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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Russian Federation

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

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Report Highlights:

This report is an overview of general legal and technical requirements for food and agricultural imports imposed by the Russian Federation. The following sections of this report have seen considerable revisions from the 2012 FAIRS report: Section I: Food Laws, Section II: Labeling Requirements, Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations, Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants, Section VI: Other Regulations and Requirements, and Section VII: Other Specific Standards.

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List of Abbreviations

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

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

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

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

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

GOST R - Russia’s national standards

HN – Hygienic Norms

SanPiN – Sanitary Norms and Rules

Executive Summary

This report is an overview of general legal and technical requirements for food and agricultural imports imposed by the Russian Federation.

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) offices in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Vladivostok prepared this report on Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While the USDA offices in Russia believe this report to be accurate, policies may have changed since its preparation, or clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. FAS/Russia recommends that U.S. exporters verify requirements with their import partners before any goods are shipped. Note: 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.

Despite Russia's WTO accession in August 2012, control over imported foodstuffs by Russian agencies remains complicated and bureaucratic. While the legal framework has improved, in practice, Russia has not yet taken all of the steps expected towards improving the environment for trade. Moreover, Russia has, in some instances, moved backward, to harmonize with restrictive European Union regulations.

Section I: Food Laws

Many of Russia's food and trade regulations have or are undergoing reform as the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union (CU) continues policy integration. Russia also continues to adjust policies pursuant to its World Trade Organization (WTO) accession on August 22, 2012. In practice, Russia continues coordinating policy reform closely with the European Union, and as a result, changes in regulation reflect those of its primary trade partner.

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

Russian Legislation and Principal Regulatory Documents on Foodstuff Imports

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

1. Customs Union documents:

General

- CU Customs Code, in force since July 1, 2010 (as amended through April 16, 2010) <<http://www.tsouz.ru/Docs/kodeks/Pages/default.aspx>>, includes unofficial translation into English

Tariff and TRQs

- Unified CU Customs Tariff, in effect as of August 23, 2012 (as amended through November 5, 2013) <<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/trade/catr/ett/Pages/default.aspx>>
- EEC Council Decision No. 54 of "On Approval of the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union and the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union" (as amended through November 19, 2013) <http://www.alta.ru/show_orders.php?action=view&filename=12sr0054>
- EEC Collegium Decision No. 242 of October 30, 2013, "On the List of Goods, which are Subject to Tariff-Rate Quotas in 2014, and the Volume of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Imports of these Goods into the Member

States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space” (refers to beef, pork, poultry, and whey)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/docs/Download.aspx?IsDlq=0&ID=4895&print=1>>

General SPS Measures

- CU Commission Decision No. 625 of 7 April 2011 "On Harmonization of CU Legal Acts in the Field of Sanitary, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Measures with International Standards" (as amended through June 22, 2011<http://www.tsouz.ru/KTS/KTS26/Pages/R_625.aspx,
http://www.tsouz.ru/KTS/KTS29/Pages/R_722.aspx>
- CU Commission Decision No. 721 of 22 June 2011 "On Application of International Standards, Recommendations, and Guidelines"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/docs/Download.aspx?IsDlq=0&ID=1845&print=1>>
- EEC Collegium Decision No. 212 of November 6, 2012 "On Regulation on the Uniform Procedure of Carrying Out Examination of Legal Acts in the Sphere of Implementation of Sanitary, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Measures"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/docs/Download.aspx?IsDlq=0&ID=3659&print=1>>
- CU Commission Decision No. 835 of 18 October 2011 "On Equivalence of Sanitary, Veterinary or Phytosanitary Measures and Conduct of Risk Assessment"
<http://www.tsouz.ru/KTS/KTS32/Pages/R_835.aspx>

Sanitary Measures

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

- CU Commission Decision No. 299 of 28 May 2010 "On the Application of Sanitary Measures in the Customs Union" <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/depsanmer/sanmeri/Pages/P2_299.aspx> (as amended through January 15, 2013)

Veterinary Measures

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

- CU Commission Decision No. 317 of 18 June 2010 "On the Application of Veterinary-Sanitary Measures in the Customs Union" (as amended through October 29, 2013)
- CU Commission Decision No. 455 of 18 November 2010 adopted "The Unified List of Dangerous and Quarantine Diseases of Animals of the Customs Union"
- CU Commission Decision No. 607 of 7 April 2011 "On Common Forms of Veterinary Certificates on Imported Goods Subject to Veterinary Control into the Customs Union Territory" (as amended through October 29, 2013)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/depsanmer/vetsanmeri/Pages/vetsertifikaty.aspx>>
- CU Commission Decision No. 624 of 7 April 2011 "On the Regulation on the Procedure of Development and Maintenance of the Register of Companies and Persons which Carry out Production, Reprocessing and (or) Storing Products Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) and Imported into the territory of the Custom Union"
- CU Commission Decision No. 810 of 23 September 2011 "On Exemptions from the Application of the Veterinary Measures in Respect of Goods Included in the Unified List of Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)" (as amended through May 16, 2013)
- CU Commission Decision No. 834 of 18 October 2011 "On Regulation on Common System of Joint Inspections of Objects and Sampling Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)"

Phytosanitary Measures

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

- CU Commission Decision No. 318 of 18 June 2010 "On Assurance of Plant Quarantine in the Customs Union" (as amended through August 16, 2013)

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

- CU Commission Decision No. 319 of 18 June 2010 "On Technical Regulation in the Customs Union" (as amended through April 9, 2013)
- CU Commission Decision No. 526 of 28 January 2011 "Common List of Products which shall be Subject to Mandatory Requirements within the Customs Union" (as amended through November 23, 2012)
- CU Commission Decision No. 620 of 7 April 2011 "Common List of Products, Subject to Mandatory Evaluation (Confirmation) of Compliance within the Customs Union with the Issuance of Common Documents" (as amended through June 25, 2013)
- CU Commission Decision No. 621 of 7 April 2011 "On the Regulation on Application of Standard Schemes for Evaluation (Confirmation) of Compliance with Technical Regulations of the Customs Union"
- CU Commission Decision No. 629 of 7 April 2011 "On Draft Procedure for Establishment of Lists of International and Regional (Interstate) Standards, and in their Absence - National (State) Standards, Ensuring Compliance with Technical Regulations of the Customs Union and Necessary for Assessment (Confirmation) of Compliance" (as amended through May 31, 2012)
- CU Commission Decision No. 711 of 15 July 2011 "On the Common Sign of Circulation of Products on the Market of the Member-States of the Customs Union (as amended through July 20, 2012)
<<http://www.tsouz.ru/db/techregulation/techbars/Pages/EAC.aspx>>
- EEC Collegium Decision No. 293 of 25 December 2012 "On the Unified Forms of a Certificate of Conformity and a Declaration of Conformity with the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union and the Rules of their Execution"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/docs/Download.aspx?IsDlq=0&ID=3814&print=1>>
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 005/2011 "On Safety of Packaging" (as amended through December 17, 2012) <<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezopypakovki.aspx>>
For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1253 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Packaging](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 015/2011 "On Safety of Grain" (as amended through November 20, 2012)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezpozerna.aspx>>
For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1250 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 024/2011 "Technical Regulation on Oils and Fats"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/MasloGirov.aspx>>
For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1326 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 021/2011 "On Food Safety"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/PischevayaProd.aspx>>
For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1233 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Safety](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 022/2011 "On Food Labeling"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/PischevkaMarkirivka.aspx>> For English translation please see GAIN report [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 023/2011 "Technical Regulation on Juice Products from Fruits and Vegetables" (as amended through November 13, 2012)
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/SokovayaProd.aspx>>
For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1334 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Juice](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 027/2011 "On Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Prophylactic Nutrition"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezopSpecProd.aspx>>
For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1340 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Specialized Foods](#)
- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 029/2011 "Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids"
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tehnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezopPischDobavok.aspx>> For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1338 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Additives](#)

