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Report Highlights:

This report provides information on Serbian regulations and standards concerning food, agriculture, agricultural products and foreign trade. It includes information on labeling, packaging, food additives and import procedures. In 2020, Serbia did not adopt any new laws or amendments. Most Serbian laws have been harmonized with European Union (EU) regulations. In 2020, Serbia adopted more than seventy by-laws that include different rules and ordinances. As with the rest of the world, Serbia has been fighting the COVID-19 pandemic as it has negatively impacted Serbia's economy and society, including food and agriculture production. Serbia's agriculture sector has weathered most of the effects of the pandemic because of its high stocks of agricultural goods, good climatic conditions this winter, good conditions for spring planting, excellent winter and spring crop yields and the most developed food processing industry in the region.

AUTHOR DISCLAIMER:

“This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.”

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Executive Summary:

Serbia is the largest agricultural market in the Western Balkans with a strong tradition in agricultural production and food processing. The food processing industry accounts for approximately one third of the entire processing industry in Serbia. Currently, there are more than 5,000 food businesses active in Serbia. Approximately 95 percent are micro, small or medium-sized enterprises. The industry employs around 65,000 people and is one of the rare examples of industries that have not been hit adversely by the economic crisis over the past few years. The largest subsectors by value are dairy, meat, fruits, vegetables and confectionary industry.

Serbia led Europe in first-quarter GDP growth, the COVID-19 pandemic reversed that growth with a drop of 6.4 percent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2020. However, the drop was the third smallest among European economies. In several sectors, COVID-19's impact exceeded that of the 2008 global economic crisis. Nevertheless, macroeconomic indicators remained stable, and economic authorities continued to comply with International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommendations. According to some economists, Serbia will experience the full impact of the pandemic toward the end of the year when stimulus measures expire. Estimates of full-year results range between the National Bank of Serbia's optimistic projection of a 1.5 percent drop to the EU Commission's forecast of a 4.1 percent contraction.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts Serbia's budget deficit will rise to 7 percent of GDP in 2020, due to fiscal stimulus measures. After four years of central government surpluses, Serbia is now facing a deficit of Serbian dinars (RSD) 305 billion (\$3 billion) due to reduced tax revenues stemming from a loss of activity in the real sector and inflated expenditures due to fiscal stimulus and public-health measures to fight the pandemic. Average annual inflation is expected to increase, reaching as high as 2.4 percent. Serbia has free trade agreements with the European Union, Turkey, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) that consists of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. It is also a signatory to the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

Total agro-food imports from the United States for CY2019 were valued at \$32 million, approximately 12 percent higher than in 2018. Despite increased exports of U.S. agriculture and food products, customs tariffs (5-30 percent customs import tax) are still the major obstacles to increasing U.S. market share in Serbia. U.S. agro-food exports consisted mainly of almonds, corn, sunflower seeds, vegetable planting seeds, dietetic foods, and concentrated proteins without dairy fats, alcoholic drinks, frozen fish and seafood, snacks and fruits.

The Serbian Government adopted the Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy for 2014-2024. The strategy, a requisite for receiving EU funding, sets guidelines for adjusting Serbia's agriculture to meet EU and World Trade Organization (WTO) requirements and defines the basic reforms needed in the agricultural sector. In January 2018, Serbia began to use the European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD) Funds of over USD \$200 million for the next six years (2015-2020) under the Rural Development Program for Serbia (IPARD). CY2022 is the final year when Serbia is able to use this portion of EU support through IPARD funds. Thus far, Serbia has used only approximately USD \$8.5 million of the \$200 million offered. This money was mostly used by Serbian farmers to purchase new agriculture equipment.

Serbia needs to make further changes to its regulatory policy mostly in accordance with the 2020 European Commission (EC) Annual Progress Report for Serbia published on October 6, 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/package_en. According to the EC Progress Report, Serbia made some progress on addressing recommendations of the previous report through the submission of the second package for entrustment with implementation of the EU instrument for pre-accession assistance for rural development (IPARD II) in November 2019, and with taking first steps towards the establishment of the integrated administration and Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) (Chapter 11: Agriculture and Rural Development). For Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, the EC Progress Report noted that some moderate progress was made, but in the coming year, Serbia should develop a comprehensive strategy for alignment, implementation and enforcement of the EU acquis on food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, continue strengthening the administrative capacity and the national reference laboratories directorates and further improve the application of the risk based approach to official controls for imports. For Chapter 13: Fisheries, the EC Progress Report advised Serbia that in the next period adopts an action plan that will ensure full compliance with the requirements of the EU acquis by the date of accession, in particular regarding organization of markets, aquaculture, data collection and control measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The EC Progress Report also pointed out that there was no progress on adopting the framework legislation on genetically modified organisms that should be aligned with the EU acquis and that Serbia should complete accession to the WTO by adopting an amended law on genetically modified organisms and complete remaining bilateral market access negotiations.

Section I: Food Laws:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM)

After a four month delay the regular parliamentary election was held in Serbia (June 21) and the new Serbian Government was formed October 28, 2020. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) Branislav Nedimovic, who served as Minister of MAFWM in the previous Serbian Government (2017-2020) was held over in the same position with the new government. MAFWM represents the specialized body of the central public administration with governmental jurisdiction in the fields of agriculture, including international and domestic agricultural trade, food processing, food safety, seed registration, fish quotas, rural development, environment, forestry and water management.

Ministry of Environmental Protection

The Ministry of Environmental Protection was created in 2017 and performs state administration tasks related to the basics of environmental protection, system of protection and improvement of the environment, national parks, and inspection in the field of environmental protection, protection of water, nature and air, climate changes, management of chemicals and biocidal products and waste management.

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Public Health is responsible for overseeing the production and registration of drugs, food additives, and medical equipment. It is also responsible for public health as it relates to food and contaminants.

Ministry of Trade, Telecommunication and Tourism

Within the Serbian Ministry of Trade, Telecommunication and Tourism, Sector for Market Inspection is responsible for inspecting food quality at the retail level.

Serbian Agriculture and Food Laws:

As part of Serbia's EU integration process, it has adopted many new laws in the area of agriculture and food, mostly in accordance with the *EU Acquis Communautaire*. Over the last seven years Serbia has adopted 39 new laws relating to agriculture and food.

