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Report Highlights:

This report is an overview of both general and commodity-specific requirements of Russian Federation government agencies for imported foodstuffs. Sections updated: Sections I. Food Laws, II. Labeling Requirements, III. Packaging and Container Requirements, IV. Food Additive Regulations, V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants, VI. Other Regulations and Requirements, VII. Other Specific Standards, VIII. Copyright and Trademark Laws, IX. Import Procedures, Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts, and Appendix III. Selected Relevant GAIN Reports.

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Executive Summary

The Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Moscow, Russia, prepared this report for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While the USDA office in Moscow took every possible care in preparing this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. OAA Moscow highly recommends that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers before any goods are shipped. They are normally the best equipped to research such matters with local authorities. **FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

This report is an overview of both general and commodity-specific requirements of Russian Federation government agencies for imported foodstuffs.

Despite Russia's ongoing preparation for WTO accession, agencies' control over imported foodstuffs remains complicated and bureaucratic. Barriers to trade depend on the type of product, customs clearance location, importer's status, and other non-transparent factors. Enacting new technical regulations that would replace non-WTO compliant national standards has been virtually suspended.

Section I. Food Laws

Introduction

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.

Exporting products into the Russian Federation can be a difficult task for inexperienced U.S. exporters, because import requirements and customs clearance rules frequently change. Therefore, it is recommended that the importer, with the help of up-to-date information sources, check all import documents closely and not violate Russian laws and Russian agencies' product-specific regulations.

Important mandatory requirements for safety and identification are articulated not only in sanitary and regulatory documents, such as the Sanitary Rules and Regulations ("SanPiN") but also in some national standards (known by the Russian abbreviation "GOST") and technical regulations.

It is important to acquire such documents as the Sanitary and Epidemiological Conclusion and the Certificate of Conformity. The latter document is issued after other required certificates and documents are obtained. Also note that receiving certificates prior to the arrival of consignments (based on samples provided by the exporter) makes it possible to spend less time and reduce costs during customs clearance. For perishable products, securing a Certificate of Conformity may be difficult due to deviations from national standards for food safety and consumer quality indices.

Russian Legislation and Principal Regulatory Documents on Foodstuffs

The Russian Federation ranks federal laws regarding foodstuffs, including foodstuffs of foreign origin, as follows:

1. Federal Law On Protecting Consumer Rights No. 2300-1 of February 7, 1992 (with the Amendments and Additions of June 2, 1993, January 9, 1996, December 17, 1999, December 30, 2001, August 22, 2004, November 2, 2004, December 21, 2004, and October 27, 2007);
2. Federal Law On The Quality And Safety Of Food Products No. 29-FZ (with the Amendments and Additions of December 30, 2001, January 10, 2003, June 30, 2003, August 22, 2004, May 9, 2005, December 5, 2005, December 31, 2005, and March 31, 2006);
3. Federal Law On The Sanitary And Epidemiological Well-Being Of The Population No. 52-FZ (as amended on December 30, 2001, January 10, 2004, June 30, 2003, September 22, 2004, May 09, 2005, and December 31, 2005);
4. Federal Law On State Regulation In The Sphere Of Genetic Engineering Activities No. 86-FZ of July 5, 1996, as amended by the Federal Law No. 96-FZ of July 12, 2000.
5. Federal Law On State Regulation Of The Production And Handling Of Ethyl Alcohol, Spirits, And Products Containing Alcohol No. 171-FZ of November 22, 1995, as amended by Federal Law No. 248-FZ of December 29, 2006; and
6. Federal Law On Technical Regulation No 184-FZ of December 27, 2002, as amended by Federal Law No. 65-FZ of May 1, 2007.

The Russian Federation ranks regulatory documents regarding foodstuffs, including foreign, as follows:

1. Hygienic Requirements For Foodstuff Safety And Nutrition (in force as SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 since July 1, 2002) with several recent additions and amendments (the latest amendment establishes hygienic requirements for organic products);
2. General Requirements For Providing Consumer Information Regarding Foodstuffs (GOST P 51074-2003); and
3. Hygienic Requirements For Food Additives (Sanpin 2.3.2.1293-03) Including Additions And Amendments No. 1 TO SanPiN 2.3.2.1293-03 (SanPiN 2.3.2.2364-08) of May 2008.

Russia's State Regulatory Bodies for Imported Foodstuffs

The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service, known also by the Russian abbreviation Rosselkhoz nadzor, and in the West as VPSS, monitors veterinary and phytosanitary conditions within Russia and enforces Russian legal requirements for veterinary and plant health. It has veterinary and phytosanitary authority at Russia's borders and within Russia's interior. VPSS is responsible for protecting the Russian Federation from imports infected with contagious animal diseases, plant pests and plant disease pathogens, quarantine plants and weeds, and any other consignments it believes pose a threat according to its sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

The Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, also known as Rospotrebnadzor, is responsible for food and foodstuff safety. Rospotrebnadzor may prohibit the sale of products that do not meet official requirements.