- CU Technical Regulation TR TS 029/2011 “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids”
<<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/deptexreg/tr/Pages/bezopPischDobavok.aspx>> For English translation please see GAIN report [RS1338 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Additives](#)

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

General

- Federal Law No. 164-FZ of 8 December 2003 “On the Basis of Regulation of Foreign Trade Activity” (as amended through November 30, 2013) <<http://base.garant.ru/12133486/>>
- Chapters 21 and 22 of the Russian Tax Code (as amended through November 25, 2013), regulating the application of VAT (including import VAT and export VAT refunds) and excises <<http://base.garant.ru/10900200/>>
- Part IV of the Russian Civil Code (as amended through July 23, 2013), regulating intellectual property rights <<http://base.garant.ru/10164072/>>
- The Federal Law on Customs Regulation No. 311 dated November 27, 2010 (as amended through July 23, 2013) <<http://base.garant.ru/12180625/>>
- Federal Law No. 2300-1 of February 7, 1992 “On Protecting Consumer Rights” (as amended through July 2, 2013) <<http://base.garant.ru/10106035/>>

General SPS Measures

- Federal Law No. 86-FZ of July 5, 1996 “On State Regulation In The Sphere Of Genetic Engineering Activities” (as amended through July 19, 2011) <<http://base.garant.ru/10135402/>>

Sanitary Measures

- Federal Law No. 52-FZ of 30 March 1999 “On The Sanitary And Epidemiological Well-Being Of The Population” (as amended through November 25, 2013) <<http://base.garant.ru/12115118/>>
- Federal Law No. 29-FZ of January 2, 2000 “On The Quality And Safety Of Food Products” (as amended through July 19, 2011) <<http://base.garant.ru/12117866/>>

Veterinary Measures

- Federal Law No. 4979-1 of 14 May 1993 “On Veterinary Practices” (as amended through July 18, 2011) <<http://base.garant.ru/10108225/>>

Phytosanitary Measures

- Federal Law No. 99-FZ of 15 July 2000 “On Quarantine of Plants” (as amended through July 18, 2011) <<http://base.garant.ru/12120209/>>

Technical Regulation

- Federal Law No. 171-FZ of November 22, 1995 “On State Regulation Of The Production And Handling Of Ethyl Alcohol, Spirits, And Products Containing Alcohol” (as amended through November 2, 2013) <<http://base.garant.ru/10105489/>>
- Federal Law No. 184-FZ of December 27, 2002 “On Technical Regulation” (as amended through July 23, 2013) <<http://base.garant.ru/12129354/>>
- Federal Law No. 88-FZ of December 12, 2008 “Technical Regulation for Milk and Dairy Products” (as amended through July 22, 2010) <<http://base.garant.ru/12160959/>>
- Federal Law No. 90-FZ of December 24, 2008 “Technical Regulation for Oils and Fats Products” <<http://base.garant.ru/193482/>> (applicable until July 1, 2013)
- Federal Law No. 178-FZ of October 27, 2008 “Technical Regulation for Juice Products from Fruits and Vegetables” <<http://base.garant.ru/12163096/>> (applicable until July 1, 2013)

- Federal Law No. 268-FZ of December 22, 2008 “Technical Regulation for Tobacco Products”
<<http://base.garant.ru/12164162/>>

3. Russian Government Regulations:

Sanitary Measures

- Government Resolution No. 500 of June 29, 2011, "On Approval of Rules of Sanitary and Quarantine Control at Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation" (as amended through April 23, 2012)
<<http://base.garant.ru/12187353/>>

Veterinary Measures

- Government Resolution No. 557 of July 7, 2011, "On the Defining Checkpoints across the State Border of the Russian Federation Intended for Importation into the Territory of the Russian Federation of Animals, Animal Products, Animal Feed, Feed Additives, Pharmaceuticals and Animal Quarantine Products (Quarantine Material, Goods in Quarantine) " (as amended through June 21, 2013)<<http://base.garant.ru/12187826/>>
- Government Resolution No. 501 of June 29, 2011, "On Approval of Rules of the State Veterinary Supervision Control at Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation" (as amended through May 25, 2012)
<<http://base.garant.ru/12187354/>>

Technical Regulation

- Government Resolution No. 982 of December 2009 “On Approval of the Unified List of Products Subject to Mandatory Certification and the Unified List of Products, for which the Confirmation of Conformity is Made in the Form of a Declaration of Conformity” (as amended through November 11, 2013).
<<http://base.garant.ru/12171546/>>
- Government Resolution No. 26 of January 18, 2002, "On State Registration of Feeds Derived from Genetically Modified Organisms" (as amended through July 14, 2006)
<<http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/laws/243.html>>
- Government Resolution No. 132 of March 9, 2010 “On Mandatory Requirements in Respect of Certain Types of Goods and Related Processes of Design (including Research), Production, Construction, Installation, Maintenance, Operation, Storage, Transportation, Sales, and Disposal, Contained in the Technical Regulations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, being the Customs Union Member-State”
<<http://base.garant.ru/12173849/#text>>

4. Russian Competent Authority Regulations:

Sanitary Measures

- Hygienic Requirements For Foodstuff Safety and Nutrition ([SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01](#), as amended through July 6, 2011)
- Hygienic Requirements for Food Additives ([SanPiN 2.3.2.1293-03](#), as amended through December 23, 2010)
- Hygiene Norms for Chemicals and Pesticides in the External Entities (HN [1.2.2701-10](#), as amended through July 7, 2011). The Norms determine MRL for chemicals and pesticides in objects of environment, including agricultural crops.

Veterinary Measures

- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 404 of 7 November 2011 "On Adoption of Administrative Regulation of the Federal Service on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control on Provision of State Service on Issuance of Authorizations for Imports to the Russian Federation and Exports from the Russian Federation, as well as Transit within its Territory of Animals, Products of Animal Origin, Medicines for Veterinary use, Feeds and Feed Additives for Animals," establishes administrative regulation on issuing import permits for goods subject to veterinary (sanitary control). <<http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps-docs/ru/laws/orders/2011/404-order.pdf>>

Phytosanitary Measures

- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 456 of 29 December 2010 “On Approval of Rules to Ensure Plant Quarantine for Regulated Products Imported to the Russian Federation, as well as Stored, Moved, Transported, Processed or Used,” updated the Russian phytosanitary requirements and regulations for imported products of quarantine concern in accordance with the CU approach and international requirements (as amended through October 11, 2012). <<http://docs.cntd.ru/document/902255183>>

Technical Regulation

- Order of the Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being No. 781 of July 23, 2012, “On Approval of Administrative Regulation of the Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being for Provision of the Public Service for State Registration of the Chemical and Biological Substances and Drugs Manufactured on their Basis, which are Potentially Dangerous to Humans (except for Medicines), Introduced into Production for the First Time, and have not been used Previously; Certain Types of Products that Pose a Potential Danger to Humans (except for Medicines); Certain Types of Products, Including Food Products, Imported into the Customs Territory of the Customs Union for the First Time” (as amended through December 18, 2012) <http://www.alt.ru/show_orders.php?action=view&filename=12a00781>
- General Requirements For Providing Consumer Information Regarding Foodstuffs ([GOST R 51074-2003](#), as amended through November 29, 2012)

Russia’s Federal Regulatory Bodies for Imported Foodstuffs

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

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

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

The Federal Customs Service of Russia of the Government of the Russian Federation (FTS) regulates foreign economic activity with a system of customs fees and charges, and carries out customs control.

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

The Ministry of Economic Development determines import quota volumes.

Customs Union Regulatory Bodies

Due to plans for further economic integration between Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, the Customs Union Commission, which used to be the CU regulatory body, was replaced by the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) on July 1, 2012. While the EEC is based on the structure and achievements of its predecessor, the CU Commission, the EEC has more powers and duties over customs and tariff regulations, customs administration, establishment of trade regimes with third countries, monetary policy regulations, macroeconomic issues, energy and competition policy, regulation of state monopolies, industrial and agricultural financial aid issues, procurement, transportation, migration, and financial markets.

