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Report Highlights:

This report is an overview of general legal and technical requirements imposed by the Russian Federation for food and agricultural imports. The following sections of this report have been considerably updated from the 2020 FAIRS report: Section II: Labeling Requirements, Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations, and Section VII: Other Specific Standards.

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List of Abbreviations

CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States, includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

CU – a Customs Union between Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, launched on January 1, 2010.

CU Commission – Customs Union Commission, the CU regulatory body until July 1, 2012.

EEC – Eurasian Economic Commission, replaced the CU Commission as the regulatory body of the Customs Union as of July 1, 2012.

EAEU – Eurasian Economic Union, replaced the CU on January 1, 2015, with the addition of Armenia and Kyrgyz Republic as of January 2, 2015, and August 12, 2015, respectively.

GOST - from the Russian “Government Standard”, refers to interstate standards of the CIS; in addition to CIS countries GOSTs are also used in the Republic of Georgia.

GOST R - Russia’s national standards

HN – Hygienic Norms

SanPiN – Sanitary Norms and Rules

SPS – Sanitary and Phytosanitary

TR – Technical Regulation

WTO - World Trade Organization

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) office in Russia for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Executive Summary

Russia has transformed its agriculture sector from a modest level of production in the 2000s to a significant contributor to the economy and growing global player. Since 2018, Russia has been a net exporter of agricultural products, including products of the fishery and forestry industries, both being big export items for Russia. Russia is increasingly a competitor of the United States in global wheat trade and is focused on expanding markets for pork and poultry. However, Russia remains a net food importer, with its import basket shifted towards high-value food products, such as beef, dairy, fruits and vegetables, while commodities like cereals and edible oils, as well as fish and forestry products account for over 70 percent of Russia's exports. In 2019, Russia's imports of agriculture, fishery and forestry products totaled \$36.7 billion, up by 9.4 percent over 2019. Major supplier countries include neighbors such as Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member Belarus, Turkey and China, as well as Germany, Brazil and Ecuador.

The primary challenge for U.S. agricultural exports to Russia is the country's 2014 embargo on most U.S. agricultural exports in retaliation for economic sanctions imposed on Russia following the annexation of Crimea. For details, please see GAIN report [RS2021-0010 Russia Continues to Fine Tune its Food Ban to Import Substitution Needs](#). The embargo, currently in force through December 31, 2021, impacts U.S. exports of live swine, beef, pork, poultry, animal by-products, fruits, nuts, vegetables, prepared foods, as well as fish and seafood products. The Russian government has been renewing the embargo annually. Due to the combination of counter sanctions and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) bans, several U.S. agricultural commodities face multiple layers of barriers when trying to access the Russian market.

This report is an overview of general legal and technical requirements for food and agricultural imports imposed by the Russian Federation. Despite Russia's WTO accession in August 2012, control over imported foodstuffs by Russian agencies remains complicated and bureaucratic. While the legal framework has improved, in practice, Russia has not yet taken all of the steps expected towards improving the environment for trade. Russia also remains in a transition period as it reforms its regulations both to meet WTO commitments and integrate further with its EAEU partners Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Section I: Food Laws

Many of Russia's food and trade regulations have or are undergoing reform as Russia continues policy integration with Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan via the Eurasian Economic Union, which replaced the Customs Union on January 1, 2015. For additional details, please see GAIN report [RS1611 Eurasian Economic Union One Year On](#).

Russia also continues to adjust policies pursuant to its World Trade Organization (WTO) accession on August 22, 2012. Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) have established the legal framework necessary for Russia to comply fully with the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. Russia undertook commitments on how it will comply with the SPS Agreement and its other WTO commitments affecting trade in agricultural products. These commitments provide U.S. exporters of agricultural products with an enforceable set of disciplines against non-scientific trade restrictions. Russia also agreed to harmonize Russia's SPS measures with international standards. The Eurasian Economic Union has a [mechanism](#) for recognizing the equivalence of food safety systems of WTO members and rules on inspection of establishments in third-countries, such as the United States, that export product to Russia and the other EAEU Member States. Russia's commitments also include, in part: increased transparency, including the right to provide comments on SPS measures before they are adopted, and application of transition periods before new measures are applied.

In August 2014, Russia introduced a ban on a list of products from the United States, Canada, European Union, Australia, and Norway in retaliation to economic sanctions against Russia due to events in the region. The ban, initially announced for one calendar year, has been extended until the end of 2021. The list of agricultural products currently includes swine, some beef, pork and by-products, poultry, fruits, vegetables, fish, seafood, cheese, milk, and a variety of other products. For a full list of banned items in English, please see GAIN report [RS2021-0010 Russia Continues to Fine Tune its Food Ban to Import Substitution Needs](#).

Since 2019, Russia has been implementing a "[regulatory guillotine](#)" mechanism, which provides for a large-scale review and revision of the existing economic regulatory acts in order to cut off obsolete industry standards by creating a new legislative regulatory framework. As part of the process, the Russian Ministry of Agriculture has declared invalid 183 normative and legal acts of the Soviet Union and the RSFSR, which regulated the activity of the agricultural sector. Many of those documents were pertaining to Soviet veterinary regulations. For instance, provisions on the operation of various types of veterinarian services (veterinary stations at agricultural enterprises, laboratories, quarantine teams, etc.), rules of storage and allotment of veterinarian medications, and veterinary and sanitary rules for cattle farms have become invalid. The "regulatory guillotine" also hit instructions and methodological regulations for certain types of animal diseases. Some documents covered in this report, e.g., in relation to alcohol, have become invalid as of January 1, 2021, in the framework of the "regulatory guillotine" reform.

Russian Legislation and Principal Regulatory Documents on Foodstuff Imports¹

Russia's regulatory framework governing the import of foodstuffs consists of: (1) Eurasian Economic Union documents, (2) Russian Federal Laws, (3) Russian Government documents, and (4) regulatory documents of the bodies of executive power of the Russian Federation. The major documents are the following:

1. Eurasian Economic Union documents:

General

- EAEU Customs Code, in force since January 1, 2018 <<http://base.garant.ru/71652992>> (as amended through March 23, 2021), [EEC unofficial translation into English](#).
- EAEU Treaty <<https://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/14bn0044/>> (as amended through December 21, 2020), [EEC courtesy translation into English](#)
- Treaty on Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union <<https://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/14bn0084/>> (as amended through April 11, 2017), [EEC courtesy translation into English](#)
- Treaty on Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union <<https://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/14bn0119/>> (as amended through December 21, 2020)
- Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and its Member States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (in English) <https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/0147849/itot_02062015>
- Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and its Member States and the Republic of Serbia (in English) <https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01423624/iatc_28102019>

Tariff and TRQs

- Unified CU Customs Tariff, in effect as of August 23, 2012 (as amended through April 23, 2021) <<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/trade/catr/ett/Pages/default.aspx>>
- EEC Council Decision No. 54 of July 16, 2012 “On Approval of the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union and the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union” (as amended through April 23, 2021) <http://www.altaru.ru/show_orders.php?action=view&filename=12sr0054>
- EEC Collegium Decision No. 102 of August 18, 2020, “On Establishment of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Import of Certain Agricultural Goods into the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union in 2021, as well as Volumes of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Import of these Goods in the Territories of the Eurasian Economic Union Member States” (refers to beef, pork, poultry, and whey) <<https://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/20kr0102/>>

General SPS Measures

- CU Commission Decision No. 625 of April 7, 2011 “On Harmonization of CU Legal Acts in the Field of Sanitary, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Measures with International Standards” (as amended through March 7, 2012) <<http://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/11sr0625/>>
- CU Commission Decision No. 721 of June 22, 2011 “On Application of International Standards, Recommendations, and Guidelines” <<https://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/11sr0721/>>
- EEC Collegium Decision No. 212 of November 6, 2012 “On Regulation on the Uniform Procedure of Carrying Out Examination of Legal Acts in the Sphere of Implementation of Sanitary, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Measures” <<https://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/12kr0212/>>
- CU Commission Decision No. 835 of October 18, 2011 “On Equivalence of Sanitary, Veterinary or Phytosanitary Measures and Conduct of Risk Assessment” (as amended through February 11, 2014) <<http://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/11sr0835/>>

Sanitary Measures <<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnreg/depstanmer/regulation/Pages/Санитарные-меры.aspx>>

¹ All links in this section are to documents in the Russian language unless otherwise specified.

- CU Commission Decision No. 299 of May 28, 2010 “On the Application of Sanitary Measures in the Customs Union” (as amended through December 8, 2020)

Veterinary Measures

<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/depsanmer/regulation/Pages/Ветеринарно-санитарные-меры.aspx>>

- CU Commission Decision No. 317 of June 18, 2010 “On the Application of Veterinary-Sanitary Measures in the Customs Union” (as amended through December 8, 2020)
- CU Commission Decision No. 455 of November 18, 2010 adopted “The Unified List of Dangerous and Quarantine Diseases of Animals of the Customs Union”
- CU Commission Decision No. 607 of April 7, 2011 “On Common Forms of Veterinary Certificates on Imported Goods Subject to Veterinary Control into the Customs Union Territory” (as amended through August 25, 2020)
- CU Commission Decision No. 624 of April 7, 2011 “On the Regulation on the Procedure of Development and Maintenance of the Register of Companies and Persons which Carry out Production, Reprocessing and (or) Storing Products Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) and Imported into the territory of the Custom Union”
- CU Commission Decision No. 810 of September 23, 2011 “On Exemptions from the Application of the Veterinary Measures in Respect of Goods Included in the Unified List of Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)” (as amended through May 16, 2013)
- EEC Council Decision No. 94 of October 9, 2014 “On Regulation on Common System of Joint Inspections of Objects and Sampling of Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)”

Phytosanitary Measures

<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/depsanmer/regulation/Pages/Фитосанитарные-меры.aspx>>

- CU Commission Decision No. 318 of June 18, 2010 “On Assurance of Plant Quarantine in the Customs Union” (as amended through March 5, 2021)
- EEC Council Decision No. 157 of November 30, 2016 “On Approval of the Unified Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements to Controlled Goods and Controlled Objects at the Customs Border and in the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union” (as amended through December 12, 2020), [EEC courtesy translation into English](#)
- EEC Council Decision No. 158 of November 30, 2016 “On Approval of the Unified List of Quarantine Objects of the Eurasian Economic Union” (as amended through August 8, 2019), [EEC courtesy translation into English](#)
- EEC Council Decision No. 159 of November 30, 2016 “On Approval of the Unified Rules and Norms of Ensuring Plant Quarantine in the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union”

Technical Regulation <<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/default.aspx>>

