LAW ON PRODUCT QUALITY
- LAW ON THE ENTRY AND EXIT ANIMAL AND PLANT QUARANTINE
- LAW ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY SAFETY etc.

Rules and regulations

There are corresponding Implementing Measures for all the laws above, e.g. "Implementing Regulations for the Law of the People's Republic of China on Inspection of Import and Export Commodity" and so on.

Supplementary regulations and ministry rules

According to the above laws and regulations, Local Governments at all levels can work out supplementary regulations and local policies in accordance with their actual conditions.

According to the above laws and the authorization of Central Governments, Central authorities can establish ministry rules, bulletins, enforcement measures and so on. Local enterprises or institutions can work out supplementary regulations and local policies in accordance with their actual conditions.

3. Laws and Standards of Foodstuffs Import and Export

b. Standardization

The Standardization Administration of China is the subsidy of General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. Standards concerning food safety includes the national standards, industrial standards and enterprise standards.

National standards

Issued by the Standardization Administration of China. National Standards issued by far has been up to a thousand, regarding food quality, food safety, and Import and Export Inspection and Quarantine. In recent years, the Standardization Administration of China have made greater efforts in establishing and revising the standards of food safety concerning the ordinary practical needs; besides, it upgrades the adoption of international standards, so as to meet the demands of international trade and conform with international usual practice.

Industrial standards

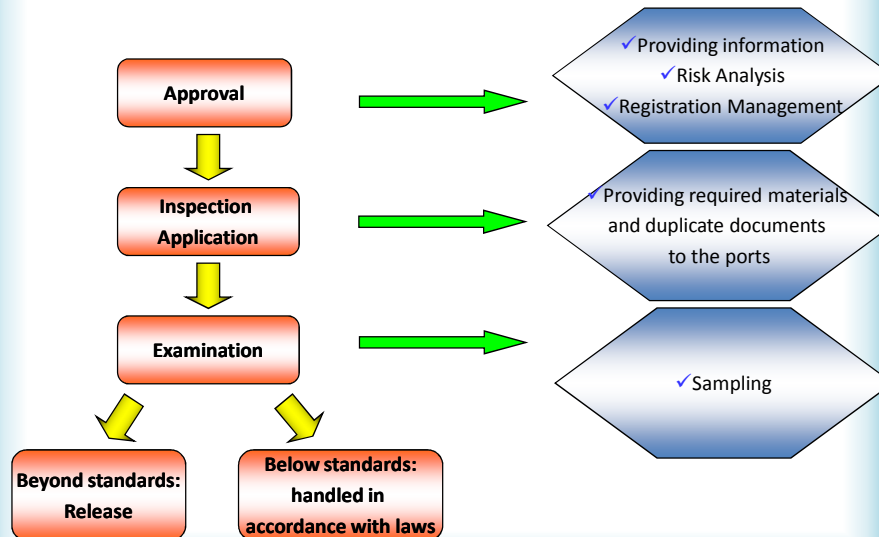
Food Safety Administrations in all levels can formulate and enforce respective industrial standards in accordance with laws in food quality, health, agriculture, commerce etc. in order to meet the demands of the standardization in their respective industries. There are thousands of Industrial Standards on food safety in China.

Enterprise standards

Standards formulated by producer on specific products and processes in order to make sure the food safety in the producing and processing link.

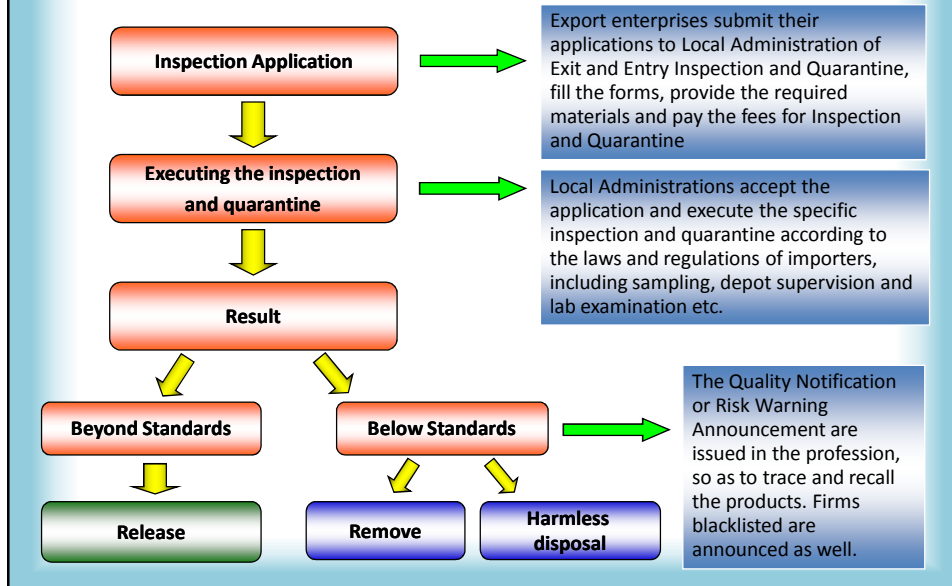
4. Administrative Procedures of Foodstuffs Import and Export

a. Administrative Procedures of Foodstuffs Import



4. Administrative Procedures of Foodstuffs Import and Export

b. Administrative Procedures of Foodstuffs Export





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Food Safety is a permanent issue of People's concern. Foodstuffs import and export management is a big responsibility. The safest and most effective method is to regulate and control the source of production. For this purpose, we should improve the ways of source supervision and the management of each cycles of food safety. Financial input in this field should be gradually increased, and active efforts should be devoted to the technical cooperation at home and abroad. In this way, we can reinforce and improve our legal construction of food safety and management system; thus the food safety, national economic security and the development of international trade can be better ensured, which will bring more benefits to the world.



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Thanks

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