The following laws were adopted in 2009 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" 41/09)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Law on Food Safety
Law on Public Warehouses for Agriculture Products
Law on Plant Health
Law on Pesticides
Law on Fertilizers
Law on Agriculture and Rural Development
Law on Livestock
Law on Animal Welfare
Law on Ethanol
Law on Wine
Law on Reproductive Material of Forest Trees
Law on Genetically Modified Organisms
Amendments to the Agriculture Law
Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights/UPOV

The following laws were adopted in 2010 ("Official Gazette RS" 30/10)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Law on Forests
Law on Waters
Law on Beer
Law on Registration of Crop Varieties
Law on Organic Production
Amendments to the Veterinary Law
Law on Agriculture Extension and Expert Service
Law on Plant Seeds

The following law was adopted in 2011 ("Official Gazette RS" 88/11)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights

The following laws were adopted in 2012 ("Official Gazette RS" 93/12)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Waters

Amendments on Changes Law on Livestock

Amendments on Changes Law on Wine

The following law was adopted in 2013 (“Official Gazette RS” 10/13)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Law on Incentives for Agriculture Production and Rural Development

The following laws were adopted in 2014 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Law on Pre-Harvest Financing of Agricultural Production (“Official Gazette RS” No. 128/14, becomes effective June 1, 2015)

Law on Protection and Sustainable Use of the Fishery Fund (“Official Gazette RS” No. 128/14)

The following laws were adopted in 2015 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Law on Forests (“Official Gazette RS” No. 89/15)

Law on Strong Alcoholic Beverages (“Official Gazette RS” No. 92/15)

Law on Wine (“Official Gazette RS” No. 41/15)

Amendments to Changes Law on Agricultural Land (“Official Gazette RS” No. 112/15)

The following laws were adopted in 2016 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Livestock (“Official Gazette RS” No. 14/16)

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development/defining functioning of the IPARD Program in Serbia (“Official Gazette RS” No. 101/16)

The following law was adopted in 2017 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Agriculture Land (“Official Gazette RS” No. 80/17)

The following laws were adopted in 2018 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Law on Waters and baseline for this law (“Official Gazette RS” No. 47/18)

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Public Warehouses for Agriculture Products (“Official Gazette RS” No.44/18)

The following laws were adopted in 2019 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Food Safety (“Official Gazette RS” No. 17/19)

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Plant Health (“Official Gazette RS” No. 17/19)

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Pesticides (“Official Gazette RS” No. 17/19)

Amendments on Changes to the Law on *Plant Nutrition Products and Soil Enhancers* (fertilizers) (“Official Gazette RS” No. 17/19)

The following laws were adopted in 2020 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> :

In 2020, Serbia did not adopt any new law or amendments to the existing laws.

In 2020, Serbia also adopted 80 new rulebooks and ordinances. The following are of particular interest:

- Rulebook on control and certification in organic production and methods of organic production ("Official Gazette RS", No. 95/20)

- Rulebook on establishing the program for monitoring safety of animal feed for 2020 ("Official Gazette RS", No. 102/20)
- Rulebook on determining the food safety monitoring program for food of plant and animal origin for 2020 ("Official Gazette RS", No. 115/20)
- Ordinance on incentives for agricultural producers through the purchase of market surpluses of fattening cattle ("Official Gazette" RS No. 113/20)
- Ordinance on amendments to the decree on distribution of incentives for agriculture production and rural development for 2020 ("Official Gazette" RS No.118/20)
- Rulebook on amendments to the rulebook on declaring, labeling and advertising of food ("Official Gazette RS", No. 118/20)
- Rulebook on cocoa and chocolate products for human consumption ("Official Gazette RS", No. 24/19), started to be effective from July 1, 2020
- Rulebook on products similar to chocolate, cream products and candies ("Official Gazette RS", No. 24/19), started to be effective from July 1, 2020
- Rulebook on the EU IPARD incentives for diversification of agricultural holdings and development in agriculture ("Official Gazette RS", No. 76/20)
- Rulebook on amendments of the incentives for investments in processing and marketing in the wine production sector ("Official Gazette RS", No. 94/20)

The Law on Food Safety ("Official Gazette RS" No.41/09)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> represents one of the main agricultural laws in Serbia. It governs all aspects of production, circulation, control and consumption of food, general conditions for ensuring safety of food and feed, rights and responsibilities of persons performing food and feed businesses, an early warning system, hygiene and quality of food and feed. The purpose of the law is to ensure a high level of consumer protection while facilitating the efficient functioning of the food trade. The adoption of the law was necessary to harmonize Serbian regulations with EU regulations, Directive 178/2002/EC and other amended EU regulations on food safety and to comply with the World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The main concepts introduced by the Food Safety Law encompass: implementation of the traceability of food; registration of all businesses dealing with food in one unified Central Register; performance of controls in accordance with the risk assessment; establishment of the national reference laboratories; introduction of internal controls in accordance with good manufacturing practices, good hygiene practices or Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) depending on the type of food business; and, delineation of competences between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health that will enable the control of both quality and safety based on the same food sample and consolidate the inspection of facilities. The law regulates the competency of the Ministry of Agriculture as the central authority and the Ministry of Health as the responsible authority for public health. With this law, management and organization of official controls are in place and there should not be any overlapping and unclear repartitioning of competencies.

In March 2019, Parliament adopted Amendments on Changes to the Law on Food Safety ("Official Gazette RS" No. 17/19). The MAFWM worked on these amendments for over five years. The main changes included in the current Food Safety Law include: establishment of the Expert Council for Food Safety that will be composed of scientists, representatives of consumer associations, representatives of academia and MAFWM and will function as a special adviser to the MAFWM on food safety issues and establishment of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), as in the EU.

The new Law on Food Safety will further define competences between the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health, establish food safety regulations for food trade, since the previous law did not cover official food safety regulations in retail, bakeries and restaurants. Legal provisions relating to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are deleted, and GMOs will only be governed by the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms, which is in force.

The responsibility of food safety operators is strengthened, and the role of the competent authority is clearly defined. The new law also included a definition of the tasks under the responsibility of the Directorate for the National Reference Laboratory (DNRL). Other new features include: allowing adoption of the number of rulebooks that could not be adopted according to the previous law; proposing specific measures for adaptation on requirements on hygiene of food production and marketing in plants of small capacity/business establishments; multi-annual food and feed monitoring; changes in the system for performing official food safety control in accordance to EU regulations and terminology in the “Hygiene Package” (set of general provisions regulating food safety in the EU).