- CU Commission Decision No. 319 of June 18, 2010 “On Technical Regulation in the Customs Union” (as amended through April 9, 2013)
- CU Commission Decision No. 526 of January 28, 2011 “Common List of Products which shall be Subject to Mandatory Requirements within the Customs Union” (as amended through February 21, 2020)
- CU Commission Decision No. 620 of April 7, 2011 “Common List of Products, Subject to Mandatory Evaluation (Confirmation) of Compliance within the Customs Union with the Issuance of Common Documents” (as amended through September 15, 2017)
- CU Commission Decision No. 621 of April 7, 2011 “On the Regulation on Application of Standard Schemes for Evaluation (Confirmation) of Compliance with Technical Regulations of the Customs Union” (applicable to Technical Regulations adopted prior to July 18, 2018)
- EEC Council Decision No. 44 of April 18, 2018 “On Standard Schemes of Conformity Assessment” (as amended through December 23, 2020) (applicable to Technical Regulations adopted after July 18, 2018)
- CU Commission Decision No. 711 of July 15, 2011 “On the Common Sign of Circulation of Products on the Market of the Member States of the Customs Union (as amended through March 17, 2016)
<<https://www.alt.ru/tamdoc/11sr0711/>>

- EEC Collegium Decision No. 293 of December 25, 2012 “On the Unified Forms of a Certificate of Conformity and a Declaration of Conformity with the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union and the Rules of their Execution” (as amended through November 11, 2016)
<<https://www.alt.ru/tamdoc/12kr0293/>>
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 005/2011 “On Safety of Packaging” (as amended through January 20, 2020)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezopypakovki.aspx>>
For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1253 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Packaging](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 015/2011 “On Safety of Grain” (as amended through September 15, 2017)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezpozerna.aspx>>
For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1250 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 024/2011 “Technical Regulation on Oils and Fats” (as amended through May 10, 2016) <<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/MasloGirov.aspx>>
For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1326 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 021/2011 “On Food Safety” (as amended through December 24, 2019)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/PischevayaProd.aspx>>
For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1233 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Safety](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 022/2011 “On Food Labeling” (as amended through September 14, 2018)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/PischevkaMarkirovka.aspx>> For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 023/2011 “Technical Regulation on Juice Products from Fruits and Vegetables” (as amended through January 28, 2020)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/SokovayaProd.aspx>>
For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1334 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Juice](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 027/2012 “On Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Prophylactic Nutrition”
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezopSpecProd.aspx>>
For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1340 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Specialized Foods](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 029/2012 “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” (as amended through September 18, 2014)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezopPischDobavok.aspx>> For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1338 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Additives](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 033/2013 “On Safety of Milk and Dairy Products” (as amended through July 10, 2020) <<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/%D0%A2%D0%A0-%D0%A2%D0%A1-033.aspx>> For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 034/2013 “On Safety of Meat and Meat Products”
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/%D0%A2%D0%A0-%D0%A2%D0%A1-034.aspx>> For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#)
- EAEU Technical Regulation TR EAEU 040/2016 “On Safety of Fish and Fish Products”
<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/TR_EEU_040_2016.aspx> For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please, see GAIN report [RS1734 Technical Regulation on Safety of Fish and Fish Products](#)
- EAEU Technical Regulation TR EAEU 044/2017 “On Safety of Packaged Potable Water, Including Natural Mineral Water” <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/txnnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/tr_EAEU_044-2017.aspx> For English translation of the Technical Regulation as originally adopted please see GAIN report [RS1752 EAEU Technical Regulation on Packaged Water](#)

- EAEU Technical Regulation TR EAEU 047/2018 “On Safety of Alcohol Products” (as amended through October 30, 2020) <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/teknreg/deptekreg/tr/Pages/TR_EAEU_047.aspx> For English translation of the Technical Regulation please see GAIN report [RS2020-0037 EAEU Technical Regulation on Safety of Alcohol Products](#)

2. Russian Federal Laws in effect to the extent that they do not contradict EAEU Agreements and/or CU Commission/EEC Decisions:

General

- Federal Law No. 164-FZ of December 8, 2003 “On the Basis of Regulation of Foreign Trade Activity” (as amended through December 22, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/12133486/>>
- Chapters 21 and 22 of the Russian Tax Code (as amended through April 30, 2021), regulating the application of VAT (including import VAT and export VAT refunds) and excises (article 193) <<http://base.garant.ru/10900200/>>
- Part IV of the Russian Civil Code (as amended through April 30, 2021), regulating intellectual property rights <<http://base.garant.ru/10164072/>>
- The Federal Law on Customs Regulation No. 311 dated November 27, 2010 (as amended through February 24, 2021) <<http://base.garant.ru/12180625/>>
- Federal Law No. 2300-1 of February 7, 1992 “On Protecting Consumer Rights” (as amended through December 8, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/10106035/>>
- Federal Law No. 38 of March 13, 2006 “On Advertising” (as amended through May 26, 2021) <<http://base.garant.ru/12145525/>>
- Federal Law No. 280-FZ of August 3, 2018, “On Organic Products and Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation” <<https://base.garant.ru/72005268/>>
- Federal Law No. 468 of December 2019 “On Viticulture and Winemaking in the Russian Federation” (as amended through December 8, 2020) <<https://base.garant.ru/73355393/>>

General SPS Measures

- Federal Law No. 86-FZ of July 5, 1996 “On State Regulation in the Sphere of Genetic Engineering Activities” (as amended through July 3, 2016) <<http://base.garant.ru/10135402/>>

Sanitary Measures

- Federal Law No. 52-FZ of March 30, 1999 “On the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population” (as amended through July 13, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/12115118/>>
- Federal Law No. 29-FZ of January 2, 2000 “On the Quality and Safety of Food Products” (as amended through July 13, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/12117866/>>

Veterinary Measures

- Federal Law No. 4979-1 of May 14, 1993 “On Veterinary Practices” (as amended through December 8, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/10108225/>>

Phytosanitary Measures

- Federal Law No. 206-FZ of July 21, 2014 “On Quarantine of Plants” (as amended through December 29, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/70699630/>>

Technical Regulation

- Federal Law No. 171-FZ of November 22, 1995 “On State Regulation of the Production and Handling of Ethyl Alcohol, Spirits, and Products Containing Alcohol” (as amended through April 30, 2021) <<http://base.garant.ru/10105489/>>
- Federal Law No. 184-FZ of December 27, 2002 “On Technical Regulation” (as amended through December 30, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/12129354/>>

- Federal Law No. 358-FZ of July 3, 2016 “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation Concerning Improvement of the State Regulation in the Sphere of Genetic-Engineering Activities” <<http://base.garant.ru/71435492/>>

3. Russian Government Regulations:

Sanitary Measures

- Government Resolution No. 500 of June 29, 2011, “On Approval of Rules of Sanitary and Quarantine Control at Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation” (as amended through February 6, 2021) <<http://base.garant.ru/12187353/>>

Veterinary Measures

- Government Resolution No. 557 of July 7, 2011, “On the Defining Checkpoints across the State Border of the Russian Federation Intended for Importation into the Territory of the Russian Federation of Animals, Animal Products, Animal Feed, Feed Additives, Pharmaceuticals and Animal Quarantine Products (Quarantine Material, Goods in Quarantine)” (as amended through August 11, 2015) <<http://base.garant.ru/12187826/>>
- Government Resolution No. 501 of June 29, 2011, “On Approval of Rules of the State Veterinary Supervision Control at Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation” (as amended through February 6, 2021) <<http://base.garant.ru/12187354/>>

Technical Regulation

- Government Resolution No. 982 of December 1, 2009 “On Approval of the Unified List of Products Subject to Mandatory Certification and the Unified List of Products, for which the Confirmation of Conformity is Made in the Form of a Declaration of Conformity” (as amended through July 4, 2020). <<http://base.garant.ru/12171546/>>
- Government Resolution No. 839 of September 23, 2013, “On the State Registration of Genetically-Engineered-Modified Organisms Intended for Release into the Environment as well as Products Derived from the Use of Such Organisms or Containing Such Organisms” (as amended through October 1, 2018) <<https://base.garant.ru/70457814/>>
- Government Resolution No. 132 of March 9, 2010 “On Mandatory Requirements in Respect of Certain Types of Goods and Related Processes of Design (including Research), Production, Construction, Installation, Maintenance, Operation, Storage, Transportation, Sales, and Disposal, Contained in the Technical Regulations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, being the Customs Union Member State” (as amended through July 27, 2020) <<http://base.garant.ru/12173849/>>

4. Russian Competent Authority Regulations:

Sanitary Measures

- Hygienic Requirements for Foodstuff Safety and Nutrition SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 (as amended through July 6, 2011) <<http://base.garant.ru/4178234/>>
- Hygiene Norms for Chemicals and Pesticides in the External Entities, Section IX of SanPiN 1.2.3685-21. The Norms determine MRLs for chemicals and pesticides in objects of environment, including agricultural crops <<https://base.garant.ru/400274954/>>
- Resolution of the Chief Medical Officer of the Russian Federation No. 46 of June 29, 2009, “On Supervision over alcohol products” <<http://base.garant.ru/12169411/>>

Veterinary Measures

- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 404 of November 7, 2011 “On Adoption of Administrative Regulation of the Federal Service on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control on Provision of State Service on Issuance of Authorizations for Imports to the Russian Federation and Exports from the Russian Federation, as well as Transit within its Territory of Animals, Products of Animal Origin, Medicines for Veterinary use, Feeds and Feed Additives for Animals,” establishes administrative regulation on issuing import permits for goods subject to veterinary (sanitary control) (as amended through October 31, 2016) <http://www.alta.ru/show_orders.php?action=view&filename=11a00404>

Technical Regulation

- Order of the Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being No. 781 of July 23, 2012, “On Approval of Administrative Regulation of the Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being for Provision of the Public Service for State Registration of the Chemical and Biological Substances and Drugs Manufactured on their Basis, which are Potentially Dangerous to Humans (except for Medicines), Introduced into Production for the First Time, and have not been used Previously; Certain Types of Products that Pose a Potential Danger to Humans (except for Medicines); Certain Types of Products, Including Food Products, Imported into the Customs Territory of the Customs Union for the First Time” (as amended through April 7, 2016) <http://www.alt.ru/show_orders.php?action=view&filename=12a00781>
- General Requirements for Providing Consumer Information Regarding Foodstuffs *GOST R 51074-2003* (as amended through July 1, 2013) <<http://docs.cntd.ru/document/1200035978>>

Russia’s Federal Regulatory Bodies for Imported Foodstuffs

The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (known as Rosselkhoznadzor or VPSS) of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation monitors veterinary and phytosanitary conditions within Russia and enforces Russian legal requirements for veterinary and plant health. Rosselkhoznadzor has the authority over veterinary and phytosanitary matters at Russia’s borders and within Russia’s interior and is responsible for protecting the Russian Federation from plant and animal diseases.

