

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (FAS)

UPDATE ON CHINA'S REQUIREMENTS  
FOR SHIPMENTS FROM ZIKA-INFECTED COUNTRIES

August 19, 2016

The information below is the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) understanding of China's measures impacting goods exported from the United States with regard to control of the Zika virus, as of August 19, 2016. This is *not* official USDA guidance regarding compliance with China's new policies for shipments from Zika-affected countries. Please bear in mind that this information may change as further clarifications and updates are made available to FAS from Chinese authorities. FAS is actively engaging with relevant Chinese ministries, U.S. government counterparts, and industry stakeholders to clarify implementation of the new requirements and minimize potential trade disruptions.

It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. **FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

**BACKGROUND**

Since March of 2016, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has required all countries on its Zika-infected list to comply with disinsection requirements (not to be confused with *disinfection*). Disinsection in this case means killing live mosquitoes, their larva, and eggs. Following the World Health Organization's (WHO) August 2, 2016 listing of the United States as a country reporting mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, Chinese authorities now require mosquito disinsection for all U.S.-origin shipments to China. As of August 5, forty other countries, including Mexico and Brazil, are subject to these requirements. On August 18, staff from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing met with AQSIQ's Department of Supervision and Health Quarantine. The following reflect our understanding of AQSIQ's responses during that meeting:

1. Chinese authorities require all cargo shipments originating from the United States to provide proof of disinsection upon arrival at the Chinese port, both either air or sea. This applies to all vessels that left the United States on or after August 5, with the exception of containers kept at or under a temperature of 15°C (59°F).
2. Disinsection treatment may be carried out by either physical or chemical means, and does not require fumigation. Physical means could include trapping, air curtains, or other integrated pest-management techniques. Chemical means could include surface spraying, space spraying, or fumigation, depending on the shipper's choice. The treatment used should take into account human health and safety.
3. Treatment can be carried out at any point during the shipping process. For example, it is acceptable for containers to be disinfected before loading, certified as mosquito free, then loaded in a mosquito-free environment.

## USDA FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

4. Proof of disinsection does not need to be government-issued.
5. Either the vessel or the container must be certified, not the goods themselves.
6. The information to be included on the certificate has already been provided in the notice sent out by AQSIQ. If you do not have a copy, FAS can share with you.
7. All shipments found to contain live mosquito eggs, larvae, or mosquitoes during inspection at the Chinese port will be subject to disinsection, including shipments that are chilled below 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit). Chinese authorities will direct a third party to perform any required disinsection in accordance with WHO guidelines as outlined in the AQSIQ announcement. The cost will vary at each port of entry, but AQSIQ estimates that it will be about RMB 200 (\$30) for a 20-foot container and RMB 400 (\$60) for a 40-foot container.
8. All WHO member countries where Zika is present will be treated in the same manner.
9. AQSIQ has not contacted airlines, shipping lines, exporters, etc., about the mosquito treatment requirements. Rather, AQSIQ leaves it up to each CIQ (branch office) at the port of entry to give out this information.
10. AQSIQ will perform a Zika risk assessment for Florida and neighboring states, based in part on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) documentation of control measures. AQSIQ will use the assessment to determine whether to apply a regional approach in its Zika response.
11. China's policy applies to Zika and yellow fever, and will remain in effect until March 2017, subject to adjustment or renewal depending on the situation.

### **FAQs:**

1.1 Q: If a shipment left the United States before August 5, does it still need proof of disinsection?

A: No. The certificate requirement only applies to shipments after August 5, 2016. However, if live mosquito eggs, larva, or adults are discovered during routine inspection, then the shipment would need to undergo disinsection procedures.

1.2 Q: Does this requirement apply to transshipments through the U.S.?

A: No. This does not apply to shipments that only pass through the United States without loading or unloading.

1.3 Q: If the goods originate from another country, does the requirement apply?

A: If the goods originate from another country that is listed on AQSIQ's list of Zika-infected countries, then yes, the measure applies.

