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Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the food and agricultural product import requirements for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Important points of contact for U.S. food exporters are listed in the appendices. Sections updated in June 2022: Executive Summary; Section I. Food Laws; Section II. Labeling Requirements; Section IV. Food Additive Regulations; and Section V. Pesticide and Other Contaminants.

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Disclaimer: "The Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina has prepared this report for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was 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

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has been a potential candidate for European Union (EU) membership since 2003 and continues to harmonize its regulations with the EU’s Acquis. Therefore, BiH largely uses EU standards and regulations, including those restrictive to U.S products. BiH is not a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) but has been negotiating for membership and is close to completing that process (subject to resolution of certain remaining technical issues).

BiH is comprised of two entities: The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS), which are responsible for agricultural policy and food safety, and inspection issues in their respective territory. In addition, a self-governing administrative unit, the District of Brcko (BD), was established in March 2000. State and entity-level regulations may differ, as well as the regulations between the entities and the district. The entities and the district’s procedures to clear shipments at the border and collect fees may be different for the same commodities depending on the border crossing. Therefore, U.S. exporters should contact the FAS Sarajevo office if there is any confusion about the requirements.

BiH maintains an escalating trade deficit, with imports almost two times greater than exports. Approximately 70 percent of the domestic need for agricultural and food products is met through imports. The main trading partners are EU and the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) countries. Market opportunities include relatively low import duties and cost of market entry/promotion, while challenges consist of a complicated dual system of government, low incomes, and poor infrastructure. Growing tourism brings new opportunities for U.S. beef, wine, and seafood.

In 2021, total U.S. agricultural and fish exports to BiH were valued at \$15.5 million (one percent of BiH’s total agricultural and fish imports) and consisted of whey protein, tree nuts (almonds, pistachios, and walnuts), whiskey, frozen hake, and dried fruits (cranberries). Total U.S. agricultural and fish imports from BiH were valued at \$4.9 million in 2021. The key exports from BiH were coffee, processed grain products, and alcohol.

Most U.S. origin products are shipped to BiH through neighboring countries (e.g., EU) and therefore may not appear as a U.S. origin import. Actual U.S. exports are likely considerably higher than indicated above.

No significant changes are expected in agricultural and food regulations and standards for the upcoming year.

Section I. Food Laws

Under the Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is divided into two entities: The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS). The entities manage agricultural policy and food safety and inspection issues in their respective territory, and there is no national-level agricultural ministry. In the absence of a national agricultural ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER) has taken the lead in the establishment of a food safety system based on international requirements arising from the WTO, SPS, and TBT agreements. An agricultural department has been established within the MOFTER to coordinate development of basic legislation in the veterinary, phytosanitary, quality control and food safety areas along with the establishment and oversight of institutions that are directly responsible for their implementation:

- The BiH State Veterinary Office (SVO) is an administrative organization within MOFTER responsible for developing draft regulations in the veterinary area relating to international trade, veterinary border inspection, and coordination of activities between the entity authorities and cooperation at the international level
- The BiH Plant Health Protection Administration (PHPA) is an administrative organization within the MOFTER responsible for developing policy in the area of plant health protection, preparing legislation, and overseeing implementation and coordination with the competent authorities of the entities and international cooperation in this area
- The BiH Food Safety Agency (FSA) is an independent administrative organization that reports directly to the Council of Ministers. In addition to all types of scientific activities linked to food and animal feed risk analysis, the Agency initiates, prepares and organizes the development of implementing regulations based on the Food Law and represents a point of contact for the activities of BiH in the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It performs these activities in cooperation with the SVO, PHPA, and competent authorities.

The four most important food-related national-level laws are: The Veterinary Law (BiH Official Gazette # 34/02), the Food Law (BiH Official Gazette # 50/04), the Law on Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (BiH Official Gazette # 50/08), and the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (BiH Official Gazette # 23/09).

BiH food laws and regulations are still a mixture of former Yugoslavia laws and new laws that mirror EU legislation as part of the EU integration process. Often, the state and entity-level regulations differ, as well as the regulations between the entities. For example, the entities' procedures to clear shipments at the border and collect fees may be different for the same commodities depending on the border

crossing. U.S. exporters should contact the FAS Sarajevo office if there is any confusion about the requirements.

Foreign trade and customs policies

The Law on BiH Foreign Trade Policy and the Law on BiH Customs Tariffs exist at the state level. The Law on BiH Foreign Trade policy promotes the free trade of goods and services. Officially, restrictions and import bans are applied to protect public health and the domestic market against subsidized or dumped products and to prohibit discrimination against imports or products from a particular country.

BiH has a single ministry in charge of foreign trade issues: The Ministry of Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER). MOFTER is a “super” institution on the national level, in charge of high-level trade issues such as international agreements and special agreements on trade with other countries.

BiH is not yet a member of the WTO but started accession negotiations in 1999. BiH is a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) which includes Albania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo. Trade with the European Union has been significantly liberalized and regulated through the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) between the EU and BiH signed in June 2008. BiH currently has status as a potential candidate for EU membership. Following that, custom duties for most agricultural and food products were either abolished or gradually phased out until January 1, 2013, except for certain meat products, fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and sugar. In September 2016, BiH and the EU initialed the Protocol on Trade to the SAA that was adapted to reflect Croatian EU membership in July 2013. The adapted EU-BiH SAA that entered into force on February 1, 2017, supported unlimited duty-free access for BiH fruits and vegetables and opened higher quotas for fish and wine coming from BiH into the EU market. On the other side, BiH established higher duty-free quotas for sugar, cigarettes, beef, pork, milk, poultry products and potatoes imported from the EU.