The Federal Service for Surveillance of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare of the Government of the Russian Federation (known as Rospotrebnadzor) is responsible for food safety. Based on SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 and the regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union, Rospotrebnadzor oversees the domestic foodstuffs market in Russia. Rospotrebnadzor may prohibit the transport and sale of products that do not meet official requirements.

The Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology (known as Rosstandart or Rostekhnregulirovaniye) is part of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Rosstandart manages product assessment, processing, and servicing to determine if products conform to national standards and certification criteria.

The Federal Customs Service of Russia (FTS), which is part of the Ministry of Finance, regulates foreign economic activity with a system of customs fees and charges, and carries out customs control.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade oversees non-tariff regulation for external economic activity including licensing and quota administration.

The Ministry of Economic Development determines import quota volumes.

Eurasian Economic Union

Since 2010, Russia has been pursuing Eurasian economic integration with Belarus and Kazakhstan. The process, which first materialized in 2010 in the form of the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union, evolved into the Single Economic Space (SES) in 2012 and subsequently led to the launch of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) on January 1, 2015, which currently includes Armenia, Belarus,

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. The EAEU regulatory body is now the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), which replaced the initial CU body, the Customs Union Commission, in 2012. For details on the EEC structure and authority please see GAIN report [RS1611 Eurasian Economic Union One Year On](#).

Section II: Labeling Requirements

The key EAEU document covering labeling requirements is the Technical Regulation (TR) of the Customs Union “Food Products Labeling” (TR TS 022/2011). The TR outlines regulations for food products labeling including the requirements for name, ingredients, nutritional contents and value, quantity, date of production, validity, address of manufacturer and importer, presence of genetically engineered organisms, etc. For more information please see GAIN report [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#).

The general packaged food requirements for information to be presented on the label are:

- Product name (the made-up name², if any, should be included in the name of food products and located near the name of the food products);
- Data about the manufacturer (including name, country, and address) or manufacturer representative or importer;
- Net weight, or volume, or quantity;
- Composition (ingredients) (with a few exceptions, e.g., it is not required to indicate ingredients for unprocessed fresh fruit, berries and vegetables, or single-component foods);
- Information about the presence of genetically engineered (GE) components in the product (including information that the product was produced from/with GE components).
- Nutritional value of the product;
- Storage conditions prescribed by producer or by technical regulations of EAEU. In cases when the product’s quality or safety changes after opening the package – storage conditions for opened product;
- Use-by date or shelf-life expiration date;
- Date of production and packaging;
- Recommendations or limitations of usage, including preparation mode if needed, in case the usage without these recommendations or limitations may be complicated, harmful or lead to the product’s quality degradation.
- “Eurasian Conformity” mark (EAC).

The information should be printed in Russian and the state language (languages) of the respective EAEU Member State if required by the legislation of the EAEU Member State. Location of the manufacturer of food products from third countries can be provided in Latin letters and Arabic numerals or in the state language (languages) of the country of the food product manufacturer’s location, provided the name of the country is indicated in Russian. Additional information can be placed on the same label, such as: brand, technical document license, information about the right holder of the brand, the origin of product’s components, name of licensor, voluntary certification labels.

² The CU Technical Regulation “Food Products Labeling” defines a made-up name as “a word or a word combination which may accompany the name of a food product. A made-up name of a food product may not reflect its consumer properties and shall not replace the name of the food product.”

In addition to the above, the TR TS 022/2011 also establishes several product-specific requirements.

Non-alcoholic beverages containing more than 150 mg/l of caffeine or other plant-based “tonic” ingredients or their extracts in sufficient quantity to lead to a tonic effect should carry the written warning “Not recommended for consumption by children under the age of 18, during pregnancy and lactation, and by people suffering from increased nervous irritability, insomnia, and arterial hypertension.”

The EAEU Technical Regulation on food products labeling as currently amended can be found [here](#).

Other EAEU technical regulations also establish product-specific labeling requirements for specific food products, including fat-and-oil products, juice products, meat products, alcohol products, milk and dairy products, specialized dietary food products, fish, and potable water. For more information please see GAIN reports [RS1343 Customs Union Food Technical Regulations in Force as of 1 July 2013](#), [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#), [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#), [RS1734 Technical Regulation on Safety of Fish and Fish Products](#), [RS1752 EAEU Technical Regulation on Packaged Water](#), and [RS2020-0037 EAEU Technical Regulation on Safety of Alcohol Products](#).

EAEU technical regulations on safety of certain food and agricultural products also require that regulated products that comply with the regulations and have passed conformity assessment procedures must be marked with the uniform mark of products in circulation on the market of the EAEU Member States (“Eurasian Conformity” mark, approved by [Decision of the CU Commission No. 711 of July 15, 2011](#)). Thus, the “Eurasian Conformity” mark is meant to show that the product has been produced in accordance with the relevant EAEU technical regulations and has passed all procedures of conformity assessment³ (confirmation) established in the relevant technical regulations. For details, please see GAIN reports [RS1493 Eurasian Conformity Mark for Poultry and Red Meats](#), and [RS1506 Eurasian Conformity Mark for Food Products](#), respectively.

Russian Government [Decree No. 943 of September 18, 2012](#), “On the Specifics of Marking Products Released into Circulation for the First Time, Including with a Market Circulation Mark or a Conformity Mark and the Procedure for Informing Purchasers, Including Consumers, about the Potential Harm of Such Products and the Factors Causing such Harm,” specifies the labeling requirements for products that are released into circulation in the Russian market for the first time and that are subject to mandatory certification or [conformity declaration](#). For more information please see GAIN report [RS1257 New Regulations on Conformity and Labeling of New Products](#).

Other Specific Labeling Requirements

Genetically Engineered Crops

For any product with genetically engineered (GE) components or processed from GE materials, the label must show that it is a “GMO product” or a “product obtained from GMO” even if the product does not contain GE DNA or proteins. However, the presence of up to 0.9 percent of each GE ingredient is

³ Assessment (confirmation) of conformity in the EAEU should be carried out by legal entities that are registered in accordance with the legislation of the Eurasian Economic Union Member State on its territory, such as importers.

considered adventitious. The CU Technical Regulation TR TS 022/2011 on Food Labeling requires that food products be labeled as GE according to the following parameters.

The information on the label must read (in Russian):

- for products containing viable GE microorganisms – “Product contains live genetically modified microorganisms;”
- for products containing unviable GE microorganisms – “Product is obtained based on genetically modified microorganisms;” and
- for products purified from GE microorganisms or for products obtained based on components purified from GE microorganisms – “Product has components that are obtained based on genetically modified microorganisms.”

The inscription “GMO” should be marked next to the “Eurasian Conformity” mark and the inscription should be similar to the “Eurasian Conformity” mark in form and size.

The requirements for information on GE organisms/line in feeds of plant origin are stipulated in the CU Technical Regulation “On Safety of Grain”, which covers both grains and oilseeds (TR TS 015/2011, please see GAIN report [RS1250 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain](#).) This Technical Regulation stipulates that grain/oilseeds transported unpacked should be accompanied by shipping documents that ensure their traceability and provide information on GE organisms/lines if presence of GE organisms/lines is higher than 0.9 percent. Such grain/oilseeds should be identified as: “Genetically modified grain” or “grain obtained from the use of genetically modified organisms” or “grain contains components of genetically modified organisms”, indicating the unique identifier of the transformation event.

Moreover, CU Technical Regulation “On Safety of Grain” stipulates that grain/oilseeds (for both food and feed use) may contain only registered GE lines. Presence of more than 0.9 percent of non-registered GE lines is prohibited both in products that are declared as GE, and in non-GE products.

For more details, please see Agricultural Biotechnology Annual for the Russian Federation.

Alcohol

In addition to the general information required for most imported alcohol products, the following specific labeling requirements apply:

- For beer - The type of beer (light, semi-dark, dark), the value of alcohol by percent (except for non-alcoholic beer and special beer with aromatic and flavored additives), the minimum percentage of ethyl alcohol by volume, bottling date, the composition of the primary raw materials used to manufacture the beer, the nutritional value and the storage conditions must be on the label.
- For wine - In addition to the name and address of the producer, and the organization in the Russian Federation that is authorized to accept claims from the consumer in Russia (if available), the facility that bottled the wine, bottling date or the date it matures (for sparkling wines that age in bottles); the percentage of ethyl alcohol by volume, the mass concentration of the sugars (except for dry wines) should also be indicated. For sparkling wines, flavored wines,

and ciders, classification based on the sugar content; the year of harvest (for controlled appellation wines based on the location, as well as for mature wines prepared from the grapes harvested during one year); the expiration date for wine in which the percentage of ethyl alcohol by volume is less than 10 percent, and nutritional value should be indicated on the label as well.

- For alcoholic beverages - The volume of ethyl alcohol, concentration of sugar (if sugar is in the formulation) by mass, bottling date, the composition (including the list of the primary ingredients influencing the taste and the aroma of the product), the expiration date for beverages in which ethyl alcohol by volume is less than 10 percent.

The information should be provided in Russian.

As of February 1, 2007, a [mandatory warning](#) must be displayed on the label about the health risks associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

Russian regulatory documentation requirements are more prescriptive than those of the Eurasian Economic Union for particular quality and safety indices of alcohol products. For example, the following information is required:

- Content of methanol, fusel oils, aldehydes, and esters in cognac and brandy;
- Volume of iron in cognac/brandy;
- Volume of total sulfur dioxide, citric acid, reduced extract in wines, in addition to exclusive requirements for the absence of sediment (deposits) in wines (crust on the walls of the bottle or on the bottom of the bottle is only acceptable in special collection wines); and
- Content of preservatives and microorganisms in beer and other low alcohol beverages.

Excise Stamps / Federal Special Stamps

In late 2020, Russia amended its legislation regarding alcohol to abolish excise stamps as of January 1, 2021. Since that time, all alcohol (with the exception of beer and beer drinks, cider, perry, mead), including imported, shall be marked with federal special stamps. Such stamps are issued by Rosalkogolregulirovanie, and the customs authorities control the labeling of alcohol when declaring it and performing other customs operations.

The importer is responsible for marking imported alcohol products with federal special stamps before the products enter the Russian Federation. The importer must send an electronic application through the personal account of the UFAIS indicating the number and date of the contract for the supply of alcoholic beverages, the full name of the supplier of alcoholic beverages, its location, and the actual address. The application for the issuance of stamps must be considered by Rosalkogolregulirovanie within 29 working days. The importer must also pay VAT (20 percent as of January 1, 2019), customs duties, and excise duties.

Organic Products

The Interstate Standard GOST 33980-2016 “[Organic production. Production regulations, processing, labelling and implementation](#)” (in Russian) describes the rules for labeling organic products. For

additional information about labelling of organic products with the unified Russian sign of organic produce please see [Section VII: Other Specific Standards/Organic Products](#).

