

China - Regulations on the Customs Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, 1995

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(Promulgated by Decree No. 179 of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China on July 5, 1995)** 1

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2	Chapter I - General Provisions			
3	Article 1		Article 5	11
4	These Regulations are hereby formulated in line with relevant laws of the People's Republic of China to carry out customs protection of intellectual property rights, promote foreign economic relations and trade and scientific, technical and cultural exchanges, and safeguard the public interests of the society.		The consignee of import goods and the consignor of export goods as well as their agents (hereinafter totally referred to as the consignee and the consignor) shall declare faithfully to Customs as required the current status of intellectual property rights related to import and export goods and submit relevant documents.	12
5	Article 2		Article 6	13
6	These Regulations are applicable to intellectual property rights including trademark franchises, copyrights and patents that are related to import and export goods and put under protection by the laws and administrative decrees of the People's Republic of China.		Proprietors of intellectual property rights and their agents (hereinafter referred to as the proprietor) shall register with the Customs their intellectual property rights related to import and export goods if they ask Customs to provide protection to these rights, and file applications to the Customs for taking protection measures if they deem it necessary.	14
7	Article 3		Article 7	15
8	Goods infringing upon intellectual property rights put under protection by laws and administrative decrees of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as right-infringing goods) will be banned from import and export.		The Customs shall keep the commercial secrets of the parties concerned when they carry out protection of intellectual property rights.	16

Chapter II - Recording

Article 8

19 The proprietor shall file written applications to the Customs
General Administration if they apply for customs recording of
intellectual property rights protection.

20 These applications shall include the following contents:

21 (1) Title or name of the proprietor, place or country of registra-
tion, residence, legal representative, and major venue of busi-
ness;

22 (2) The serial number , content and period of validity of a regis-
tered trademark; the serial number, content and period of valid-
ity of patent awarding; or contents of relevant copyrights;

23 (3) The title and origin of goods related to intellectual property
rights;

24 (4) The person or persons authorized or allowed to use intel-
lectual property rights;

25 (5) Customs of entry or exit, importers or exporters, major
characteristics, normal prices, and other descriptions about
the goods related to intellectual property rights;

26 (6) Known manufacturers of right-infringing goods, importers
or exporters, major customs of entry or exit, and outstanding
characteristics and prices of these goods;

27 (7) Other details for explanation as required by the Customs
General Administration.

28 The following documents shall be submitted together with writ-
ten applications:

29 (1) Duplicates of the identification cards of the proprietor, or
copies of the certificates of registration or duplicates of the cer-
tificates verified by registration organs;

17 (2) Duplicates of the certificates of trademark registration, an- 30
nouncements on the transfer of registered trademarks verified
18 by trademark bureaus or duplicates of contracts on trademark li-
censing registered with trademark bureaus, duplicates of patent
certificates, copies of contracts on patent transfer registered
with and published by patent offices, copies of licenses for
exploitation of patents, or certificates or evidences of copy-
right;

(3) Other documents required by the Customs General Admin- 31
istration.

Article 9

32
33 The Customs General Administration shall inform applicants of
its decision to grant or refuse recording within 30 days after
receiving all application documents. The Customs General Ad-
ministration shall issue certificates of recording if it decides to
grant recording, or provide justification if it decides to refuse
recording.

Article 10

34
35 Recording of Customs protection of intellectual property rights
shall take effect on the date of approval of recording by the
Customs General Administration and remain valid for a period
of seven years.

36 Under the prerequisite that an intellectual property right is still
valid, the proprietor can apply to the Customs General Admin-
istration for prolonging recording six months before expiration
of the term of validity of recorded Customs protection. Each
prolonging shall hold valid for seven years.

37 The recording of Customs protection of intellectual property
rights shall become invalid if no applications are filed to the

Customs General Administration for prolonging it or the term of legal protection of trademark licenses, copyrights and patents expires.

38 **Article 11**

39 Should any alterations be made in recorded intellectual property rights, the proprietor shall go through recording alteration or cancellation procedures with the Customs General Administration within 10 days of verification of these alterations by departments responsible for intellectual property rights.

40 **Chapter III - Application**

41 **Article 12**

42 The proprietor recorded at the Customs General Administration can, upon discovery of cases of imminent entry or exit of goods suspected of right infringement, apply to local customs offices for taking intellectual property right protection measures.