BiH has established a common customs administration, the Indirect Tax Administration (ITA) and according to the Law on BiH Customs Tariffs, the country applies a single customs policy for imports. The Harmonized System (HS) of commodity description and coding, developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO), is applied. Customs tariffs for agricultural products range from 0, 5, 10 and 15 percent with an additional charge for some agricultural products based on unit weight, in KM /kg ranging from KM 0.08 (\$0.05) /per unit to KM 6.00 (\$3.5) /per unit (for product specific tariff information, please check the following link: [BiH Customs Tariff Book](#)).

Taxes are applied at the same rates for locally produced and imported goods. BiH applies a single value-added tax (VAT) of 17 percent.

Food safety

While foreign trade and customs policies are unified at the national level, the food safety responsibility is still shared between the national-level and the entity-level authorities, including prior import approvals, food certificates and food regulations/requirements. Only imported animal products are controlled at the national level. Imported plant products are controlled by entity-level authorities that work according to different regulations.

The BiH Government has tried to unify veterinary and phytosanitary laws and regulations. A national-level, State Veterinary Office (SVO) was established in December 2000, and a common veterinary law was adopted to harmonize the entity laws. Consequently, the SVO started to control imports and exports of animal origin products and took control of veterinary border inspections. The state-level Plant Health Protection Administration (PHPA) and the Food Safety Agency (FSA) were established in 2005 and 2006. These agencies oversee policy issues, drafting regulations, improving food safety and plant health protection, serving as the inquiry point and representing BiH internationally. The MOFTER is the umbrella organization for the PHPA and SVO, while the FSA is under direct authority of the Council of Ministers (state government).

The entity-level veterinary, phytosanitary, food, sanitary and market inspections have been reorganized. These inspections used to be part of the entity ministries of agriculture, health and trade but now are part of a consolidated joint entity inspectorate.

The MOFTER, the SVO, the entities' ministries of agriculture, health and trade, and the entity inspectorates share responsibility for food safety. The SVO issues import requirements and import approvals for live animals and animal products, while PHPA has the responsibility to issue final import permits for seeds, planting material and pesticides, based on the entities' phytosanitary department's technical opinion. The SVO border inspectors and the entities' phytosanitary inspectors inspect goods at border crossings.

The entities' food, phytosanitary, and sanitary inspectors are responsible for the wholesomeness of imported foods. Inspections take place at border crossings or, more commonly, at the customs clearance point.

The entities' market inspectors in the Federation and food inspectors in the Republika Srpska oversee food quality control. They inspect imported food products at the customs point and randomly check imported and locally produced food at retail distribution points. The inspection checks include the following steps:

- Documentary check
- Fulfillment of requirements check
- Products physical appearance check (visual and organoleptic)
- Additional check (product sampling and delivery of samples to an authorized laboratory for testing, if needed).

“BAS” is the officially recognized Bosnian voluntary standard (Law on Standardization, BiH Official Gazette #19/02) that replaced old former Yugoslavia JUS standards. Most newly adopted food laws and regulations are in-line with European Union (EU) directives. Future laws and regulations will also be harmonized because BiH has undertaken major political and economic reforms with the goal of eventual accession to the EU.

The following laws and regulations are relevant both for locally processed and imported foods:

- *The state-level Food Law (adopted in November 2004, BiH Official Gazette # 50/04)* regulates the following issues:

- Establishment of the state-level Food Safety Agency
- General principles and requirements concerning the safety of food and animal feed
- Responsibilities of the relevant persons in the food business and cattle feed business regarding the safety of food and animal feed
- General conditions for placing novel food on the market
- General conditions for placing animal feed that contains or consists of genetically modified organisms on the market
- Official control system
- Official research laboratories and reference laboratories
- Crisis management and emergencies management, etc.

The Law is just a framework law that is followed by specific and detailed regulations/bylaws. The FSA has made considerable progress starting in late 2008 with the adoption of a new food regulation based on the Food Law. The most important regulations are listed in the Table 1.

Table 1. Most Important Food Regulation (until June 2022)

Regulation	Official Gazette (OG) #	Amended regulation OG #
Food Law	50/04	-
Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	23/09	-
Bylaw on Honey and other Bee Products	37/09	65/10 and 25/11
Bylaw on Salt for Human Consumption	39/09	30/12
Bylaw on Sugar	25/10	-
Bylaw on Natural Mineral and Spring Water	26/10	32/12
Bylaw on Origin Marks and Geographical Indication Marks	27/10	-
Bylaw on Traditional Food Labels	27/10	-
Bylaw on Bottled Water	40/10	43/10
Bylaw on Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	42/10	-
<i>Bylaw on Restriction of Epoxy Derivates in Food Packaging</i>	42/10	-
Bylaw on Ceramic Articles in Contact with Food	42/10	-
Bylaw on Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	42/10	82/11
Bylaw on Grain Products	76/10	-
Bylaw on Pasta, Pastry and Pastry Products	77/10	-
Bylaw on Bakery Products	77/10	-