The structure of the EEC is similar to the regulatory bodies of the European Union, with its European Council and European Commission. The EEC has two tiers. The upper tier, its council, includes deputy prime ministers of the three countries, with First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov representing Russia. The lower level, the board, which is called “Collegium”, is the EEC’s main working body, with decision-making powers over customs duties as well as sanitary, veterinary, and immigration control. The EEC Collegium will also oversee the allocation of industrial and agricultural subsidies. Viktor Khristenko, Russia’s former Minister of Industry and Trade, is the appointed head of the EEC Collegium.

The members of the EEC Collegium are as follows:

- Viktor Khristenko, Chairman of the Collegium (former Minister of Industry and Trade for Russia);
- Andrei Slepnev, Minister for Trade (former Deputy Minister for Economic Development for Russia);
- Vladimir Goshin, Minister for Customs Cooperation (former First Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Belarus);
- Valery Koreshkov, Minister for Technical Regulations (former Chairman of the State Committee for Standardization of Belarus);
- Nurlan Aldabergenov, Minister for Competition and Antitrust Regulation (former First Vice Chairman of the Kazakh Agency for Regulation of Natural Monopolies);
- Danial Akhmetov, Minister for Energy and Infrastructure (former Prime Minister of Kazakhstan);
- Sergey Sidorsky, Minister for Industry and the Agro-industrial Complex (former Prime Minister of Belarus);
- Tatyana Valovaya, Minister for Principal Areas of Integration and Macroeconomics (former Director of the Russian Government Department on International Cooperation); and,
- Timur Suleimenov, Minister for Economic and Financial Policy (a former Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade for Kazakhstan).

The EEC Collegium has established a number of Consultative Committees in accordance with the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Commission of November 18, 2011. Such Committees may include both government officials of the CU member states, and independent experts. One of these Committees, with the ability to impact a significant portion of U.S. agricultural exports, is the Consultative Committee on Technical Regulation, Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures. This Committee drafts EEC decisions together with the Collegium, or Board Members.

The members of the aforementioned Consultative Committee are as follows:

Belarus

- Viktor V. Nazarenko – Chairman of the State Committee for Standardization
- Igor V. Gayevsky – Vice Minister of Health & Chief Medical Officer of the Republic of Belarus
- Vasily M. Kazakevich – Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food
- Yury A. Pivovarchik – First Deputy Director of Department of Veterinary and Food Surveillance, Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Republic of Belarus
- Aleksandr I. Kutsko - Deputy Director of Department of Veterinary and Food Surveillance, Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Deputy Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Republic of Belarus
- Anna I. Meleshko - Deputy Director of Department of Veterinary and Food Surveillance, Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Republic of Belarus on Seed Production, Plant Quarantine and Protection

Kazakhstan

- Muslim T. Umirayev – Vice Minister of Agriculture
- Riskeldy A. Satbayev – Chairman of the Committee of Technical Regulation and Metrology, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies
- Zhandarbek M. Bekshin – Chairman of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Committee, Ministry of Health
- Nurkan O. Sadvakasov – Deputy Chairman of the State Epidemiological Surveillance Committee, Ministry of Health; Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Madi A. Ismailov – Deputy Chairman of the Agency for Construction and Housing Utilities
- Gulmira S. Isaeva – Vice Minister of Agriculture
- Gulzhan S. Nurtazina – Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Veterinary Control and Surveillance, Ministry of Agriculture; Deputy Chief State Veterinary and Sanitary Inspector of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Saktash S. Khasenov – Chairman of the Committee of State Inspection in the Agro-Industrial Complex, Ministry of Agriculture; Chief State Inspector on Plant Quarantine of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Russian Federation

- Gleb S. Nikitin - Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade
- Sergey A. Dankvert - Head of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance

- Evgeny A. Nepoklonov - Deputy Head of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance
- Gennady G. Onishchenko - Head of the Federal Service for Supervision of Consumer Rights Protection and Wellbeing & Chief Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation
- Vasily I. Sokolov - Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Fisheries
- Oleg V. Fomichev - State-Secretary and Deputy Minister of Economic Development;
- Ilya V. Shestakov - Deputy Minister of Agriculture
- Savva V. Shipov - Head of the Federal Service for Accreditation
- Grigory I. Elkin - Head of the Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology
- Ilya V. Ponomaryov – Deputy Head of the Federal Agency on Construction and Housing and Utilities

Contact information for the above regulatory bodies as well as other industry-specific regulators and certification agencies and entities can be found at the end of this report.

Section II: Labeling Requirements

On July 1, 2013, the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Food Products Labeling” (TR TS 022/2011) came into effect. The document outlines regulations for food products labeling including the requirements for name, ingredients, nutritional contents and value, quantity, date of production, validity, address of manufacturer and importer, presence of genetically modified organisms, etc. For more information please see the GAIN report [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#).

However, production and circulation of food products in accordance with the current CU and national requirements of the CU member-states will be allowed until February 15, 2015.

The general requirements for labeling of food products are stipulated in the Russian federal law “On Protecting Consumer Rights.” However, the details on labeling are prescribed by special standards, known as GOSTs. The primary legislation is [GOST R 51074-2003](#), which came into effect on July 1, 2005 (last amended on November 29, 2012). This standard incorporates the Codex Alimentarius International Food-Packaging Standards [Codex Stan 1-1985 (Rev.1-1991)]. Among other things, GOST R 51074-2003 regulates pre-packaged food sold either in retail or wholesale markets that supply public catering facilities, schools, children’s facilities, therapeutic facilities, and other facilities directly servicing consumers. This same key piece of legislation also establishes general requirements for product information that must be provided to customers, as well as all special requirements for nutrition labeling.

The labeling of diet products, baby-food, and other special products shall meet special requirements stipulated for these products in relevant GOSTs and in Sanitary Rules and Norms (SanPiN) [2.3.2.1078-01](#).

The general requirements for information to be presented on the label in the Russian language are:

- Product name;
- Data about the manufacturer (including name, country, and address of producer) and the organization authorized to accept claims from consumers;
- Trademark;
- Net weight, or volume, or quantity;
- Composition (ingredients);
- Nutritional value based on the specificity of the product;
- Storage conditions;
- Use-by date or shelf-life expiration date;
- Date of production and packaging;
- Regulatory or technical documents with which the products can be identified (this requirement is optional for imported products); and
- Confirmation of conformity stamp.

In addition to the above, GOST R 51074-2003 also establishes a number of product-specific requirements.

GOST R 51074-2003 also requires labeling of the following:

- Food additives, biologically active additives, flavorings, components of non-traditional composition (including components from raw materials containing protein that does not exist naturally and was added while manufacturing the product); and
- Food products that are products of biotechnology, obtained from products of biotechnology, or contain components from products of biotechnology.

The manufacturer may list the basic mineral substances and vitamins inherent in the product without indicating their quantity. Manufacturers are required to list a recommended daily allowance in accordance with established procedures.

If more than 2 percent of the recommended daily allowance of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, or calories is included in a 100-gram serving, this information must be included on the label. The label must also indicate if a 100-gram serving contains more than 5 percent of the daily recommended allowance of minerals or vitamins.

If a product contains any ingredients that can cause allergic reaction or if they are contraindicated in certain types of diseases, this information must be provided on the label. Such ingredients requiring additional labeling include:

- Cereals containing gluten, and derived products;
- Crustaceans and derived products;
- Mollusks and derived products;
- Eggs and derived products;
- Fish and derived products;
- Peanuts and derived products;
- Soybean and derived products;
- Milk and derived products (including lactose);
- Nuts and derived products;
- Celery and derived products;
- Mustard and derived products;
- Sesame and derived products;
- Lupine and derived products;
- Sulfur dioxide and sulfites if more than 10 mg/kg or mg/L in terms of sulfur dioxide; and
- Aspartame and its salts (containing phenylalanine and its salts).

