

New Chinese export regulations for rare earth materials



Dear valued business partners,

On the 9th of October 2025, the Chinese government announced new export restrictions on rare earth materials and products derived from them, such as permanent magnets. These measures may affect the global availability of certain magnet materials.

The new regulations – fixed in Announcements 57 and 61 – stipulate, among other things, that products containing more than 0.1% heavy rare earth metals of Chinese origin may only be exported with a special licence. Additional requirements also apply to applications in the semiconductor industry, including the production of chips with a line width of 14 nm or less.

In addition, with Announcement 57, China is adding the element holmium (Ho) to the list of regulated heavy rare earth metals. This metal is used in specific types of permanent magnets and may lead to additional analysis requirements or export restrictions in the future.

Announcements 56 and 62 are also relevant to the permanent magnet chain. Equipment for processing magnetic materials, such as cutting and grinding machines, is now also subject to stricter rules fixed in Announcement 56. Announcement 62 restricts the exchange of knowledge of production technology and all technical data related to rare earth metals and permanent magnets.

Overview of heavy rare earth metals (HREs)

Heavy rare earth metals (HREs) are a group of elements that are of great importance for high-quality magnet applications, partly because of their high temperature stability and strong magnetic properties.

China has now placed a large proportion of these elements under export control.

The current Chinese export restrictions include:

- Samarium (Sm)
- Gadolinium (Gd)
- Terbium (Tb)
- Dysprosium (Dy)
- Lutetium (Lu)
- Scandium (Sc)
- Yttrium (Y)
- Holmium (Ho) – newly added

Not yet subjected to restrictions (but possibly in the future):

- Erbium (Er)
- Thulium (Tm)
- Europium (Eu)
- Ytterbium (Yb)
- Neodymium (Nd)
- Praseodymium (Pr)

This last group is currently not subject to Chinese export controls, but may be added in a subsequent phase.

Reliable partner in magnetic solutions

The measures taken by the Chinese government are beyond the control of Goudsmit and Simatek Bulk Systems, but we continue to act proactively to guarantee continuity of supply for our customers. With our European stocks, diverse supplier networks, local assembly facilities and specialist knowledge, we offer certainty, continuity and quality – even in a changing market.