

# China Automatic Import License (AIL) Catalogue

## Comparison: 2025 vs 2026

This report summarizes all identified changes between the 2025 and 2026 editions of China's Automatic Import License (AIL) Management Catalogue (自动进口许可管理货物目录). The catalogue covers goods administered by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and by provincial-level commerce authorities acting under MOFCOM delegation.

### 1. Overview of Changes

| Category                                  | 2025 Catalogue                      | 2026 Catalogue  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Part I (MOFCOM-administered) items        | 24 commodity groups (Seq. 1–24)     | 23 commodity groups (Seq. 1–25 with renumbering)                    |
| Part II (Provincially administered) items | Seq. 25–45 (21 groups)              | Seq. 26–46 (21 groups)  |
| Dairy (fresh milk) HS codes               | 0401100000 only                     | Four codes: 0401100000, 0401200000, 0401400000, 0401500000          |
| Whey (乳清)                                 | Not included as separate item       | New dedicated item (Seq. 6) with 2 HS codes                         |
| Petroleum products                        | Seq. 16 (crude) + Seq. 17 (refined) | Same structure; biodiesel aviation fuel split into 2 separate codes |
| Tobacco HS codes                          | ~22 codes                           | Expanded; nicotine-product codes added under HS 2404                |
| Automobile HS codes                       | Old 87.03 structure                 | Entirely restructured under new 2022 China HS 87.03 subheadings     |
| Olive oil HS codes                        | Not separately listed under Part II | Added under Part II plant oils (Seq. 27)                            |
| Medical equipment (X-ray)                 | Seq. 45 with 9 codes                | Seq. 46 with same codes; no substantive change                      |

### 2. Structural & Numbering Changes

The overall two-part structure (Part I: MOFCOM direct; Part II: provincial delegation) is retained. However, the addition of a new 'whey' (乳清) category in Part I shifts the sequence numbers of all subsequent items.

| Commodity        | 2025 Seq. No. | 2026 Seq. No. | Note                              |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Beef (牛肉)        | 1             | 1             | No change                         |
| Pork (猪肉)        | 2             | 2             | No change                         |
| Mutton (羊肉)      | 3             | 3             | No change                         |
| Fresh Milk (鲜奶)  | 4             | 4             | HS codes expanded — see Section 3 |
| Milk Powder (奶粉) | 5             | 5             | HS codes revised — see Section 3  |
| Whey (乳清) — NEW  | Not present   | 6 (NEW)       | New commodity group added in 2026 |
| Cassava (木薯)     | 6             | 7             | Renumbered                        |
| Barley (大麦)      | 7             | 8             | Renumbered                        |
| Sorghum (高粱)     | 8             | 9             | Renumbered                        |
| Soybeans (大豆)    | 9             | 10            | HS codes revised — see Section 3  |

| Commodity                                     | 2025 Seq. No. | 2026 Seq. No. | Note  |
|---|---------------|---------------|---|
| Rapeseed (油菜籽)                                | 10            | 11            | HS codes revised — see Section 3                |
| Sugar (食糖)                                    | 11            | 12            | No substantive change                           |
| Corn DDGS (玉米酒糟)                              | 12            | 13            | No substantive change                           |
| Soybean meal (豆粕)                             | 13            | 14            | No substantive change                           |
| Tobacco (烟草)                                  | 14            | 15            | HS codes significantly expanded — see Section 3 |
| Crude oil (原油)                                | 15            | 16            | No substantive change                           |
| Refined oil (成品油)                             | 16            | 17            | HS codes updated — see Section 3                |
| Fertilizer (化肥)                               | 17            | 18            | No substantive change                           |
| Diacetate fiber tow (二醋酸纤维束)                  | 18            | 19            | No substantive change                           |
| Tobacco machinery (烟草机械)                      | 19            | 20            | No substantive change                           |
| Mobile comms products (移动通信产品)                | 20            | 21            | No substantive change                           |
| Satellite/broadcast equipment (卫星广播电视设备及关键部件) | 21            | 22            | No substantive change                           |
| Motor vehicles (汽车产品)                         | 22            | 23            | Massive HS code restructure — see Section 4     |
| Aircraft (飞机)                                 | 23            | 24            | HS codes updated — see Section 3                |
| Vessels (船舶)                                  | 24            | 25            | HS codes updated — see Section 3                |