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

Biotech Products

For products with biotech components, information must be provided when these components contain more than the permitted level of biotech ingredients. The CU Technical Regulation TR TS 022/2011 on Food Labeling requires that food products shall be labeled as GMO if the presence of biotech component is more than 0.9 percent. (Up to 0.9 percent of each biotech ingredient is considered adventitious and does not require labeling.)

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

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

The requirements for information on GMO in feeds of plant origin is stipulated in the CU Technical Regulation “On Safety of Grain” (TR TS 015/2011.) This Technical Regulation stipulates that grain/oilseeds transported unpackaged should be accompanied by shipping documents that ensure its traceability and provide information on GMOs if presence of GMOs is higher than 0.9 percent. For the grain/oilseeds obtained with the use of GMOs the information should be given: “Genetically modified grain” or “grain obtained from the use of genetically modified organisms” or “grain contains components of genetically modified organisms”, indicating the unique identifier of the transformation event.

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

For more details please see GAIN report [RS1345 Agricultural Biotechnology Annual](#).

Organic Products

Currently, there is no unified and official system for organic certification in Russia. The only government document is [SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01](#), which includes sanitary requirements for organic foodstuffs. The majority of the criteria applied to organic products correspond to EU Regulations. However, this document lacks a very important element, description of the certification procedure at all stages of organic farming.

At present, Russian producers can be voluntarily certified by inspection companies on the basis of a third country's standards. They may elect to be certified under EU, U.S., or Japanese standards, depending on the intended export market.

In 2012, Russia's Ministry of Agriculture, working together with independent ecological and manufacturing organizations, began the process of drawing up official organic certification standards for Russia. This process is part of a wider government policy aimed at improving food safety and quality standards, strengthening domestic food production, promoting healthier eating habits among consumers, and encouraging manufacturers to offer healthier products. The government will continue to pursue this policy over the next several years, which should result in the introduction of a unified organic certification system modeled on EU standards.

For more details please see GAIN reports [RS8045 New SanPiN for Organic Products](#) and [RSATO1109 Russian Organic Market Taking Root](#).

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

The CU Technical Regulation “On Safety of Packaging” (TR TS 005/2011) came into force on July 1, 2012, but production and circulation of food products in accordance with the current CU and national requirements of the CU Member States will be allowed until February 15, 2014. The TR TS 005/2011 “On Safety of Packaging” contains requirements for all kind of packaging including metal, polymer, cartoon, wooden, glassy, composite packing. The food packaging should comply with the sanitary-hygienic requirements given in the Attachment 1 of the TR TS 005/2011. Before the packaging can be released into circulation in the territory of the Customs Union, it needs to go through the obligatory confirmation of compliance with the requirements of the current Technical Regulation. As a result, producer and importer obtain the declaration of conformity for the packaging. For more information please see GAIN report [RS1253 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Packaging](#).

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

Until February 15, 2014, requirements for foodstuff packaging, currently regulated by numerous standards, vary by type of packaging. Hygienic standards have been created for materials that come into contact with foodstuffs listed in Hygienic Norms (HN) 2.3.3.972-00, which also specify the maximum permissible quantities of chemical substances allowed to escape from materials in contact with foodstuffs. Packing materials and transport containers must have completed sanitary and epidemiological inspections and have a certificate of conformity. GOST R ISO 3394-99 establishes the permitted size, shape, and material of transport containers.

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

Many products imported into Russia must meet product-type-specific packaging requirements. Packaged grains, for example, must be packaged in air-permeable materials as stated in the Ministry of Agriculture’s [Order No. 681 of September 3, 2002](#).

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

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

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

Section IV: Food Additives Regulations

Controls and regulations on food additives are included in SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 (Section 9) and SanPiN-2.3.2.1293-03, “Hygienic Requirements for Food Additives.” These rules establish safety requirements for food additives in order to make products safe for human consumption. The total list of allowed food additives consists of several hundred items and is given in Attachments 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 to the SanPiN 2.3.2.1293-03. Rospotrebnadzor may prohibit or add food additives based on safety tests.

In July 2011, Rospotrebnadzor adopted Amendment No. 25 to SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, which excluded microbiological indicators for minced poultry meat products from the sausages subsection and revised microbiological indicators for a number of prepared foods. The Amendment came into force as of February 10, 2012.

In July 2012, the EEC adopted the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union on “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” (TR TS 029/2012), which contains a list of food additives allowed for use in food product manufacturing. The TR TS 029/2012 came into effect on July 1, 2013, and became the main document regulating production and quality of products in the sector of food ingredients and additives. However, production and circulation of products meeting the current CU and national requirements of the CU Member States will be allowed until February 15, 2015. For more information please see GAIN report [RS1338 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Additives](#).

Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

Beginning March 19, 2013, the state registration of pesticides and agrochemicals is the function of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (Russian Government Resolution No. 190 of March 6, 2013). Rosselkhoznadzor only examines and approves pesticides and veterinary drugs, which can be used in Russia, and controls the use of pesticides and MRLs for pesticides in agricultural and some food products. The last registry (as of May 2011) is available at <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/laws/1278.html>. The catalogue contains the brand name, name of registrant, date of registration, and expiration date. Chemical agents not listed in this catalogue are banned from use in Russia and their residue is not allowed in or on imported foodstuffs.

The Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being of the Government of the Russian Federation (Rospotrebnadzor) is responsible for setting tolerances of pesticides, veterinary drugs, and other contaminants in food. However, Rosselkhoznadzor is the primary enforcer of such tolerances in imported food and agricultural crops at the border.

Russian tolerances are based on the requirements stipulated in the CU Technical Regulations on safety of food and agricultural products that came to force on July 1, 2013. For details see Post's GAIN report [RS1343 Customs Union Food Technical Regulations in Force as of 1 July 2013](#), [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#), and [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat. Section 15 in Chapter II](#) of the CU Commission Decision No. 299, "Requirements for Pesticides and Agrochemicals," provides maximum tolerances for soil, air, water, the human body, and agricultural products. The levels of MRLs for pesticides in the environment, and agricultural and food products are listed in the CU Decision No. 341 of August 18, 2010 (Post's GAIN report [RS1076 Customs Union Update on MRLs for Pesticides in Ag Products](#)). On October 21, 2013, the Russian Chief Sanitary Doctor approved new MRLs for pesticides in the environment and in agricultural and food products) that came to force for Russia on December 20, 2013. The new MRLs are here: <http://www.garant.ru/products/ipo/prime/doc/70409292/>

Rosselkhoznadzor requires exporters to provide information on the pesticides used during the growing and storing of plant products, the date of the last treatment, and on the residue levels of pesticides in these products. The information may be in the form of a letter from the producer, from the producers' association, etc. There is no standard form, but Rosselkhoznadzor developed a sample form of a letter (declaration) in Russian on pesticides (see [Attachment I](#)).

Section VI: Other Regulations and Requirements

Licensing

Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs)

In order to bring a product into the Russian Federation at the in-quota tariff rate for beef, pork, poultry, and whey, it is necessary for the importer to secure a license. Russia's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) issues this license. The MIT reviews license applications within 5 days of submission and then issues the licenses. Licenses are to be obtained annually or each time the volume of the imported product increases.

Alcohol

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

The Federal Service for Regulation of the Alcohol Market (known as Rosalcoholregulirovaniye or FSR) also issues wholesale/activity licenses for a maximum of five years. Since January 29, 2010, the state tax of 500,000 Rubles (\$16,000) should be paid for issuance of an alcohol wholesale license. In order to obtain a wholesale license, the importer/distributor must meet more than 100 detailed requirements laid out in Russia's national standards and the Technical Conditions for Storage of Alcohol (FSR Order No. 59n of October 26, 2010, as amended through November 30, 2012). All importers of alcohol products must have a wholesale license in order to obtain the necessary excise stamps and to produce or distribute and store alcoholic products.