Regulation	Official Gazette (OG) #	Amended regulation OG #
Bylaw on Beer	77/10	97/10 and 30/12
Bylaw on Edible Vegetable Oils, Edible Vegetable Fats and Mayonnaise	21/11	37/11
Bylaw on Lubricating Grease	21/11	-
Bylaw on Raw Milk	21/11	62/14 and 17/19
Bylaw on Dairy Products and Starter Cultures	21/11	17/19
Bylaw on Condensed Milk and Milk Powder	21/11	-
Bylaw on Edible Casein and Caseinates	21/11	-
Bylaw on Active and Intelligent Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	25/11	-
Bylaw on Food Treated with Ionizing Radiation	50/11	-
Bylaw on Quick-Frozen Foods for Human Consumption	51/11	-
Bylaw on Spices, Spice Extracts and Spice Mixes	51/11	-
Bylaw on Cacao and Chocolate Products	51/11	-
Bylaw on Biscuits and Similar Products	51/11	-
Bylaw on Egg Products	51/11	-
Bylaw on Tea, Herbal Tea, Fruit Tea, and Instant Tea	54/11	-
Bylaw on Dietary Foods for Special Medical Purposes	71/11	-
Bylaw on Food Intended for Use in Energy-Restricted Diet for Weight Loss	71/11	-
Bylaw on Foods Enriched with Nutrients	72/11	68/14
Bylaw on Foods Intended for Particular Nutritional Uses	72/11	-
Bylaw on Coffee, Coffee Products Surrogates and Surrogate Products	72/11	-
Bylaw on the Conditions and Procedures for Issuing Permits for Placing Novel Foods for the First Time on BiH Market and Special Labeling Requirements for Novel Foods	68/12	-
Bylaw on Chocolate-Like Products, Cream Products and Bonbons	78/12	-
Bylaw on Starch and Starch Based Products	80/12	-
Bylaw on Fruit Jams, Jellies, Marmalades, Jam and Sweet Chestnut Puree	85/12	-
Bylaw on Composition and Labeling of Foods Suitable for Gluten Intolerant Persons	105/12	-
Bylaw on Infant Formulas and Formulas After Breastfeeding	105/12	4/15
Bylaw on Food Hygiene	4/13	-

Regulation	Official Gazette (OG) #	Amended regulation OG #
Bylaw on Microbiological Criteria for Food	11/13	79/16 and 64/18
Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers	68/13	-
Bylaw on Ground meat, Semi-Final Products and Meat Products	82/13	84/17
Bylaw on Food Enzymes	66/14	-
Bylaw on Maximum Permitted Amounts for Food Contaminants	68/14	79/16 and 84/18
Bylaw on Use of Food Flavors	78/14	-
Bylaw on Food Additives	33/18	6/21
Bylaw on Fruit Juices and Similar Products Intended for Human Consumption	84/19	-
Bylaw on Maximum Pesticide Residues Levels in and on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin	48/21	-

- ***The Bylaw on Official Controls Performed in Accordance with Food, Feed and Animal Welfare Regulations*** (BiH Official Gazette #5/13 and #62/17) stipulates general rules of official control of all food and feed. Enforcement is conducted according to the entity laws on inspection (Federation OG #73/14 and Republika Srpska OG #74/10), based on the annual inspection plan.

- ***The Law on Sanitary Requirements of Food and Goods for General Use*** (taken from former Yugoslavia Official Gazette 53/91) applies to foods, spices, additives, processing equipment, wrapping material, as well as tobacco and products. It regulates both food hygiene (subject to the specific ordinances regulating presence of pathogenic microorganisms, parasites, pesticides and other contaminants, mechanical residues, changes in food quality due to the physical, chemical, microbiological, and other processes, expiration date, original package, and bulk-packaged labeling) and nutritive value (subject to the specific ordinances regulating quality of each type of food). Sanitary inspectors in the Federation work following this Law. The sanitary and food inspectors in the Republika Srpska work in accordance with the 2017 Food Law (RS Official Gazette 19/17) that regulates the general conditions for food safety and feed, obligations and responsibilities for food business operators, protection of public health, environment, consumers, and to ensure the market functions efficiently.

Quality control for all types of products is done by visual checks and for products listed in the above-mentioned Laws (almost everything that is considered a food), additional safety checks are done using laboratory testing on basic ingredients. Visual checks involve product identification (origin, type, quantity), determining if labeling and packaging requirements have been met, and checking for the necessary statements containing the importer's name and address, the product's general appearance, taste, flavor, presence of residues, color, structure, etc. Specific ordinances define sampling procedures.

Quality control of imported products can be done again after the import procedure has been completed and prior to retail distribution on the market. Inspection can be done also after retail distribution.

The quality of individual groups of products is subject to specific ordinances (e.g., Bylaw on Meat and Meat Products, Bylaw on Grain Products, Bylaw on Honey, and Other Bee Products, etc.).

- *The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms or GMO (BiH Official Gazette # 23/09)* is an overarching law for biotechnology. This Law sets general conditions for limited use, importation, deliberate release into environment, and marketing of products that are composed of GMOs, contain GMOs, or are derived from GMOs. The law is only a framework law, thus BiH's Council of Ministers recently adopted six bylaws that set up procedures to import and market biotech products. The bylaws also set up procedures to assess risks, monitor compliance, and register products.