43 **Article 13**

44 Written applications shall be submitted if customs offices are required to take intellectual property right protection measures.

45 These applications shall contain the following items:

- 46 (1) Title and serial number of Customs recording of the intellectual property rights applied for protection;
- 47 (2) Name or title, residence, legal representative, and major business venues of persons suspected of infringement;
- 48 (3) Name, specification and other descriptions about goods

suspected of infringement;

(4) The port, time, means of transportation, and consignee or consignor of and other details about the possible entry or exit of the goods suspected of infringement; 49

(5) Evidences on infringement. 50

(6) The measures to be taken by the Customs; 51

(7) Other contents required by the Customs. 52

Article 14 53

Should the applicant applies to the Customs for detaining goods suspected of right infringement, it shall pay the Customs guarantees equal to the C. I. F. of the import goods or the F. O. B. of export goods. 54

Article 15 55

Should the proprietor applies to the Customs for taking protection measures for intellectual property rights that have not been put on the record at the Customs General Administration, it shall go through, in accordance with stipulations in Article 8 of these Regulations, procedures of recording of Customs protection of these intellectual property rights at the Customs General Administration at the same time of its application. 56

Article 16 57

Customs offices shall refuse applications filed by applicants for taking intellectual property rights protection measures if these applications do not conform with relevant stipulations of these Regulations. 58

59 **Chapter IV - Investigation and Disposal**

60 **Article 17**

61 When a customs office detains, pursuant to applications of the proprietor, goods suspected of right infringement, it shall produce customs documents of detainment and send them to the consignee or the consignor. Written notices shall also be sent to the applicant.

62 Should the consignee or the consignor upholds that their import or export goods do not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of the applicant, they shall submit written explanations to customs offices within seven days after receiving customs documents of detainment. In case no objections are raised by the consignee or the consignor, customs offices shall have the right to, after investigation, dispose of the detained goods suspected of right infringement as right-infringing goods. If objections are raised, customs offices shall immediately inform, in written form, the applicant of the objections.

63 Within 15 days after receiving written notices as stipulated in the first clause of this Article, the applicant shall have the right to apply to departments in charge of intellectual property rights for handling disputes over right infringement or raise lawsuits with people's courts.

64 **Article 18**

65 Should customs offices suspect import or export goods of infringing upon intellectual property rights recorded at the Customs General Administration, they shall have the right to detain these goods. Customs offices that detain goods suspected of infringing upon intellectual property rights shall produce documents of detainment, send them to the consignee or the consignor, and send written notices to the proprietor. If the propri-

etor files written applications for intellectual property right protection within three days after receiving these notices, the case shall be handled accordance with stipulations in Article 17 of these Regulations.

Article 19

Should the consignee or the consignor upholds that their import or export goods do not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of the applicant, they can apply to customs offices for passing the goods in question after paying customs offices guarantees twice the C. I. F. of the import goods or the F. O. B. of the export goods.

Article 20

When customs offices detain, in accordance with stipulations in articles 17 and 18 of these Regulations, goods suspected of infringing upon intellectual property rights, they shall start, within 15 days after the detainment, investigations of the detained goods suspected of right infringement and other aspects in connection, unless the parties disputing over right infringement have reported the cases for handling by departments in charge of intellectual property rights or raised lawsuits with people's courts.

Should customs offices discover cases suspected of crime, however, they shall pass the cases to relevant departments for investigation.

Article 21

The proprietor shall provide necessary assistance if customs offices decide to investigate goods detained for suspicion of infringing upon intellectual property rights.

73 **Article 22**

74 Customs offices shall release goods detained for suspicion of
infringing upon intellectual property rights should any of the fol-
75 lowing cases occur in the goods in question:

75 (1) Clearance of suspicion of right infringement by customs of-
fices or departments in charge of intellectual property rights af-
76 ter investigation;

76 (2) Judgment or ruling by people's courts to clear the goods of
right infringement;

77 (3) Failure by the parties involved to raise lawsuits with peo-
ple's courts within prescribed periods of fine, refusal by peo-
ple's courts to accept the cases, or failure by people's courts to
reach rulings on property risks;

78 (4) Failure on the part of the proprietor to respond within pre-
scribed periods of time or abandonment by the proprietor of
customs protection of intellectual property rights.