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade (through its veterinary, phytosanitary, agricultural and market inspection) is responsible for food safety and wholesomeness throughout each stage of primary production, processing, transportation, and import/export. The Ministry of Agriculture issues import approvals for foods of animal origin, veterinary drugs, seeds, planting materials and pesticides. For other products, permits are not required. Sanitary Inspection (under the Ministry of Health) is responsible for the safety of novel foods, dietetic products, baby food, diet supplements, additives and drinking water.

The MAFWM inspects the quality of food up until the moment the food is distributed to retail shops. Visual checks for products listed in the above-mentioned laws (almost everything considered to be a food) and 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, checking for the necessary statements containing the importer’s name and address, the product’s general appearance, taste, flavor, presence of residues, color, structure, and checking if the transportation requirements have been met. Specific ordinances define sampling procedures.

Quality control of imported products can be done after the import procedure has been completed and prior to retail distribution on the market. Inspection can also be done after the retail distribution in the store. The quality of individual groups of products is subject to specific rulebooks. The following is a list of the rulebooks that determine quality:

- Rulebook on the quality of minced meat, semi-processed and processed meat products (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (RS)” No. 50/19);
- Rulebook on the quality of milk products and starter cultures (“Official Gazette RS” No.33/10, No.69/10, No. 43/13 and No. 34/14);
- Rulebook on the quality of raw milk (“Official Gazette RS” No.106/17)
- Rulebook on the quality of honey, honey products and other bee products (“Official Gazette RS” No.101/15);
- Rulebook on the quality and other requirements for beer (“Official Gazette RS” No. 145/14);

- Rulebook on the quality of animal feed (“Official Gazette RS” No.27/14, 25/15, 39/16 and 54/17);
- Rulebook on the quality of natural mineral water, spring water and table water (“Official Gazette RS” No. 43/13)
- Rulebook on the quality of raw coffee, coffee products, coffee substitutes and similar products (“Official Gazette RS” No. 54/12 and 80/15);
- Rulebook on the quality of fish, crabs and shellfish (“Official Gazette of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SRJ)” No. 6/03, SCG 56/03 and SCG 4/04);
- Rulebook on the quality of fruits, vegetables and mushrooms (“Official Gazette SCG” No.12/05, “Official Gazette RS” No.43/13, 72/14 and 101/15);
- Rulebook on the quality of sugar (“Official Gazette SCG” 56/03 and No.4/04 and (“Official Gazette RS” No. 88/17);
- Rulebook on wine production, wine quality and geographical indications (“Official Gazette RS” No. 87/11, 38/12, 26/15 and 110/16);
- Rulebook on the quality of alcoholic drinks (“Official Gazette” SCG No.24/04 and RS No. 74/10);
- Rulebook on the quality of fruit juices, fruit concentrates, powder fruit juices, fruit nectars and other related products (“Official Gazette” RS No. 103/18);
- Rulebook on the quality of non-alcoholic drinks (“Official Gazette” RS 88/17);

The Amended Law on Plant Health (“Official Gazette RS” No.17/19) is harmonization with EU regulations. The new law governs protection and improvement of plant health; measures for protection, detection, prevention of spreading, control and eradication of harmful organisms; phytosanitary controls and requirements for production, processing, imports, storage and trade in plants, plant products; requirements for prescribed facilities, as well as conditions to perform activities in the area of protection of plant health. This law opens the possibility that in addition to the phytosanitary inspectors, the inspection of consignments intended for export can also be carried out by an authorized legal entity, in accordance with the relevant international standard.

The law also envisages establishment of the national reference phytosanitary laboratory, and introduces controls based on the assessment of risk. The adoption of the law was necessary for the purpose of harmonization with EU regulations, International Plant Protection Convention, and the Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the WTO.

The Amended Law on Plant Protection Products (pesticides) (“Official Gazette” No.17/19) is also harmonizing this area with EU regulations. With the new EU regulations in the field of plant protection products, most of the process of approving plant protection products has been moved from the national level of the member state to the EU level. This law governs control, circulation, imports and application of plant protection products in agriculture and forestry.

The law also established a national reference laboratory for residue testing. The laboratory must have technical and professional capacity to perform tests in accordance with the accreditation of SRPS ISO/IEC 17025:2006, the standards of good laboratory practice (GLP), or in accordance with the guidelines of good experimental practice. The Directorate for National Reference Laboratories is responsible for registering and controlling pesticides (see Appendix I, #16 for contact

information). Pesticide users must be educated in the use of pesticides. According to this law, farmers must receive adequate training for safe use of pesticides. Those conducting training must teach farmers about safe application, handling, disposal and transportation of plant protection products, as well as the development of awareness of the potential threats to human health and the environment.

The Amended Law on Plant Nutrition Products and Soil Enhancers (fertilizers), (“Official Gazette RS” 17/19) regulates classification, quality and labeling, phytosanitary control, sampling in circulation, imports, application and testing of plant nutrition products and soil enhancers. With the amended law Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) wanted to remove most of the defects of the previous law, which includes duplication in making decisions on eligibility for wholesale and retail trade facilities, as well as import and registration decision in registration of the distributors and importers. It also provides for a clearer definition of the conditions for accreditation that must be fulfilled by the official laboratories for testing fertilizers. The new law facilitates exports of Serbian plant nutrition products, introduces labeling in accordance with EU requirements (label EC fertilizer) and helps harmonize Serbian requirements with EU regulations and the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement of the WTO.

The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) (“Official Gazette RS” No.41/09), governs production, trade and commercial growing of GMO crops in Serbia. The law also regulates the basic conditions for the use of GMOs in closed systems and the deliberate release into the environment. Currently the law prohibits all commercial use of GMO crops and is an obstacle for Serbia to become WTO member. As part of its EU and WTO accession process, Serbia would need to establish a transparent risk-based system for reviewing/approving biotech products.

The Law on Organic Production (“Official Gazette RS” 30/10) further harmonizes Serbian legislation with EU ordinances governing organic production and labeling. The law covers production, processing, labeling, storing, transporting, and trade internally and internationally of organic products (vegetable and animal products). The law regulates production methods and organic farming practices, as well sets the system of controlling and certifying the whole chain of organic production.

With changes and amendments to the *Veterinary Law* (“Official Gazette RS” 91/05, 30/10, 93/12 and 17/19) Serbia is getting closer to the EU standards and is improving the conditions for the export of animals and animal products to the EU. The amended law sets new conditions for establishing centers for storing and distributing semen for artificial insemination, defines responsibilities for the National Reference Laboratory, establishes a system of alert in the case of contagious diseases and defines the measures that will be undertaken, sets out the system of identification and registration of animals and introduces other changes to harmonize requirements with EU rules. The *Veterinary Law* (“Official Gazette RS” 91/05) from 2005, which defines animal health and welfare protections, is still in effect in Serbia. It identifies animal diseases that are subject to the preventative measures, detection, containment and eradication. The law deals with diseases transmittable to humans, the veterinary sanitary control and the requirements for production and circulation of animals and their products, edible animal products and animal feed, and the requirements for engagement in the practice of veterinary medicine.