Section II. Labeling Requirements

General Labeling Requirements

The Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers (BiH OG #68/13) and the Republika Srpska Law on Food Labeling (RS OG #47/15) prescribe general requirements for the labeling of food intended for distribution to final consumers or public food facilities. It defines responsibilities of food business operators, includes a list of substances that can cause allergies, and defines the size of letters on labels. The label must be present on both retail and bulk packaged foods and must indicate the following: expiration date, type and content of food additives, type and content of added vitamins, minerals, and other ingredients added to enrich the product's nutritional value. It also provides specific rules related to presentation and advertising of food.

For foods placed on the market, the label must be written in one of the official alphabets and languages in use in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are Bosnian, Serbian, and Croatian. The label must be easily and clearly noticeable, legible, unchangeable, non-erasable, and must not be covered with other text, stickers, or marks. The label declaration shall include any written marks, commercial marks, protection marks, trademarks, graphical logos, or symbols pertaining to food, which is posted on the containers, stickers, or tags, wrapping of foodstuffs and on the documents and notices accompanying or pertaining to such food. The letters used to print product names and manufacturer names must be larger than the letters used to print other data in the declaration, and their size must allow the consumer to easily obtain clear data and knowledge on the product. Mandatory information about food can appear directly on the package or stickers attached to the package.

Multi-language labels are allowed. The metric system is used in BiH.

The label information should not misguide consumers in terms of origin, composition, net quantity, expiry period (see below), method of production or manufacture of foods. Imported foods must possess declarations written in one of the alphabets or languages in official use in BiH.

The label of packaged food must contain the following data:

- Name under which the food is sold and the commercial name if the food has it
- List of all ingredients

- Allergenic substances
- Quantity of specific ingredients or ingredient category
- Net quantity, in units of volume (for liquids) or weight for packaged other food, expressed in the measurement units used in BiH
- Expiry date (best before date)
- Conditions for storage and warehousing of food, where this is required or where these may affect the durability of the foodstuff
- Name and address of manufacturer or one that packages and/or places the food on the market.
- For import products, in addition to the name and full address of the manufacturer, also include the name and full address of importer, country of origin («**manufactured in ...**»), and country from which the food or foodstuff is imported («**imported from...**»)
- Instruction for use, where this is required
- For drinks, the quantity of alcohol by volume, if they contain more than 1.2 vol % of alcohol
- Nutritional value declaration
- Lot number (series, batch, or lot) of food
- Quality category and class of product if foodstuff is under a separate regulation subject to categorization or classification
- The label should contain the full address of the manufacturer and full name and address of the importer (city, street, and number, and it may also contain the telephone number, post office box number, and the electronic mailing address).
- Food that is processed by ionizing radiation must be labeled with the mark «**treated or processed by ionizing radiation**» or »**conserved by radiation**«, which must be placed close to the name of the food.
- Food that is packaged using gases permitted for packaging for the purpose of preservation must be labeled with the mark «**packaged in controlled atmosphere**».
- Allergenic substances must always be labeled.

The label for food must also contain information pertaining to the food, if this is prescribed by a separate regulation (e.g., statement on the nutritional or biological and energy values, the bar code, the control veterinary number etc.).

Information on the label must be printed in letters no smaller than 1.2 mm, and for products up to 80cm², letters must be 0.9 mm or bigger.

For bulk packaged foods designated for bulk sale or in the public facilities for food consumption, the label must contain product's name and brand name if any, product net-weight (mass or volume), and expiration date.

Specific labeling regulations apply to specific foods such as genetically modified organisms (GMO), baby food, diet food, food aimed at reduction of body mass, food for athletes, food additives, containers and packaging materials, cocoa and chocolate products, honey, sugars, fruit juices, jams, natural mineral water, fast-frozen food, and substances that may cause allergies (e.g., alcohol).

A general requirement is that labels must not contain words, pictures, drawings, or health-related information that could mislead consumers regarding the product's origin, quantity, or quality. The list of ingredients must state all food ingredients by the falling sequence in relation to their mass at the time of use in the production of the foodstuff.

Other Specific Labeling Requirements

Nutritional Labeling Requirements

The Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers (BiH OG #68/13) prescribes nutritional value labeling for end consumer foods and foods for institutions and the service sector. Mandatory nutritional labeling should include:

- Energy value; and
- Amount of fat, saturated fatty acids, carbohydrates, sugar, protein, and salt.

The Bylaw provides instructions on the labeling method, calculation of energy value, and measurement units for energy and nutritional values.

Organic Labeling

There is no national-level organic law. The Republika Srpska's Organic Law (RS OG #75/04) and the Federation's Organic Law (FBiH OG #72/2016) regulates organic labeling for their respective parts of the country.

Labels should indicate the code number of the exporter's control body where the final stage of production or processing was performed. Stating the name of the organic certifier on the label is mandatory. Products can be labeled as organic, bio or eco depending on the country of origin. The label for imported products must be translated into the local language. The content of the export declaration on the organic product packaging shall be determined by the organic certifier.

Declarations of fruit and vegetables are an exception. Information on the date and place of production shall be indicated on the shipping document at delivery.

Biotechnology Labeling

The Law on GMO says that food products that contain or are composed of GMOs must be labeled as follows:

- For packed products for retail the label on the packaging should read: “This product contains GMO components” or “This product contains GM (name of organism).”
- For retail products that are not packed the label should read “This product contains GMO components” or “This product contains GM (name of organism)” and should be placed directly on the product or by the product. The labeling threshold is set at 0.9%, meaning that products must be labeled if they contain levels of GMO above the set threshold.