Excise Stamps

Alcohol

The importer is responsible for marking imported alcohol products with excise stamps before the products enter the Russian Federation. Before receiving excise stamps, importers must receive a bank guarantee that shows that they have the funds available to pay for: excise stamps, VAT (18%), customs duties, and excise duties. Since the strip stamp application process does not include information regarding the customs value, the Federal Customs Service determines the amount of the bank guarantee based on the type of product and volume to be imported. Then, the importer must provide for registration of the imported alcohol product in the Unified State Automated Information System (UFAIS), as well as print data about the alcohol product on the excise stamps, procure such stamps, and attach them to the consumer packaging. The importer bears responsibility for the authenticity of the data as well as for the correctness of their placement on the excise stamps. However, the supplier is

responsible for providing the importer with correct information. The following data are placed on the excise stamp, much of the data being provided by the exporter:

- Name of the alcoholic product;
- Type of alcoholic product;
- Ethyl alcohol content;
- Volume of the alcoholic product in consumer packaging;
- Name of producer of the alcoholic product;
- Producer's location;
- Country of origin of the alcoholic product;
- Confirmation of correspondence of the established requirements of quality and safety;
- Confirmation of lawfulness of use on the alcoholic producer's trademark, guarded in the Russian Federation; and
- Other data in accordance with Article 12 of Federal Law 171 On state regulation of production and handling of ethyl alcohol, alcoholic products and alcohol containing products.

The strip stamp requirement covers all alcohol products (except beer and beer drinks), including products below 9 percent alcohol by volume (abv).

Products under sanitary-epidemiological control

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

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

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

Product Registration

CU Commission Decision No. 299 establishes the list of products subject to state registration. The list includes the following products, imported to the CU for the first time:

- Soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, including alcoholic products, beer.
- Specialty foods, including baby foods, foods for pregnant and lactating women, dietary products (therapeutic and prophylactic) food products for feeding athletes (hereinafter - Specialty Foods), biologically active food additives or raw materials for their production, and organic products.
- Foods produced using genetically modified (transgenic) organisms, including genetically modified microorganisms.
- Food additives, complex food additives, flavorings, vegetable extracts as flavor substances and raw materials, starter cultures of microorganisms and bacterial starter cultures, technological aids, including enzymes.

Prior to importation, importers must register the products that are subject to sanitary-epidemiological control and are being imported into the CU for the first time. Rospotrebnadzor handles such registration for Russia according to its [Administrative Regulation](#) (as amended through August 30, 2013). In Russia, the registration replaced sanitary-epidemiological approvals, which could have been used in lieu of registration during the transition period that expired on January 1, 2012. The list of products, the procedure, and the standard form of state registration can be found at:

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

Biotech Crops

Since 2000 the Russian government has required registration of biotechnology crops (events) and has monitored marketing of products derived from products of biotechnology. Russia currently allows 20 genetically engineered crops (lines) to be legally imported into Russia for food use, including ten corn lines, six soybean lines, one rice line, one sugar beet line, and two potato lines. Of these 20 lines, 17 are also registered for feed use, including 11 corn lines and all six soybean lines (for details please see Post's GAIN report [RS1345 Agricultural Biotechnology Annual](#)). Rosselkhoznadzor's instructions define feed as biotech-free if the product contains 0.5 percent or less of a non-registered biotech product, or if the product contains 0.9 percent or less of any registered biotech products. However, the 0.5 percent threshold requirement for non-registered biotech lines contradicts the CU Technical Regulation On Safety of Grain, that increased this threshold to 0.9 percent for feeds based on grains/oilseeds.

On September 23, 2013, the Russian Government adopted the Resolution that approved rules of registration of biotech crops for environmental release. The resolution will not have any immediate

effect on the cultivation of biotech crops in Russia, or on imports of biotech planting seeds to Russia, but creates an approval process to make such cultivation possible in the future (for details please see Post's GAIN report [RS1366 Government Resolution on GMO Registration for Environmental Release.](#))

Alcohol

Russia's Federal Law 171 of 1995 establishes the legislative groundwork for the production and handling of ethyl alcohol, alcohol products, and products containing alcohol in the Russian Federation, including products with ethyl alcohol content exceeding 0.5 percent by volume of the final product, as well as the production and handling of beer, and the production and handling of natural beverages with alcohol content exceeding 1.5 percent and below 22 percent by volume manufactured from wine materials and produced without fortification with ethyl alcohol. This law delineates special requirements for the production and handling of alcoholic beverages and products containing alcohol. Registration of data about the alcoholic beverages and products containing alcohol in UFAIS, which tracks production and turnover of ethyl spirits, is one of these special requirements. The goal of the UFAIS is to account for and control all distilled beverages in the Russian market and help the GOR collect all alcohol tax revenue. The FSR regulates the UFAIS.

On June 5, 2013, Russia's Government adopted Resolution No. 474 "On Submission of Notifications about the Beginning of Turnover (Sale) of Alcoholic Products on the Territory of the Russian Federation." Mandatory notification requirements are to be effected as of October 1, 2013. Required notifications shall be submitted to the Federal Service for Alcohol Market Regulation no later than 5 days prior to providing the application for fixation of information in UFAIS.

The notification shall contain the following information:

- full and short name of Organization submitting the notification, as well as the producer of alcoholic products, their location and taxpayer identification number (for Organizations);
- the date of the first delivery (indicated in accordance with the supply contract);
- name of alcoholic products, and trademark information (if available);
- description of the characteristics of alcohol products;
- description of the technological process of manufacture of alcohol products and production control;
- the conditions of storage of alcoholic beverages:
- temperature (in Celsius degrees);
- humidity (the relative humidity in percent);
- the conditions of transportation of alcoholic products;
- conditions of sale of alcoholic beverages;
- conditions for disposing of alcohol products;
- marking description of alcoholic beverages;
- other information about alcoholic beverages (at the discretion of the Organization).

Declaration of Conformity

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

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

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

- Feeds of plant origin (by products of sugar refining, starch and syrup production, oilseeds crushing, alcohol and brewing production)
- Products of meat and poultry processing industries, and egg products
- Feeds of animal origin and mixed feeds
- Fish and fish products, fresh-frozen, salted, cured, etc., fishmeal
- Seafood
- Caviar

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

- Tobacco products
- Animal, bird, and fish feed: compound feed and feed additives (e.g., soy meal, milk powder, fishmeal, etc.)
- Finished fish and seafood products, including canned fish and seafood, caviar

According to [Russian Government Resolution No. 766, of July 7, 1999](#), declarations of conformity for imported products shall be drawn up by Russian importers and registered with an accredited

certification body in line with the procedures set forth in Resolution No. 766. The following documentation may be used by the importer as a basis for drawing up a declaration of conformity:

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

Declarations of conformity are usually valid for 3 years and allow importers to mark products with a sign of conformity.

[Russian Government Decree No. 942 of September 18, 2012](#), “On the Procedure for Declaring Conformity of Products Released into Circulation for the First Time,” specifies the declaration of conformity, which shall be used to declare conformity of products that are released into circulation on the Russian market for the first time and that are subject to mandatory certification or conformity declaration. For more information please see GAIN report [RS1257 New Regulations on Conformity and Labeling of New Products](#).