### 3. Detailed HS Code Changes by Commodity

#### 3.1 Fresh Milk (鲜奶) — Seq. 4

The 2025 catalogue listed only one HS code for fresh milk. The 2026 catalogue expands coverage to all fat-content brackets:

| HS Code    | Description                                | 2025         | 2026       |
|------------|--|--------------|------------|
| 0401100000 | Fat ≤1% (uncondensed milk/cream, no sugar) | ✓ Included   | ✓ Included |
| 0401200000 | Fat >1% but ≤6% (uncondensed, no sugar)    | ✗ Not listed | ✓ NEW      |
| 0401400000 | Fat >6% but ≤10% (uncondensed, no sugar)   | ✗ Not listed | ✓ NEW      |
| 0401500000 | Fat >10% (uncondensed, no sugar)           | ✗ Not listed | ✓ NEW      |

#### 3.2 Milk Powder (奶粉) — Seq. 5

The 2025 catalogue included infant formula codes under HS 1901. In 2026 these codes are retained but the description is refined, and a new whey-based formula code is added:

| HS Code    | Description  | 2025                    | 2026 |
|------------|--|-------------------------|------|
| 0402100000 | Solid milk/cream, fat ≤1.5% (powder/granule, concentrated) | ✓                       | ✓    |
| 0402210000 | Solid milk/cream, fat >1.5%, unsweetened                   | ✓                       | ✓    |
| 0402290000 | Solid milk/cream, fat >1.5%, sweetened                     | ✓                       | ✓    |
| 1901101010 | Milk-based special medical-use infant formula              | ✓ (description updated) | ✓    |
| 1901101090 | Other retail-packed infant formula (zero retail)           | ✓                       | ✓    |

### 3.3 Whey (乳清) — NEW Seq. 6

This is an entirely new commodity group added in 2026. No corresponding entry existed in the 2025 catalogue.

| HS Code    | Description                                    | Status      |
|------------|--|-------------|
| 0404100010 | Feed-grade whey (protein 2–7%, lactose 76–88%) | NEW in 2026 |
| 0404100090 | Other whey and modified whey                   | NEW in 2026 |

### 3.4 Soybeans (大豆) — Seq. 9 → 10

The 2025 catalogue used the old HS 1201901100/1201901900 split for non-GMO/GMO yellow soybeans. The 2026 catalogue introduces additional codes for black and green soybeans:

| HS Code    | Description                        | 2025 | 2026  |
|------------|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 1201100000 | Seed soybeans                      | ✓    | ✓     |
| 1201901100 | Non-GMO yellow soybeans (non-seed) | ✓    | ✓     |
| 1201901900 | GMO yellow soybeans (non-seed)     | ✓    | ✓     |
| 1201902000 | Non-seed black soybeans            | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 1201903000 | Non-seed green soybeans            | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 1201909000 | Other non-seed soybeans            | X    | ✓ NEW |

### 3.5 Rapeseed / Canola (油菜籽) — Seq. 10 → 11

The 2025 catalogue used HS codes under 1205 with suffixes 101000/109000/901000/909000 (four codes). The 2026 catalogue retains the same four codes but with minor description alignment. No substantive change in scope.

### 3.6 Tobacco & Nicotine Products (烟草) — Seq. 14 → 15

This is one of the most significant expansions. The 2025 catalogue covered traditional tobacco products under HS 2401–2404 and cigarette paper (HS 4813). The 2026 catalogue adds a wide range of new nicotine-delivery and tobacco-substitute product codes:

| HS Code                   | Description                             | 2025 | 2026 |
|---------------------------|---|------|------|
| 2401101000–<br>2401300000 | Unstripped/stripped/waste tobacco       | ✓    | ✓    |
| 2402100000–<br>2402900009 | Cigars, cigarettes, tobacco substitutes | ✓    | ✓    |

| HS Code                   | Description  | 2025 | 2026  |
|---------------------------|--|------|-------|
| 2403110000–<br>2403190000 | Smoking tobacco (water pipe, other)                              | ✓    | ✓     |
| 2403910010–<br>2403990010 | Reconstituted/homogenized tobacco, tobacco juice                 | ✓    | ✓     |
| 2404110000                | Non-combustion tobacco/reconstituted tobacco products            | ✓    | ✓     |
| 2404120000                | Non-combustion products containing nicotine but no tobacco       | ✓    | ✓     |
| 2404191000                | Non-combustion tobacco-substitute products (no tobacco/nicotine) | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 2404199000                | Other nicotine-substitute non-combustion products                | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 2404910010                | Oral nicotine products containing endangered species ingredients | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 2404910090                | Other oral nicotine products                                     | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 2404920000                | Transdermal (skin-absorbed) nicotine products                    | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 2404990000                | Other human nicotine-delivery products                           | X    | ✓ NEW |
| 4813100000–<br>4813900000 | Cigarette paper  | ✓    | ✓     |
| 5601221000                | Cigarette filter tow   | ✓    | ✓     |