Labeling plant - based meat and/or dairy alternatives

There are no specific labeling requirements for plant-based meats and dairy alternative products. However, the Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers says that label information should not misguide consumers in terms of origin and composition of foods (e.g., almond “milk”).

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations

Packaging requirements are subject to specific ordinances for each type of food. For example, packaging material for raw coffee packed in ½ kg units must weigh less than 50g per square meter. Packaging requirements for salt for human consumption are that it should be placed on the market packed in polypropylene bags, to preserve an adequate level of iodine through the expiry date. Regarding packaging materials, there are four new bylaws (published in OG #42/10 and OG #21/11, and OG #25/11):

- Bylaw on Materials and Articles in Contact with Food
- Bylaw on Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food
- Bylaw on Ceramic Articles in Contact with Food, and
- Bylaw on Active and Intelligent Materials and Articles in Contact with Food.

Exporters can obtain specific packaging information at the FAS office in Sarajevo (see Appendix II).

However, in most cases there are no specific requirements concerning packaging material and container size. BiH consumers prefer larger packages at lower prices.

Packaging Sustainability Measures

Collection and recycling of used packaging materials are regulated by the Federation Bylaw on Packaging and Packaging Waste Management (FBiH OG # 88/11 and 28/13) and the Republika Srpska Bylaw Packaging and Packaging Waste Management (RS OG #50/13, 8/12, 38/13, and 5/14). The Federation uses what is known as an “Extended Producers Responsibility” (EPR) system to meet EU recycling targets. EPR covers essentially all recyclable materials – paper, plastic bottle, plastic wraps, metal, glass, hazardous materials, multi-material (tetra-packs). For example, companies are obliged to ensure the proper management of packaging waste, if in a calendar year the quantity of packaging material used for packed goods placed on the market exceeds:

- 100 kilogram (kg) for paper and cardboard
- 300 kg for glass
- 30 kg for metals
- 80 kg for plastic
- 100 kg for wood
- 50 kg total for all other packaging materials,
- have a sales / production area of less than 50 m².

Companies are obliged to report to the Environmental Protection Fund on the quantities of packaging placed on the market.

BiH follows the EU waste directives and environmental standards related to separate collection and treatment of waste as part of the EU integration process. Several strategies (entity and canton-level) for sustainable waste management imply reducing the amount of waste produced and sustainable management of produced waste, but with partial implementation. Separation of waste and recycling rates are estimated at less than 10 percent, although the target was to recycle 35 percent by 2020.

Currently, there are no specific bans, restrictions, or limitations on the use of packaging materials, such as single-use plastics, which may affect imported product.

Section IV. Food Additive Regulations

The Bylaw on Food Additives (BiH Official Gazette [33/18](#) and [6/21](#), available in local language only) regulates general requirements for use of additives in food and labeling. The ordinance does not apply to aromas and enzymes used in food or to vitamins and minerals added to foods to improve their nutritional value. Additive or food in which the additive is present may be placed on the market only if they are in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and are listed in Annex II and III (additives may be added to the list under the prescribed criteria). Additives must not affect/decrease a food product’s nutritive value or significantly change the taste and flavor of products unless this is the intent. [Annex I](#) (available in local language only) provides classes of food additives such as sweeteners, colors, preservatives, carriers etc.

Annex II lists additives approved for use in food and stipulates conditions of use. This list includes the specific additive name and its E number per Annex V of this bylaw. It also lists the foods to which the additive may be added, conditions in which the additive can be used, and restrictions for the direct sale of additives to the final consumer. There is also a list of foods in which the presence of additives is not permitted such as unprocessed foods, honey, and butter.

Annex III contains the list of permitted carriers of additives used to enrich certain foods (e.g., with vitamins and minerals), while Annex IV lists six colors for which additional labeling information is required, such as Sunset Yellow. Finally, Annex V stipulates specific requirements for additive purity.

Section V. Pesticide and Other Contaminants

In general, imported food products must follow domestic rules.

The Bylaw on Maximum Levels of Pesticide Residues That can be Found in or on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin (BiH OG 48/21) provides the residue limits for pesticides. This Ordinance transposes the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum pesticide residue levels in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414 / EEC concluding with Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/155 amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

According to the regulation, pesticides are substances used for protection of agricultural products against diseases and pests. The bylaw includes lists of various food and feed items in which pesticides can be found (Annex I) and maximum pesticide contents in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of food (Annex II and III). Active substances in plant protection products evaluated according to the EU regulation on placing plant protection products on the market are listed as items for which MRLs are not required (Annex IV).

The Bylaw on Maximum Permitted Amounts for Certain Food Contaminants (BiH OG #39/14 and 79/16) stipulates MRLs for nitrates, mycotoxins, metals, dioxin, etc. in foods. Hormones and antibiotics residues are not allowed in food products. Maximum residue limits of mycotoxins are also regulated for grains, flour, legumes, beans, nuts, coffee, roasted cocoa, and peanuts. The above-mentioned lists are available from the FAS office in Sarajevo (see Appendix II).