Products under veterinary control

CU Commission Decision No. 317 and its amendments define the products subject to veterinary control: <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/depsanmer/regulation/Documents/Пр.1%20Единый%20перечень%20тов.pdf>. This list includes the following categories:

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

As of August 22, 2012, the date of Russia’s WTO accession, a number of products from the above list, including grains for feed and feeds of plant origin such as oilseed cake and meal, products of milling and oilseeds extraction industries, and some prepared foods such as ice-cream, are no longer subject to

veterinary control when exported to Russia. For the full list of exempt products, see [CU Commission Decision No. 810 of September 23, 2011](#). For additional information, please see GAIN report [RS1261 Russia No Longer Requires Veterinary Certificates for Key Imported Feeds of Plant Origin Including Soybean Meal, Grains for Feeds and DDGs](#).

Veterinary Health Certificate

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

Export veterinary certificates are replaced at the border with Russian domestic veterinary certificates according to the procedure approved by the [Order of the Ministry of Agriculture, No. 422 of November 16, 2006](#).

Lists of Approved Establishments

In general, products subject to veterinary control are required to come from establishments identified on approved supplier lists. Rosselkhoznadzor often issues conditions to source from approved establishments in the import (veterinary) permit. As a result, non-exempt commodities without a list of approved establishments (e.g., dairy) are routinely blocked from entry. Contrary to Russia's WTO commitment to trim back the listing requirement to not include products of plant origin, and select processed products of animal origin (including dairy), Rosselkhoznadzor continues to de facto enforce the listing requirement on all such products.

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

- [Live Animals: Day-Old Chicks](#)
- [Live Animals: Hatching Eggs](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Feed for Non-Productive Animals, Bird, Fish](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Feed Additives](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Fishmeal](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products](#) (*This list includes coldstores approved for all types of meats*)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Beef](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Poultry](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Pork](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Beef](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Poultry](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Pork](#)
- [Non-Edible Products: Raw Intestines \(Casings\)](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Mutton Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Beef Products](#)

- [Food Products: Finished Horse Meat Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Poultry Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Pork Products](#)
- [Food Products: Prepared Meat Products](#)
- [Products Not Requiring a Permit: Feed and Feed Additives](#) *(This list includes all establishments, which ship feeds in retail packaging, for which import permits are not required. The list was created by Rosselkhoznadzor primarily for the convenience of the CU customs officials at the border.)*
- [Fish and Seafood](#)

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

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

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

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

Import Permits

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

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

Importers are responsible for applying to Rosselkhoznadzor for the necessary import permits.

According to the [Ministry of Agriculture Order No. 404 of November 7, 2011](#) (as amended through July 8, 2013), which regulates the procedure of the issue of import permits, Rosselkhoznadzor is in charge of issuing two kinds of import permits:

- Individual import permits: valid for a calendar year and which specify the foreign supplier, Russian importing company, volume of goods, and border entry point.

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

On November 9, 2012, Rosselkhoznadzor issued a [list of 2013 general import permits](#) for 53 countries, including five general import permits for the U.S. covering the following items:

1. Sausage and similar products from meat, meat by-products, or blood; ready-to-eat products prepared on their basis (CU HS Code 1601 00); Other prepared or canned products from meat, meat by-products, or blood (CU HS Code 1602);
2. Ready-to-eat fish and seafood products (CU HS Codes 0305, 0306, 0307, 1604, 1605);
3. Biological items for collection (from CU HS Code 9705);
4. Three to five head of cats and dogs as pets (from CU HS Code 0106); and,
5. Up to five domestic or decorative animals (from CU HS Code 0106, 0301, 0306, and 0307).

On November 15, 2013, Rosselkhoznadzor informed interested parties that Rosselkhoznadzor issued 2014 general import permits on the following categories of goods, without specifying the countries:

- Products of animal origin, ready for human consumption, produced commercially, in consumer package, marked by the producing establishment;
- Food additive of animal origin that are subject to veterinary control (surveillance)
- Paleontology, entomology, collection items, treated by a method ensuring extermination of agents of contagious animal diseases;
- Up to five small domestic and decorative animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and hydrobionts, fur purposes other than entrepreneurial, to be kept by the importing person.

Products under Phytosanitary Control

CU Commission Decision No. 318 of June 18, 2010 (as amended through August 16, 2013,) approved the “Regulation on the Procedure of Phytosanitary Quarantine Control (Supervision) at the Customs Border of the Customs Union” and the “Common List of Regulated Products (Materials, Commodities)

Subject to Quarantine Phytosanitary Control.” The list divided products into two groups: regulated products of high phytosanitary risk and regulated products of low phytosanitary risk.

Phytosanitary Certificates

Imported products of low phytosanitary risk do not require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country, while high phytosanitary risk products require a phytosanitary certificate from the exporting country.

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

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

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

In accordance with the Decision of the EEC Council No. 50 of August 16, 2013, since mid-September 2013 the use of replacement phytosanitary certificate is allowed under the condition that the authorized agencies of exporting countries guarantee safety and wholesomeness of regulated products from the moment of out-loading to the moment of entry to the customs territory of the Customs Union (for details see FAS/Moscow GAIN report [RS1389 Amended CU Regulations Allow Replacement Phytosanitary Certificates](#)).

List of Quarantine Pests

[Ministry of Agriculture Order No. 456 of December 29, 2010](#) (as amended through October 11, 2012,) updated the Russian phytosanitary requirements and regulations for imported products of quarantine concern, in accordance with the CU approach and international requirements. Order No. 456 approved two attachments that specified requirements by quarantine pest, by country, and by product groups. The Order confirmed that the Russian [List of Quarantine Pests](#) remains unchanged, but phytosanitary requirements are made product- and country-specific, in accordance with the customs code of the Customs Union (Annex 1 to Order 456). Annex 2 clarifies requirements for quarantine border control for high phytosanitary risk products (e.g., grain and grain products; planting seeds and planting materials; fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts; table potato; cut fresh flowers; wood packaging materials) as well as low phytosanitary risk products. GAIN report [RS1102 Russia Updates Quarantine](#)

[Regulations of Imported Products](#) provides detailed information on Order No. 456 and the list of quarantine objects that shall be controlled in products imported from the United States.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

Specific Standards for Meat and Poultry Products

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

In February 2013, Russia instituted a ban on the importation of U.S. beef, pork, turkey, and their associated products until such time as the United States provides guarantees that these products are ractopamine-free.

Specific Standards for Marine Products

Specific export procedures for the U.S. fish and seafood processors interested in shipping their products to the Russian Federation are published on the U.S. Department of Commerce/National Marine Fisheries Service: http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Requirements.html.

A label in the Russian language must contain information in accordance with the requirements of GOST R 51074 – 2003:

- Title (name) of the product (commodity name or biological name);
- Fishery location;
- Length and weight of fish (large, medium, small);
- Type of cutting (de-headed, eviscerated, sheet, pieces, etc.);
- Type of processing (salted, smoked cured by drying, etc.);
- Level of saltiness (lightly-salted, slightly-salted, medium-salted, strongly-salted);
- Name and location of the manufacturer [legal address including the country, if it is different from the legal address, then the address (addresses) of the production facility (facilities)] and the organization in the Russian Federation that is authorized by the manufacturer to accept claims from the customers on its territory;
- Trademark of the manufacturer (if available);
- Net weight;
- Nutritional value, vitamin content;
- Storage conditions;
- Period of time spent in storage for both live and frozen fish, for non-fish fishery subjects;
- Shelf life (use by date) for the foodstuffs included into the list of products adopted by the government of the Russian Federation, which are considered to be unfit for being used in accordance with the purpose upon completion of the term;
- Date of manufacture and date of packing [date, month, year (date, month and hour of completion of the technological process for special perishable products)];

- Composition of the product, including all food additives, flavorings, biologically active food additives, ingredients of the products having a non-traditional composition;
- Information about conformity confirmation (when the certificate of Conformity is available);
- Technique and conditions to manufacture ready to consume dishes (for semi-finished products/convenience food);
- Vacuumed packed (when vacuum packaging is used); and
- Location of the fishery area, length and weight of fish, type of cutting, type of processing, level of saltiness, composition of the product, and information on the preparation technique and/or consumption is indicated when required.