### 3.7 Refined Petroleum Products (成品油) — Seq. 16/30 → 17/31

The main change is the split of the aviation kerosene / jet fuel codes. In 2025, a single code (2710191100) covered all aviation kerosene. In 2026, this is split into two codes: 2710191300 (bio-aviation kerosene) and 2710191400 (other aviation kerosene including conventional petroleum-derived jet fuel). Additionally, the Part I item (crude/refined) and Part II item (fuel oil) show minor description updates consistent with the new HS nomenclature.

| HS Code    | Description  | 2025 | 2026                  |
|------------|--|------|-----------------------|
| 2710121000 | Motor gasoline & aviation gasoline (no biodiesel)          | ✓    | ✓                     |
| 2710122000 | Naphtha (no biodiesel)                                     | ✓    | ✓                     |
| 2710191100 | Aviation kerosene (single code)                            | ✓    | DELETED — split below |
| 2710191300 | Bio-aviation kerosene                                      | X    | ✓ NEW                 |
| 2710191400 | Other aviation kerosene (conventional + petroleum-derived) | X    | ✓ NEW                 |
| 2710191200 | Lamp kerosene (no biodiesel)                               | ✓    | ✓                     |
| 2710192600 | Other diesel   | ✓    | ✓                     |
| 2710199920 | Wax oil (no biodiesel)                                     | ✓    | ✓                     |

### 3.8 Aircraft (飞机) — Seq. 23 → 24

In the 2025 catalogue (Part I), aircraft under 2 tonnes empty weight were listed under HS 8802300000. In 2026, the Part I section now covers only aircraft above 2 tonnes, with three HS codes corresponding to the 2–15 tonne, 15–45 tonne, and >45 tonne size brackets. Lighter aircraft and UAVs (drones) are covered in the revised Part II section (Seq. 44).

| HS Code    | Description                   | 2025 Part I | 2026 Part I |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 8802300000 | 2t < empty wt ≤ 15t aircraft  | ✓           | ✓           |
| 8802401000 | 15t < empty wt ≤ 45t aircraft | X           | ✓ NEW       |
| 8802402000 | Empty wt > 45t aircraft       | X           | ✓ NEW       |

### 3.9 Vessels (船舶) — Seq. 24 → 25

The 2025 catalogue used the old vessel HS codes (8901101000, 8901908000, 8901909000, 8902001000) for Part I. These are unchanged in 2026. The Part II vessel section (Seq. 44 → 45) is considerably expanded with specific tanker, bulk carrier and container ship subcategories:

| HS Code    | Description                                | 2025 Part II | 2026 Part II |
|------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 8901201100 | Product tanker ≤ 100,000 DWT               | X            | ✓ NEW        |
| 8901202100 | Crude tanker ≤ 150,000 DWT                 | X            | ✓ NEW        |
| 8901203100 | LPG carrier ≤ 20,000 m <sup>3</sup>        | X            | ✓ NEW        |
| 8901209000 | Other tankers                              | X            | ✓ NEW        |
| 8901902100 | Container ship ≤ 6,000 TEU                 | X            | ✓ NEW        |
| 8901903100 | Ro-Ro vessel ≤ 20,000 DWT                  | X            | ✓ NEW        |
| 8901904110 | Self-propelled dredger ≤ 150,000 DWT       | X            | ✓ NEW        |
| 8901904190 | Other motorized bulk carrier ≤ 150,000 DWT | X            | ✓ NEW        |

## 4. Major Change: Motor Vehicle (汽车产品) HS Code Restructure

The motor vehicle category underwent the most extensive change in the 2026 catalogue. This reflects China's adoption of a new 10-digit HS nomenclature for passenger cars (HS 87.03) that replaces the old classification scheme. The restructuring separates vehicles into finer sub-categories by: (a) engine type, (b) engine displacement bracket, and (c) body type (saloon/sedan 小轿车, SUV/4WD 越野车, small passenger 小客车, other passengers 其他载人).

