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Croatia

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

FAIRS Annual Country Report

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Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the food and agricultural product import requirements for Croatia. Croatia, as a member of the European Union, follows EU directives and regulations. Thus, it is recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards report for the European Union (EU-28 FAIRS). Important points of contact for U.S. food exporters are listed in the appendices. All sections of this annual report were updated in November 2018.

Section I. General Food Laws

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service 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.

This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural product imports into Croatia. Croatia, as a member of the European Union, follows EU directives and regulations. It is therefore recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards ([EU-28 FAIRS](#)) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the European Union. Imports from third countries must comply with national legislation when EU law does not exist. Croatia's food laws and regulations are valid both for domestic and imported products and are generally applied regularly and consistently as part of border inspections.

Croatian laws and regulations can be found in the Croatian language at: www.nn.hr.

Croatia's food legislation consists of the following key laws:

- The Food Act (Governmental Gazette NN81/2013, NN14/2014; NN30/2015);
- the Law on the Application of EU Regulation 2015/2283 on Novel Food (Governmental Gazette 15/2018);
- The Law on Food Hygiene and Microbiological Criteria for Food (Governmental Gazette NN81/2013);
- The Act on Protected Designations of Origin, Protected Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (NN80/2013, NN14/2014; NN 30/2015);
- The Law on Water for Human Consumption (Governmental Gazette NN56/2013; NN 104/2017);
- The Law on Food Additives, Aromas and Food Enzymes (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013);
- The Law on Nutritional and Health Claims and Food Enriched with Nutrients (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013);
- The Law on the Import of Food and Feed from Third Countries (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013);
- The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on feeding stuffs for: infants and young children, special nutritional uses and replacements for whole-day diet in a reduction diets (NN69/2017);
- The Law on Materials and Objects in Direct Contact with Food (Governmental Gazette NN25/2013, NN41/2014)
- The Law on Contaminants (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013)

- The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 396/2005 on Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticide in and on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin (Governmental Gazette 80/2013)
- The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (Governmental Gazette NN70/2005, NN137/2009, NN28/2013, NN47/2014, NN15/2018);
- the Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 1829/2003 on GMO Food and Feed and Regulation 1830/2003 on Traceability and Labeling of Food and Feed Derived from GMOs that Amends EU Directive 2001/18/EC (Governmental Gazette NN18/2013, NN47/2014);
- The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 1946/2003 on Trans-boundary movement of genetically modified organisms (Governmental Gazette 81/2013)
- The Wine Act (Governmental Gazette NN96/2003, NN55/2011, NN14/2014);
- The Law on Informing Consumer about Food (Governmental Gazette NN56/2013, NN14/2014; NN56/2016);
- The Law on Official Controls Performed in Accordance with Food, Feed, Health and Animal Welfare Legislation (Governmental Gazette NN81/2013, NN14/2014; NN56/2015);
- The Law on Sanitary Inspection (Governmental Gazette NN113/2008, NN88/2010).

Section II. Food Additives Regulations

Additives are regulated by The Law on Food Additives, Aromas and Food Enzymes (NN39/2013). Furthermore, Croatia applies EU regulations and does not have specific, national requirements for additives. For details on EU regulations see the [EU-28 FAIRS](#) report.

Croatia does not recognize the CODEX food additive list. All companies that seek to place food on the market in Croatia must comply with the EU list of food additives as published in EU Regulation 1333/2008, Regulation 1332/2008 on food enzymes and Regulation 1334/2008 on flavorings.

New additives, flavorings and enzymes can be added to the list according to EU Regulation 1331/2008, which prescribes a single common procedure for the entire EU. This ensures consistency in the procedures used to approve additives, flavorings and enzymes with an emphasis on the safety evaluations by EFSA on which the approval procedure is based. For details on EU procedure see the [EU-28 FAIRS](#) report.

Section III. Pesticides and Other Contaminants

The maximum content of certain pesticide or pesticide residues in foodstuffs is governed by The Law on Transposition of the EU Regulation 396/2005 on Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticides in or on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin (NN80/2013). Other contaminants in food are regulated by the Law on Contaminants (NN39/2013), which incorporates all EU regulations dealing with contaminants, for details see the [EU-28 FAIRS](#) report.

