



Chapter 2

Discipline Inspection and Supervision System Overview

No booze, no bouquets: China tightens frugal code for officials⁴

BEIJING, May 22 (Xinhua) -- No booze, no banquets, no bouquets. China has barred alcohol, luxury dishes, and cigarettes from official meals, part of a sweeping crackdown on extravagance in public life. Government cars must forgo flashy upgrades, and meeting rooms must be free of ornamental plants and fancy backdrops.

The new rules, set out in the newly revised Regulations on Practicing Thrift and Opposing Waste in Party and Government Organs, are the latest effort by China's top leadership to rein in official perks and promote restraint.

Initiated in 2013 as a follow-up measure to the CPC's landmark Eight-Point Regulations—issued in late 2012 to curb official improprieties and restore public confidence—the austerity guidelines were reaffirmed this May as part of a comprehensive initiative to strengthen disciplinary adherence and compliance across the CPC's nearly 100 million members.

These updated guidelines set out more detailed rules than ever before for Party and government officials -- targeting public funds, official travel, receptions, vehicle use, meetings, and office space.

Extravagant banquets and heavy drinking were once fixtures of official life in China, customs so entrenched that phrases like “no banquet is complete without alcohol” and “business is done over drinks” became

part of the vernacular. But such excesses, long resented by the public, have since increasingly come under scrutiny.

As part of a renewed push for ensuring discipline, China has now imposed a sweeping ban on alcohol at official receptions, while cigarettes and luxury dishes are also off the table.

Analysts said the ban is unlikely to meaningfully affect the industry of baijiu, a fiery Chinese liquor once a staple at government banquets.

Xiao Zhuqing, an industry expert, noted that since the rollout of the CPC's Eight-Point Regulations a little over a decade ago, government-related consumption of baijiu has shrunk considerably. Currently, official purchases account for less than 5 percent of the market, limiting the new regulation's impact on the sector.

Excessive drinking not only erodes the image of government officials but can also end in tragedy. In a recent case that drew national attention, a county-level official in central Henan Province of China died after consuming alcohol at a midday banquet during a training seminar in March. Nine other officials present at this banquet were later disciplined, demoted, or dismissed.

Under the new rules, officials on domestic trips are barred from accepting cash gifts, souvenirs, or local specialties. For overseas trips, private jet travel is off-limits,

4.xinhuanet, <https://english.news.cn/20250522/4cd54d9ab7ed409c8c5b56d21ee4660f/c.html>.

while officials are no longer allowed to add extra stops or extend their stays abroad without prior authorization.

Officials are also barred from using public cars for private errands or claiming personal vehicle expenses from public funds. These new rules call for government fleets to prioritize new energy vehicles, part of a wider push to reduce emissions.

Party and government bodies have been instructed to streamline meetings to focus solely on essential matters. Extravagant conference arrangements—including floral displays and elaborate staging—are now prohibited, and official events are strictly forbidden from being held at scenic resorts.

The new rules have received largely positive feedback online. Wang Xuming, a scholar and retired official from the Ministry of Education, praised them as “detailed and pragmatic” on microblogging site Weibo.

Grassroots officials have also voiced their support. Some have long borne the health costs of official banquets, such as fatty liver and high blood pressure, widely seen as occupational hazards in a work culture where “drinking twice a day felt like part of the job.”

As part of its austerity drive, China's central government has been steadily

trimming its public expenses on official receptions, vehicles, and overseas travel for years.

The 2025 budget includes 6.12 billion yuan (about 851.7 million U.S. dollars) for such expenses, down 322 million yuan from last year. Reception spending alone is capped at 302 million yuan, 13 million less than in 2024.

The savings from reduced official spending, according to the regulations, will be redirected toward development priorities and public welfare.

As China continues its campaign against official extravagance, the once-routine perks of public office, including opulent banquets and taxpayer-funded junkets, have quietly receded.

The government's austerity drive is extending into broader society, where frugality is increasingly embraced as a societal norm. Restaurants are downsizing portion sizes, and taking leftovers home has become commonplace.

This culture shift extends to major life events. Costly wedding and funeral banquets, once seen as obligatory displays of status, are giving way to simpler, more modest affairs, reflecting a broader embrace of restraint inspired from the top down.

City unveils probity rules for officials⁵

Public officials may, when missing meals due to official duties or facing special circumstances such as remote working locations, arrange work-related meals at enterprises or receive assistance from enterprises in meal arrangements, provided such expenses do not exceed the stipulated expense limits.

Public officials who have been approved to participate in business activities, including exchanges and forums, organized by enterprises, chambers of commerce, and industry associations are required to settle their accommodation fees and travel expenses on time according to the prescribed standards.

These are part of the Behavioral Guidelines and Q&A for Several Scenarios of Political-Business Relations in Guangzhou unveiled recently.

The guidelines also stipulate that public officials must strictly practice diligence and thrift, oppose extravagance and waste, and not use the reception venues of enterprises to eat and drink extravagantly.

Public officials must not require enterprises to pay for personal banquet activities, according to the guidelines.