On April 21, 2010, the Chief Sanitary Officer of the Russian Federation approved Amendment No. 17 to SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, “The Hygienic Requirements for Foodstuff Safety and Nutritional Value”, with regard to fish and fish products. The sanitary rules are meant to improve the quality of frozen fish and products, specify weight of glaze applied on different categories of seafood, and provide the consumer with more detailed information regarding the product. Please refer to GAIN [RS1027 Amendments to the Russian Sanitary and Labeling Requirements for Fish](#) for more details.

Currently, the following national standards regulate consumer indices of the products in a particular group:

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

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

- GOST 1368-91, Fish, all types of processing, length and weight;
- GOST 24896-81, Live fish, technical specifications;
- GOST 814-96, Chilled fish, technical specifications;
- GOST 30314-95, Frozen scallop fillet, technical specifications.

Specific Standards for Wine, Beer and Other Alcoholic Beverages

There are many acts of legislation covering alcohol, however the principal laws and legislative acts regulating Russia’s alcohol imports (in addition to those indicated in Section I of this report) are:

- Federal Law No.171 of November 22, 1995 “On state regulations of production and turnover of ethyl alcohol and alcohol containing products and on limiting consumption (drinking) of alcohol containing products” (as amended through November 2, 2013);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 866 of December 31, 2005, “On Labeling Alcohol Products with Excise Stamps” (as amended through July 27, 2012);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 786 of December 21, 2005, “On Excise Stamps for Labeling Alcohol Products” (as amended through July 27, 2012);
- Federal Law No. 269 of September 30, 2013 “Amendments to chapter 22 of second part of Tax Code” (excise rates for alcoholic beverages for 2014-2016);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 872 of December 31, 2005, “Certification Attached to the Shipment Customs Declaration” (as amended through May 2, 2012);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 55 of January 19, 1998 (as amended through October 4, 2012);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of February No. 154 of February 24, 2009, “On the Federal Service for Regulation of the Alcohol Market” (as amended through November 2, 2013);
- Order of the Federal Service for Regulation of the Alcohol Market No. 59n of October 26, 2010, “Technical Conditions in the Sphere of Production and Turnover of Alcoholic and Spirits-Containing Production as regards Storage of Alcoholic and Spirits-Containing Production, Packed in Consumer Package”(as amended through November 30, 2012);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 815 of August 9, 2012, “On Providing Declaration on Volume of Production, Circulation, and/or Usage of Ethyl Spirit, Alcoholic, and Alcohol-Containing Products, on Usage of Production Capacity” (as amended through November 15, 2013);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of August 25, 2006, No. 522, “Functioning of the Unified State Automated Information System for Accounting Volume of Production and Turnover of Ethyl Spirit, Alcoholic and Alcohol-Containing Products” (as amended through July 13, 2012);
- Federal Law No. 38 of March 13, 2006 “On Advertising” (as amended through November 25, 2013);
- Resolution of the Chief Medical Officer of the Russian Federation No. 46 of June 29, 2009, “On Supervision over alcohol products”;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 474 of June 5, 2013, “On Submission of Notifications about the Beginning of Turnover (Sale) of Alcoholic Products on the Territory of the Russian Federation”.

Key Russian national standards for alcohol are:

GOST R 51074-2003 – Food products. Information for consumer. General requirements - part 3, wine - 4.17, beer - 4.18.4, vodka and strong alcohol products - 4.19;

GOST R 52194-2003 - Vodkas & Special Vodkas, Liqueur and Vodka Products. Packaging, labeling, transportation and storage;
GOST R 52523-2006 – Table wines and table wine stocks. General Specifications;
GOST R 51159-2009 - Wine drinks. General specifications;
GOST R 51174-2009 – Beer. General Specifications;
GOST R 53358-2009 - Brewing products. Terminology and definitions

In addition to the general information required for a majority of all imported alcohol products, the following specific requirements apply:

- For beer - The type of beer (light, semi-dark, dark), the value of alcohol by percent (except for non-alcoholic beer and special beer with aromatic and flavored additives), the minimum percentage of ethyl alcohol by volume, bottling date, the composition of the primary raw materials used to manufacture the beer, and the nutritional value must be on the label.
- For wine - In addition to the name and address of the producer, and the organization in the Russian Federation that is authorized to accept claims from the consumer in Russia (if available), the facility that bottled the wine, bottling date or the date it matures (for sparkling wines that age in bottles); the percentage of ethyl alcohol by volume, the mass concentration of the sugars (except for dry wines) should also be indicated. For sparkling wines, flavored wines, and ciders, classification based on the sugar content; the year of harvest (for controlled appellation wines based on the location, as well as for mature wines prepared from the grapes harvested during one year); the expiration date for wine in which the percentage of ethyl alcohol by volume is less than 10%, and nutritional value should be indicated on the label as well.
- For alcoholic beverages - The volume of ethyl alcohol, concentration of sugar (if sugar is in the formulation) by mass, bottling date, the composition (including the list of the primary ingredients influencing the taste and the aroma of the product), the expiration date for beverages in which ethyl alcohol by volume is less than 10 percent.

As of February 1, 2007, a mandatory warning must be displayed on the label about the health risks of excessive alcohol consumption.

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

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

- Content of preservatives and microorganisms in beer and other low alcohol beverages.

Information about the state registration and declaration of conformity obtained is entered into a document attached to the shipment's customs declaration that is required for alcohol products to enter Russian territory. This document also contains information about excise stamps. When buying and shipping ethyl alcohol (including denatured alcohol), if a non-consumer packaged product contains alcohol, and the ethyl alcohol content makes up more than 60 percent of the final product, one must obtain an additional document. This document contains a reference to the number of the Russian national technical regulation or technical specifications with which the product must comply.

The Customs Union has drafted a Technical Regulation on the "Safety of Alcoholic Beverages" (TR), which has already gone through the public comment period and now is pending Member State approval. The TR sets unified mandatory requirements for alcoholic products and its processes of manufacturing, storage, transportation, disposal and recycling, as well as mandatory requirements to terminology, packaging, labeling, ensuring product safety and preventing action misleading consumers, and systematizing the provisions of the regulations of the CU Member States.

Section VIII: Copyright and/or Trademark Laws

Russian intellectual property (IP) legislation consists for the most part of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, specifically Part Four (“Part IV of the Civil Code”) put into force in 2008 by Federal Law No. 230-FZ, dated December 18, 2006. Part IV of the Civil Code along with Federal Law No. 231-FZ, dated December 18, 2006, “On Enacting Part Four of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation” (the “Enactment Law”), have replaced or amended accordingly all preceding individual IP laws. Part IV of the Civil Code represents a codification of pre-existing IP laws, which have been compiled as respective chapters in Part IV of the Civil Code, partially unaltered, with just certain instances where significant amendments have been made. Parts I-III of the Russian Civil Code also set out certain general provisions pertaining to legal protection of IP rights. Part IV covers a broad range of IP-related goods and activities, which are subject to the same principles of protection and sanctions in the case of infringement in compliance with international treaties and practices, in particular the WTO Trade-Related Intellectual Property Agreement (TRIPS).

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

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

Trademarks and Service Marks

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

Trademark and service mark protection is granted for ten years from the filing date of the application, and may be renewed during the last year of its validity for subsequent ten year period. Trademark and service mark registration is cancelled if its term expires without having been renewed. Trademark and service mark legal protection may be terminated upon a request from an interested party in respect of all

or part of the respective goods and services due to non-use of the trademark or service mark during any continuous three year period counted from the registration date. Assignments and licenses of trademarks and service marks must be registered with Rospatent. In the absence of such registration, they are deemed null and void.