### 4.1 Old (2025) vs New (2026) Engine-type Classification

| Engine Type                                      | 2025 HS Prefix (old) | 2026 HS Prefix (new)                               |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Spark-ignition (petrol) only                     | 8703 21xx–8703 24xx  | 8703 21xxx–8703 24xxx (expanded 10-digit)          |
| Compression-ignition (diesel) only               | 8703 31xx–8703 33xx  | 8703 31xxx–8703 33xxx (expanded 10-digit)          |
| Hybrid – petrol + electric, non-plug-in          | 8703 40xx            | 8703 40xxx (expanded 10-digit)                     |
| Hybrid – diesel + electric, non-plug-in          | 8703 50xx            | 8703 50xxx (expanded 10-digit)                     |
| Plug-in hybrid – petrol + electric (PHEV)        | 8703 60xx (排量分组)     | 8703 60xxx (grouped by displacement)               |
| Plug-in hybrid – diesel + electric (PHEV diesel) | 8703 70xx            | 8703 70xxx (grouped by displacement)               |
| Battery electric vehicle (BEV)                   | 8703 80xx            | 8703 80xxx; split into VIN-coded and non-VIN-coded |
| Other vehicles                                   | 8703 90xx            | 8703 900021–900099 (displacement-based)            |

### 4.2 Key New Codes Under BEV (8703 80xx)

In 2025, BEVs were grouped under a small set of 8703 80xx codes. In 2026, two specific codes are introduced to differentiate vehicles with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) from those without:

| HS Code    | Description                             | Status       |
|------------|---|--------------|
| 8703801090 | BEV passenger vehicles WITH VIN code    | ✓ NEW (2026) |
| 8703809090 | BEV passenger vehicles WITHOUT VIN code | ✓ NEW (2026) |

### 4.3 Large Passenger Vehicles (Buses) — Seq. 42 → 43

The bus/coach section in Part II is also updated to align with new HS codes. Key additions include electric buses (8702 40xxxx) and hybrid diesel-electric buses (8702 20xxxx), which were not explicitly broken out in the 2025 catalogue. Seat-count sub-categories (10–19, 20–23, 24–29, 30+) are retained.

## 5. Part II (Provincial Administration) Changes

All Part II item sequence numbers shift by +1 due to the new Whey item inserted at Seq. 6 in Part I. The major substantive changes in Part II are summarized below.

| Commodity                    | 2025 Seq. | 2026 Seq. | Nature of Change      | Detail  |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| Chicken (肉鸡)                 | 25        | 26        | HS codes revised      | New sub-codes for chicken wing parts (整翅/翅根/翅中/两节翅) added; chicken gizzard 0504002100 added   |
| Plant oils (植物油)             | 26        | 27        | Olive oil codes added | 2026 adds multiple olive oil HS codes (1509200000, 1509300000, 1509400000, 1509900000, 1510100000, 1510900000) and palm oil sub-codes |
| Iron ore (铁矿石)               | 27        | 28        | No substantive change | Same codes retained   |
| Copper concentrate (铜精矿)     | 28        | 29        | No substantive change | Same codes retained   |
| Coal (煤)                     | 29        | 30        | No substantive change | Same codes retained   |
| Refined oil – fuel oil (成品油) | 30        | 31        | HS code update        | 2025 had 2710192410 and 2710192490; retained in 2026 with same descriptions   |
| Tetrachloroethylene (四氯乙烯)   | 31        | 32        | No change             | Same code 2903230000  |
| Fertilizer (化肥)              | 32        | 33        | Minor expansion       | 2026 adds several codes including 3103111000 and 3103119000 for superphosphate; whey-related phosphate codes added                    |
| PVC (聚氯乙烯)                   | 33        | 34        | HS code update        | 2025: 3904109000; 2026: same code, description clarified to exclude PVC paste resin   |
| Chloroprene rubber (氯丁橡胶)    | 34        | 35        | HS code update        | 2025 used 4002491000/4002499000; 2026 same codes, description updated to 'chloroprene rubber sheet/strip/tape' for second code        |
| Steel (钢材)                   | 35        | 36        | No substantive change | Same codes retained   |