“And it is not permissible to accept banquets in violation of rules and regulations, nor to accept or provide banquets that may affect the fair execution of official duties, nor to use public funds to pay for personal banquets or banquets unrelated to official

duties,” according to the guidelines.

The guidelines, published recently by the Guangzhou city government, have drawn a clear disciplinary red line for the dining and entertainment-related behavior of public officials in official and business activities, clarifying what can and cannot be done.

The guidelines were introduced in the southern metropolis after a growing number of local public officials had said that they did not know how to handle political and business relations when invited to participate in some business and related events organized by local companies and chambers of commerce.

They had said that they worry about whether they would violate Party discipline or related rules and regulations when they have meals at the companies they visit, said the guidelines.

As “a millennium commercial capital” and a major foreign trade port of the country, Guangzhou usually has frequent economic activities annually.

Li Hui, director of foreign investment management with Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Commerce, said some officials, sometimes, had to politely refuse to attend or only leave halfway through certain sessions because they were afraid of violating discipline and related regulations when they were invited to attend some economic events organized by local companies.

“Although enterprises can express

5. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202411/13/WS6733fc5ca310f1265a1cd03c.html>.

understanding, it still cannot avoid leaving them with a stereotypical and distant impression of government departments and officials,” said Li.

Wang Yuqun, an official with Guangzhou Discipline Inspection Commission of the Communist Party of China, noted that numerous public officials have expressed uncertainty regarding dining during corporate engagements, particularly when determining compliance with regulatory standards.

The guidelines set clear boundaries within the scope permitted by laws and regulations, unleashing the flexibility within the scope permitted by laws and regulations,

and providing support and encouragement for normal, orderly and healthy communication activities between enterprises and governments, according to Wang.

Wang also pointed that the commission will strengthen supervision and inspection around the implementation of the guidelines to ensure the effective implementation of such guidelines.

Local business executives are usually confused whether to invite officials to dinner or not when the officials visit their companies. “Since the guidelines have been issued, these psychological burdens can be let go,” said Shen, a local company executive who only chose to provide his surname.

The General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council
Print and Issue the Provisions on Performing Duties with Integrity by Rural Grassroots Cadres⁶
China rolls out new regulations on eco-environmental protection inspections⁷

BEIJING, May 12 -- China has rolled out new regulations on inspection work regarding eco-environmental protection, replacing the previous version issued in 2019.

China aims to fully harness eco-environmental protection inspections as a key tool for identifying and addressing issues, according to the regulations issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

According to the regulations, intensified efforts are required to promote high-quality development through high-level environmental

protection, deepen institutional reforms for ecological progress, and modernize governance frameworks and operational capacities for environmental stewardship.

The inspection work will focus on areas such as progress in pollution control, the green transition of development models, ecological protection and restoration, and initiatives promoting carbon peaking and carbon neutrality.

China has steadfastly advanced its “Beautiful China” initiative, emphasizing eco-environmental protection as a top priority in its social and economic development.

6.State Council Gazette Issue No.12 Serial No.1875 (April 30, 2025), http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/statecouncilgazette/202504/30/content_WS68118a15c6d0868f4e8f2352.html

7.http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202505/13/content_WS68227b40c6d0868f4e8f27a9.html..

Xi chairs leadership meeting on eco-protection inspection regulations, disciplinary inspection⁸

BEIJING, April 2 (Xinhua) -- The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting on March 31 to review a set of regulations on ecological and environmental protection inspections, as well as a report on the fourth round of disciplinary inspections conducted by the 20th CPC Central Committee. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting.

The meeting highlighted that central environmental protection inspections are a major initiative by the CPC Central Committee to advance ecological progress. These inspections have ensured that officials at all levels fulfill their political duties regarding environmental protection, strictly investigated and addressed a number of major typical cases of ecological and environmental damage, and pushed for the resolution of a series of pressing environmental issues that have drawn strong public concern. The inspections have yielded positive outcomes.

The meeting emphasized the need to uphold and strengthen the Party's leadership over environmental protection inspections, continue leveraging the role of inspections as a powerful tool, and further press all regions and government departments to shoulder their political responsibilities for advancing the

building of a Beautiful China. It is essential to firmly focus on the accountability system, keep in mind the bigger picture, adhere to strict standards, have the courage to tackle tough issues, persistently uncover and earnestly address problems, and more effectively implement the CPC Central Committee's decisions and plans on pursuing ecological progress. Efforts must be made to strengthen the building of inspection teams by enhancing regulation and management and enforcing strict discipline and standards of conduct.

