Practices and Challenges of Supervision on Imported and Exported Food Safety in China in Terms of Equivalence

Xiao Bang Kong
The Imported and Exported Food Safety Bureau of the General Administration of China Customs (GACC)
I. Overview of the Food Safety Supervision System in China

II. Main Supervision System of Imported and Exported Food Safety in China

III. The Practices of Equivalence in the Field of Imported and Exported Food Safety Supervision

IV. Main Challenges Encountered
01 Overview of the Food Safety Supervision System in China
The Food Safety Committee of the State

The Committee is usually chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council:
1. analyzing the food safety situation, as well as researching, deploying and overall guiding food safety work;
2. putting forward major policies and measures for food safety supervision;
3. supervising the implementation of the food safety supervision responsibility.
The State Administration for Market Regulation, which is mainly responsible for the comprehensive coordination of food safety supervision and management as well as the domestic food safety supervision and management;

The National Health Commission, which is mainly responsible for organizing and carrying out monitoring and assessment of food safety risks as well as formulating national food safety standards;

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, which is mainly responsible for the quality and safety supervision and management of edible agricultural products from planting and breeding to entering wholesale, retail markets or production and processing enterprises, as well as the quality and safety supervision and management of animals and plants epidemics prevention and control;

The General Administration of Customs, which is mainly responsible for the supervision of imported and exported food safety.
02 Main Supervision Systems on Imported and Exported Food Safety in China

1. Main supervision systems for the safety of imported food

2. Main supervision systems for the safety of exported food
Main supervision systems for the safety of imported food

The pre-import management system
Includes 8 items

The during-import supervision system
Includes 6 items

The post-import supervision system
Includes 5 items
The pre-import management system includes eight items:

- The review system for foreign official food safety management system (market access risk assessment)
- The registration management system for overseas production establishments
- The filing management system for overseas exporters
- The filing management system for importers
- The system of official attachment certificates
- The system of review on imported food production establishments by importers
- The system of importing quarantine approval
- The system of pre-shipment inspection
The supervision system at the time of import mainly includes six items:

- The designated port system for some special food imported into China
- The declaration system for inspection and quarantine of food imported into China
- The verification system of official attachment certificates
- The supervision system of port inspection and quarantine
- The system of safety risk monitoring
- The risk pre-warning and rapid response system
The post-import supervision system mainly includes five items:

- The retrospective inspection system for food safety management system
- The record system for the importers and exporters
- The warning conversation system for importers, exporters and agents
- The system for sale records
- The recall system for unqualified food imported to China
Main supervision systems for the safety of exported food

- Filing of the farms and the processing establishments
- Product traceability
- Sampling inspection
- Risk monitoring
- Risk pre-warning
- Integrity management and other systems.
The practices of Equivalence in the Field of Imported and Exported Food Safety
The Practice of Equivalence in the Field of Imported and Exported Food Safety Supervision

- Increasing mutual trust between importers and exporters
- Improving the quality of risk management
- Reducing the cost of risk control
- Facilitating the trade
- Ultimately benefits global consumers
China has been exploring methods and measures propelling equivalence of safety supervision over imported and exported food, and has carried out a great deal of practices.
The protocol with Argentine on the imported honey from Argentine to China

The General Administration of Customs organizes experts to carry out risk assessment over the food safety management system and the food safety status of the countries or regions of food planned to be imported to China.

Foreign officials recommend establishments to us, we register them, and verify them through retrospective inspection of the supervision system, so as to ensure the safety of food imported to China.
Part Four

Main Challenges Encountered
Main Challenges Encountered

- Whether there are differences in the food safety supervision ability and the level of food safety risk protection between both sides
- Whether food safety supervision organizations of both sides have strong intention to promote "equivalent recognition"
- Whether all parties implementing "equivalent recognition" are supported sufficiently by domestic laws
- Whether there are reliable supervision measures for all parties
THANKS

kongxb@customs.gov.cn