For import of pesticides, prior approvals must be obtained at the entities' Ministries of Agriculture for approved pesticides. The information on approved pesticides and required documents can be obtained from the following offices:

For the Federation in BiH:

Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry
Phytosanitary Department
Hamdije Cemerlica 2
71 000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. +387 33 726 586

Email: info@fmpvs.gov.ba

For the Republika Srpska:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Phytosanitary Department

Trg Republike Srpske 1

78000 Banja Luka

Tel: +387 51 338 397, 338 398

Fax: +387 51 338 866

E-mail: mps@mps.vladars.net

The Plant Health Administration issues final import permits:

BiH Plant Health Administration

Marsala Tita 9a

71000 Sarajevo

Tel/fax: +387 33 290 700 and 290 711

E-mail: infouprava@uzzb.gov.ba

Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

Upon an importer's request, the State Veterinary Office (SVO) provides the specific requirements for the import of live animals and products of animal origin (for contact details see Appendix I). Those requirements are in accordance with the World Animal Health Organization/Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and with EU requirements. According to the Veterinary Law, import of foodstuffs, raw materials, products, animal feed, veterinary medicines and waste shall be authorized only if the establishment of origin complies with the prescribed conditions and are registered with the European Union. Exceptionally, the SVO may authorize import from other establishments, if it has been recognized that regulations, standards, production methods and supervision carried out by the exporting country are at least equivalent to the regulations of BiH and at least equivalent consumer protection has been guaranteed in those countries. Exporting facilities need to register with the SVO the first time they export to BiH.

Food products must be tested for microbe levels at laboratories within the entities' Institutes for Public Health (see Appendix II). The bylaw on "Microbiological Criteria for Food" (BiH Official Gazette #11/13 and #79/16), specifies the maximum content of different microorganisms in food products as well as general and special hygiene requirements that food business operators must fulfill.

Because of European outbreaks of FMD, BSE, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Bluetongue and Avian Influenza, the SVO has banned imports and transportation of domestic and wild ruminants and their products from several countries, as well as feed containing proteins of animal origin. The United States was not listed in any of the import bans, except for BSE; however, beef imports from the U.S. are allowed if they meet certain requirements such as those pertaining to hormone use, the contagious diseases (OIE A List), radioactivity level, etc.

There are specific conditions to import semen and embryos. These may be obtained from the SVO (see appendix I).

Certification and documentation: Live animals, meat and dairy products require veterinary certification, while fruits and vegetables require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the export country's relevant authorities (e.g., USDA/APHIS).

Foods that are subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections can enter BiH only at the following border crossings: Izacic, Gradiska, Samac, Orasje, Brcko, Gorica, Kamensko, Doljani (on the border with Croatia), Raca, Pavlovic most, Karakaj (on the border with Serbia), Klobuk (on the border with Montenegro) and the Sarajevo Airport. Inspection services are much more expensive if done after regular working hours and on weekends and holidays.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards

Genetically modified organisms (GMO): Based on the 2009 Law on GMOs, BiH permits the licensed use of biotech products. To date, the first and only GE product approved for import is GE soybean meal for feed. BiH does not produce biotech crops and there are no biotechnology crops under development in BiH. BiH's anti-GE border practices, which include random testing, can occasionally influence commercial imports of grains. Imported foods that contain soy, corn, or rice are often tested for GMO presence. Three laboratories have the authority to test for biotech:

1. The Biotechnology Laboratory of the Agricultural Institute in Banja Luka
2. The GMO Laboratory of the Federation Agro-Mediterranean Institute in Mostar
3. The GMO Laboratory of the Federation Agricultural Institute in Sarajevo.

Veterinary drugs: Veterinary drugs must be on an approved list maintained by the State Veterinary Office (See Appendix I for the contact information).

Seeds and planting materials: Seeds can be imported only if the varieties are recognized in the country. The National List of Recognized Varieties (BiH OG #59/10) is available at the Plant Health Administration or online: [BiH Variety List](#) (in local language only). If a variety is not on the list, importers can request its recognition from the Seeds Commission (request forms available at the Ministries of Agriculture, per the Law on recognition of agricultural varieties F BiH Official Gazette 31/00 and the Law on Plant Protection RS Official Gazette 13/97). The state Plant Health Administration has the responsibility to issue final import permits for seeds, planting material and pesticides, based on the entities' phytosanitary department's technical opinion.

Live animals: The Bylaw on Conditions of Import and Transit of Live Animals, Animal Products, Veterinary Drugs, Animal Feed and Waste of Animal Origin of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH Official Gazette No. 52/09) aligns import policies for live animals and animal products with OIE recommendations. Live animals are subject to the ordinance on quarantine requirements for imported animals issued by the SVO. For ruminants, the required quarantine is 30 days, for poultry and pets 21 days, for semen and inseminated egg cells 14 days.

Alcoholic beverages, nonalcoholic beverages, and tobacco: Products are subject to specific taxation rules and require an import license issued by the Indirect Tax Administration (ITA). The ITA issues control excise stamps, which are to be included in the packaging prior to export to BiH.

Plant-Based Meat and/or Dairy Alternatives: These products are not subject to specific regulations.

Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

The Law on Industrial Property Rights (BiH Official Gazette No. 3/02) and the Law on Copyrights (BiH Official Gazette 7/02) protect trademarks and brand names. Domestic and foreign applications must be submitted to the BiH Institute for Intellectual Property (see Appendix II). According to research done by the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, intellectual property rights (IPR) are often inadequately enforced and intellectual property, patents, copyrights, and trademarks inadequately protected.