Croatia's list of residues of pesticides on and in food is in full compliance with the EU lists. This regulation is enforced by municipal and customs sanitary and veterinary inspection officials.

The pesticide residue list is positive, i.e., stating what is permitted versus what is not permitted. Thus any residue that is not found on the list, regardless of quantity, is deemed an adulterant. For details see the [EU-28 FAIRS](#) report.

According to the Law on Transposition of the EU Regulation 1107/2009 on Placing of Plant Protection Products on the Market (NN80/2013), all pesticides must be registered. For details, see the [EU-28 FAIRS](#) report.

For a list of authorized active substances or pesticide-MRL combinations, see the European Commission's online database at [Pesticides list](#).

Section IV. Packaging and Container Regulations

When it comes to the container content and indicated quantity, the maximum tolerable error between the actual content and the quantity indicated on the label, and methods to check this are fixed in Council Directive 76/211/EEC, as amended and transposed to Croatian Regulation on Measuring Requirements for Prepackaged Products of Constant Filling Marked with Weight or Volume (NN82/2016).

The Regulation on Metrological Requirements for Filling Packages and Bottles as Measuring Containers (NN82/2016) prescribes package nominal fillings and the marking of quantities. This regulation is in compliance with EU Council Directive 75/107/EEC from 12/19/1974.

EU Directive 2007/45/EC abolished older regulations on mandatory pack sizes at both the EU and national levels. The Directive sets sizes for all prepackaged products except wine and spirits and coffee. Mandatory nominal quantities for wines and spirits are in the Annex to Directive 2007/45/EC. This was transposed into Croatia's Regulation on Nominal Quantities of Prepackaged Products (NN82/2016; NN33/2017).

Detailed information on "Legal Metrology" is available on the European Commission's website <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/legal-metrology/>.

Packaging materials and packaging material waste are covered by the Regulation on Packaging Materials and Packaging Material Waste (NN88/2015, NN78/2016, NN116/17).

Limitations on the type of packaging materials that can be used are described in the Law on Materials and Objects in Direct Contact with Food (NN25/2013, NN41/2014). This regulation puts into national legislation the EU regulations on the topic.

Section V. Labeling Requirements

A. General Requirements

As of December 13, 2014, EU Regulation 1169/2011 establishes the new horizontal food labeling requirements. For more details, please refer to the [EU-28 FAIRS](#) report.

B. Other Specific Labeling Requirements

For Health/Nutrition Claims see [Nutrition Health Claims](#).

For Foods Containing or Derived from Genetically Modified Substances, see the Law on the Transposition of EU Regulation 1829/2003 on GMO Food and Feed and EU Regulation 1831/2003 on Traceability and Labeling of Food and Feed Derived from GMOs that Amends EU Directive 2001/18/EC (NN18/2013, NN47/2014). Food and feed containing genetically engineered ingredients must have special, additional information on the label that informs consumers of all of its characteristics. In Croatia, a product must be labeled as GMO if it contains more than 0.9% of an approved event.

Additional information can be found at:

Ministry of Health
Directorate for Sanitary Inspection and Public Health
Ksaver 200a, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
Sanitary Inspection
Tel. +385 1 4607 555
Fax. +385 1 4607 076
[Sanitary Inspection](#)

Further details on labeling of food and certain specific food products (e.g. beef, wine, fruit juice, etc.) can be obtained from the FAS office in Zagreb.

Croatian authorities do not grant exceptions to the labeling regulations.

Section VI. Other Specific Standards

Fortification of foods with vitamins and minerals is permitted. In this case, labeling must be carried out per the Law on Nutritional and Health Claims and Food Enriched with Nutrients (NN39/2013).

Food products produced from substances derived from GMOs are regulated by:

--The Food Act (NN81/2013, NN14/2014; NN30/2015) that governs the responsible bodies and their tasks, responsibilities of stakeholders in food and feed handling, official controls and legal measures.

-- The Law on the Transposition of EU Regulation 1829/2003 on GMO Food and Feed and Regulation 1830/2003 on the Traceability and Labeling of Food and Feed Derived from GMOs that amends EU Directive 2001/18/EC (NN18/2013, NN47/2014) establish the responsible bodies and their tasks relating to the handling of biotechnology products as well as the penalties for breaching the provisions of the law.