Digital Labelling

Since 2019, due to implementation of the EAEU [Agreement](#) on Labeling of Goods with Means of Identification in the Eurasian Economic Union, Russia has been introducing mandatory digital labeling of consumer goods, starting with some non-food categories. The goal of the Agreement is to strengthen control over circulation of goods in the EAEU in order to fight counterfeiting and illegal trade. As part of the process, consumer goods are labeled with data matrix codes or RFID marks. In 2021, phased-in implementation of such digital labelling is scheduled for the first two food categories - dairy products and packaged water. The system will become fully mandatory for all dairy products and packaged water by December 2023 and March 2025, respectively.

The digital labelling system is managed by the operator of the National System of Digital Labelling “Honest Mark”, owned jointly by state and private investors. Manufacturers, wholesale and retail sellers and importers (for imported goods) must register in the “Honest Mark” system in order to either obtain the equipment for generating data matrix codes or receive the codes directly from the system. Upon generating or receiving the codes, the manufacturers or importers must print them and place them on the goods or its packaging. The labelling of each unit of goods must be reported to the “Honest Mark” system. It is important that for imported goods a label shall be placed on the product or packaging before it is released into circulation by the customs authorities. In practice, this means that labels must be printed out and placed on the goods or packaging by the manufacturer prior to shipment or by the importer in the customs warehouse.

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

The CU Technical Regulation “On Safety of Packaging” (TR TS 005/2011), which contains requirements for all kinds of packaging including metal, polymer, carton, wooden, glass, and composite packing, has been force since July 1, 2012. The food packaging should comply with the sanitary-hygienic requirements given in the Attachment 1 of the TR TS 005/2011. Before the packaging can be released into circulation in the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union, it needs to go through the obligatory confirmation of compliance with the requirements of the current Technical Regulation. As a result, producer and importer obtain the [declaration of conformity](#) for the packaging.

Other EAEU technical regulations also establish product-specific packaging requirements for specific food products, including fat-and-oil products, juice products, meat products, alcohol products, milk and dairy products, specialized dietary food products, fish, and potable water. For more information please see GAIN reports [RS1343 Customs Union Food Technical Regulations in Force as of 1 July 2013](#), [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#), [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#), [RS1734 Technical Regulation on Safety of Fish and Fish Products](#), [RS1752 EAEU Technical Regulation on Packaged Water](#), and [RS2020-0037 EAEU Technical Regulation on Safety of Alcohol Products](#).

Before TR TS 005/2011 fully came into effect, requirements for foodstuff packaging were regulated by numerous Russian standards, varying by type of packaging. TR TS 005/2011 is currently the primary

document regulating packaging, but Russian national regulations continue to apply to the extent they do not contradict the EAEU regulations.

Hygienic standards for materials that come into contact with foodstuffs are listed in Hygienic Norms (HN) [2.3.3.972-00](#) (in Russian), which also specify the maximum permissible quantities of chemical substances allowed to escape from materials in contact with foodstuffs. Packing materials and transport containers must have completed sanitary and epidemiological inspections and have a certificate of conformity.

Sanitary and hygienic requirements, regulated by [GOST R 51074-2003](#) (in Russian), must also be used when selecting food packaging. Packing materials may not be manufactured from highly toxic compounds having cumulative characteristics, including carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, or allergenicity. The material must not change the organoleptic or nutritional qualities of the foodstuffs, and may not discharge hazardous substances in excess of permissible levels.

Specifications for packaging are a vital part of each commercial contract. Before signing a contract, the importer should research the specific packaging requirements and advise the exporter accordingly.

Packaging (e.g., cardboard or paper boxes, plastic or polymer packets, bottles or cans) that comes into direct contact with products must be certified.

The permeability of the packaging material to gas, steam, water, fats, and odors is an important consideration. For instance, chilled meat must be packaged in materials with low-vapor permeability in order to prevent the loss of moisture. The material must also meet specific gas-permeability levels to preserve the color. Products must be packed reliably, taking into account their nature, the method of transport, and storage temperatures.

For more information please see GAIN report [RS1253 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Packaging](#). The current text of the TR TS 005/2011 as amended is available [here](#).

Packaging Sustainability Measures

Russia has had [extended producer responsibility \(EPR\) mechanism](#) (it includes producers and importers of goods) in place since 2015, but in practice it has not worked. The EPR mechanism was [updated](#) in late 2020 to mandate 100 percent recycling of packaging in Russia since January 1, 2022. Producers and importers have the following options to exercise their recycling responsibility: 1) by carrying out recycling themselves, 2) by contracting a recycling party, and 3) by paying a recycling fee.

Currently, there are no single-use bans in Russia, but there are plans to phase out disposable plastic tableware and straws in the next two years. In addition, after 2024, some of the products will be banned for production without the use of recyclable materials. Press reports indicate that such standards will be extended, for example, to PET bottles - the content of recycled plastic therein should increase from 5 to 25 percent by 2030. According to a similar scheme, at least 20 percent of used colored glass and 65 percent of cardboard will be recycled. The Russian government also plans to stimulate recycling via public procurement by giving priority to goods made using recyclable materials. The legislation for the above initiatives is being drafted.

Section IV: Food Additive Regulations

The key EAEU document covering food additive regulations is the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union on “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” (TR TS 029/2012), which contains a list of food additives allowed for use in food product manufacturing. For more information please see GAIN report [RS1338 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Additives](#). The TR TS 029/2012 came into effect on July 1, 2013, and became the primary document regulating production and quality of products in the food ingredients and additives sector. Russian national regulation [SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01](#) (in Russian) with a list of food additives allowed for use in food products manufacturing (see Annex No. 7), continues to apply to the extent it does not contradict the EAEU regulations. The current text of the TR TS 029/2012 as amended is available [here](#).

Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

The state registration of pesticides and agrochemicals falls under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. The requirements for registration of pesticides, registration procedures, and the Catalog (State Register) of pesticides and agrochemicals are on the Ministry of Agriculture [website](#). The Catalog is regularly updated with new registered pesticides and chemicals. The catalog contains the brand name, name of registrant, date of registration, and expiration date. Chemical agents not listed in this catalog are banned from use in Russia and their residue is not allowed in or on imported foodstuffs.

Rospotrebnadzor is responsible for setting tolerances of pesticides, veterinary drugs, and other contaminants in food. However, Rosselkhozadzor is the primary enforcer of such tolerances in imported food and agricultural crops at the border.

Russian tolerances are based on the requirements stipulated in the EAEU technical regulations on safety of food and agricultural products. For details see GAIN reports [RS1343 Customs Union Food Technical Regulations in Force as of 1 July 2013](#), [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#), [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#), [RS1734 Technical Regulation on Safety of Fish and Fish Products](#), [RS1752 EAEU Technical Regulation on Packaged Water](#), and [RS2020-0037 EAEU Technical Regulation on Safety of Alcohol Products](#). [Section 15 in Chapter II](#) (in Russian) of the CU Commission Decision No. 299, “Requirements for Pesticides and Agrochemicals,” provides maximum residue levels (MRLs) for soil, air, water, the human body, and agricultural products. These EAEU requirements were most recently amended in 2015, for details please see GAIN report [RS1596 Eurasia Economic Union - New Pesticide MRLs](#).

Additionally, Russian national regulations continue to apply to the extent they do not contradict the EAEU regulations. Currently, Russian MRLs for pesticides in agricultural crops are established in the Hygiene Norms for Chemicals and Pesticides in the External Entities, Section IX of SanPiN [1.2.3685-21](#) (in Russian).

Rosselkhozadzor requires exporters to provide information on the pesticides used during the growth and storage of plant products, the date of the last treatment, and on the residue levels of pesticides in these products. The information may be in the form of a letter from the producer, from the producers’

association, etc. There is no standard form, but Rosselkhoznadzor developed a sample form of a letter (declaration) in Russian on pesticides (see [Attachment](#)).

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

Products under sanitary-epidemiological control

CU Commission Decision No. 299 of May 28, 2010, and its amendments define the products subject to sanitary-epidemiological control. To clear customs, these products must be accompanied by documents confirming their conformity with Russian standards of safety and quality, i.e. the [state registration](#) (only for regulated products that are imported into the EAEU for the first time) and the [Declaration of Conformity](#). To expedite customs clearance procedures, and to reduce the cost of clearance and temporary storage, it is recommended that the state registration and declaration of conformity of the imported products be conducted approximately one month in advance of the shipment's arrival at customs. To do this, the supplier must provide the following to the importer:

- Product samples of every type and/or name, in sufficient quantities to conduct the sanitary-epidemiological expert examination and certification (samples for testing are not subject to customs fees);
- Contract to supply the product (or data about the contract), the annex to the contract or specifications (or the data about it);
- Documents confirming the origin, safety, and quality of the product (issued by the authorities of the country of origin), manufacturer of the product, the certificate of origin or another document confirming the origin, quality certificate and/or protocols of testing, and analysis; and
- Samples or mockups of the label.

All documents, labels, and markings must be translated into the Russian language, and copies and their translations must be certified in accordance with established procedures.

Product Registration

The key EAEU document regulating state registration of certain food products is currently the CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety, which establishes the following list of products that are subject to state registration:

- Specialized food products, as follows:
 - food products for baby food, including potable water for baby food;
 - food products of dietary therapeutic and dietary prophylactic nutrition;
 - mineral natural, medical table mineral water, medical mineral water with mineralization above 1 mg/dm³ or of lower mineralization, containing biologically active substances in the amount of not less than balneological norms;
 - food products for sportsmen, pregnant and nursing women;

- biologically active additives to food (BAA).
- Novel food products⁴.

Rospotrebnadzor handles such registration for Russia according to its [Administrative Regulation](#). In July 2019, the EAEU put a five-year limit on the validity period of Certificates of state registration, which confirm products' compliance with the technical regulations, replacing the previous unlimited validity term for such documents.

Genetically Engineered Crops

Since 2000, the Russian government has required registration of biotechnology crops (events) and products obtained from or containing these events, which are imported to the country, and has monitored marketing of products derived from products of biotechnology.

Russia established a system for the approval of agricultural biotechnology food and feed products via Government Resolution No. 839 of 2013. The Resolution was amended in 2017 to conform to the Federal Law No. 358 of July 3, 2016, which bans cultivation and breeding of GE plants and animals within the territory of the Russian Federation. For details, please see GAIN Report [RS1634 Russia Bans Cultivation and Breeding of GE Crops and Animals](#).

The procedures for registration of food and feed are separate and administered by two different government entities. With respect to GE products for food use, Rospotrebnadzor has guidelines in place for the registration of GE organisms, both single and stacked events, for food. Overall, the registration procedure for GE food has not changed and registration once granted is given for an unlimited term. Currently, 15 corn lines, nine soybean lines, one rice line, and one sugar beet line are registered for food use in Russia and in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Additionally, two potato lines are registered for food use in Russia.