The Law on Livestock (“Official Gazette RS” No.41/09, 93/12 and 14/16) regulates this important agribusiness sector. The Law on Livestock brought substantial changes in organization and production

methods in the sector by means of enabling the formation of breeders' associations and organizations with special authorizations, thus ensuring the direct influence of producers on the livestock breeding selection criteria and subsequently increased productivity of farm animals. MAFWM controls the activities of these associations and organizations through the Registration Body and provides information on membership conditions to interested breeders.

The Law on Animal Welfare ("Official Gazette RS" No.41/09), regulates animal welfare, as well as the treatment of animals during killing, keeping, raising, circulating, transporting, slaughtering and experimenting. The law facilitates exports of Serbian animals and products of animal origin, by helping Serbia to harmonize its requirements with those of the EU on keeping and transporting animals. The adoption of the law brings the Serbian requirements into conformity with the rules of the OIE, EU Commission Decisions and the EU Council recommendations.

Law on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Fishery Fund ("Official Gazette RS" No. 128/14) regulates the catch, protection and trade in fish and the fishery fund that defines this sector as a renewable natural resource. The law sets out a system for issuing special permits for recreational fishing within the boundaries of protected areas and improves the management of fishery resources including the protection and sustainable use of fish stocks.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

General requirements:

In 2020, Serbia adopted new amendments to the "Rulebook on Declaring, Labeling and Advertising of Food" ("Official Gazette RS", No. 118/20). The new rulebook allows Serbia to fully harmonize food-labeling rules with European standards (EU Regulation No. 1169/2011).

The new rulebook contains specifics on declaring, labeling and marketing of packed and unpacked food. It defines general conditions on required information about food and responsibilities of food businesses. The rulebook includes a list of substances that can cause allergies and/or intolerance; shows additional food information that must be presented at restaurants and food shops; mandates the size of letters on declarations and the general rules for declarations made related to unpacked food. The rulebook regulates the labeling requirements for packed and unpacked foods designated for consumer or public food consumption in Serbia. According to this regulation, a 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. All foods are required to have the label in the Serbian language.

For each type of food product, there is a specific ordinance that spells out labeling requirements. According to the new rulebook on "Rulebook on Declaring, Labeling and Advertising of Food" ("Official Gazette RS", No. 118/20) a label must contain the following information:

- 1) Product name
- 2) List of ingredients
- 3) List of additional ingredients for production
- 4) Quantities of ingredients

- 5) Product net weight
- 6) Expiration date
- 7) Storage conditions and mode of usage if necessary
- 8) Importer's or dealer's name and complete address in Serbia
- 9) Country and place of origin for shipped food
- 10) Instructions for correct use of food
- 11) Amount of alcohol for beverages that contain more than 1.2% v/v
- 12) Nutrition declaration
- 13) Lot or series number
- 14) Class or category of food

If the original label is in English (e.g. standard U.S. label) or any other language, the seller is obliged to prepare stick-on labels with a translation to accompany the imported products. It is the importer's obligation to place translated labels on the product prior to retail distribution.

Bulk packaged foods designated for bulk sale or in the public facilities for food consumption, must contain the declaration with the following information: product's name and brand name if any, product net-weight (mass or volume) and expiration date. For imported food products, the declaration needs to have the importer's name and complete address, country of origin, and the country from which the food was shipped. According to this ordinance, the label must be noticeable, visible, clear and legible. Information on the label must be printed in letters not smaller than 1.2 mm, and for products up to 80cm², letters must be 0.9 mm or bigger.

If vitamins are added, the label must indicate "enriched with vitamins." If the manufacturing and packaging companies are not the same, the label must indicate the company that performed the packaging.

In section No.4 of the rulebook, it is specified what can be added as voluntary information on food (how the voluntary information must be specified, how it will be printed on the declaration). If products were artificially colored and conserved by preservatives, this must be indicated right below the product's name, e.g. "artificially colored" or "conserved by preservative", and which chemicals were used must also be indicated. Claims such as "light" and "reduced" are permitted. However, generally labels must not contain words, pictures and drawings and health-related information that could mislead consumers regarding the product's origin, quantity and quality.

Additives must be marked on the declaration by category and name or the additive's "E" number (Preservative-Sodium Benzoate or preservative E 211), except for the category of "modified starch" which has no additive denotation or "E" number. When modified starch may contain gluten, the origin of the starch must be indicated on the declaration (wheat, barley, rye and oat). For additives belonging to the acid category and those that contain the word "acid" within the actual name, it is enough to denote the additive without the category. The description of the nutritive values may contain data about the following components: starch, monounsaturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, cholesterol, minerals and vitamins.

Food samples shipped to Serbia do not need to be labeled. However, all the packaging of shipped sample products should be clearly marked: "Samples - not for sale."

Amendments adopted in the new “Rulebook on Declaration, Labeling and Marketing of Food” (Official Gazette No. 118/20) also determine the conditions and terms for the use of the label "fasting" on food products and more precisely determine the use of the label related to gluten-free food. It is specified that the label "fasting" can be stated only on food that is not from warm-blooded animal origin, nor is food of that origin used at any stage of its production and processing. Also, the label "gluten-free" may only be indicated if the gluten content of the food as a finished product is less than 20 milligrams per kilogram. This represents a further harmonization of the Serbian legislation with the EU in this case specifically with the Regulation of the European Union No. 2018/775.

Requirements to Nutritional Labeling:

Nutritional declarations allowed nutritional statements and conditions for their use are regulated by Appendix 7 of the Rulebook for the “Declaration, Labeling and Marketing of Food” (“Official Gazette” RS No. 19/17). Nutritional declarations are mandatory when a declaration contains a nutritional statement such as low calorie, low fat, high caffeine (>150 mg/l), low sugar, enriched with vitamins. Otherwise, they are voluntary. The rulebook does not regulate the appearance of the nutritional declaration but rather the content. Thus, the format of the U.S. “nutritional facts” label is acceptable. Part of the text of the food product name may contain the following statements: “with sweetener” (if product contains one or more sweeteners); “with sugar and sweetener addition” (if one or more different sugars and sweeteners were added to the product); “contains phenylalanine” (if the product contains aspartame-E591); “excessive usage may cause laxative effect” (if the product contain more than 10 percent additional polios). These statements need to be highlighted. The rulebook also contains a list of the reference daily intake of vitamins and minerals (for adults), reference daily intake of energy and selected food ingredients that are not vitamins and minerals (for adults) as well as the conversion factors for energy values.