Novel foods are regulated by the Law on the Application of EU Regulation 2015/2283 on Novel Food (Governmental Gazette 15/2018). This law deals with all aspects of novel food, that is, all foods which were not consumed in the EU to a significant degree before May 15, 1997.

Dietetic or special use foods fall under The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on feeding stuffs for: infants and young children, special nutritional uses and replacements for whole-day diet in a reduction diets (NN69/2017).

Food sanitation: This subject is covered by the Law on Food Hygiene and Microbiological Criteria for Food (NN81/2013). This law incorporates Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles and transposes the appropriate EU legislation. Some of the requirements of this law are the following: HACCP application; official controls of production facilities when it comes to HACCP; procedures if there is misconduct (product destruction, fines, etc.); recording and tracking of temperatures within the cold chain and official inspections of the cold chain; sampling procedures and validated testing methods for microbiological food safety; ministries and their responsibilities including guidance to industry regarding different good manufacturing practices, etc.

Animal quarantine: To import live animals, animals must pass through quarantine which can range from 5 to 30 days, depending on the type of animal, health status and accompanying certification. For example, quarantine for cattle imported for slaughter is 5 days on the importer's farm and for breeding 30 days on the importer's farm. The competent authority is the Veterinary Inspection Service, Ministry of Agriculture, for contact information please see Appendix I.

Croatian wine legislation is based on EU wine legislation. The Croatian Wine Act (NN96/2003, NN 55/2011, NN14/2014), including related ordinances, transposes the relevant EU regulations of the Common Market Order (CMO) of wine. Croatia, however, has maintained its individuality. Three general traditional terms within quality designations are recognized: table wine, wine of quality, and "top quality" wine. The categories are determined by the quality of processed grape, yield per hectare, amount of alcohol and other natural ingredients and organoleptic (sensory) properties. Mandatory information on the label should include: wine category, real alcoholic strength, net quantity, for some wines (sparkling) - amount of sugar, for some wines (e.g. protected geographic indications) traditional name, origin, bottler for still wines, producer for sparkling wines, lot number, importer and amount of allergens. Additional data on the label can include: geographical area of production, vintage (for wines with at least 85 percent of the grapes from that vintage), grape variety, bottling place, etc. Wines from third countries may be marketed with the original label in accordance with the requirements of the country of production. The Wine act is expected to go through the same changes in 2019.

Beer is regulated by The Regulation on Beer (NN142/2011, 141/2013), and strong alcohol is regulated by The Regulation on Strong Alcohols Drinks (NN61/2009, NN141/2009, NN86/2011, NN104/2011, NN118/2012).

Organic products: EU Regulation 834/2007 on Organic Production and Labeling of Organic Products governs organics. For details refer to the [EU-28 FAIRS](#) report.
<http://www.mps.hr/hr/poljoprivreda-i-ruralni-razvoj/poljoprivreda/ekoloska/zakonodavstvo>

Product samples and mail order shipments are treated like any other import.

Section VII. Facility and Product Registration Requirements

A. Facility Registration

The EU approves establishments to ship products of animal origin based on submissions from U.S. government agencies. Only products processed in approved establishments may enter the EU. Detailed information on approved U.S. establishments is available at [Certification - EU Import Rules](#) .

B. Product Registration

U.S. exporters should be aware that certain products and ingredients may fall within the scope of the Novel Foods Regulation and need a pre-market authorization. The introduction of foodstuffs with particular nutritional uses needs to be notified to the Ministry of Health.

C. Other

All shipments that contain food go through a sanitary inspection. Random tests are conducted for GMO content and compliance with microbiological and contaminant health standards.

An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates can be found on the FAS Brussels website at [Certification - EU Import Rules](#).

Product samples shipped via express mail and food for fairs are treated like any other food import-they must comply with all the food regulations applicable in the EU and/or Croatia (for details consult [EU-28 FAIRS](#)). The invoice must also state that it is a sample and free of charge - then it is treated as a sample for customs purposes in terms of levying duties.

Section VIII. Other Certification and Testing Requirements

An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authorities issuing these certificates is available at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/> .