BiH adopted and put into force a new IPR framework that consists of seven laws in 2010. This new legislation is compliant with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of IPR (TRIPS) and EU regulations and includes laws on copyrights, patents, trademarks, geographical indications, and the topography of integrated circuits. Although existing legislation provides a basic level of protection, stronger enforcement is sought. Authority over IPR investigations is split between customs officials, entity inspectorates, and state and entity law enforcement agencies, and no institution has specialized IPR investigation teams. IPR crimes are prosecuted primarily at the state level.

Section IX. Import Procedures

Foreign exporters can export food products to BiH using a locally registered office or a local company/shipping agency registered for import activities. It is common for agents to help with food import regulations.

Prior import approvals and licenses are required for live animals and animal products, and seeds and pesticides. For animals and certain animal products, the State Veterinary Office (SVO) provides prior approvals. For seeds, planting materials and pesticides the entity agriculture ministry provide prior approvals. Forms are available at the SVO and the Ministries (see Appendix I). It is important to note that requirements for prior import approvals differ between the two entities. All food products must be accompanied with standard documents that follow each shipment and by health certificates issued by relevant authorities of exporting countries (e.g., veterinary certificate for meat and meat products, phytosanitary certificates for fruits, vegetables, seeds etc.) and are subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections at border crossings and sanitary/food and market inspections at customs points.

Sanitary inspectors in the Federation and food inspectors in the Republika Srpska visually inspect all food for sanitary wholesomeness prior to customs clearance and take samples for laboratory tests (see Appendix II). Imported goods are held at the customs point until testing is complete.

Market inspectors in the Federation and food inspectors in the Republika Srpska issue quality certificates at inspection points (see Appendix I). Quality control inspections are done at the exporter/importer's written request, which should be received at least 24 hours prior to the customs clearance. The request

for quality control must be accompanied with basic documents that follow each shipment, translated into Bosnian/Croatian for the F BiH or into Serbian for the RS.

The following information must be provided in the documents:

- type and name of product
- country of origin
- exporter's name
- manufacturer's name
- type and number of transport means
- port of loading and unloading
- total pieces
- packaging unit
- gross and net weight, and,
- product's quality basic data.

If the same product is imported again, and it has been tested within 90 days, only a visual check is done. Both entities have officially recognized laboratories to test imported food products (Appendix II).

If a market/food inspector rejects an importer's request, goods are stored until the procedure is complete - the inspector can order the return or destruction of goods, if necessary, at the importer's expense or can order certain changes prior to customs clearance.

Section X. Trade Facilitation

BiH does not have preclearance programs and does not use electronic certificates (no legal framework yet). The country does not use the Globale-phytohub (created by the International Plant Protection Convention).

Inspection fees charged by the state veterinary inspectors are common for all border inspection posts. However, the entities and the Brcko District charge different fees for phytosanitary inspection checks depending on the border crossing/point of entry into BiH.

Inspection fees for live animals and animal products

For meat and meat products, the inspection fee is \$40 (70 KM) for shipments under 6 MT. An additional \$10 (18 KM) fee is charged per each additional MT of weight. For live animal shipments, the fee is \$35

(60 KM) for shipments under 6 MT. An additional \$5 (9 KM) fee is charged per each added MT of weight.

Inspection services done after regular working hours (after 8 pm) and on weekends and holidays will cost additional \$172 (300 KM) per shipment. Inspection checks are usually done within an hour.

Inspection fees for plant products, seeds, pesticides, and mineral fertilizers

The Federation of BiH

For plant products, the inspection fee is \$15 (25 KM) for shipments under 10 MT. An additional \$1.15 (2 KM) fee is charged per each added MT of weight. The inspection fee at ports is \$0.60 (1 KM) per MT, or minimum \$29 (50 KM) per shipment. For shipments in transit, 50 percent of the regular fee is paid.

For seeds and planting material (except wheat and corn), the inspection fee is \$30 (50 KM) for shipments under 10 MT. An additional \$2.30 (4 KM) fee is charged per each added MT of weight.

For pesticides, the fee is \$11.50 (20 KM) for shipments under 100 l or 100 kg MT. An additional \$1.15 (2 KM) fee is charged per each added MT of weight over 100 l or 100 kg.

For mineral fertilizers, the inspection fee is \$0.30 (0.50 KM) per MT.

For combined shipments that include more than three LOTs, the fee is 50 percent higher than the fee charged for individual shipments.

For shipments that arrive after regular working hours (after 8 pm), the inspection fee is 100 percent higher than usual. Inspection checks are usually done within an hour.

The Republika Srpska

For plant products, the inspection fee is \$11.50 (20 KM) for shipments under 10 MT. An additional \$1.15 (2 KM) fee is charged per each added MT of weight. The inspection fee at ports is \$0.60 (1 KM) per MT, or minimum \$29 (50 KM) per shipment. For shipments in transit, 50 percent of the regular fee is paid.

For pesticides, the fee is \$11.50 (20 KM) for shipments under 1 MT. An additional \$3 (5 KM) fee is charged per each added MT of weight over 1 MT.

For mineral fertilizers, the inspection fee is \$0.30 (0.50 KM) per MT.

Shipments that arrive at border crossings in the Republika Srpska after regular working hours (after 8 pm) are not cleared until the next day. Inspection checks are usually done within an hour.