It was noted at the meeting that central disciplinary inspection teams uncovered some problems during their inspections of certain central Party and state institutions, and that earnest efforts must be made to rigorously rectify the problems. It is essential to enhance political awareness, earnestly fulfill the responsibilities and tasks entrusted by the CPC Central Committee, and take concrete actions to uphold Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the CPC Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and uphold the CPC Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership. It is essential to strengthen the sense of political responsibility, uphold fundamental principles while breaking new ground, enhance top-level design and overall planning, and resolutely

9.<https://english.news.cn/20250402/2998e68d62d244b38a93985914437be3/c.html>.

advance the implementation of all reform tasks. Efforts must be made to strengthen leadership teams by addressing the problems of officials acting arbitrarily or lacking the willingness, courage or ability to deliver, while making it a regular practice that officials can be demoted as well as promoted. It is imperative to earnestly fulfill the political responsibility for governance over the Party, follow high standards and rigorous requirements, persevere in improving conduct, enforcing discipline and fighting corruption, and build political institutions of integrity and honesty.

Noting that the year 2025 is pivotal for expanding disciplinary inspections to cover all areas, the meeting said it is imperative to follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, fully implement the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress and the second and third plenary sessions of the 20th CPC Central Committee, and continuously promote the high-quality development of disciplinary inspections. It is crucial to focus on central

tasks and serve the overall situation, deepen political inspections, and take the implementation of the CPC Central Committee's decisions and arrangements as the focus of oversight, thus providing strong guarantees for advancing Chinese modernization. The meeting stressed maintaining a problem-oriented approach, following strict standards, keeping a close watch on key issues, key areas and key targets, and strengthening oversight over top leaders as well as leadership teams. It is necessary to apply systems thinking, leverage the comprehensive supervisory role of inspections, and strengthen coordination between inspections and other means of oversight to form synergy. It is also essential to seek truth from facts, abide by regulations, discipline and laws, accurately understand policies, faithfully report problems, strengthen awareness of discipline and the rule of law, and rigorously exercise internal management and oversight.

The meeting also discussed other matters.

China launches first environmental inspections under new regulations⁹

China has initiated the fourth phase of the third round of central environmental protection inspections, the first since a new set of regulations on ecological and environmental protection inspections came into force.

The inspections will cover five provincial-level regions and three centrally-administered state-owned companies, said the central leading group for the inspection work of ecological and environmental protection on Monday.

Inspection teams will be dispatched to Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Shaanxi

and Ningxia to conduct regional inspections and carry out coordinated inspections of the Yellow River Basin.

It will also inspect China Huaneng Group Co., Ltd., China Datang Corporation Ltd. and State Power Investment Corporation Limited.

The inspections will last about one month. During the period, each team will establish dedicated telephone hotlines and postal mailboxes for the public to submit reports and complaints regarding any environmental protection issues related to the inspected entities.

⁹<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-05-27/China-launches-first-environmental-inspections-under-new-regulations-1DHX36i1sRy/p.html>.

China amends Supervision Law¹⁰

BEIJING, Dec. 25 (Xinhua) -- Chinese lawmakers on Wednesday voted to adopt a decision to amend the Supervision Law, the country's primary legislation for combating corruption.

The decision, made at a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), will take effect from June 1, 2025.

The current Supervision Law was deliberated and passed in 2018.

This amendment focuses on prominent issues reflected in practice and aims to improve relevant systems in a targeted manner, providing a legal basis for solving practical problems, according to an official with the Communist Party of China Central

Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Commission of Supervision.

The amendment includes granting necessary oversight measures to supervisory authorities, refining supervisory procedures, and enriching provisions for international anti-corruption cooperation.

An official from the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee introduced that the amendment to the Supervision Law strengthens the standardization requirements for supervisory law enforcement, reinforces the protection of citizens' rights, ensures the prudent and lawful use of compulsory measures by supervisory authorities, and enhances oversight and constraints on supervisory powers.

10. <https://english.news.cn/20241225/77677481029f469bb3be82d48abb5f48/c.html>.

Revised anti-graft law stresses supervisory procedures¹¹

Chinese supervisory procedures will be further optimized in line with a newly amended law, with more time to investigate complicated cases and stronger measures to protect human rights.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, adopted a decision on amending the Supervision Law while closing its latest session on Wednesday. The revised law, which serves as China's foundational legislation for combating corruption, will take effect on June 1.

“Amending the law is not only to deal with new situations to fight against corruption with 'zero tolerance', but also to make the supervisory procedures more regulated,” said the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission.

The current law stipulates that people should receive a supervisory investigation, with a three-month detention limit, if found to have suspected corrupt actions. The detention can be doubled in “special circumstances”, but the extension period should not exceed three months.

To address the problem of time

constraints in handling major or complicated cases in practice, the amended law has added the provision that for suspects in severe circumstances, such as those who may be sentenced to 10 or more years in prison, if the supervisory departments are unable to complete the investigation even after extending the detention period, an additional extension of two months will be permitted. The further extension should be approved by the National Commission of Supervision.

While improving the quality of supervision by leaving sufficient time for investigators, the amended law has also emphasized the importance of respecting and protecting human rights, with special content to safeguard the property and operation rights of businesses.

The NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission added that making these revisions and improvements aims to further strengthen the protection of legitimate rights and interests of market entities during supervisory procedures so that the disruption of normal business activities can be prevented or minimized.

11. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/26/WS676cb120a310f1265a1d4fa5.html>.