U.S. exports of “composite products” are continuing to be restricted due to burdensome certification requirements introduced in a 2012 European Commission Regulation. Composite products are defined as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagna. While the United States is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, shipping the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients is a more complicated matter. All composite products containing a processed meat product are subject to a veterinary check. Generally speaking, composite products that have more than 50 percent of animal origin products also require a certificate and there are certification requirements concerning heat treatment for all dairy products. The EU has created a model health certificate for imports of composite products, which was implemented in 2012. A detailed Product Decision Tree to clarify the scope of the legislation was published in 2013. This guidance greatly expanded the number and types of products affected by the legislation.

Commission Decision 2007/275/EC also lists certain composite products that are not subject to veterinary checks, provided they are shelf stable and properly packaged and labeled. With Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1196, an important update to the list of products that has to undergo veterinary inspection has been published. This decision restricts the lists of products that are exempt from veterinary inspection, especially affecting the food supplement sector.

Croatia regularly tests products at the border and in the market. The testing is performed in accordance with Croatia’s annual inspection plans for Sanitary Inspection and Veterinary Inspection, which is determined based on available fiscal resources. Infringements of EU food and feed legislation are reported through the Rapid Alert System on Food and Feeds (RASFF). The rapid alert system is a network of Member State authorities managed by the European Commission. The database with RASFF notifications is accessible via the RASFF portal. Information published on this website provides several notification details such as the reason for the non-compliance and the origin of the product but does not include company information. Repeated non-compliance may lead to suspension of imports or special import conditions for products from the third country concerned, applicable on the entire EU territory.

Section IX. Import Procedures

Incoming goods must go through customs storage at transport terminals or airports. After goods arrive at the customs storage, the importer or freight forwarder should begin procedures for checking and clearing goods, which includes special documents that should be sent to the Inspection Departments and the Customs Office. The procedure begins at the Sanitary Inspection Department of the Ministry of Health, which checks all products (except animal products, which are checked by the Veterinary Inspection Department from the Ministry of Agriculture). More specifically, from time to time, samples are taken for food safety, quality and biotech testing. The importer must pay for product inspections. If products are flagged for further quality and/or health standard review their sale will be prohibited until the analytical results are returned and they are deemed to be safe. Customs clearance and removal from storage is carried out under the supervision of a customs officer who compares the documents

with the commodities after they have been checked by the sanitary or veterinary inspector for quality, ingredients and health standards.

Customs clearance for food products, if all documents are in order and no tests are pending, can be done in one day.

Complete information on EU import rules for food products may be found at: [EU Import Rules](#) .

Import certificates must be in the official language of the Member State where the border inspection occurs. In Croatia, according to the Law on Import of Food and Feed from Third Countries (NN39/2013), the responsible party in the import procedure is obligated to provide inspectors with analytical reports and certificates in the Latin alphabet and translated into Croatian (bilingual English/Croatian certificates are admissible). All the certificates can be found in Croatian on the EU Official Journal website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>) under the relevant regulation.

Section X. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws

Trademarks are legally protected in Croatia. A trademark is valid for a period of 10 years, and after ten years the validity has to be renewed. The number of renewals is indefinite.

Companies interested in registering trademarks or brand names must apply at the State Intellectual Property Office where information and forms are available. Information on the registration process in Croatia can be found on the State Intellectual Property Office's web page: [Trademarks](#).

Protected Geographical Indications (GI)

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for regulating the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for food and wine. The Regulation on Protected Designations of Origin, Protected Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (NN65/2015; NN19/2017) transposes EU Regulation 1151/2012 and regulates national level registration. The Regulation on Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications, Traditional Expressions and Labeling Wines (NN141/2010, NN31/2011, NN78/2011, NN120/2012) is pertinent for wine.

Third countries can have their geographic names for food and wine recognized and protected at the EU level, which is then also valid in Croatia. To qualify for protection in all the Member States, designations of origin and geographical indications should be registered only at the EU level. Member states are able to grant transitional protection at the national level without affecting intra-EU or international trade once the registration has been filed. In theory, the protection afforded by EU Regulation 1151/2012 upon registration is equally available to designations of origin and geographical indications of third countries that meet the corresponding criteria and that are protected in their country of origin.

