



China Alert: Relaxation on regulations for Importation of Used Equipment

Chinese Government Liberalizes Regulations for Importation of Used Machinery and Electronic Equipment

On April 10, 2009, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), General Customs Administration and Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) issued a joint statement revising the regulations on the importation of used machinery and electronic equipment for the purpose of manufacturing, research and development, or exhibition. These new revisions also clarify the responsibilities of various administrations and set guidelines for processing applications. The policy does not cover products on the banned import list or items for consumer use or domestic sale.

Key Changes:

Simplification of import certificate application

- For items not requiring pre-shipment inspection; companies can apply directly to local Mechanical and Electrical Import Offices of MOFCOM for automatic import permission certificates.
- For items requiring pre-shipment inspection; companies should follow current procedures; processing on average is completed within 5 business days.
- Applications for equipment manufactured in the past five years should be processed within 10 business days from date submitted.

Customs clearance facilitation

- Customs will provide required customs clearance facilitation for companies incorporated in China in category "AA" and "A" under the Customs Enterprise Classification program.

Inspection and quarantine facilitation

- Exemptions from pre-shipment inspection for items with no safety, health or sanity risks.
- Items subject to pre-shipment inspections by a certified inspection service should be completed as quickly as possible.

Where can I get more information?

English news release:

http://english.aqsiq.gov.cn/NewsRelease/NewsUpdates/200904/t20090428_112551.htm

Chinese news release:

<http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/b/e/200904/20090406165576.html>

Local Implementation:

AQSIQ in Beijing sets principle rules, while local AQSIQ offices have the right to implement based on specific local situations within the relevant regulatory framework. Local AQSIQ offices seek clarification from Beijing regarding specification issues as needed or as disputes arise.

Exporter Caution:

Implementation at the local AQSIQ level may vary. It is advised to have local support at the port of destination from the importer, freight forwarder or customs broker in confirming how the local AQSIQ office will implement the rule. Exporters can expect some variation in implementation across China.

Reporting Problems:

If exporters are aware of cases where there has been a delay in the clearance of used equipment coming into China in direct conflict with the new regulation, the U.S. Commercial Service can contact AQSIQ and request expedited clearance per the new regulation.

For further information, or to report a clearance problem, please contact the China Business Information Center.



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