In early 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture has finalized its methodological guidelines (MUK) for registration of GE organisms for feeds and feed additives. For details, please see GAIN report [RS2020-0024 Russia Approves Methodological Guidelines for Registration of GE Feeds](#). The document has come into force as of April 26, 2020; however, it will take some time – possibly two or three years - for the GE lines to be registered or re-registered.

Feed use registrations, handled by Rosselkhoznadzor, have only been granted for a period of five years, and the registration periods for only three corn lines are still valid. The registrations for the remaining 16 corn and soybean lines began to expire in 2017 and continue according to each event's expiration date, for more details, please see Agricultural Biotechnology Annual for the Russian Federation.

⁴ The CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety defines novel food products as “food products (including food additives and flavorings) that were not previously used for human consumption on the customs territory of the Customs Union, namely: with new or deliberately modified primary molecular structure; consisting of or being isolated from microorganisms, fungi or algae; from plants; isolated from animals, obtained from GMO or with their use; nanomaterials and nanotechnology products except for food products obtained by traditional methods, being in circulation and considered safe by virtue of experience.”

EAEU veterinary requirements define feed as GE-free if the product contains 0.5 percent or less of a non-registered biotech product, or if the product contains 0.9 percent or less of any registered biotech products.

Declaration of Conformity

Pursuant to Russian Government Resolution No. 982, dated December 1, 2009, Russia began replacing the system of mandatory certification of conformity of major consumer goods, including imported food, alcohol, and cosmetics, with a system of declaration of conformity (for more information see GAIN report [RS1015 Declaration of Conformity Replaces Certification for Many Products](#)). The move was intended to ease the bureaucratic burden on businesses to allow producers to vouch for their goods based on their own verification.

Customs Union Commission Decision No. 319, of June 18, 2010, partially adopted some of Russia's system for safety assessments, but still allowed for businesses to follow the guidelines of EAEU Member States, if they prefer. As a result, there is no official unified list covering all goods and products that are subject to mandatory safety assessment (confirmation) for the EAEU, so both a [list approved by the CU Commission Decision 620](#), and [a list approved by the Russian Government Resolution No. 982](#) (in Russian) should be consulted in order to determine whether a product is subject to mandatory safety assessment (confirmation).

Eventually, the plan is for technical regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union to replace the above two lists as the relevant EAEU technical regulations are developed and adopted to mandate a declaration of conformity for these goods.

EAEU technical regulations for food products currently establish declaration of conformity procedures for almost all agricultural and food products, including fat-and-oil products, juice products, meat products, alcohol products, milk and dairy products, specialized dietary food products, fish, and potable water. For more information please see GAIN [RS1343 Customs Union Food Technical Regulations in Force as of 1 July 2013](#), [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#), [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#), [RS1734 Technical Regulation on Safety of Fish and Fish Products](#), [RS1752 EAEU Technical Regulation on Packaged Water](#), and [RS2020-0037 EAEU Technical Regulation on Safety of Alcohol Products](#).

According to Russian Government Resolution No. 982, declaration of conformity is required for imports of the following agricultural and food products that are exported from the United States to Russia:

- Feeds of plant origin (by-products of sugar refining, starch and syrup production, oilseeds crushing (meals and cakes), production of canned and dried vegetables, flour and cereals industry, alcohol and brewing production)
- Feeds of animal origin (including feed for non-productive⁵ animals) and compound feeds
- Fish and seafood oil for veterinary use

⁵ According to Russian standards, non-productive animals are animals that are not used for the production of livestock products. These include pets, wild, exotic, decorative, laboratory, experimental, circus and any other legally obtained and kept animals that are not used for obtaining livestock products.

A similar list approved by the CU Commission Decision No. 620 currently requires a declaration of conformity for the following agricultural products:

- Animal, bird, and fish feed: compound feed and feed additives (e.g., soy meal, milk powder, fishmeal, etc.)

According to [Russian Federal Law No. 184-FZ of December 27, 2002](#), declarations of conformity for imported products shall be drawn up by Russian importers and registered with an accredited certification body in line with the procedures set forth by the Ministry of Economic Development in its [order No. 748 of July 31, 2020](#). The following documentation may be used by the importer as a basis for drawing up a declaration of conformity:

- Records of product testing carried out by the producer or importer and/or by a competent laboratory;
- Certificates of conformity or testing records on raw material or component parts;
- Documents required for this type of products (hygienic conclusions, veterinary certificates, certificates of fire safety, etc.);
- Certificates, confirming the system of quality, as well as other documents directly or indirectly assuring the conformity of products with the existing requirements.

Declarations of conformity are valid for up to five years and allow importers to mark products with a sign of conformity.

Products under veterinary control

CU Commission Decision No. 317 and its amendments define the products subject to veterinary control: [EAEU List of Products Subject to Veterinary Control](#). This list currently includes the following categories:

- Live animals (all animals, including agricultural, domestic, wild, zoo, sea, commercial fur, circus, laboratory animals, etc.), live birds (all birds, including domestic, wild, ornamental, etc.), semen, and embryos
- All types of meat and meat by-products, including poultry
- Fish and sea-products and products of their processing
- Milk and dairy products
- Eggs and processed eggs products
- Materials of animal origin
- Feed and feed additives for animals including pet food
- Leguminous vegetables used for veterinary purposes, including as animal feed

As of August 22, 2012, the date of Russia's WTO accession, a number of products from the above list, including grains for feed and feeds of plant origin such as oilseed cake and meal, products of milling and oilseeds extraction industries, and some prepared foods such as ice-cream, are no longer subject to veterinary control when exported to Russia. For the full list of exempt products, see [CU Commission Decision No. 810 of September 23, 2011](#). For additional information, please see GAIN report [RS1261](#)

[Russia No Longer Requires Veterinary Certificates for Key Imported Feeds of Plant Origin Including Soybean Meal, Grains for Feeds and DDGs.](#)

Veterinary Health Certificate

Veterinary certificates are generally required for all products subject to veterinary control. Please consult the current FAIRS Export Certificate report for a list of individual certificates.

Export veterinary certificates from the country of origin are replaced at the border with Russian domestic veterinary certificates according to the procedure approved by the [Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 589 of December 12, 2016](#), which also implemented Russia's domestic e-certification program.

Import Permits

Permits are required for products subject to veterinary control, except for the following:

- Feed additives for dogs and cats, as well as prepared feeds for cats and dogs, heat-treated at the temperature not lower than +70° C for at least 20 minutes in consumer (manufacturer) packages;
- Hunting trophies accompanied by documents proving that they were purchased at retail and underwent the full taxidermy process.

Importers are responsible for applying to Rosselkhoznadzor for the necessary import permits. According to the [Ministry of Agriculture Order No. 404 of November 7, 2011](#), which regulates issuance of import permits, Rosselkhoznadzor is in charge of issuing two kinds of import permits:

- Individual import permits: valid for a calendar year and specify the foreign supplier, Russian importing company, volume of goods and border entry point.
- General import permits: valid for a calendar year and specify the exporting country, border entry points, and exporting establishments. Such permits cover an unlimited number of Russian importers and permit an unlimited volume. General import permits are issued by Rosselkhoznadzor annually, usually by November 10, for the upcoming year and can cover the following veterinary goods:
 - Ready-to-eat products of livestock origin in industrial packaging;
 - Food additives of animal origin;
 - Biological items for collection, properly treated to guarantee the destruction of agents of animal diseases;
 - Domestic and decorative animals imported as pets (up to 5); and,
 - Veterinary medicines duly registered in the Russian Federation.

In November 2020, Rosselkhoznadzor issued a [list of 2021 general import permits](#) for 250 countries, including three general import permits for the United States covering the following items:

1. Six types of biological items for collection including properly treated hunting trophies (from EAEU HS Codes 0507, 0511, 9601, and 9705);

2. Three to five pet cats and dogs (from EAEU HS Code 0106); and,
3. Up to five domestic or decorative animals of 41 types (from EAEU HS Codes 0106, 0301, 0306, and 0307).

Lists of Approved Establishments

In general, products subject to veterinary control are required to come from establishments identified on approved supplier lists. Rosselkhoznadzor often issues conditions to source from approved establishments in the import (veterinary) permit. As a result, non-exempt commodities without a list of approved establishments (e.g., dairy) are routinely blocked from entry. Contrary to Russia's WTO commitment to trim back the listing requirement to exclude select processed products of animal origin, Rosselkhoznadzor continues to *de facto* enforce the listing requirement on all such products.

Rosselkhoznadzor currently maintains such [lists](#) for the following U.S. commodities:

- [Feed and Feed Additives](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Feed for Non-Productive Animals, Bird, Fish](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Feed Additives](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products](#) (NOTE: *This list includes cold storage facilities approved for all types of meats produced by approved establishments*)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Beef](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Poultry](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Pork](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Beef](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Poultry](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Pork](#)
- [Non-Edible Products: Raw Intestines](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Mutton Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Beef Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Horse Meat Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Poultry Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Pork Products](#)
- [Food Products: Prepared Meat Products](#)
- [Food Products: Casings](#)
- [Fish and Seafood](#)

Establishments wishing to be added to the existing lists should contact the appropriate, competent U.S. authority:

- USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service,
- USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or
- U.S. Department of Commerce/National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Eurasian Economic Union has indicated that it is “temporarily” exempting the following products from the listing requirement:

- Animals and genetic material;
- Bee products;
- Raw materials of animal origin (skin, hair, raw fur skins, feathers, etc.);
- Animal feed of vegetable origin;
- Food additives of animal origin;
- Composite (containing animal origin components) products; and,
- Gelatin, etc.

Licensing

Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs)

In order to bring a product into the Russian Federation at the in-quota tariff rate for beef, poultry, and whey, it is necessary for the importer to secure a license. Russia’s Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) issues this license. The MIT reviews license applications within five days of submission and then issues the licenses. Licenses are required per contract on an annual basis. For additional information on the Russian tariff rate quotas please see GAIN report [RS2020-0041 Eurasian Economic Commission Published 2021 TRQs](#).

Products under phytosanitary control

CU Commission Decision No. 318 of June 18, 2010 approved the “Regulation on the Procedure of Phytosanitary Quarantine Control (Supervision) at the Customs Border of the Customs Union” and the “Common List of Regulated Products (Materials, Commodities) Subject to Quarantine Phytosanitary Control.” The list divided products into two groups: regulated products of high phytosanitary risk and regulated products of low phytosanitary risk.

Phytosanitary Certificates

Imported products of low phytosanitary risk do not require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country, while high phytosanitary risk products require a phytosanitary certificate from the exporting country. For details, please, consult the current FAIRS Export Certificate report.

