

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
OF CUSTOMS ON THE PHYTOSANITARY
REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED ORGANIC GROWING
MEDIA**

For the purpose of preventing plant epidemics and the introduction of alien species, and protecting the agricultural production and biosecurity in China, imported organic growing media should meet the following requirements, in accordance with the Biosecurity Law of the People's Republic of China and the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and its implementing regulations, as well as relevant international standards on phytosanitary measures:

I. Types of Organic Growing Media Allowed to Enter

1. Single-component organic growing media

(1) Tissue culture medium, coir, coco peat, sawdust, wood shavings, wood chips, cork, peat and non-viable moss.

(2) Organic growing media subject to steam, heat or chemical treatment, or a combination of various treatments: rice hulls/chaff, grain hulls, coffee hulls, peanut hulls, cottonseed hulls, sugar-cane refuse, grape marc, cocoa pods, oil palm shell charcoal, barks, and other organic growing media, excluding soil.

2. Mixed media composed of two or more of the above- mentioned organic growing media, or containing inorganic growing media.

II. Applicable Countries or Regions

All countries and regions

III. Registration Requirements for Operators

Growing media should be produced and stored under conditions that prevent contamination or infestation. The operators involved in production,

processing and storage of growing media must be registered with the official phytosanitary agency of the country or region where they are located and be recommended to the General Administration of China Customs (GACC). The recommendation should include such particulars as name of the operator, registration number with the official phytosanitary agency of the country or region, address of production facility, product types, main components, production process, key production parameters, quarantine measures, etc. (in both Chinese and English). GACC will conduct the review and register the operator if the requirements are met. The registration will be published on the GACC's official website and remain valid for 5 years. The phytosanitary agency of the country or region where the operator is located shall re-recommend it to GACC three months before the expiration of the validity. After review and approval by GACC, the validity shall be extended for another five years.

IV. Product Requirements

1. Free from pests listed in the Catalogue of Quarantine Pests for Import Plants to the People's Republic of China, including: *Atropellis pinicola*, *Atropellis piniphila*, *Botryosphaeria stevensii*, *Cephalosporium sacchari*, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, *Fusarium circinatum*, *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *elaeidis*, *Microcyclus ulei*, *Ophiostoma ulmi*, *Phellinus noxius*, *Phytophthora ramorum*, *Verticillium dahliae*, *Ditylenchus destructor*, *Meloidogyne* spp. (non-Chinese species), *Pratylenchus* spp. (non-Chinese species), and other pests and alien species that have serious harms to agricultural and forestry production and ecological environment.

2. Free from substances other than growing media components, such as plant seeds, soil, animal carcasses, animal feces, poultry feathers, plant residues, and other substances with biosecurity risk.

3. Not previously used for cultivation or any other agricultural purposes.
4. All materials in the growing media should be non-reproductive.

V. Product Packaging, Storage, and Transportation Requirements

1. Growing media should be sealed in packaging.
2. Packaging materials should be clean and used for the first time.
3. Each package shall be labeled in Chinese and English to indicate name of the growing media, place of production, name of the operator involved in production, processing and storage, and its registration number in China, etc.
4. The storage facilities before export of the growing media should be relatively separate from other facilities, and remain clean and hygienic. Effective measures should also be taken to prevent infestation by pests.
5. Means of conveyance should remain clean and hygienic, free from pests and other foreign objects. Packaging shall not be opened or replaced during transportation.

VI. Pre-Export Quarantine Requirements

The official phytosanitary agency of the exporting country or region shall conduct inspection on the growing media before exportation to China. For growing media that comply with these Requirements, the phytosanitary certificate shall be issued in accordance with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 12, indicating “The consignment complies with the Phytosanitary Requirements of China for Imported Organic Growing Media”, and the name of the operator involved in production, processing and storage and its registration number in China. For growing media subject to quarantine treatments, the technical treatment indicators including temperature, humidity, chemicals, concentration, etc., shall also be specified in the phytosanitary certificate.

VII. Entry Quarantine and Handling of Non-conformity

1. Certificate verification

The phytosanitary certificate will be verified for authenticity, validity and consistence with the declared information and the particulars of goods.

2. Inspection of goods

Inspection will be conducted on the growing media, its packaging, and means of conveyance. When necessary, samples will be taken for the laboratory test. Admission will be granted if the result shows the product meets the quarantine requirements.

3. Handling of non-conformity

1) Consignments will be returned or destroyed if no valid phytosanitary certificate issued by the official phytosanitary agency in the exporting country or region is presented.

2) Consignments will be returned or destroyed if it contains prohibited items as stipulated in the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine such as soil, animal carcasses, etc.

3) Quarantine treatment shall be carried out if the consignment is found to carry live quarantine pests or other pests that have serious harms to agricultural and forestry production and ecological environment. Admission will be granted if the quarantine treatment meets the requirements. The consignments will be returned or destroyed if there is no effective quarantine treatment conducted.

4) Consignments shall be handled in accordance with relevant provisions if it is found to violate other laws and regulations as well as national standards on import plant quarantine.

The GACC will notify the official phytosanitary agency in the export country or region of the non-conformity discovered. Additional measures will be taken, if necessary, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, including suspension of the status as a registered operator and the import of the growing media concerned.

VIII. Other Requirements

GACC will conduct further risk assessment on imported growing media based on the interception of pests, and dynamically adjust the types of admissible imported growing media and the list of export countries or regions.

Organic growing media accompanying imported plants for the purpose of maintaining their vitality shall be subject to quarantine in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and its implementing regulations and other relevant regulations, and do not fall within the scope of this Announcement.

This Announcement will come into effect on July 1, 2025.