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

The Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste Management was adopted in 2009 (“Official Gazette RS” No.36/09), with amendment adopted in 2018 (“Official Gazette RS” No.95/18). The law brings Serbian requirements into compliance with the EU directive on packaging and waste material. The law regulates the use of secondary materials, manages their collection, and conditions of processing and storage. It does not regulate materials that come into contact with food. The collection and recycling of already used packaging materials is regulated by the Law on Waste Material Handling and by the Rulebook on Secondary Material Collection, Transport, Storage Conditions and Handling (“Official Gazette RS” No.98/10). Communal waste management, including food and beverage packaging material, is enforced by local and municipal authorities.

Packaging requirements are subject to specific ordinances for each type of food. For example, the packaging material for raw coffee packed in ½ kg units must weigh less than 50g per square meter. The packaging requirements for different foods are comprehensive and are regulated by the rulebook on quality control of these products (meat, dairy products, fruit juices, fish etc.).

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

Serbia's regulations on food additives were changed in 2015, by adopting the new rulebook on Use of Food Additives" ("Official Gazette RS" No.53/18). According to the new rulebook, there is a list of additives that can be used in the food processing process. According to the rulebook, additives are substances that are not foods (regardless of their nutritive value) but are added to foods during processing because of their effect on the food's organoleptic characteristics. Substances added to enrich nutritive value and salt are not considered additives. Additives can be added to foods if approved and listed in the "List of approved additives" provided in the above-mentioned ordinance (approximately 500 additives in total). The quantity used must be in accordance with specific regulations for each group of products. Additives must not affect/decrease a food product's nutritive value or change significantly the taste and flavor of products, unless this is the intent. They also must not create toxins in products during the processing, storage or use. They must be identifiable, which means that their type and quantity in products can be tested, unless they were removed or destroyed during processing. Additive usage generally must be justified from a technical standpoint. Approved additives are listed in the Section B and are divided into three groups: colors, sweeteners and other additives (except colors and sweeteners).

According to the Rulebook on the "Declaration, Labeling and Marketing of Food ("Official Gazette" RS No. 19/17), additives must be specified on the food label mentioning the category and name of the additive or its E number. The label must clearly indicate the following:

- The additive's name according to the group of additives or mixture name, including its usage and brand name, if any;
- The manufacturer's name and complete address;
- The date of manufacturing (day/month/year) and "best before" date;
- The product's net-weight (mass or volume) in metric units;
- For additives, the category and name of the additive or its E number (preservative – sodium-benzoate or preservative E 211) must be included;
- Additive carriers (e.g. ethanol) must be declared;
- For additive mixtures: List additive names in order of their predominance compared to product's net-weight. If certain additives can be used only in limited quantity, the quantity must be declared;
- Name of the country of origin-if imported

The product's name and the manufacturer's name must be printed in larger fonts. Labels must indicate the company that did the packaging (name and address) if different from manufacturer. Sodium nitrite, potassium and saltpeter mixtures used for pickling may be sold but only in original packaging and must be marked as "warning – poison" and "keep in dry place."

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

All imported food products into Serbia must comply with domestic rules on pesticides and other contaminants. Serbia is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) and maximum residue limits (MRLs) are generally recognized for imported foodstuffs. In 2018, Serbia adopted a new rulebook on “Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides” (“Official Gazette RS” No. 22/18 and 90/18), describing residue limits for pesticides and other contaminants, (e.g. hormones, antibiotics and mycotoxins) which can be found in food.

The rulebook on the “Maximum allowed quantities of pesticide residues in food and feed” (“Official Gazette RS” No.25/10 and 28/11), defines the maximum permitted levels of pesticide residues in food and feed, as substances used for the protection of agricultural products against diseases and pests. Lists of food and feed, maximum allowed residue limits, and active substances per mg/kg are listed in the attachments to this rulebook. These lists include the different pesticides, their commercial names, chemical names and maximum tolerances in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) by food and type of food.

Food contaminants are listed as lead, cadmium, mercury, zinc, tin, copper, arsenic, iron and other metals and nonmetals. The ordinance provides a table with maximum residue limits for 43 different foods (expressed in mg/kg). Hormones and antibiotic residues are generally not allowed in food products. Maximum residue limits of mycotoxins are also regulated for grains, flour, legumes, beans, nuts, coffee, roasted cocoa and peanuts. These lists are available from the FAS office in Belgrade (see Appendix II).

Serbia has a list of approved pesticides and fertilizers that can be imported and traded. These lists can be obtained from the Phytosanitary Department/Import and Registration of Pesticides at the Ministry of Agriculture (see Appendix II). The Rulebook on the “Request Forms and Content for Registering Distributors and Importers of Plant Protection Products and the Content of this Register” (“Official Gazette RS” No.5/10) regulates how distributors and importers of fertilizers can be added to the official register. Serbia also adopted the new rulebook on “Packaging Conditions of Fertilizers” (“Official Gazette RS” No.13/10), that indicates how fertilizers should be packed; depending on whether they are in a liquid or in a solid formulation.

Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures:

Importers of live animals and products of animal origin must request an import approval from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture (see Appendix I for contact). Serbian import requirements are in accordance with the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) requirements. Serbia has been a member of the OIE since May 2003.

The rulebook on “General and Specific Conditions for Hygiene of Food at any Phase of Production, Processing and Trade” (“Official Gazette RS” No. 72/10 and 62/18), regulates hygiene in all phases of food production, processing and trade. Appendix I of this rulebook includes a list of microbiological criteria for different kinds of food products.

Certification and documentation: live animals, meat, and dairy products require veterinary certification, while seeds, fruits and vegetables require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country's relevant authorities (e.g. USDA/FSIS or USDA/APHIS). Special certification is needed for veterinary drugs, demonstrating the drugs have been approved and used in the country of origin. Information can be obtained from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture (Appendix I).

Foods that are subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections can enter thru all border crossings where veterinary and phytosanitary border inspection posts exist. Importers should always inform relevant border inspection post at the point of entry for every shipment that must be accompanied by the import approvals issued by the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture. The inspection services are charged to the importers as per a published, official price list. Inspections will cost more if they are performed after regular working hours and/or on weekends and holidays.