| Commodity                            | 2025 Seq. | 2026 Seq. | Nature of Change      | Detail  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| Engineering machinery (工程机械)         | 36        | 37        | Tunnel boring added   | 2026 adds 8430313000 (self-propelled tunnel boring machine) and 8430311000/8430312000 codes   |
| Printing machinery (印刷机械)            | 37        | 38        | Minor update          | Retained with same HS codes   |
| Textile machinery (纺织机械)             | 38        | 39        | No substantive change | Same codes retained   |
| Metal smelting equipment (金属冶炼及加工设备) | 39        | 40        | Minor additions       | Several new die-casting and rolling mill codes added (8454301010 for turbine blade manufacturing)                                       |
| Metal cutting machine tools (金属加工机床) | 40        | 41        | Minor additions       | 2026 adds 8461401100 (CNC gear grinding) and 8461401900 (CNC gear/tooth finishing)  |
| Electrical equipment (电气设备)          | 41        | 42        | Expanded              | New codes added for bio-fuel power generators (8501641010), routers/switches (8517622910/8517623910), radar life detectors (8526109020) |
| Motor vehicles (汽车产品)                | 42        | 43        | Major restructure     | See Section 4   |
| Aircraft (飞机)                        | 43        | 44        | UAV codes expanded    | Many new UAV/drone HS codes under 8806xx added; both remotely-piloted and other unmanned aircraft across weight brackets                |
| Vessels (船舶)                         | 44        | 45        | Major expansion       | See Section 3.9 above   |
| Medical equipment (医疗设备)             | 45        | 46        | No substantive change | Same 9 HS codes retained  |

## 6. Notable Expansion: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs / Drones)

The 2026 catalogue substantially expands the drone/UAV coverage. In 2025, UAVs appeared only under the old HS 8806 category with a handful of codes. In 2026, the drone category is broken out into a comprehensive grid based on two criteria: (1) control type (remotely-piloted only vs. other unmanned), and (2) maximum take-off weight (MTOW) bracket.

| HS Code        | Description                               | 2025 | 2026 | Dual-use flag |
|----------------|---|------|------|---------------|
| 8806100010/090 | Passenger-carrying UAV (dual-use / other) | X    | ✓    | Some dual-use |
| 8806219000     | Remote-control only, MTOW ≤250g           | X    | ✓    | No            |
| 8806229010/090 | Remote-control only, 250g < MTOW ≤7kg     | X    | ✓    | Some dual-use |
| 8806239010/090 | Remote-control only, 7kg < MTOW ≤25kg     | X    | ✓    | Some dual-use |
| 8806249010/090 | Remote-control only, 25kg < MTOW ≤150kg   | X    | ✓    | Some dual-use |
| 8806299010/090 | Remote-control only, MTOW >150kg          | X    | ✓    | Some dual-use |

| HS Code                   | Description  | 2025 | 2026 | Dual-use flag |
|---------------------------|--|------|------|---------------|
| 8806919000–<br>8806990090 | Other (non-remote-control) UAVs, all weight brackets | X    | ✓    | Some dual-use |

Note: Codes marked as dual-use (两用物项和技术出口管制的) are subject to additional dual-use export control licensing requirements on the Chinese side for the same HS code when exported; for imports these remain under AIL only.

## 7. Summary of Key Changes

| Change Type         | Item(s) Affected   | Impact     | Practical Implication  |
|---------------------|--|------------|--|
| New category added  | Whey (乳清) — Seq. 6   | Medium     | Importers of whey now need AIL; previously not required                                  |
| HS codes expanded   | Fresh milk (Seq. 4): 1 → 4 codes   | Medium     | Higher-fat milk products newly subject to AIL  |
| HS codes expanded   | Soybeans (Seq. 10): 3 → 6 codes  | Medium     | Black and green soybeans now require AIL   |
| HS codes expanded   | Tobacco/nicotine (Seq. 15): +6 new codes                                 | High       | Modern nicotine pouches, patches, other non-combustion nicotine products now require AIL |
| HS code split       | Aviation kerosene: 1 code → 2 codes                                      | Low–medium | Bio-aviation kerosene separated; importers should reclassify                             |
| Full HS restructure | Motor vehicles (Seq. 23): new 10-digit codes                             | High       | All vehicle importers must verify new HS codes; old codes are invalid from 2026          |
| Expanded coverage   | Olive oil under plant oils (Seq. 27)                                     | Medium     | Olive oil importers now need AIL from provincial authorities                             |
| Expanded coverage   | Vessel sub-categories (Seq. 45)  | Medium     | Tanker, container ship, bulk carrier importers face more granular AIL requirements       |
| Expanded coverage   | UAV/drones across all MTOW brackets                                      | High       | Comprehensive drone import AIL requirement introduced                                    |
| New equipment codes | Tunnel boring, CNC gear grinding, bio-fuel generators, network equipment | Low–medium | Specific industrial equipment importers should check new HS code applicability           |

*Disclaimer: This comparison is based on analysis of the official PDFs of the 2025 and 2026 AIL catalogues as published by China's Ministry of Commerce. Users should verify against the official gazette and consult legal counsel for compliance decisions. HS code descriptions are translated and summarized from Chinese.*