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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB/T 43268-2023

**Imported cold-chain food traceability - General rules for
traceability system**

进口冷链食品追溯 追溯体系通则

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Foreword

This document was issued on 7 September 2023 by the State Administration for Market Regulation; Standardization Administration of the PRC and takes effect on 1 April 2024.

It is a GB/T standard: recommended rather than compulsory, but it is the text a Chinese reviewer applies when assessing a submission.

1 Scope

GB/T 43268-2023 sets the general rules for the traceability system covering imported cold-chain food in China. The system was built quickly in 2020, when frozen imports were treated as a route by which infection could enter the country, and it has stayed because the underlying problem is permanent: a container of frozen product passes through a foreign plant, a ship, a port, a cold store and a distributor before reaching a consumer, and when something is found wrong the question is how far it has already gone. The standard sets the overall requirements, the traceability process, the key elements to be captured, the implementation of the system and its management, with a normative annex giving the construction scheme for the traceability code and an informative annex with worked examples. It took effect on 1 April 2024.

This document specifies the overall requirements, traceability process, key elements, implementation, and management of the traceability system for imported cold-chain

food.

This document applies to the establishment and implementation of a traceability system for imported cold-chain food.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

GB/T 7027-2002, The basic principles and methods for information classifying and coding

GB 12904, Bar code for commodity -- Retail commodity numbering and bar code marking

GB/T 15425, Bar code for commodity -- 128 bar code

GB/T 18284, QR Code

GB/T 18347, Code 128

GB/T 21049, Han Xin code

GB/T 36365, Information technology -- Radio frequency identification -- General specifications for passive tag at 800/900 MHz

GB/T 43260, Imported cold-chain food traceability -- Requirements for traceability information management

GB/T 43265, Imported cold-chain food traceability -- Data elements of traceability system

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 cold-chain

Based on the characteristics of the goods, logistics technology and organizational systems that are used to keep the goods in the temperature environment required to maintain their quality throughout the process from production to consumption.

[Source: GB/T 18354-2021, 5.11]

3.2 traceability system

A set of interconnected or interacting elements that support the maintenance of products and their components throughout the supply chain or in parts of production and use, including information such as product history, application status, or location.

[Source. GB/T 38155-2019, 2.9]

3.3 supply chain

In the production and distribution process, a network structure that is formed around the core products or services of the core enterprise, involving raw material suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, logistics providers, and other necessary links, all the way to the end user.

[Source. GB/T 18354-2021, 3.8, modified]

3.4 traceability system

Based on traceability codes, document records, related hardware and software equipment, and communication networks, an integration that enables modern information management and allows for the acquisition of relevant data during the product traceability process.

[Source. GB/T 38155-2019, 2.6]

3.5 traceability precision

The smallest traceable unit in a traceability system.

[Source. GB/T 38155-2019, 2.15]

3.6 traceable unit

Individual products, products from the same batch, or products of the same category whose history, application, or location information needs to be recorded, identified, and traceable.

[Source. GB/T 38155-2019, 2.4]

3.7 traceability code

A code that uniquely identifies a traceable unit in the traceability system.

[Source. GB/T 38155-2019, 2.10]

3.8 traceability participant

Organizations or individuals engaged in domestic customs clearance, production and processing, packaging, warehousing, transportation, distribution, sales, consumption (use) and other related businesses in the supply chain.

[Source. GB/T 38155-2019, 2.5, modified]

3.9 cold store

Warehouse buildings that utilize artificial refrigeration for cooling and also have thermal insulation functions.

NOTE. This includes warehouses, refrigeration rooms, and power distribution rooms.

[Source. GB/T 30134-2013, 3.1, modified]

4 Overall requirements

4.1 The establishment of a traceability system shall be based on ensuring the quality and safety of imported cold-chain food and domestic public safety, while taking into account regulatory control, cost, and interoperability.

4.2 The traceability system shall cover traceability information for all links in the supply chain, from customs clearance within the country to production, processing, and market circulation. It shall also include recalls and emergency response in the traceability scope.

4.3 The traceability system shall clearly define the responsibilities and requirements of traceability participant. Management and implementation documents for the traceability system shall be developed and standardized.

4.4 All participants involved in the traceability system shall cooperate with each other to achieve the recording, management and sharing of traceability information in key links.

4.5 The traceability system shall fully consider the cost and benefits of system construction, and rationally determine the traceable units based on the characteristics and traceability requirements of the traceable products.

5 Traceability process

5.1 Traceability flowchart