Pilot Implementation of Electronic Customs Clearance for Imported Medicinal Products at Beijing Ports

China – NMPA and GACC National Medical Products Administration and General Administration of Customs

Main information

Scope of Application:

Further advance the digitalization of government services and improve the efficiency and convenience of customs clearance for imported drugs (including medicinal materials)

Effective Date:

21 September 2026

Related Provisions:

- Measures for the Administration of Drug Importation
- 2026 Special Action Plan for Cross-Border Trade Facilitation

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Key Topics

Framework

- The pilot applies to **imported drugs (including medicinal materials)** undergoing customs clearance at the **Beijing Port**.
- The Announcement builds upon earlier efforts to digitize the *Import Drug Clearance Certificate*. Specifically, **Announcement No. 148 of 2018** and **Announcement No. 56 of 2019** laid the groundwork for electronic data verification between the NMPA and Customs, which the new pilot now extends to the full electronic issuance and printing of the certificate itself.

What's new

- **Full Online Processing:** Enterprises can now complete the entire import drug customs clearance process online without visiting a physical window. After submitting an application through the China International Trade "Single Window" and receiving approval, the system automatically generates the *Import Drug Customs Clearance Certificate* with an official electronic seal. Enterprises can download the PDF and print it on standard A4 paper.
- **4-Hour "Non-Stop" Service:** The Beijing Municipal Medical Products Administration has launched a **24-hour service mode** for import drug customs clearance business, ensuring immediate processing and "second-level" issuance of the clearance certificate.
- **Single Window Integration:** The reform is part of the **2026 Cross-Border Trade Facilitation Special Action Plan**, which included "building a one-stop service function on the Single Window" to optimize the pharmaceutical import documentation process.

Sensitive Factors

- **Legal Equivalence but Not Mandatory Replacement:** While electronic documents have the same legal effect as paper ones, the Announcement explicitly states that **paper documents continue to be valid** during the pilot.
- enterprises must verify the authenticity of original *Import Drug Registration Certificates*, *Pharmaceutical Product Registration Certificates*, and *Import Permits*. To facilitate this, enterprises can upload electronic licenses through the "Single Window" for verification.

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Drivers

- **Standardize Document Management and Retention** Companies must ensure uploaded application materials are **authentic, complete, and clear**, and must properly safeguard and standardly use the electronic customs clearance documents . During the pilot, **paper documents remain valid**, so companies may continue using them if needed, but should prepare for the eventual transition to the electronic system
- **Maintain the Same Filing Materials and Steps (No Reduction)** A critical compliance point: the **basic filing procedures and required materials remain unchanged**. The four steps—document acceptance, registration certificate verification, acceptance, and processing—remain the same, but verification, acceptance, and processing move online . Companies must still submit the **power of attorney and the ID of the entrusted person**

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