

**PROTOCOL ON INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE
REQUIREMENTS FOR CULTURED AQUATIC PRODUCTS TO BE
EXPORTED TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
BETWEEN THE FOOD SAFETY AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN AND THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, through friendly consultations have reached the following agreement on inspection and quarantine requirements of cultured aquatic products to be exported to China:

Article 1

In implementing this Protocol, The Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter referred to as AFSA) and General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as GACC) the work as the competent authority of Azerbaijan and China, respectively.

Article 2

The cultured aquatic products in this Protocol refer to the cultured aquatic animal products and its processed products, marine plants and its processed products such as alga etc., which are fit for human consumption. However, amphibians, reptiles, aquatic mammals, the live aquatic animals and the propagation materials of aquatic animals and plants are not included.

The list of cultured aquatic products is attached with this Protocol.

Article 3

The establishment, including the establishments of the production, processing, and storage, which intends to export of cultured aquatic products intended to China shall be approved and under effective supervision of the competent authorities of Azerbaijan and its food safety, sanitation, and protection system shall be in compliance with the requirements of relevant laws and regulations of China on food

safety.

The establishments which intend to export aquatic products to China shall be recommended by AFSA to GACC for registration according to *the Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China and its implementing regulation, Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and its implementing regulation*. The cultured aquatic products from establishments without registration are not allowed to be exported to China.

AFSA may provide with a formal list of manufacturers applying for List-Based Registration recommended for GACC. In addition, the list should contain the corresponding registration application materials in accordance with relevant provisions. Upon review, GACC shall register the qualified manufacturers on the list. Manufacturers that fail to meet the requirements shall not be registered.

Article 4

AFSA shall officially confirm that cultured aquatic products exported to China meet the following requirements:

(i) The cultured aquatic products are farmed in domestic waters, or come from countries or regions that China allows to import.

(ii) The raw materials and products are free from the situations mentioned in Article 6 of this Protocol.

(iii) No drugs or additives prohibited by China are used directly or indirectly; and drugs or additives restricted or allowed by China shall be used according to the regulations.

(iv) The cultured aquatic products inspected and quarantined by the Competent Authority shall be free from pathogenic microorganism, toxic and harmful substances and foreign substances prescribed in the laws, regulations of China, and aquatic animal diseases listed in the *List of Quarantine Diseases for the Animals Imported to the People's Republic of China* or required to be reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

(v) The whole process of the cultured aquatic products, including breeding, processing, packaging, storage, transportation, transshipment and exporting, shall meet the safety, health and traceability requirements of China.

(vi) The packaging and the labeling of the cultured aquatic products shall meet the national food safety standards and the requirements of the regulation on import

food safety regulation of China.

Article 5

In accordance with requirements of GACC, AFSA shall be responsible for the inspection and quarantine of the cultured aquatic products intended to be exported to China and issue one Health Certificate for each batch of cultured aquatic products, which has mutually determined in advance by the both sides to certify that the products comply with the relevant laws, regulations and national standards on food safety of China.

The certificate shall be typed in at least Azerbaijani, Chinese and English, and English is the affirmatively chosen language when filling in the Certificate.

The information of the establishments of cultured aquatic products intended to be exported to China shall be completed in the certificate. For record purposes, AFSA shall provide GACC with samples of the certificate and official stamp. If there are any modifications or adjustments, AFSA shall notify GACC at least one month prior to the changes coming into effect.

Article 6

If any of the following occurs:

(i) The cultured aquatic products exported and to be exported to China seriously violate the laws, regulations and national standards of China regarding food safety, and the provisions in this Protocol has seriously affected the safety of the cultured aquatic products exported to China.

(ii) Outbreak of aquatic animal diseases associated with cultured aquatic products in this Protocol, which are on the List of Quarantine Diseases for the Animals Imported to the People's Republic of China or required to report to WOA, occurs in Azerbaijan, and has seriously affected the safety of the cultured aquatic products exported to China.

(iii) Any major food safety incident occurs in the Republic of Azerbaijan, significant public health event occurs in an establishment or farming area affected by contaminants has impacted the safety of cultured aquatic products exported to China.

AFSA shall immediately stop the cultured aquatic products to be exported to

China, which originate from the corresponding farms, establishments, aquaculture regions or even the whole country, recall products with problems or potential risks, inform GACC, and provide the details about the incident investigation, disposal and further control measures to GACC. A negotiation could be conducted between GACC and AFSA. Only when GACC confirms that risks have been eliminated or reduced to a controllable range, can the products be exported to China again.

Article 7

China Customs implement inspection and quarantine measures on cultured aquatic products exported to China, according to the laws, regulations, standards of China regarding food safety and this Protocol.

For unqualified products, actions including destruction, rejection and others measures will be imposed. Those establishments whose products have been found out with serious or repeated unqualified problems will be subjected to intensified inspection and quarantine or suspended from exporting to China.

Article 8

AFSA shall guarantee its food safety management systems is consistently effective and meets the requirements of laws, regulations and standards of China regarding food safety, as well as relevant special requirements in accordance with any international treaty or agreement entered into or acceded to by China.

GACC may organize experts to carry out retrospective assessment and review of food safety management system of Azerbaijan, which can be conducted by video inspection or on-site inspection. The appropriate authority of Azerbaijan—and relevant establishments may be required to take corrective action on any problem discovered. Azerbaijan shall provide necessary assistance for assessment and examination.

Article 9

Any disagreements that may arise from interpretation and implementation of this Protocol shall be resolved through negotiation between both Parties.

Article 10

Any amendments may be made to this Protocol by mutual consent of both sides in a form of separate Protocols which shall be an integral part of this Protocol and shall enter into force in accordance with the Article 11 of this Protocol.

This Protocol is not an international agreement and does not create rights and obligations governed by international law.

Article 11

This Protocol shall take effect on the date of signature and remain valid for five (5) years, which may be amended by mutual consent between the Parties.

At least six (6) month in advance of the due date of this Protocol, if one of the Parties does not notify the other of its intention to amend or terminate it, this Protocol shall be automatically renewed for further periods of five (5) years. One Party may terminate this Protocol by giving written notice to the other Party, in which case this Protocol shall become invalid six (6) months after the other Party receives the written notice.

The Protocol is signed in Beijing, on the date of 11 June 2026, in duplicate copies, each in Azerbaijani, Chinese and English. All texts being equally authentic. In case of differences in the interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For
the Food Safety Agency of
the Republic of
Azerbaijan



For
the General Administration of
Customs of the
People's Republic of China



Appendix: List of aquatic products for export to China from Azerbaijan

NO	English Name	Scientific Name	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Production Method	Territory al water (sea water or fresh water)
1	Beluga	Huso Huso	Chondrostei	Acipenseriformes	Acipenseridae	Acipenser	Lake	Fresh water
2	Danube sturgeon	Acipenser Gueldenstaedtii	Chondrostei	Acipenseriformes	Acipenseridae	Acipenser	Lake	Fresh water
3	Sterlet sturgeon	Acipenser Ruthenus	Chondrostei	Acipenseriformes	Acipenseridae	Acipenser	Lake	Fresh water
4	Starry sturgeon	Acipenser Stellatus	Chondrostei	Acipenseriformes	Acipenseridae	Acipenser	Lake	Fresh water