

General Administration of Customs Announcement No. 145 of 2023 (Announcement on Phytosanitary Requirements for Importing Ceylon Cinnamon from Sri Lanka)

In accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of my country and the regulations of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Plantation Industry of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the phytosanitary requirements for Sri Lankan Ceylon cinnamon exported to China, from now on, the import of Sri Lankan Ceylon cinnamon that meets the following relevant requirements is allowed.

1. Basis for inspection and quarantine

- (1) "Biosafety Law of the People's Republic of China";
- (2) "Law of the People's Republic of China on Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine" and its implementation regulations;
- (3) "Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China" and its implementation regulations;
- (4) "Protocol between the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Plantation Industry of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the Phytosanitary Requirements for Sri Lankan Ceylon Cinnamon Exported to China."

2. Names of goods allowed to be imported

in this announcement Ceylon cinnamon refers to a product made from the bark of Ceylon cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum*) grown in Sri Lanka and processed through a drying process after harvesting.

3. Enterprise registration

Ceylon cinnamon planting bases and processing and packaging plants exported to China shall be reviewed and filed in accordance with Sri Lankan laws and regulations, and shall be approved and registered by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Chinese side). Registration information should include name, address and registration number to accurately trace the source when exported goods do not comply with relevant regulations. Before the start of trade, the Ministry of Plantation Industry of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as Sri Lanka) should provide China with a registration list. After review and approval by China, it will be announced on the website of the General Administration of Customs.

4. List of quarantine pests of concern to China

Infested with the bigfoot scale *Kilifia acuminata*.

5. Pre-export management

(1) Planting base management.

1. Sri Lanka should establish a traceability system for Ceylon cinnamon planting bases exported to China to ensure effective traceability of Ceylon cinnamon exported to China. The planting bases exported to China should implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), maintain hygienic conditions in the planting bases, such as no surrounding pollution sources that would affect the production of Ceylon cinnamon, clean up diseased plant residues in a timely manner, and implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including Pest monitoring and investigation, physical, chemical or biological control and agricultural operations and other prevention and control measures.

2. The planting bases exported to China should be under the supervision of Sri Lanka and carry out pest monitoring and comprehensive management of quarantine pests that China is concerned about.

3. The monitoring and prevention of pests in planting bases exported to China should be implemented under the guidance of professional and technical personnel. Technical personnel should receive training from Sri Lanka or its authorized agencies.

4. Planting bases exported to China should keep pest monitoring and control records for at least two years and provide them to China upon request. Pest monitoring and prevention records should at least include detailed information such as monitoring time, names of pests found, prevention and control measures taken, the date of chemical agent use, active ingredients and concentration.

(2) Management of processing and packaging plants.

1. The processing, packaging, storage and shipment of Ceylon cinnamon exported to China should be carried out under the quarantine supervision of Sri Lanka or authorized officials of Sri Lanka.

2. The processing and packaging factory for Ceylon cinnamon exported to China should be clean and hygienic, the floor should be hardened, and it should have a raw material yard and a finished product warehouse.

3. The storage, processing, packaging, storage and other functional areas of Ceylon cinnamon exported to China should be relatively independent, reasonably laid out, and should be isolated and appropriately distanced from the living area.

4. Packaged Ceylon cinnamon should be stored immediately or in additional packaging to avoid reinfection by pests.

5. Registered processing and packaging factories should establish a traceability system to ensure that Ceylon cinnamon exported to China can be traced back to the registered planting base, recording the date of processing and packaging, the name of the source planting base or its registration number, quantity, export date, export quantity, import country, means of transportation or Container number and other information. Records should be retained for at least two years.

(3) Packaging requirements.

1. Packaging materials should be clean, hygienic, unused, and comply with China's relevant phytosanitary requirements.

2. Each packaging box should be marked with the product name, country, place of origin (district, city or county), planting base name or registration number, processing and packaging plant name or registration number and other information in Chinese or English. Each pallet should be marked "Exported to the People's Republic of China" or "Exported to the People's Republic of China" in Chinese or English. If pallets are not used (such as air cargo), each box should be marked the same.

3. If wooden packaging is used, it should comply with the requirements of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM 15).

4. Transport vehicles or containers carrying Ceylon cinnamon to China should be inspected for good sanitary conditions at the time of shipment. Transport vehicles or containers should be stamped with seals, and their seals should be intact when arriving at China's port of entry.

(4) Pre-export inspection and quarantine.

1. In the first two years of trade, Sri Lanka should implement pre-departure inspection and quarantine for each batch of Ceylon cinnamon exported to China according to a 2% sampling ratio. If no quarantine problems are found within 2 years, the sampling ratio can be reduced to 1%.

2. If quarantine pests, plant residues or soil of concern to China are found, the entire batch of goods shall not be exported to China. Sri Lanka should suspend the export of Ceylon cinnamon from relevant planting bases and processing and packaging plants to China until the reasons are identified and effective improvement measures are taken. At the same time, records of seizures are kept and provided to the Chinese side upon request.

(5) Phytosanitary certificate requirements.

1. For goods that pass quarantine, Sri Lanka should issue a phytosanitary certificate, indicating the name or registration number of the planting base and processing and packaging plant, and filling in the following additional statement: "The consignment complies with the requirements specified in the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Ceylon Cinnamon from Sri Lanka to China, and is free from quarantine pests of concern to China."

2. Before the start of trade, Sri Lanka should provide China with samples of phytosanitary certificates for confirmation and filing. If there are any changes to the content and format of the certificate sample, Sri Lanka should file it with China at least one month before it takes effect.

6. Entry Inspection and Quarantine and Unqualified Treatment

When the Ceylon cinnamon exported to China arrives at the Chinese entry port, Chinese Customs will implement inspection and quarantine in accordance with the following requirements.

(1) Verification of relevant certificates and logos.

1. Verify whether the phytosanitary certificate complies with the provisions of Article 5 (5) of this announcement.

2. Check whether the markings on the packaging boxes and pallets comply with the provisions of Article 5 (3) of this announcement.

(2) Cargo inspection.

In accordance with relevant laws, administrative regulations, rules and other provisions, and in conjunction with the relevant requirements of this announcement, inspection and quarantine of imported Ceylon cinnamon will be implemented. If the imported Ceylon cinnamon passes the inspection and quarantine, entry will be allowed.

(3) Treatment of unqualified products.

1. If it is found that it comes from unregistered planting bases or processing and packaging factories, the goods will not be allowed to enter the country.

2. If it is found that a valid phytosanitary certificate is not attached, the shipment will be returned or destroyed.

3. If quarantine pests that China is concerned about or other new quarantine pests, or soil, plant residues, etc. are found, the batch of goods will be returned, destroyed or disinfested.

4. If it is found that it does not meet China's national food safety standards, the batch of goods will be returned or destroyed.

5. If other non-conformities are found, they will be dealt with in accordance with relevant Chinese laws and regulations.

6. If the above-mentioned substandard conditions are discovered, China will promptly notify Sri Lanka and suspend the import of Ceylon cinnamon from relevant planting bases or processing and packaging plants as appropriate. Sri Lanka should identify the reasons for non-conformity and make rectifications to prevent similar situations from happening again. Based on the results of Sri Lanka's rectification, China will decide whether to lift the suspension measures.

Special announcement.

General Administration of Customs

October 25, 2023