

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 14, 2021

**Report Number:** RS2021-0021

**Report Name:** VPSS Introduces Contrasting Proposals on the Importation and Transportation of GE Products To and Within the Russian Federation

**Country:** Russian Federation

**Post:** Moscow

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Oilseeds and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The Russian Federation recently extended the waiver on a previously established ban of imports of some GE soybeans and soybean meal without state registration to January 1, 2022. Since this extension, the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) has introduced contradictory proposals which apply enhanced control over imports of GE commodities and seeds including their movements in the Russian territory. FAS Moscow recommends U.S. companies planning to export to the Russian Federation confirm with their counterparts and importing partners the specific requirements for the particular commodity they plan to import.

On April 16, 2020, the Russian Government signed Decree #520, which temporarily lifted the ban on imported genetically engineered (GE) soybeans and soybean meal to Russia. The Decree allowed imports of some GE soybeans and meal previously prohibited for the period from April 20, 2020 through January 1, 2021, without state registration. This waiver applies only to GE soybeans and GE soy meal whose registration in Russia had expired and had to be accompanied by the Expert Conclusion from the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, (VPSS), granted when the feed was previously registered. For more information please refer to [RS2020-0022 Russia Temporarily Lifts Requirements for GE Registration of Soybeans and Soybean Meal](#) and [RS2020-0027 Additional Conditions for Import of GE Soy and Soy Meal to Russia under Decree 520](#).

On December 29, 2020 the waiver lifting the ban on importing some GE soybeans and soy meal to Russia was extended through January 1, 2022 by [Decree #2338](#), which was signed January 12, 2021 by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin. These measures were taken so that the Russian market would be fully saturated with soybeans and soybean meal to meet the needs of the feed-producing industry and to create competition in the soy meal market.

Important note: The simplified process created by these measures for some GE soy and soy meal imports for this period of time does not apply to all GE soy and related imports, and does not mean they can be imported into Russia without controls. Only GE soy lines that were previously registered in Russia and underwent numerous safety studies meet the simplified import requirements.

In contrast to these measures noted above, VPSS then made a contrasting announcement. On January 12, 2021 VPSS announced on its website (<https://fsvps.gov.ru/fsvps/news/39377.html>) a proposal to enhance control over any GE seeds and plants imported to Russia or transiting Russian territory to other Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) countries. According to the announcement, VPSS intends to develop general standards and unified approaches that will apply to all GE commodities and seeds and will control their imports and transportation within the country's borders and in the Customs Union.

Given the recent contradictory regulatory measures indicated above, FAS Moscow recommends that U.S. companies planning to export their products to Russia confirm their counterparts and importing firms the specific importing requirements for grains, oilseeds, feeds and other commodities supplied from the United States. Translated texts of Decree # 520 and Decree # 2338 are provided below.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION:

**GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**DECREE**

**No. 520 of «16» April, 2020**

**MOSCOW**

**On products and genetically modified organisms that are not subject to state registration in accordance with the Rules for state registration of genetically modified organisms intended for release into the environment, as well as products obtained using such organisms or containing such organisms, including the specified products imported into the territory of the Russian Federation, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of September 23, 2013 N 839**

The Government of the Russian Federation decrees:

To establish that until January 1, 2021, inclusively, the state registration of genetically modified organisms intended for release into the environment, as well as products obtained using such organisms or containing such organisms, including the specified products imported into the territory of the Russian Federation, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of September 23, 2013 No. 839 "On genetically modified organisms intended for release into the environment, as well as products obtained using such organisms or containing such organisms, including the specified products imported into the territory Russian Federation" the following products are not subject hereof:

products intended for production of animal feed (soybeans and soybean meal), the safety of which has been confirmed by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance in the manner prescribed by the Regulation on the state registration of feeds obtained from genetically modified organisms, approved by the Government of the Russian Federation Federation of January 18, 2002 No. 26 "On state registration of feeds obtained from genetically modified organisms";

genetically modified organisms, with the use of which the products specified in paragraph two of this decree, and (or) genetically modified organisms that such products contain.

Head of the Government of the Russian Federation

M. Mishustin

**GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**DECREE**

**No. 2338 of «29» December, 2020**

**MOSCOW**

**On amending Decree # 520 of the Government of the Russian Federation**

**dated April 16, 2020**

The Government of the Russian Federation decrees:

1. In the first paragraph of the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated April 16, 2020 No. 520 “On products and genetically modified organisms that are not subject to state registration in accordance with the Rules for state registration of genetically modified organisms intended for release into the environment, as well as products obtained using such organisms or containing such organisms, including the specified products imported into the territory of the Russian Federation, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of September 23, 2013 N 839” (Collection of Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation, 2020, No. 17, art. 2762) the numbers "2021" shall be replaced by "2022".
2. The present decree shall enter into force on the date of its official publishing.

Head of the Government of the Russian Federation

M. Mishustin

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.