Serbia has specific guidance on the procedure for "Official Mixed Origin at Import" ("Official Gazette RS" No, 44/18). The number of imported food and feed samples in Serbia was drastically reduced to approximately 150 controls per month versus sampling every shipment (approx. 8,000-10,000 controls per month). Now, sampling at the border focuses on products imported for the first time into Serbia, products that have changed their labels, products not tested in the country of origin for more than six months, or products coming from countries which have been identified as high risk based on prior problems. According to this decree, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, grain and milling products, raw coffee and teas are sampled every three months regardless of the country of origin. The importer must provide the following required import documents: an invoice, the specifications of the imported products, a customs declaration, information on the destination of the goods until the customs procedure is completed, any prior official reports regarding the same type of product, and any official results from prior sampling of the same type of product.

Foreign Trade and Customs Policies

The Law on Foreign Trade ("Official Gazette RS" No.36/09, 36/11, 88/11 and 89/15) regulates foreign trade in accordance with the EU and WTO rules. The Law is in principle designed to promote free trade of goods and services. Per this law, restrictions and import bans may be applied only when they are needed to protect public health or guard the domestic market against subsidized or dumped products.

The Law on Customs Tariff ("Official Gazette RS" No.62/05, 61/07, 112/07, 9/08, 10/09, 100/09, 66/10, 95/11, 11/12, 115/12, 130/14, 98/15, 97/16 and 95/18) and Decree on "Harmonization of Customs Tariff Nomenclature", were adopted in November 2012. This decree was adopted as part of the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) between Serbia and the EU.

Effective January 1, 2014, per the SAA, approximately 95 percent of all EU agriculture imports became duty free. The remaining items now have an average duty rate of 0.99 percent. However, the rate is significantly higher on certain sensitive agricultural commodities. These products include honey, fresh tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, leafy greens, cucumbers, fruits, dry plums, live animals, fresh/chilled/frozen meats (except turkey and goat meat), processed meat products, pasta, wheat, corn, sugar, edible sunflower oil, fruit juices, fruit jams, fruit brandy and most dairy products. Tariffs on these products will not be changed until Serbia becomes a full member of the European Union. However, significant reductions in customs tariffs were introduced for some agricultural products: beef (from 15 percent to 12 percent), pork and poultry meat (15 percent to 9 percent), and

cheeses (15 percent to 10.5 percent). Also, tariffs on bovine milk were eliminated. The gradual liberalization of custom tariffs between Serbia and the EU began in 2009 and included a 6 year phase-in period (completed in 2014). Full liberalization should occur when Serbia becomes an EU member. Serbia has Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the Russian Federation, Turkey, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and countries from Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) on behalf of Kosovo. In October 2019, Serbia signed a new FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union (consisting of the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan) <http://www.eaeunion.org/?lang=en>. This FTA is now waiting for ratification in the national parliaments of all six countries to become valid.

Serbia applies the Harmonized System (HS) to its tariff schedule. Customs tariffs for agricultural products from third countries range from zero to 30 percent of imported values, with additional levies and seasonal taxes based on unit weight being applied to some agricultural products (for some fresh fruits and vegetables) only for the period of May to September each year. The harmonization of Serbian customs tariffs was necessary to facilitate customs clearance with EU countries that are among Serbia's key trading partners and to assist with the WTO negotiation process. The Decree on the "Harmonization of the Customs Tariff Nomenclature", established 9,706 tariff lines which are now harmonized with the EU's customs tariff nomenclature. Tariff lines for agricultural commodities are in Chapter 1-24.

Serbia's tariff rates fall into six groups: 1) the standard tariff rates, 2) the tariff rates for EU countries (according to the Stabilization and Association Agreement signed in 2008); 3) tariff rates for signatory countries of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) signed in 2006, which include Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNMIK-Kosovo; 4) tariff rates for signatory countries of the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) signed in 2009 which include Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Lichtenstein; 5) tariff rates as per Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and 6) tariff rates for products from Turkey (as per a Free Trade Agreement signed in 2009).

Since 2006, Serbia has been a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) which currently includes: Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNMIK-Kosovo. CEFTA countries account for 40 percent of Serbia's total agricultural exports and 23 percent of Serbia's total agricultural imports.

Serbia is not yet a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) but it has been harmonizing its legislation with WTO requirements including food safety and phytosanitary regulations to advance the accession process. Work still needs to be done on its legislation regarding genetically modified organisms to bring it into compliance with WTO and EU requirements. Serbia is already a member of the CODEX Alimentarius, the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Union of Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Cooperative Program for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR); and is a signatory of the Aarhus Convention and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Customs and Taxation

With the amended Customs Law and the Law on Customs tariffs, Serbia passed several implementing legislative acts. The legislation has been amended to align with the EU *Acquis* and some simplified procedures have been set up (i.e. summary declaration procedures and a simplified declaration). Serbia has adopted a new law on free trade zones, offering tax breaks and simplified procedures, while enabling foreign owned companies to establish and manage free trade zones in Serbia.

Overall, Serbia has reached a relatively good level of alignment with the EU customs *Acquis*. Significant improvements have been noted in the field of control and management of preferential trade measures (by origin). This is the result of the existence of computerized customs procedures and intensified training of customs officers. Concerning taxation, taxes are applied at the same rates for locally produced and imported goods. Serbia's value-added tax (VAT) for non-essential products is 20 percent, while the VAT on essential agricultural and food products (e.g. bread, flour, milk and dairy products, sugar, edible oil from sunflower, corn, soya, rape seed, olives, animal or plant origin fat, honey, frozen, processed, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and meat products, fish, eggs, grains, oilseeds, sugar beet, seeds, planting material, cattle feed, pesticides and fertilizers) is 10 percent.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

Alcoholic beverages, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are subject to specific taxation rules issued by the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance issues excise stamps, which must be included on the packaging prior to import into Serbia (please see Appendix I, # 6 for contact information). Import of alcoholic beverages, wine and non-alcoholic beverages does not require an import permit, but they must meet the quality controls before they can be imported. In 2009, Serbia adopted a new Law on Ethanol, in 2010 adopted a new Law on Beer, and in 2015 a new Law on Wine and a Law on Strong Alcoholic Beverages. From 2011 to 2015, a number of rulebooks were adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to implement the following laws:

