

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON FOOD SAFETY CONTROL  
BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
VIETNAM  
AND  
THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF QUALITY  
SUPERVISION, INSPECTION  
AND QUARANTINE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the two sides"), desiring to strengthen mutual cooperation on quality and safety control of imported and exported animal and plant origin food and promoting bilateral trade of these products, through friendly consultation and negotiation, have reached the following Agreement:

**ARTICLE 1**

The two sides agree to build up bilateral cooperation on quality and safety control of animal and plant origin food through exchanging information; sharing technical and management

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experiences; supporting to improve capabilities on quality and safety control; coordinate to promptly and effectively deal with quality and safety events relating to import and export animal and plant origin food traded between two countries to protect consumer's health.

## ARTICLE 2

The two sides shall cooperate through the followings:

1. Exchange and update information on legislation system, regulations, standards and technical requirements on quality and safety control of imported and exported animal and plant origin food during production chain and at border inspection posts; Exchanging information on pathogenic agents, contaminant residues harmful for consumer's health, applied control measures as well as necessary negotiations for interest of the two sides.

2. Promptly inform to each other of events and control measures taken in relation to the quality and safety of imported and exported animal and plant origin food, including border inspection post on the basis of scientific evidence and minimizing bilateral trade impact, through friendly negotiations to reach mutual agreement.

3. Develop and implement the mutual recognition procedures for inspection and certification of animal and plant origin food

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traded between the two countries to avoid the duplication inspection and testing;

4. Organize study tours to the other side to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge between officials and experts of both sides in the field of inspection, quarantine, quality and safety control of imported and exported animal and plant origin food;

5. Cooperate in other aspects.

### ARTICLE 3

The two sides shall develop a cooperation and mutual support mechanism to ensure the quality and safety of animal and plant origin food traded between the two countries:

1. Quarterly update detail information (including name, address, and approval number) of processing establishments of animal and plant origin food approved and authorized to export to the country of the other side. Mutually agree and inform to other side of models of health and/or quarantine certificate accompanied with animal and plant origin food consignments and issued by the competent authority of exporting country;

2. Promptly provide to other side with detail information of non-compliance consignments; measures taken towards notified consignments and related establishments. Exporting country shall be

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responsible to carry out the investigation of contamination cause and inform the results to importing country, including corrective actions taken to avoid the re-occurrence.

3. Harmonize the information release. Take caution with the information release before the other side assures the fact.

4. Cooperate in the investigation of non-compliance consignments. Assist the other side with the investigation, including urgent consultation and on-site inspection on both business and technique level.

5. Recall the unqualified or hidden troubled food immediately.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

The focal-point authorities of both sides are respectively:

- Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety under General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China.

- National Agro-forestry and Fisheries Quality Assurance Directorate (NAFIQAD) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The two focal-point authorities shall be responsible for building-up and implementing annual cooperation plan under the framework of the Agreement.

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Since the effect of this Agreement, the two sides shall inform to each other by written note of contact points for the Agreement implementation to facilitate the coordination and information exchange.

#### ARTICLE 5

Except other agreement, each side shall cover its own expenses in relation to the implementation of cooperation activities.

#### ARTICLE 6

1. Any provision under this Agreement shall not affect in place measures taken by the two Governments for consumer protection.

2. This Agreement shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of either side as defined in agreements or treaties concluded with any third country.

3. The cooperation activities conducted by the both sides shall be in compliance with the principle of WTO/SPS that the influence of food safety control measures on the trade should be minimized.

4. The two sides should promptly negotiate and resolve any issue occurred during the Agreement implementation.

5. Any cooperation activity under this Agreement should be in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the two

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countries. The two sides shall be responsible to mutually support for the Agreement implementation.

#### **ARTICLE 7**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature and remain in force for an initial duration of five (5) years. This Agreement shall be automatically extended for subsequent periods of five (5) years unless either side notifies the other side in writing, sixty days in advance, of its intention to terminate it.

#### **ARTICLE 8**

Once this Agreement was terminated, any co-operation program that has been implementing but not finished will be going on until its completion.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

This Agreement may be revised or amended by mutual consent of the two sides. on the date of this Agreement signature ,The Cooperation Agreement on Import and Export fishery products inspection, quarantine and health supervision signed on 7 October, 2004 between the Ministry of Fisheries of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China shall be abolished.

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DONE in , on , 2008 in two original copies, in Chinese, Vietnamese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of divergence of interpretation while implementing the Agreement, the English version shall prevail.

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FOR  
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