Phytosanitary certificates are issued for each lot of a product. A lot is a specified quantity (depending on the product) that meets the following requirements:

- the product was manufactured at one facility,
- the entire lot was manufactured during the same month, and
- the entire lot was transported in the same vehicle.

All of the above criteria must be met in order for a product to be described as a single lot. If, for example, products arrive in the same vehicle but were manufactured during different months, separate certificates and packaging descriptions will be assigned.

Since 2013, replacement phytosanitary certificates have been allowed in some cases under condition that the authorized agencies of exporting countries guarantee safety and wholesomeness of regulated products from the moment of its out-loading to the moment of the entry to the EAEU (please see GAIN Report [RS1389 Amended CU Regulations Allow Replacement Phytosanitary Certificates](#)).

Phytosanitary Requirements

Since 2017, unified EAEU phytosanitary requirements have been in effect in Russia via three key documents, [Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests](#), [Unified EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements](#), and [Unified Rules and Norms to Ensure Plant Quarantine on the EAEU Territory](#). For details please see GAIN reports [RS1721 WTO Notifications on the EAEU Common List of Pests](#), [RS1722 WTO Notifications on EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements](#), and [RS1723 WTO Notification on EAEU Common Phytosanitary Rules](#).

The Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests replaced the national lists of quarantine objects (pests) of the individual EAEU member states, including that of Russia, as of July 1, 2017. However, on July 21, 2017, Rosselkhoznadzor released a [notification](#) that the EAEU List of Quarantine Pests does not contain 57 pests that are of quarantine concern specifically for the territory of the Russian Federation, and that Rosselkhoznadzor considers it necessary to add controls for these quarantine pests. This Rosselkhoznadzor requirement came to force on July 24, 2017; since that date, all regulated products that are imported to or moved within the territory of the Russian Federation are checked and controlled for the presence of quarantine pests that are in the Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests, plus 57 quarantine pests from the [list](#) added by Rosselkhoznadzor “as a temporary measure”. For details please see GAIN report [RS1744 VPSS Adds to its List of Quarantine Pests for Russia](#).

Since 2017, both the Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests and the Unified EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements have been amended to include additional quarantine objects (pests) into the Unified List from the National Lists of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. For details please see GAIN reports [RS1830 Eurasian Economic Union Ag Times No. 2 of 2018](#) and [RS2019-0018 Eurasian Economic Union Ag Times 2019](#). As a result, 46 of the 57 pests from the Rosselkhoznadzor notification above are now covered by the Unified EAEU List and the Phytosanitary Requirements. However, the Rosselkhoznadzor notification still contains eleven additional pests that are relevant for Russia but not covered by the Unified EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements, and Russia’s related “temporary measure” is still in effect.

Additionally, the following Russian laws and regulations continue to apply to the extent they do not contradict the unified EAEU phytosanitary requirements.

According to Russia’s Federal Law No. 206-FZ on Plant Quarantine of 2014 (please see GAIN report [RS1451 Russian New Federal Law on Plant Quarantine](#)), each batch of imported regulated products with high as well as with low phytosanitary risk is subject to quarantine and phytosanitary control at the border. The law also prohibits imports of regulated products into Russia for seeding or planting from foreign countries where the distribution of quarantine organisms typical for such regulated products has been found, except when the sites of growing and shipping of such regulated products are controlled and surveyed by the Russian federal quarantine authorities (Para 8 of Article 22 of the FL on Plant Quarantine).

To implement the provision, the Government issued [Resolution No. 128 of February 8, 2018](#) “On Approval of the Procedure of Quarantine Phytosanitary Control in the Places of Production (Including Processing), Shipment of Regulated Quarantine Products Imported for the purpose of its use for Sowing and Planting from the Foreign Countries or Groups of Foreign Countries where Spread of Specific Quarantine Objects for Such Quarantine Products was Detected, in Accordance with the International Treaties of the Russian Federation”, for details please see GAIN report [RS1644 Draft GOR Regulation on Phyto Control of Imported Planting Seeds](#). In accordance with the Resolution, since 2018, Rosselkhoznadzor has been requesting additional information regarding planned shipments of seed materials to Russia before allowing the import of such goods to Russian importers. In particular, the information on the phytosanitary status of seeds produced in U.S. nurseries, the assortment and planned volumes of seed materials prepared for shipment to the Russian Federation as well as the presence or absence of GE seeds is required. U.S. exporters should work with USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to provide the necessary documents to Rosselkhoznadzor.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

Vitamin-Enrichment Requirements

Currently, there are no mandatory vitamin-enrichment requirements in Russia. Since early 2019, however, the issue has been considered within a government interagency working group on the implementation of the strategy for improving the quality of food products in the Russian Federation until 2030. As a result of the group’s work, Deputy Prime Minister Gordeyev instructed the “competent agencies”, together with the scientific community, to determine the list of products for mandatory vitamin enrichment. Press reports indicate that mandatory iodization of salt and the enrichment of milk with vitamins A and D were discussed. To date, the discussions have not yet materialized in any vitamin-enrichment regulations or requirements.

Dietetic or Special Use Foods

Dietetic and special use foods are covered by the CU Technical Regulation TR TS 027/2012 “On Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Prophylactic Nutrition.” The regulation in Russian can be found [here](#). For English translation of the Technical Regulation, please, see GAIN report [RS1340 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Specialized Foods](#).

Halal / Kosher

No standard requirements.

Food Sanitation Laws / Guidelines

Food sanitation laws and guidelines are covered in Section VI [here](#).

Plant-Based Meat and/or Dairy Alternatives

Plant-based meats and dairy alternatives are subject to conventional food regulations. Russia currently does not have any specific regulations for these products.

Organic Products

For the last five years, the Russian government has been actively promoting the goal of producing organic or “environmentally clean” agricultural products, including the inference to the Russian public that domestic production is “cleaner” than some imported products. On January 1, 2020, President Putin signed the Federal Law No. 280-FZ “On Organic Products and Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation” (the Law) came into force. The document is aimed at creating conditions for sustainable development of eco-production in Russia and regulates manufacturing, storage, transportation, labeling, and marketing of organic products. For more information about the Federal Law, please see GAIN report [RS1823 Russia to Adopt New Law on Organics](#).

Besides the Law, organic products production, storage, transportation, labeling and sale is regulated by the national and interstate standards and a number of subordinate legislations.

The National Standard for Organic Products “Terms and Definitions” provides major terms and definitions related to organics, including the definitions of organic agriculture, organic production, types of organic foods, etc. For more information, please see GAIN report [RFATO003 National Organic Standard Terms and Definitions Approved](#).

The Interstate Standard GOST 33980-2016 “[Organic production. Production regulations, processing, labelling and implementation](#)” (in Russian), which came into force on January 1, 2018 and replaced Russian Standard GOST R 56508-2015. The Standard describes the rules for production, processing, storage, labeling, and sales of organic products. The new Standard was adopted by the Interstate Council of Standardization, Metrology and Certification of the CIS on the 25 of October 2016. Russia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan adopted the standard. The Standard takes into account major provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Standard CAC/GL 32-1999, “Guidelines for the production, processing, labeling and marketing of organically produced foods,” as amended through 2012.

Since January 1, 2017 voluntary organic certification is regulated by the Russian Standard GOST R 57022-2016 “[Organic production. The procedure of voluntary certification](#)” (in Russian). Certification of organic products is possible only by persons complying with the standard GOST R ISO/IEC 17065-2012 “[Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes, and services](#)” (in Russian), and accredited in the national accreditation system by the [Federal Service for Accreditation \(RusAccreditation\)](#). At present, according to RusAccreditation, there are eight certification bodies included in the Register of Accredited Persons and accredited for the certification of organic products among them: [Organic Expert](#), [Organic Certification Ltd](#), [Roskachestvo](#), and [Rosselkhozcentr⁶ branch for the Voronezh Region](#).

⁶ Russian Agricultural Center

Producers of certified organic products should be listed in the unified state register of organic producers, managed by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation. The [order No. 633 of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture](#) of November 19, 2019 defines the procedure for maintaining of the unified state register, including the procedure for providing information by certification bodies about the certified companies and products, as well as procedures for providing information whether an organic product producer is listed in the register or not.

Only companies listed in the unified register of organic products producers have the right to put the unified sign of organic produce on their products, according to the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation [No. 634 “On the procedure for using the unified graphic image \(sign\) of organic products”](#) of November 19, 2019. The order approves the unified image for organic products.



The organic sign should be accompanied by the 2D barcode placed below the organic sign. The rules how to create and print QR-codes are outlined in a separate [instruction](#) (in Russian). Producers have the right to place the unified sign of organic products starting from the first day of being listed in the unified state register for the certificate validity period (three years) and only for the products included in the product list in the register.

Currently, foreign producers who wish to be certified to the Russian organic standard need to conform to the rules and regulations outlined in Federal Law No. 280-FZ. For organic producers who have been certified to the USDA organic standard, USDA certification is not recognized by the Russian government but can be imported with the USDA Organic seal on the label. Those products must follow the same import procedures as conventional products imported into Russia.

Specific Standards for Meat and Poultry Products

Meat and poultry export requirements are frequently revised. Please consult the current export requirements at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/Russia>

The key EAEU regulation covering standards and requirements for meat and meat products is Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Meat and Meat Products” that has been in force since May 1, 2014. For details please see GAIN report [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#).

Specific Standards for Fish and Seafood Products

Specific export procedures for U.S. fish and seafood processors interested in shipping their products to the Russian Federation are published on the U.S. Department of Commerce/National Marine Fisheries Service site: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/export-requirements-country-and-jurisdiction-n-z#russia>

The key EAEU regulation covering standards and requirements for fish and fish products is Technical Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Union “On Safety of Fish and Fish Products” (TR EAEU 040/2016) that for most part came into force as of September 1, 2017. For details please see GAIN report [RS1734 Technical Regulation on Safety of Fish and Fish Products](#).

SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, “The Hygienic Requirements for Foodstuff Safety and Nutritional Value”, also contains requirements for fish and fish products to ensure the quality of frozen fish and products, including the need to specify weight of glaze applied on different categories of seafood, and provide the consumer with more detailed information regarding the product. Please refer to GAIN [RS1027 Amendment to the Russian Sanitary and Labeling Requirements for Fish](#) for more details.

Currently, the following national standards regulate requirements for the products in a particular group:

- [GOST R 51493-99](#) (in Russian) - Frozen eviscerated and uneviscerated fish. Specifications;
- [GOST R 51494-99](#) (in Russian) - Frozen fillets of oceanic and marine fish. Specifications;
- [GOST R 51495-99](#) (in Russian) - Frozen squid. Specifications;
- [GOST R 51496-99](#) (in Russian) - Frozen raw, partially and fully cooked shrimps. Specifications;
- and,
- [GOST R 51497-99](#) (in Russian) - Fish, crustaceans, and cuttlefish. Size categories.