Lists of protected names by country, product type, registered name and name applied for are available through the Commission's online "DOOR" ([Database of Origin and Registration](#)) database.

The State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia is the competent authority governing the procedures of other products and services in compliance with the Act on Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin of Products and Services (NN173/2003, NN76/2007, NN49/2011, 46/2018), and Regulations on Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin of Products and Services (NN72/2004, NN117/2007, NN66/2011).

Contact information for State Intellectual Property Office:

State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
HR - 10000 Zagreb
CROATIA
Receiving office
Tel: +385 1 61 06 418
Fax: +385 1 61 12 017
Independent Service for Customer Support and Information Services
Tel: +385 1 61 09 825
Fax: +385 1 61 12 017
e-mail: info@dziv.hr
<http://www.dziv.hr/en/>

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Control over the products governed by the laws covering meat, animals (including animal breeding), and plants (including wine) are regulated by:

Government of the Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Agriculture
Grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 6106 111
Fax. +385 1 6109 200
E mail: pisarnica01-MP@mps.hr
<http://www.mps.hr/default.aspx?id=5340>

Government of the Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Agriculture
Planinska ulica 2a,
10000 Zagreb
Veterinary Directorate
Tel. +385 1 6443 540

Fax. +385 1 6443 899

E mail: uprava.veterinarstva@mps.hr

<http://www.mps.hr/hr/veterinarstvo-i-hrana/sigurnost-hrane>

Government of the Republic of Croatia

Ministry of Health

Ksaver 200a

10 000 Zagreb

Sanitary Inspection

Tel. +385 1 4607 555

Fax. +385 1 4677 076

<https://zdravstvo.gov.hr/>

Control of metrological requirements for packages and bottles is regulated by:

State Office for Metrology

Department for Metrology

Capraska 6

10 000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 1 563 00 00

Fax: +385 1 563 00 01

E-mail: pisarnica@dzm.hr

<http://www.dzm.hr/>

General trade legislation is overseen by:

Government of the Republic of Croatia

Ministry of Economy

Grada Vukovara 78

10000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 1 6106 111

Fax: +385 1 6109 110

<http://www.mingo.hr/en>

Waste disposal is regulated by:

Government of the Republic of Croatia

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Radnicka c. 80

10 000 Zagreb

Tel. +385 1 3717 131

Fax. +385 1 3717 135

<http://www.mzoip.hr/en/>

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts

Useful contacts for general advice on food trade in Croatia:

Croatian Chamber of Economy (Commerce)
Agriculture, Food Industry and Forestry Department
Rooseveltova trg 2
10000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 4826 066
Fax. +385 1 4561 545
E mail: poljoprivreda@hgk.hr
<http://www.hgk.hr/english>

Croatian Customs
Alexandera von Humbolta 4a
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 6211 300, +385 0800 1222
Fax. +385 1 6211 011, +385 1 6211 012
E-mail: ured-ravnatelj@carina.hr, javnost@carina.hr
<http://www.carina.hr/Test/ConstructionEN.aspx>

Selected food laboratories in Croatia:

Croatian Public Health Institute
Department for Food Safety
Rockefellerova 7
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 4863 222
Fax. +385 1 4863 366
E-mail: hzjz@hzjz.hr
<http://www.hzjz.hr/english/>

Public Health Institute "Dr. Andrija Štampar"
Mirogojska cesta 16
10 000 Zagreb
Tel.+ 385 1 46 96 111
Fax. + 385 1 64 14 006
E-mail: info@stampar.hr
<http://www.stampar.hr/en>

Croatian Veterinary Institute
Savska cesta 143
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 612 36 66
E-mail: ured@veinst.hr
<http://www.veinst.hr/en/>

Quick information on establishing a Croatian company can be found at:

Hitro HR
Tel. 0800 0080
E-mail info@hitro.hr.
<http://www.hitro.hr/>

EMBASSY (USDA/FAS) POINT OF CONTACT

For questions regarding other issues not covered in this report, please contact:

Ms. Andreja Misir
American Embassy
Foreign Agricultural Service
Thomas Jefferson St. 2
10000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 665 8951
Mobile +385 91 455 2365
E mail: AgZagreb@fas.usda.gov

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