## USDA FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

1.4 Q: If the goods are from a Zika-free country, but are loaded in the United States before shipment to China, do the requirements apply?

A: Yes. The requirements apply to the location where the shipment is loaded, not the location where the goods are produced.

1.5 Q: Since the Zika virus has only been detected in one part of Florida, will AQSIQ consider regionalization?

A: Yes. AQSIQ will conduct a risk-assessment of the region, using information provided by the CDC, particularly focusing on Zika control measures. Based on the outcome of the risk-assessment, AQSIQ has indicated it may apply regionalization. There is no time estimate for when AQSIQ would make a determination.

**Each shipment must obtain proof of disinsection in the form of a certificate. AQSIQ has provided a certificate template that shows what information must be included. It is appended to this document.**

2.1 Q: Does the certificate need to be issued by a governmental body?

A: No. The certificates can be issued by a governmental body or an organization recognized by a governmental body.

2.2 Q: For the purposes of this measure, what counts as an organization recognized by a governmental body?

A: AQSIQ intended this definition to be very broad and would include licensed pest control companies, fumigation operations that are licensed to apply pesticides, and registered vessels. For example, a registered vessel could issue its own certificate of disinsection certifying that it is free of mosquitoes.

2.3 Q: Will all treatment certificates be accepted by local CIQ officials (local branches of AQSIQ)?

A: Because measures are not always applied in the same way by local CIQs, it is possible that some certificates will be rejected. For example, if the issuer of the certificate has a history of issuing certificates for shipments that are later found to carry live mosquito eggs, larva, or adults; the certificate may not be accepted by the CIQ. In these cases, the shipment or vessel would need to be disinfected at the port (even if it already received a treatment).

**For shipments that must undergo disinsection at the local Chinese ports, the treatment will be carried out by a third-party who will then provide a certificate of disinsection.**

3.1 Q: For shipments or vessels that receive disinsection treatment at the local Chinese port, how much will the treatment cost?

## USDA FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

A: The local Chinese authorities will determine the price of treatments at port, but AQSIQ has suggested that treatment for individual 20 foot containers would cost about RMB 200 (USD 30), and about RMB 400 for large 40 foot containers. The cost for disinsection of an entire vessel would depend on the size and complexity of the treatment. AQSIQ has indicated it will be a rare instance when an entire vessel will need to be re-disinsected.

**The disinsection requirement (and therefore the proof of disinsection) applies to the container or vessel, NOT to the goods being shipped. Therefore, if the entire vessel can provide proof, in the form of a certificate, that the vessel is free of mosquitoes, then no additional inspection needs to be carried out.**

4.1 Q: Does every shipping container (e.g., a 20 foot shipping container) need an individual certificate?

A: No. If the entire vessel can provide proof, in the form of a certificate, that certifies the entire vessel has undergone the requisite disinsection treatment, then one certificate for the entire vessel is sufficient.

4.2 Q: Are there instances when individual containers would need to undergo disinsection treatment?

A: Yes. The shipper may decide to individually treat the containers. Or, if during a routine inspection, local CIQ officials discover live mosquito eggs, larva, or adults, disinsection of that container may be appropriate.

4.3 Q: If during a routine inspection, one container is discovered to contain mosquito larva, eggs, or adults, do all containers in that shipment need to be disinsected?

A: No. The container carrying the mosquitos would be disinsected, and possibly other containers from the same batch or origin, but in general, the entire shipment will not need to be disinsected again.

**Disinsection can be carried out by physical, chemical, or a combination of treatments.**

**Note: All treatments must be lawfully applied in accordance with health, safety, and other relevant regulations. Physical treatments could include trapping, use of air curtains, and other integrated pest management techniques. Chemical treatments could include surface spraying, space spraying, or fumigation.**

5.1 Q: If the measure requires disinsection, does that mean every shipment must be fumigated?

A: No. There are multiple types of disinsection, with fumigation being just one option. Physical treatments, such as trapping, air curtains, and existing integrated pest management techniques could all be used. The certificate must describe the treatment.