Other imported goods from fish and seafood must meet quality indices in accordance with interstate standards accepted in the CIS countries:

- [GOST 1368-2003](#) (in Russian) - Fish, all types of processing, length and weight;
- [GOST 24896-2013](#) (in Russian) - Live fish, technical specifications;
- [GOST 814-2019](#) (in Russian) - Chilled fish, technical specifications;
- [GOST 30314-2006](#) (in Russian) - Frozen scallop fillet, technical specifications.

Specific Standards for Wine, Beer and Other Alcoholic Beverages

Russia’s Federal Law 171 of 1995 establishes the legislative groundwork for the production and handling of ethyl alcohol, alcohol products, and products containing alcohol in the Russian Federation, including products with ethyl alcohol content exceeding 0.5 percent by volume of the final product, as well as the production and handling of beer, and the production and handling of natural beverages with alcohol content exceeding 1.5 percent and below 22 percent by volume manufactured from wine materials and produced without fortification with ethyl alcohol. This law delineates special requirements for the production and handling of alcoholic beverages and products containing alcohol.

There are many acts of legislation covering alcohol. The principal laws and legislative acts regulating Russia’s alcohol imports are covered in [Section I](#) of this report.

Unified Federal Automated Information System (UFAIS) Registration

In Russia, the UFAIS is a legal framework through which the state controls the production, quality and sale of alcohol. American companies are not required to register with UFAIS. Registration is only required for organizations that produce and/or import ethyl alcohol, alcohol-containing products. The goal of the UFAIS is to account for and control all alcohol beverages in the Russian market and help the GOR collect all alcohol tax revenue. The Federal Service for Alcohol Market Regulation, under the Ministry of Finance (known as Rosalcogolregulirovanie, or FSR) regulates the UFAIS.

Standards

Production of any product on the territory of the Russian Federation is carried out on the basis of standards, also known by their abbreviation as GOSTs. A GOST is a normative legal document, setting out the requirements for the standardization of production processes and services. The state standard formulates state requirements for the quality of products, works and services. GOST standards are established based on the application of modern scientific achievements, technologies and practical experience, taking into account the latest editions of international standards or their drafts. GOST is created for each specific product, setting requirements not only for its production, but also for storage, labeling of products, when the entire path from raw materials to sales to the consumer is extremely detailed. The application of standards is a mandatory requirement for alcohol producers.

Key Russian national standards for alcohol are:

[GOST R 51074-2003](#) (in Russian) – Food products. Information for consumer. General requirements - part 3, wine - 4.17, beer - 4.18.4, vodka and strong alcohol products - 4.19;
[GOST 32098-2013](#) (in Russian) – Vodkas and Special Vodkas, Liqueur and Vodka Products. Packaging, labeling, transportation and storage;
[GOST 32061-2013](#) (in Russian) – Wine products. Packaging, labeling, transportation and storage
[GOST 32030-2013](#) (in Russian) – Table wines and table wine stocks. General Specifications;
[GOST 31729-2015](#) (in Russian) – Wine drinks. General specifications;
[GOST 33336-2015](#) (in Russian) – Sparkling wine. General specifications;
[GOST 33311-2015](#) (in Russian) – Sparkling wines. General rules of production;
[GOST 33287-2015](#) (in Russian) – Wine and wine materials;
[GOST 31711-2012](#) (in Russian) – Beer. General Specifications;
[GOST R 53358-2009](#) (in Russian) – Brewing products. Terminology and definitions;
[GOST 33281-2015](#) (in Russian) – Whiskey. Specification;
[GOST 33458-2015](#) (in Russian) – Rum. Specification.

Licensing

With Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization on August 22, 2012, alcohol import licenses are no longer required.

However, a “wholesale/activity license” is required. The FSR issues wholesale/activity licenses for a maximum of five years. Since January 1, 2015, a state tax of 800,000 Rubles (as established by article 333.33, paragraph 94 of part two of the Tax Code, approx. \$11,200 as of June 17, 2021) should be paid for issuance of an alcohol wholesale license. All importers of alcohol products must have a wholesale license in order to obtain the necessary excise stamps and to produce or distribute and store alcoholic products.

Section VIII: Trademarks, Brand Names and Intellectual Property Rights

Russian intellectual property (IP) legislation consists, for the most part, of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, specifically Part Four (“Part IV of the Civil Code”) put into force in 2008 by Federal Laws No. 230-FZ and No. 231-FZ, dated December 18, 2006. Parts I-III of the Russian Civil Code also set

out certain general provisions pertaining to legal protection of IP rights. Part IV covers a broad range of IP-related goods and activities, which are subject to the same principles of protection and sanctions in the case of infringement in compliance with international treaties and practices, in particular the WTO Trade-Related Intellectual Property Agreement (TRIPS).

Any foreign legal entity or individual may seek protection for its/his/her intellectual property rights in Russia, if the requirements of the law are satisfied. Russia is a signatory to major international treaties on intellectual property rights, including the Universal Copyright Convention, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Madrid Agreement on the International Registration of Trademarks, the Protocol to the Madrid Agreement, the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty.

Chapter 76 of Part IV of the Civil Code governs trademarks. The provisions regulate registration and protection of trademarks (including well-known marks), service marks, firm names, and appellation of origin/geographical indications. Infringement of rights to a trademark, service mark or appellation of origin of goods may entail civil, administrative or criminal liability.

Trademarks and Service Marks

Under Part IV of the Russian Civil Code, trademarks (service marks) are designations individualizing goods or services of legal persons and individual entrepreneurs. Legal protection of trademarks and service marks is granted by virtue of their registration with Russia's Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent) or by virtue of international registration under the international agreements to which the Russian Federation is a party. A mark may be represented by a word or words, pictures, three-dimensional signs, and other designations or combinations thereof. A trademark may be registered in any color or color combination.

Trademark and service mark protection is granted for ten years from the filing date of the application and may be renewed during the last year of its validity for a subsequent ten-year period. Trademark and service mark registration is cancelled if its term expires without having been renewed. Trademark and service mark legal protection may be terminated upon a request from an interested party with respect to all or part of the respective goods and services due to non-use of the trademark or service mark during any continuous three-year period counted from the registration date. Assignments and licenses of trademarks and service marks must be registered with Rospatent. In the absence of such registration, they are deemed null and void.

Appellation of Origin of Goods

An appellation of origin is a name constituting or containing a current or historical denomination of a country, settlement, locality or other geographic unit (hereinafter referred to as a "geographic unit") or a derivative of such denomination that has become known as a result of its use with respect to goods the specific features of which are mainly or exclusively determined by natural conditions or human factors which are characteristic of such geographic unit. A designation which, through representing or containing the name of a geographic unit, has entered in the Russian Federation into the public domain as a designation of goods of a certain type (has become generic) not connected with the place of production thereof shall not be recognized as the appellation of the origin of those goods.

Legal protection is given to an appellation of origin of goods based on its registration with Rospatent. An appellation of origin of goods may be registered in the name of one or more persons. The person or persons that have duly registered an appellation of origin of goods obtain the right to use such appellation, if the goods manufactured by such person(s) satisfy the criteria mentioned above. The right to use an appellation of origin of goods may be granted to any legal entity or individual, which produces goods with the same specific features within the same territory. The term of protection is granted for ten years from the date of filing the application and may be renewed for a subsequent ten-year period. The owner may not grant licenses for use of the appellation of origin of goods.

Section IX: Import Procedures

It is recommended that the importer, with the help of up-to-date information sources, check all import documents closely and ensure they do not violate Russian law and Russian agencies' product-specific regulations, including rules that change due to EAEU development and WTO accession.

While the formation of the EAEU is ultimately expected to allow customs clearance of imported goods on the external border of the Eurasian Economic Union, currently, during a transitional period as defined by Article 449 of the EAEU Customs Code, the EAEU customs declaration is based on the "residency principle", i.e., the applicant shall submit a customs declaration only to specific customs bodies of the country where the applicant is registered or permanently lives in the EAEU. The residency principle will apply until entry into force of a relevant international agreement between the EAEU Member States allows for the presentation of the goods declaration to any customs office in the EAEU.

Currently, goods that are supplied into Russia through Kazakhstan and Belarus are placed under the transit customs regime at the external border of the Eurasian Economic Union and are finally released for free circulation by the Russian customs authorities.

It is recommended that customs clearance be carried out by an agency located in the country where the customs clearance must be performed, or at least by a representative of this party *in situ*.

Import permits are issued in the name of physical or legal entities that are officially registered in the territory of the Russian Federation with the Russian tax authorities. Typically, a product's exporter handles export customs-clearance and the product's importer handles import customs-clearance.

EAEU Classification of Commodities and Customs Tariff

All imported commodities are classified in accordance with the Codes of the Customs Commodities' Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union. The descriptions of the current edition of the Nomenclature and the EAEU Customs Tariff as well as customs tariff rates, as currently amended, can be found online at: [EAEU Unified Customs Tariff](#). The EAEU codes are similar, but not identical to the U.S. Customs Service Harmonized Code numbers. As of January 1, 2017, the EAEU Commodity Codes were updated to reflect the HS Nomenclature [2017 Edition](#).

Customs Payments

Customs duties, fees, and the value-added tax (VAT) are usually paid in advance to avoid delays in customs clearance. Customs duties, payments, and taxes depend on the type of product and are calculated based on the customs value of the product. The customs value of goods imported into the EAEU, which is used as a basis for calculation of the import custom duties and taxes, includes the cost of goods, insurance costs, and costs of transportation of the goods to the customs border. Depending on the actual circumstances, including contractual arrangements, an importer may, in addition, have to include royalties (payable for the right to use trademarks and other IP rights in order to resell the goods) or other income into the customs value of those goods, provided that the importer must directly or indirectly (e.g., via third parties) pay those royalties, other license fees and/or other income as a direct consequence of importation of the goods being valued at customs.

Traders should use the EAEU Customs Tariff and the Russian Tax Code to calculate customs duties and fees. Customs duties, fees, and payments are calculated based on rates from the customs value of the goods and are assigned while developing the consignment's customs declaration. Tariff rates are subject to change, so importers and exporters should monitor amendments to the tariff schedule. Customs clearance fees are currently established by the [Russian Government Decree No. 342 of March 26, 2020](#). As of the date of Russia's WTO accession, Russia cut its maximum customs clearance fee from 100,000 rubles (approx. \$1,388 as of June 17, 2021) to 30,000 rubles (approx. \$416 as of June 17, 2021).

Approximately three days before the shipment is due to arrive, the importer must transfer money into a designated bank deposit to pay for customs fees and taxes based on the shipment's value.