The Law on Brandy and Other Alcohol Drinks ("Official Gazette RS" No.41/09) is superseded by the new *Law on Strong Alcoholic Beverages* ("Official Gazette RS" No. 92/15) that went into the effect on January 1, 2016. This new law regulates the production, trade, geographical designation, quality, description, labeling and transport of strong alcoholic drinks. It also envisages simpler and cheaper production of strong alcoholic beverages (mostly fruit brandies called "rakija"). According to the new law, strong alcoholic spirits are beverages intended for human consumption with specific organoleptic characteristics and a minimum alcoholic volume of 15 percent. According to the law, individual producers can legally sell domestically alcoholic beverages in two ways: 1) by selling it in bulk to registered legal entities that then process, bottle and trade the product or 2) by registering themselves with the Ministry of Agriculture to trade domestically produced strong alcoholic beverages. It is expected that the new law will aid small producers to sell their products legally. Previously, the registration and conditions for producing strong alcoholic beverages were relatively complicated and burdensome, so most individuals did not go through the full process. Reportedly, the law also will facilitate the registration and regulation of geographic indications and improve the intellectual property protections in this area.

The Law on Wine (“Official Gazette RS” No.41/09) and the Law on Amendments on Changes to the Law on Wine (“Official Gazette RS” 41/09 and 93/12) regulate various aspects of production and sales of wine. The regulations cover winemaking practices, classification and labeling, wine-production potential, documentation of wine industry activities and the duties of the enforcement agencies/inspections.

The Law on Ethanol (“Official Gazette RS” No.41/09) regulates production, marketing, export and import of ethanol. The law introduced the EU’s standards and regulatory framework to facilitate ethanol exports to the EU and the regional market. The regulation governs quality control and was intended to facilitate usage of Serbian ethanol across various industries (food processing, alcohol beverages production, medical, pharmaceutical cosmetics etc.), as well as attract new investment in ethanol production and trade. The law prescribes methods of registering production, packaging, marketing, quality controls and the responsibilities of controlling agencies/inspections. Several by-laws are still needed to more precisely regulate the technical aspects of ethanol production, as well as trade and market conditions.

The Law on Beer (“Official Gazette RS” 30/10) is a legal framework for regulating beer production and sales, and is intended to make Serbia’s beer industry more export competitive. The law allows only registered breweries to produce beer. Serbia’s MAFWM maintains a public register of breweries, as well as data on annual production, consumption of raw materials and production of final products.

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

The set of laws on efficient protection of Intellectual Property Rights is protecting trademark, service marks, brand names, patents and copyrights. Trade or service marks receive protection for a 10-year term from the date of filing, with the opportunity for the term to be extended. Serbia applies the Law on Trademarks, (“Official Gazette RS” No. 104/09, 99/11, 119/12, 29/16 and 66/19) governing the manner of acquisition and the protection of rights with respect to marks used in trade of goods and/or services. The Law on Patents (“Official Gazette RS” No. 99/11, 113/17, 95/18 and 66/19) legally protects and regulates patents and rights of the inventors, while the Law on Copyrights, (“Official Gazette RS” No.104/09, 99/11, 119/12 and 29/16) regulates copyright matters. Domestic and foreign applications must be submitted to the Intellectual Property Office (see Appendix II). Serbia is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and signatory to a number of conventions such as the Paris Convention Treaty on Patent Cooperation and the Madrid Agreement on International Registration of Marks. In 2018, Serbia adopted a new Amended Law on Geographical Indications of Origin (“Official Gazette RS” No.18/10 and 44/18). This law regulates the registration and legal protection of geographical indications of origin (GIs). GIs in the Republic of Serbia are registered on the basis of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration (The Lisbon Agreement http://www.wipo.int/lisbon/en/legal_texts/lisbon_agreement.html). GIs can be used to mark natural, agricultural, food and industrial products, traditional handicrafts and even services.

As a part of its EU and WTO harmonization efforts, Serbia adopted the *Law on Protection of Plant Breeder’s Rights/UPOV* (“Official Gazette RS” No.41/09) and the Law on Amendments on Changes of

Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights/UPOV ("Official Gazette RS" No. 88/11) that regulates protection of intellectual property rights of plant variety breeders, conditions for domestic breeders to register new plant varieties, conditions for safe circulation of foreign protected varieties in the domestic market. The law improved the availability of new domestic and foreign plant varieties, which should have a positive effect on agricultural production. Adoption of the law was necessary to harmonize Serbia's legal environment with the Convention of the Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and represented a precondition for membership of Serbia in UPOV. Serbia became a full member of UPOV in 2013 and since then it adopted all the required legislation. This law is also important for harmonizing with EU legislation and with the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the WTO.

Section IX. Import Procedures:

Foreign suppliers can export food products to Serbia using a locally registered office or a local company, shipping agent or forwarding agent registered for import activities. It is common for agents to help with food import regulations. Import approvals for agriculture commodities should be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM). Import approvals are required for live animals, products of animal origin with more than 2 percent of animal component, genetics, veterinary drugs, seeds and planting materials or pesticides. Prior approval is not required for other food products.

Standard documents such as a customs declaration, commercial invoice, bill of lading, and import approval (for the products mentioned above) must accompany all shipments as well as the relevant health certificates issued by the competent authority in the country of origin (e.g. a veterinary certificate for meat and meat products, a phytosanitary certificate for fruits, vegetables, seeds, planting material). In addition to a document check, veterinary and phytosanitary inspections are conducted at select border crossing points. Foods of animal origin and veterinary drugs must have prior import approvals from the Veterinary Department of the Serbian MAFWM. Forms for import notification are available online at the Ministry of Agriculture's website or can be obtained from the Ministry's Veterinary Department or from the Department for International Trade and Collaboration (please see Appendix I).

Imports of seeds and planting materials into Serbia are regulated by the Law on Seeds ("Official Gazette RS" 45/05 and 30/10), the Law on Planting Material of Fruits, Vine and Hops ("Official Gazette RS" No.18/05 and 30/10) and the Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights ("Official Gazette RS" No.41/09 and No. 88/11). Seed imports currently must be accompanied by a bill of lading, phytosanitary certificate, a variety of seed certificate (OECD) and a seed quality certificate (ISTA). Imported seeds must have a declaration issued by the relevant institution in the country of origin when they enter the Serbian market. For import of seeds U.S. exporter must check with the local importer about import requirements for seeds. Seeds are subject to field trials as part of the registration process and prior to being allowed to circulate on the market they must be included in the national register of the MAFWM (please see Appendix I, # 8).