5.2 Q: If goods that have been previously been treated with disinsection treatment, such as fumigation as part of a phytosanitary workplan, is a separate certificate required?

## USDA FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

A: A separate disinsection certificate is not required for the container or bulk storage compartment, since it would already have a phytosanitary certificate showing the treatment. However, the vessel itself will need a disinsection certificate.

5.3 Q: Does disinsection need to be carried out at a specific point during loading?

A: No. The disinsection treatment can be carried out at any point during the shipping process. For example, if the containers are disinfected before loading and certified as mosquito free, then loaded in a mosquito-free environment, this would be sufficient.

**A disinsection certificate is NOT required for shipments that are chilled below 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit). But, if live mosquito eggs or larva are found by local CIQ inspectors at port, then disinsection will be required.**

6.1 Q: If a refrigerated container does not need a disinsection certificate, does the vessel carrying that refrigerated container still need a disinsection certificate?

A: Yes. The cargo and the vessel are treated separately.

6.2 Q: If live mosquito eggs or larva are discovered during routine inspection, what disinsection treatments are available for sensitive shipments like fruits and vegetables?

A: In addition to chemical treatments, there are several physical treatments that may be used. All disinsection treatments must be applied in accordance with relevant health and safety laws and food safety requirements.

6.3 Q: How will the chilled/frozen exemption be enforced?

A: Local officials will check the refrigerated containers to confirm that temperatures are below 15 degrees Celsius. Generally, this will simply entail looking at a temperature display of the internal temperature.

6.4 Q: Earlier documents suggested that bulk food, bulk feed, fruit, and other commodities might be exempt from the certificate requirement. Is this true?

A: No. The only exemption applies to chilled/frozen product. Bulk food, feed, fruits, and other sensitive commodities must be treated similar to other commodities. However, when treating these sensitive commodities, special care must be taken to apply the treatments in accordance with health and safety regulations.

**All passenger and cargo aircraft departing from the United States must show proof of disinsection. In regard to cargo, the aircraft should be disinfected prior to cargo loading and provide the proper certificate. For passenger airlines, the aircraft should be disinfected before passengers board.**

7.1 Q: What are the acceptable types of disinsection treatments for the passenger hold of an aircraft?

## USDA FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

A: Physical and chemical treatments are acceptable. All treatments must be conducted in accordance with health and safety regulations. In most cases, aircraft would be disinfected by chemical spray before passengers board. Proof of an empty/used spray can would be sufficient proof of disinsection in place of a certificate.

7.2 Q: Has AQSIQ been in communication with U.S. cargo and passenger carriers that operate in China?

A: Not directly. AQSIQ has not indicated that it will provide separate instructions for airline operators, but AQSIQ did note that CIQs at several local international airports have already begun working directly with airline operators to implement these requirements.

**The national-level AQSIQ has ensured all parties that the local CIQs will be instructed to uniformly apply these regulations. If a shipper believes a local CIQ is not implementing the regulations in line with the national AQSIQ, that shipper may directly contact AQSIQ for assistance.**

8.1 Q: How can a shipper directly contact AQSIQ?

A: Comments and inquiries can be sent through their website [here \(in Chinese\)](#)

[http://search.aqsiq.gov.cn/con\\_message/publicmessage/main.jsp](http://search.aqsiq.gov.cn/con_message/publicmessage/main.jsp)  
(Note: some internet browsers like Google Chrome offer informal English translation)

Registration is required. AQSIQ has specially-designated staff to respond to these inquiries. AQSIQ stated that all inquiries would receive a response within 72 hours.

### **MORE QUESTIONS?**

Please send any inquiries about shipments of agricultural products to your regular FAS point of contact. If you do not have a regular contact at FAS, please send your inquiries to the FAS Trade Facilitation Desk at the following email account:

[AgExport@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgExport@fas.usda.gov)

We understand that many questions remain about implementation of these requirements and FAS may not be able to answer those questions for you until we collectively get more experience. Nevertheless if we cannot answer those questions we will endeavor to get guidance from AQSIQ to help you make business decisions and reduce uncertainty.