Customs Clearance

Customs clearance usually occurs at the point of destination and depending on the products' category could take from several hours to several days, usually between two and four days. In Russia, imported goods may not be legally released for free circulation until the customs authority authorizes the delivery (entry) of the goods into mainland Russian territory, confirmed by a special ("vypusk razreshyon" - release granted) stamp of the customs authorities placed on the customs declaration. Imported goods are normally cleared at customs either before their shipment to Russian customs territory or at the time the goods reach the designated customs house/post (and are placed in a special temporary customs warehouse, if needed).

Customs clearance is normally completed by the importer who files the appropriate documents. The main document required for customs clearance is the customs declaration, which should be filed by the importer (or a customs agent acting on its behalf). The importer is also, generally, required to submit the following documents:

- Documents confirming the authority of an entity or individual(s) to represent the importer/exporter before the customs authorities (e.g., customs broker agreement or power of attorney);
- Documents confirming the legal capacity of the entities, data on which is indicated in the customs cargo declaration, to operate on Russian territory (e.g., statutory documents, the

- accreditation certificate of the branch or representative office of a legal entity, the passport (ID) of an individual, the state registration certificate of a legal entity or individual entrepreneur, etc.);
- Relevant tax registration documents of such entities;
 - Supporting documentation with respect to the declared customs value of the goods (e.g., foreign trade contract, payment documentation, exporter’s official price lists, etc.);
 - A foreign-trade contract and/or other commercial documents relevant to the products being declared, as required for the selected customs regime (e.g., commercial invoice from the supplier/exporter, shipping documentation, e.g., for sea transportation – the Bill of Lading, for vehicle transportation - CMR);
 - A “transaction passport” for the foreign-trade contract, which is a currency control document issued by the importer’s Russian bank (the Russian importer would have to provide the supply contract with its foreign supplier to its local bank for the purposes of opening and registering the “transaction passport”);
 - Documents proving the right to apply tariff preferences or tax benefits, if any;
 - A country of origin certificate;
 - A certificate of conformity, declaration of conformity, sanitary registration certificate;
 - Supporting payment documents proving that the relevant customs payments have been made (e.g., cash payment orders, other payment documentation);
 - Documents proving the provision of security for making customs payments; other guarantees, if required (if customs payments have been made in full for the customs clearance of imported products, this provision would not be applicable);
 - Transportation documents for international carriage of goods;
 - A phytosanitary certificate and/or veterinary health certificate, if applicable; and,
 - Other certificates and licenses, if required.

These documents must be issued in the name of the importer and must be in the Russian language. The above is a general list of the documents required for the customs clearance of goods under any customs regime declared for importation into Russia; the list of the required documents may be expanded for a given customs regime. At the request of the customs authorities, the importer should also present additional documents relevant to the importation at issue.

By law, the customs clearance of goods in Russia should be performed within one day after the importer has submitted, and the Russian customs authorities have accepted, all the required documentation. However, because the customs authorities control the moment when this term starts, in practice the customs clearance process may take longer than the statutory term.

According to the Customs Code of the EAEU, the customs clearance of goods is shortened to just one day after receipt of the customs declaration (under the Russian Customs Code the goods should have been cleared within three days). At the same time, the legislation provides for the right of a customs inspector to extend that term by up to ten days at his/her discretion.

Section X: Trade Facilitation

E-Certification

While both Russia and the EAEU have declared transition to e-certification as their ultimate goal, the necessary regulations and mechanisms are yet to be established and implemented.

Pre-Arrival Submission

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 56](#) of April 17, 2018, mandates a pre-arrival submission of information about goods imported into the EAEU customs territory by automobile transport two hours prior to the good's arrival.

The scope of a pre-arrival submission is as follows:

- The sender, recipient of the goods in accordance with the transportation (shipment) documents; their names and addresses;
- The seller and the buyers of the goods in accordance with the commercial documents of the carrier;
- Country of origin, country of destination;
- The declarant;
- The carrier, its name and address;
- The vehicle of international transport that carried the goods, or its state registration;
- The name, quantity, value of goods in accordance with the commercial, transportation (shipment) documents;
- Code of the goods in accordance with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System or the Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union for at least the first six digits;
- Gross weight or volume of goods, as well as the quantity of goods in additional units (if such information is available) for each code of the Nomenclature for Foreign Economic Affairs of the Eurasian Economic Union or the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System;
- The number of packages; their labeling and types of packaging;
- The destination of the goods in accordance with the transportation (shipment) documents;
- Documents confirming compliance with the restrictions associated with the movement of goods across the customs border of the Eurasian Economic Union, if such movement is permitted;
- Planned transshipment of goods or cargo operations in a way;
- Time and place of arrival of goods into the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union.
- Availability of goods whose import into the customs territory of prohibited or restricted;
- Place and date of drawing up international commodity transport bill of lading.

According to the [EEC Collegium Decision No. 57](#) of April 17, 2018, pre-arrival submission of information about goods imported into the EAEU customs territory via railway is required two to four hours prior to the good's arrival. For details, please see GAIN reports [RS1349 Draft CU Pre-Notification Requirement for Imports by Rail](#) and [RS1830 Eurasian Economic Union Ag Times No. 2 of 2018](#).

Pre-arrival submission of information about goods imported into the EAEU customs territory by air is mandated by the [EEC Collegium Decision No. 62](#) of April 24, 2018.

Finally, as of July 1, 2019, the [EEC Collegium Decision No. 51](#) of April 10, 2018, introduced a pre-arrival submission of information about goods imported into the EAEU customs territory by water transport no later than six hours prior to the good's arrival.

Typical Errors When Supplying Foodstuffs to Russia

Listed below are the Russian authorities' most common reasons for prohibiting or suspending suppliers' imports of controlled products to Russia:

- Documentary discrepancies (e.g., incorrect veterinary certificate; incorrect information in the veterinary certificate, including incorrect name of products or facilities, incorrect vehicle or facility or seal number, incorrect dates of production, incorrect number of packages or weight, missing facility information, missing stamp or signature of the approving veterinarian, unendorsed amendments in the veterinary certificate);
- Absence of an import permit;
- Imports from uncertified (unapproved) or restricted facilities;
- Missing original veterinary certificate (products are accompanied only by a copy of the veterinary certificate);
- Absence (non-conformity) of labeling; and,
- Non-conformity with sanitary-hygienic requirements.

Sometimes imports are detained because importers (legal entities, individual entrepreneurs) do not request official information from the producer about the safety of the product, including the use of pesticides, the contracts signed to supply the food products do not spell out the requirements for labels in the Russian language; and/or how potentially dangerous products can be returned to the supplier. Other problems include price discrepancies and/or failure to pay fees.

Exporters should be prepared for requests for the following documents from importers:

- For food materials of plant origin – information about pesticides used when growing the plants, fumigation of the premises, storage methods for pest control, etc.;
- For food materials of animal origin – information about the use of veterinary preparations indicating the name of the veterinary product and the withdrawal period;
- Documents confirming the quality and safety of products for human consumption; and,
- Consignment layout showing how the transportation vehicle was loaded (e.g., on pallets).

Appendix I: Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

1. Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor)
107139, Moscow, Orlikov per., 1/11
Tel: 011 7 (499) 975-4347
Fax: 011 7 (495) 607-5111
https://fsvps.gov.ru/fsvps/main.html?_language=en

Rosselkhoznadzor reports to the Ministry of Agriculture: <https://mcx.gov.ru/en/>

2. The Federal Service for Surveillance of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare (Rospotrebnadzor)
127994, Moscow, Vadkovskiy per. 18, bld. 5 and 7
Tel: 011 7 (499) 973-2690
E-mail: depart@gsen.ru
<https://www.rospotrebnadzor.ru/en/>

Rospotrebnadzor Testing and Registration Center
121087, Moscow, Bagrationovskiy proezd, 8. bld. 2
Tel: 011 7 (499) 151-3223, (499) 151-1189
Fax: 011 7 (499) 151-0856
<http://www.crc.ru>

Rospotrebnadzor reports to the Government of the Russian Federation:
<http://www.government.ru/en/>

3. Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology (Rosstandart)
119991, Moscow, Leninskiy Prospekt, 9
Tel: 011 7 (499) 236-0300
Fax: 011 7 (499) 236-6231, 237-6032
E-mail: info@gost.ru
<https://www.gost.ru/portal/eng/home>

Rosstandart reports to the Ministry of Industry and Trade: <https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/en/>

4. Federal Service for Regulation of the Alcohol Market (Rosalkoholregulirovaniye)
125993, Moscow, Miuskaya pl. 3, bld. 4
Tel: 011 7 (495) 587-0333
Fax: 011 7 (499) 587-0330
E-mail: info@fsrar.ru
<http://fsrar.ru>

Rosalkoholregulirovaniye reports to the Ministry of Finance: <https://minfin.gov.ru/en/>

5. The Federal Customs Service of Russia (FTS)

121087, Moscow, Novozavodskaya ul. 11/5
Tel: 011 7 (499) 449-7771, 449-7675
Fax: 011 7 (495) 913-9390, (499) 449-7300
<https://eng.customs.gov.ru/>

FTS reports to the Ministry of Finance: <https://minfin.gov.ru/en/>

6. Eurasian Economic Commission

115114, Moscow, Letnikovskaya ul., 2, bld. 1, bld. 2
Tel/Fax: 011 7 (495) 669-2400, (495) 669-2415
<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts

Certification bodies

- VNIIS –certification/declaration of conformity
Russian Research Institute for Certification (VNIIS)
3/10, Elektricheskiy per., Bld. 1
123557, Moscow
Tel. 011 7 (499) 253-7006
Fax 011 7 (499) 253-3360
E-mail: vniis@vniis.ru
<http://www.vniis.ru>
- VGNKI - Russian State Agricultural Research Institute of Control, Standardization, and Certification of Veterinary Substances
123022, Moscow, Zvenigorodskoye Shosse 5
Tel/fax: 011 7 (495) 982-5084
E-mail: kanc@vgnki.ru
<http://en.vgnki.ru/>
- ROSTEST– all procedures for quality control and safety control
“Rostest - Moskva”, Russian Center for Test and Certification, GOSSTANDART
Nakhimovsky prospect, 31
117418, Moscow
Tel. 011 7 (495) 544-0000
E-mail: spravka@rostest.ru
<http://www.rostest.ru>
- ROS-TEST, St. Petersburg
29 A, Lit. B, Bolshoi prospect P.S., office 306
St. Petersburg
Tel.: 011 7 (812) 425-7406
Fax: 001 7 (812) 425-7406
E-mail: info@ros-test.ru
www.ros-test.ru

Attachment

Attachments: [RS2021-0022 - Sample Declaration.docx](#)