Section X. Trade Facilitation:

Customs clearance for food products, if all documents are in order and no tests are pending, can be done in one day. Inspection fees are charged by the state veterinary and phytosanitary inspectors that are common for all border inspection posts. For the list of fees please contact FAS Office Belgrade or check at the official web pages of the Veterinary Directorate <https://www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs/sr> and at the Phytosanitary Directorate <http://www.uzb.minpolj.gov.rs/> .

Serbia, as an EU accession country is a member of Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/> , the European Commission's multilingual online platform for sanitary and phytosanitary certification required for the importation of animals, animal products, food and feed of non-animal origin, and plants into the European Union, and the intra-EU trade and EU exports of animals and certain animal products, TRACES. Serbia is also exchanging certificates through the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ePhyto Solutions <https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/> .

The respective US government agencies must issue electronic certificates for goods entering Serbia. In the absence of electronic documents, paper certificates are required to satisfy the regulations for an original certificate with an ink signature.

Inspections on imported foods are conducted at the Serbian borders. Once goods have passed inspection and customs duties are paid, they can move freely throughout Serbia. However, official controls remain possible at any stage of distribution within the country.

Appendix I.

Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts:

1. Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Nemanjina 22-26,

11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 260 7960

E-mail: office@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/>

2. Ministry of Environmental Protection

Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2,

11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 311 0271

E-mail: kabinet@ekologija.gov.rs

Web page: www.ekologija.gov.rs

3. Serbian Ministry of Trade, Telecommunication and Tourism

Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2,
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 311 3432
E-mail: kabinet@mtt.gov.rs
Web page: www.mtt.gov.rs

4. Serbian Ministry of Health

Nemanjina 22-26,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 3616 596
E-mail: kabinet@zdravlje.gov.rs
Web page: www.zdravlje.gov.rs

5. Serbian Ministry of Economy

Kneza Milosa 20,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 36 42 700
E-mail: kabinet@privreda.gov.rs
Web page: http://www.privreda.gov.rs/?change_lang=en

6. Serbian Ministry of Finance

Kneza Milosa 20,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 361 32 45
E-mail: kabinet@mfin.gov.rs
Web page: <http://www.mfin.gov.rs>

7. Import of live animals and products of animal origin, veterinary drugs

Veterinary Department/International Trade and Certification
Omladinskih brigada 1,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 311 7734
E-mail: vetuprava@minpolj.gov.rs
Web page: www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs

8. Import of seeds and planting material

Phytosanitary Department
Omladinskih Brigada 1,
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 311 7371
E-mail: upravabilje@minpolj.gov.rs
Web page: <http://www.uzb.minpolj.gov.rs/index.php?lang=en>

9. Import of pesticides and fertilizers

Phytosanitary Department/Import and registration of pesticides

Omladinskih Brigada 1,
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 260 2329

E-mail: upravabilje@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: http://www.uzb.minpolj.gov.rs/?menu_id=13&menu_id=20

10. GMO approvals and registrations

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

1, Omladinskih Brigada St.
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 311 7591

E-mail: upravabilje@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page : http://www.uzb.minpolj.gov.rs/?menu_id=13&menu_id=20

11. Approvals of plant varieties

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

1, Omladinskih Brigada St.
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 311 7317

E-mail: upravabilje@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page : http://www.uzb.minpolj.gov.rs/?menu_id=13&menu_id=20

12. Inspection on sanitary conformity

Serbian Ministry of Health

Department for Sanitary Inspection
1, Omladinskih Brigada Str.

11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 2607 874

E-mail: <https://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/#>

Web page: www.zdravlje.gov.rs

13. Market inspection

Serbian Ministry of Trade, Telecommunication and Tourism

Department for Market Inspection
Nemanjina 22-26

11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 361 4334

E-mail: lidija.stojanovic@mtt.gov.rs

Web page: www.mtt.gov.rs

14. Imports of Wine

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Nemanjina 22-26,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 3617 595
E-mail: jkuzmanovic@minpolj.gov.rs
Web page: <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/>

15. Imports of brandy, alcohol and nonalcoholic beverages

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Nemanjina 22-26,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 3617 701
E-mail: kolinda@minpolj.gov.rs
Web page: <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/>

16. Directorate for National Reference Laboratories

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Batajnicki drum bb,
11080 Zemun, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 377 2070
E-mail: nenad.dolovac@minpolj.gov.rs
Web page: http://www.dnrl.minpolj.gov.rs/?menu_id=100

17. Customs clearance:

Serbian Custom Administration
Bulevar Zorana Đinđića 155 a,
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 2690 822
E-mail: pr@carina.rs
Web page: <http://www.carina.rs/en>

18. Institute for trademarks, patents and intellectual property

Intellectual Property Office
Knjeginje Ljubice 5, 11000 Belgrade
Phone: + 381 11 2025 800
E-mail: zis@zis.gov.rs
Web page: www.zis.gov.rs

19. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

Milana Rakica 5,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: +381 11 2412 922
E-mail: stat@stat.gov.rs
Web page : <https://www.stat.gov.rs/>

20. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

13-15 Resavska Street,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: +381 11 3300-900
E-mail: bis@pks.rs
Web page : <http://www.pks.rs/>

21. Serbian European Integration Office

34 Nemanjina Street,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 38111 3061-100
E-mail: office@mei.gov.rs
Web page: <http://www.mei.gov.rs/eng/ministry/about-us/>

22. Serbian Government Official

Web page: <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/>

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

1. Office of Agricultural Affair (Foreign Agricultural Service)

U.S. Embassy Belgrade
Bulevar kneza Aleksandra Karadjordjevica 92,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++381 11 706 4158
Contact person: Tatjana Maslac, Agriculture Specialist
E-mail: tatjana.maslac@fas.usda.gov
Web page: <https://rs.usembassy.gov/embassy/belgrade/sections-offices/foreign-agricultural-service>

2. University of Belgrade, Veterinary Faculty

Bul. JNA18,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 11 361 5436
Web page: <http://www.vet.bg.ac.rs/>

3. Institute of Meat Hygiene and Meat Technology

Kacanskog 13,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 11 2650 655
E-mail: institut@inmes.rs
Web page: <http://inmes.rs/>

4. National Laboratory for Seed Testing

Maksima Gorkog 30,
21000 Novi Sad, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 21 4898 100
E-mail: institut@nsseme.com
Web page: <http://www.nsseme.com/en/>

5. Institute for Public Health “Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut”

Dr. Subotica 5,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: + 381 11 2684 566
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Attachments:

No Attachments