The Brcko District

For plant products, seeds, and pesticides the inspection fee is \$15 (25 KM) for shipments under 10 MT. An additional \$1.15 (2 KM) fee is charged per each added MT of weight. The inspection fee at ports is \$0.60 (1 KM) per MT, or minimum \$29 (50 KM) per shipment. Inspection checks are usually done within an hour.

Road shipments are limited by the Brcko bridge load-bearing capacity to maximum 3.5 MT. Larger shipments can come by vessels to the Brcko Port on the River Sava.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts

Imports of live animals and products, and veterinary drugs:

State Veterinary Office
Marsala Tita 9a/II
7100 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. +387 33 565 714
Fax +387 33 565 725
E-mail: info@vet.gov.ba
Website: <http://www.vet.gov.ba/>

Import of seeds and planting material, and pesticides:

BiH Plant Health Administration
Marsala Tita 9a
71000 Sarajevo
Tel/fax: +387 33 290 700 and 290 711
E-mail: infoprava@uzzb.gov.ba
Website: <http://uzzb.gov.ba/>

F BiH Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry
Phytosanitary Department
Hamdije Cemerlica 2
71 000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. +387 33 726 586
E-mail: info@fmpvs.gov.ba
Website: <https://fmpvs.gov.ba/en/homepage-eng/>

RS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Phytosanitary Department
Trg Republike Srpske 1
78000 Banja Luka
Tel: +387 51 338 397, 338 398
Fax: +387 51 338 866
E-mail: mps@mps.vladars.net

Website: <https://www.vladars.net/eng/vlada/ministries/MAFW/Pages/default.aspx>

Sanitary, food, and market inspection:

Federation BiH Inspectorate
Fehima ef. Curcica 6
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel: + 387 33 563 350
Fax + 387 33 563 351
Email: info@fuzip.gov.ba
Website: <http://www.fuzip.gov.ba/>

Republika Srpska Inspectorate
Trg Republike Srpske 8
51000 Banja Luka
Tel. + 387 51 337 627
Fax: +387 51 307 955
Email: uprava@inspektorat.vladars.net
Website: <http://www.inspektorat.vladars.net/>

Alcohol, nonalcoholic beverages, tobacco:

Indirect Taxation Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bana Lazarevica bb
Banja Luka, 78000
Phone: 387 51 335 494
Fax: 387 51 335 101
Email: info@uino.gov.ba
Website: <http://www.uino.gov.ba/>

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts

Office of Agricultural Affairs (Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS])

U.S. Embassy to BiH
Robert Frasure Street 1
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel.: +387 33 704 305
Fax: +387 33 659 722
Contact: Sanela Stanojcic, Agricultural Specialist
E-mail: AgSarajevo@fas.usda.gov
Website: <https://ba.usembassy.gov/embassy/sarajevo/sections-offices/fas-bih/>

Officially recognized laboratories:

Federation Institute for Public Health
Marsala Tita 9
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel: + +387 33 564 604
Fax: +387 33 220 548
kabinet.sa@zzjzfbih.ba
Website: <http://www.zzjzfbih.ba/>

Agricultural Institute Sarajevo
Butmirska Cesta 40
71210 Ilidza Tel: +387 33 774 230
Fax: +387 33 637 601
Email: fzpz@fzpz.gov.ba
<https://www.fzpz.gov.ba/>

University of Sarajevo, Veterinary College
Department for Food Hygiene
Zmaja od Bosne 90
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel/fax: +387 33 643 684
E-mail: vetfaksa@bih.net.ba
Website: <http://vfs.unsa.ba/web/>

Veterinary Institute "Vaso Butozan" Banja Luka
Branka Radicevica 18
78 000 Banja Luka
Tel.+387 51 229 210
Fax: +387 51 229 242
Email: info@virs-vb.com
Website: <http://virs-vb.com/>

Republika Srpska Institute for Health Protection
Jovana Ducica 1
78 000 Banja Luka
Tel.: +387 51 491 600
Fax: +387 51 216 510
Email: info@phi.rs.ba
Website: <http://www.phi.rs.ba/>

Agricultural Institute Bijeljina
Stefana Decanskog bb
76 300 Bijeljina
Tel. +387 55 240 137
Fax: +387 55 240 032

Agricultural Institute Banja Luka

Knjaza Milosa 17
78 000 Banja Luka
Tel. +387 51 303 112
Fax: +387 51 312 792
Email: polj.institut.bl@blic.net; vtrkulja@blic.net
Website: <http://www.poljinstrs.org/>

Other Useful contacts:

BIH Intellectual Property Rights Institute
Kralja Petra Krešimira IV/8a.
88000 Mostar
Tel. +387 36 334 382
Email: info@ipr.gov.ba
Website: <http://www.ipr.gov.ba/en>

BiH Foreign Trade Chamber
Branislava Djurdjeva 10
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel. +387 33 566 222
Fax: +387 33 214 292
E-mail: cis@komorabih.ba
Website: www.komorabih.ba

Federation BiH Chamber of Economy
Branislava Djurdjeva 10
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel. +387 33 217 782 and 566 300
Fax: +387 33 663 632 and 663 635
E-mail: m.jasarspahic@kfbih.com
Website: <http://www.kfbih.com/>

Republika Srpska Chamber of Commerce
Djure Danicica 1/II
78 000 Banja Luka
Tel. +387 51 215 744
Fax: +387 51 215 565
E-Mail: info@komorars.ba
Website: <https://komorars.ba/?lang=en>

Attachments:

No Attachments