Appellation of Origin of Goods

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

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

Section IX: Import Procedures

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

While the formation of the CU is expected to ultimately allow performing customs clearance of imported goods on the external border of the Customs Union, currently, during a transitional period as defined by Article 368 of the CU Customs Code, the CU customs declaration is based on the "residency principle", i.e. the applicant shall submit a customs declaration only to specific customs bodies of the country where the applicant is registered or permanently lives in the CU. The residency principle will apply until entry into force of a relevant international agreement between the CU member states allowing the presentation of the goods declaration to any customs office in the CU.

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

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

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

CU Classification of Commodities and Customs Tariff

All imported commodities are classified in accordance with the Codes of the Customs Commodities' Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union. In 2013, the EEC continued adjusting the CU tariff schedule to reflect Russia's WTO tariff commitments, with the majority of reduced tariffs for agricultural goods coming into effect as of September 1, 2013. (For more information on CU tariff reductions following Russia's WTO accession please see GAIN reports [RS1215 Market Opportunities for Key U.S. Products in Russia](#), [RS1348 Customs Union Ag Times No. 13](#), and [RS1355 Customs Union Ag Times No. 14](#).) The descriptions of the current edition of the Nomenclature and the CU Customs Tariff, as amended through November 5, 2013, can be found online at: <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/trade/catr/ett/Pages/default.aspx>. The CU codes are similar, but not identical to the U.S. Customs Service Harmonized Code numbers. The new CU Commodity Codes are based on the HS Nomenclature 2012 Edition.

Customs Payments

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

Traders should use the CU Customs Tariff and the Russian Tax Code to calculate customs duties and fees. Customs duties, fees, and payments are calculated based on rates from the customs value of the goods and are assigned while developing the consignment's customs declaration. Tariff rates are subject to change, so importers and exporters should monitor amendments to the tariff schedule. Customs clearance fees are established by the [Russian Government Decree No. 863 of December 28, 2004](#) (as amended through December 12, 2012). As of the date of Russia's WTO accession, Decree No. 863 was amended to cut maximum customs clearance fee from 100,000 rubles (approx. \$ 3,300) to 30,000 rubles (approx. \$ 1,000).

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

Customs Clearance

Customs clearance usually occurs at the point of destination and typically takes between 2 and 4 days. In Russia, imported goods may not be legally released for free circulation until the customs authority authorizes the delivery (entry) of the goods into mainland Russian territory, confirmed by a special ("vypusk razreshyon" - release granted) stamp of the customs authorities placed on the customs declaration. Imported goods are normally cleared at customs either before their shipment to Russian customs territory or at the time the goods reach the designated customs house/post (and are placed in a special temporary customs warehouse, if needed).

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

- A customs declaration;

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

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

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

According to the Customs Code of the CU, the customs clearance of goods is shortened to just one day after receipt of the customs declaration (under the Russian Customs Code the goods should have been cleared within 3 days). At the same time, the legislation provides for the right of a customs inspector to extend that term by up to ten days at his/her discretion.

Pre-Arrival Submission

CU Commission Decision No. 899 of December 9, 2011, <http://www.tsouz.ru/KTS/KTS33/Pages/R_899.aspx> mandates a pre-arrival submission of information about goods imported into the CU customs territory by automobile transport two hours prior to the good's arrival. This requirement came into force on June 17, 2012.

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

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

According to the EEC Collegium Decision No. 196 of September 17, 2013, as of October 1, 2014, pre-arrival submission of information about goods imported into the CU customs territory via railway will be required two to four hours prior to the good's arrival. As a draft, the decision was published on the

EEC website for public comments in July 2013. For details please see GAIN reports [RS1349 Draft CU Pre-Notification Requirement for Imports by Rail](#) and [RS1368 Customs Union Ag Times No. 15](#).

Typical Errors When Supplying Foodstuffs to Russia

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix I: Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

1. Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor)
107139, Moscow, Orlikov per., 1/11
Tel: 011 7 (499) 975-4347
Fax: 011 7 (495) 607-5111
<http://www.fsvps.ru>

Rosselkhoznadzor reports to the Ministry of Agriculture: <http://www.mcx.ru/>

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

Rospotrebnadzor Testing and Registration Center
125167, Moscow, Leningradsky prospect 62
Tel: 011 7 (499) 151-3223, (985) 110-6886
<http://www.crc.ru/>

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

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

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

4. Federal Service for Regulation of the Alcohol Market (Rosalkoholregulirovaniye)
125993, Moscow, Miuskaya pl. 3, bld. 4
Tel: 011 7 (495) 662-5052
Fax: 011 7 (499) 251-8305
e-mail: info@fsrar.ru
<http://fsrar.ru/>

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

5. The Federal Customs Service of Russia (FTS)
121087, Moscow, Novozavodskaya ul. 11/5
Tel: 011 7 (499) 449-7771, 449-7675
Fax: 011 7 (495) 913-9390, (499) 449-7300

<http://eng.customs.ru/>

FTS reports directly to the Government of the Russian Federation:

<http://www.government.ru/en/>

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

Appendix II: Other Import Specialist Contacts

Certification bodies

- VNIIS –certification/declaration of conformity
All-Russian Scientific-Research Institute for Certification (VNIIS)
3/10, Elektricheskiy per., Bld. 1
123557, Moscow
Tel. 011 7 (499) 253-0488, 253-0196, 253-0124, 253-0288
<http://www.vniis.org>
- VGNKI - Russian State Agricultural Research Institute of Control, Standardization, and Certification of Veterinary Substances
123022, Moscow, Zvenigorodskoye Shosse 5
Tel./fax: 011 7 (495) 982-5084
<http://www.vgnki.ru>
- ROSTEST– all procedures for quality control and safety control
“Rostest - Moskva”, Russian Center for Test and Certification, GOSSTANDART
Nakhimovsky prospect, 31
117418, Moscow
Tel. 011 7 (495) 544-0000
<http://www.rostest.ru/>
- REA-TEST
Stremyanniy per., 36/2, office 141
117997, Moscow
Tel. 011 7 (495) 958-2939
e-mail: rea-test@rambler.ru
http://www.rea.ru/Main.aspx?page=Organ_sertifikacii_REHA_TEST
- PRODEKOTEST
Kozhevnickeskaya ul., 1g, office 501 B
113114, Moscow
tel. 011 7 (499) 235-7390, (499) 235-2498
Fax 011 7 (499) 235-7390
e-mail: prodekotest@yandex.ru
<http://prodekotest.ru/>
- ROS-TEST, St. Petersburg
3, Babushkina Str., office 525
St. Petersburg
Tel.: 011 7 (812) 923-8223
Fax: 001 7 (812) 335-0511
www.ros-test.ru

Attachment I: Sample Declaration of Safety of Food Products of Plant Origin

(the letter shall be in Russian, the courtesy translation is FAS Moscow's):

Декларация Безопасности пищевой продукции растительного происхождения, поставляемой в
Российскую Федерацию согласно норм, касающихся остаточного содержания пестицидов.

Нитратов и нитритов, установленных российским законодательством
Declaration of Safety of Food Products of Plant Origin (of Phyto genesis) Delivered to the Russian
Federation According to Norms, Concerning Pesticides Residues, Established by the Russian
Legislation

Наименование и адрес экспортера/
Name and address of the exporter _____

Наименование и адрес получателя/
Name and address of the receiver _____

Продукция, поставляемая транспортом/
The products supplied by transport _____

По Фитосертификату №/by phytosanitary certificate
No. _____

Обрабатывалась защитными средствами из нижеперечисленного списка/
have been treated with the plant protection products listed below:

Product name	Country	Quantity	Netto weight, kg	Brutto weight, kg	Pesticides (plant protection products)	Active ingredient	Date of application	Content of active ingredient in products mg/kg DOSAGE
Examples:								
Grapes					Stroby	Kresoxim methyl	Oct. 10	<0.5 ppm 0.7 -?/ha
Grapes					Success 48	Spinosad	October 25	<0.5 ppm 100 cc/ha

Подпись/Signature _____

Печать/Stamp _____

Дата/Date _____