79 **Article 23**

80 Goods detained for suspicion of right infringement shall be con-
fiscated by customs offices if they are confirmed by customs
offices, departments in charge of intellectual property rights
or people's courts to have infringed upon intellectual property
rights.

81 **Article 24**

82 Customs offices shall dispose goods confiscated for infringing
upon intellectual property rights according to different cases
and in line with the following stipulations:

83 (1) Destruction of goods that have infringed upon copy-

rights;

(2) Destruction of goods that have infringed upon trademark li- 84
censes in case the infringed trademarks cannot be removed,
and removal of the infringed trademarks if these infringed trade
marks can be removed and the goods in question can be uti-
lized. These goods shall be only used, however, for social and
public benefits or be auctioned in accordance with law to non-
infringing persons for self use;

(3) Goods other than specified in the preceding clauses 85
shall be disposed of in line with relevant State Council
stipulations.

Article 25 86

87 After effectuation of Customs decisions, decisions by depart-
ments in charge of intellectual property rights, and verdicts or
rulings of people's court, customs offices shall return the guar-
antees paid by the parties involved after deduction of the fol-
lowing items:

(1) Costs for the storage, keeping, disposal of goods; 88

(2) Compensations to losses suffered by relevant parties due 89
to improper applications.

Article 26 90

91 Civil disputes between the proprietor and the consignee or the
consignor shall be settled through legal procedures, arbitra-
tion or any other forms chosen by the parties concerned in
accordance with law. Customs offices shall not accept such
cases.

Article 27

93 Customs offices that have accepted recording of customs protection of intellectual property rights and agreed to take intellectual property rights protection measures shall not hold responsibility over neither their failure to discover right-infringing goods and to take protection measures in good time nor their taking of inappropriate protection measures due to failure on the part of the proprietor to provide accurate information. This responsibility shall be shouldered by the proprietor instead.

Chapter V - Legal Responsibilities**Article 28**

96 Customs offices can impose fines amounting to no more than the C. I. F. of the import goods or the F. O. B. of the export goods upon the consignee or the consignor who knows clearly or should know that their goods have infringed upon the intellectual property rights of others.

Article 29

98 Customs offices can impose fines amounting to no more than the C. I. F. of the import goods or the F. O. B. of the export goods upon the consignee or the consignor who fails to make true reports on the conditions of the intellectual property rights related to their import or export goods and submit relevant documents.

Article 30

100 Should a party has objections to the decision of punishment made by a customs office, it can apply, within 30 days after

92 receiving the notice of punishment or within 30 days after the public announcement of the customs decision in case the party cannot be informed, for rediscussion* of the case to the customs offices that has made the decision or a customs office at a higher level. The customs offices shall made a rediscussion decision within 90 days after receiving the application for rediscussion. Should a party raises objections to the rediscussion decision, it can raise a lawsuit with a people's court within 30 days after receiving the rediscussion decision.

A party can also directly raise a lawsuit with a people's court within 30 days after receiving the notice of punishment or 30 days within the public announcement of the customs decision on punishment. 101

Article 31

Criminal responsibilities shall be affixed in case crimes are committed through import or export of right-infringing goods. 102 103

Article 32

Customs offices shall be brought to hold criminal responsibilities in accordance with law if they commit crimes when providing intellectual property rights protection due to abuse of power, deliberate creation of difficulties, dereliction of duty, or engagement in malpractice for selfish ends, or be disciplined administratively in accordance with law if their cases are not so serious as to become criminal. 104 105

Chapter VI - Supplementary Rules**Article 33**

Luggage personally carried into or out of China and parcels 106 107 108

mailed into or out of China shall be regarded as right-infringing goods and disposed of in line with relevant stipulations of these Regulations if they go beyond the rational amounts allowed for personal use and infringe upon the intellectual property rights protected by the laws and administrative decrees of the People's Republic of China.

109 **Article 34**

110 When providing protection to intellectual property rights, customs offices can charge fees for recording and other fees necessary for the detainment and disposal of right-infringing goods. Specific rules shall be worked out by the Customs General Administration together with responsible financial and price departments under the State Council.

111 **Article 35**

112 Specific stipulations on the application for recording of customs protection of intellectual property rights and taking of intellectual property rights protection measures and the forms of relevant documents shall be worked out by the Customs General Administration.

113 **Article 36**

114 These Regulations shall take effect on October 1, 1995.

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