Other state bodies regulating imported goods and foodstuffs include:

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

The Federal Customs Service of Russia (FTS) regulates foreign economic activity with a system of customs fees, duties, and charges. Three agencies carry out customs control: the Federal Customs Service of Russia, the provincial departments of Customs, and the Customs House and Customs Post.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade regulates non-tariff external economic activity including licensing and quota administration.

Contact information for certification agencies and entities is at the end of this report.

Recent Changes

The new administration renamed the Ministry of Industry and Energy as the Ministry of Industry and Trade. It also renamed the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) as the Ministry of Economic Development. The government subsequently transferred control of non-tariff import regulation, including licensing and quota administration, from the Ministry of Economic Development to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Ministry of Economic Development will handle issues related to Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

As part of Russia's effort to accede to the WTO, the Russian government is developing a new regulatory system under the 2003 Law on Technical Regulation. The new regulations will establish minimum requirements necessary to ensure product safety. Federal Law No. 65-FZ of May 1, 2006 amended the 2003 law. Law No. 65-FZ determined the list of priority technical regulations which shall be adopted by January 1, 2010. The framework Technical Regulation on the Safety of Food Products is one of these priorities, but it has not yet been adopted. Meanwhile, Russia adopted two minor technical regulations on food products in 2008: the Technical Regulation for Oils and Fats Products (Federal Law No. 90-FZ of June 26, 2008) and the Technical Regulation for Milk and Dairy Products (Federal Law No. 88-FZ of June 12, 2008).

The commodity sections of this report describe the latest changes in GOSTs and in other voluntary and mandatory branch norms. Most changes are intended to bring Russian norms closer to international standards. To this end, the Russian government adopted Resolution No. 159 on March 24, 2006, giving VPSS the authority to apply international standards in lieu of divergent Russian regulations when evaluating the safety of imported live animals and certain products of animal origin.

Principal Requirements for Food Safety

The Hygienic Requirements for Foodstuff Safety and Nutritional Value (SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, as amended by several recent SanPiNs) details general requirements for food safety. SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 forms the regulatory basis for the activity of all individuals and organizations involved in foodstuff production, importation, and distribution. It also regulates organizations engaged in retail and public catering. SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 additionally establishes hygienic requirements for substances and materials that come into contact with foodstuffs. Based on SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, Rospotrebnadzor oversees the domestic foodstuffs market in Russia.

Section II. Labeling Requirements

The General Requirements for Consumer Information Regarding Foodstuffs, GOST P 51074-2003, came into effect on July 1, 2005. This standard incorporates the Codex Alimentarius International Food-Packaging Standards [Codex Stan 1-1985 (Rev.1-1991)]. Among other things, GOST P 51074-2003 regulates pre-packaged food sold either in retail or wholesale markets that supplies public catering facilities, schools, children's facilities, therapeutic facilities, and other facilities directly servicing consumers. GOST P 51074-2003 establishes general requirements for product information that must be provided to customers.

The following information must be presented in the Russian language: data about the manufacturer (including the organization authorized to accept claims from consumers), country of origin, trademark, net weight or quantity, composition, nutritional value based on the specificity of the product, storage conditions, use-by date or shelf-life expiration date, regulatory or technical documents with which the products can be identified,¹ confirmation of conformity, and other data.

GOST P 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.

For products with biotech components, information must be provided when these components contain more than the permitted level of biotech ingredients. The information on the label must read (in Russian): "genetically modified [name of the product], [name of the product] is obtained based on genetically modified sources, or [name of the product] contains components received from genetically modified sources."²

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 recommend allowance of minerals or vitamins. GOST P 51074-2003 covers all special requirements for nutrition labeling. GOST P 51074-2003 seeks to incorporate international standards in order to prevent technical trade barriers from arising during international transactions. It is intended to provide an objective and trustworthy method for assessing the quality and safety of products in Russia.

Information requirements have been clarified since the previous GOST (R P 51074-97) for the following food categories:

1. Meat and meat products;
2. Poultry meat;

¹ This requirement is not mandatory for products manufactured abroad.

² Please see also GAIN Report RS7053 "Russia Establishes 0.9 percent Threshold for Biotech Labeling".

3. Eggs and processed egg products;
4. Milk, dairy products, and products containing milk;
5. Fish, non-fish fishery products, and products manufactured from fish;
6. Canned products;
7. Preserved fish and seafood;
8. Wine products;
9. Products manufactured by the beer and non-alcoholic beer industry;
10. Malt beverages;
11. Beverages manufactured with grain as a raw material; and
12. Low-alcohol beverages.

The general requirements³ for the Russian information label are:

1. Product name;
2. Product type, grade, or category;
3. Name, country, address of producer, packer, exporter and importer;
4. Product weight (net and gross) or volume;
5. Product nutritional quality;
6. Ingredients;
7. Date of processing;
8. Storage conditions;
9. Shelf life; and
10. Conformity stamp (RST).

Section III. Packaging and Container Requirements

Foodstuff packaging, currently regulated by 169 GOST standards that vary by type of packaging, is important for preserving food quality and safety. Hygienic standards have been created for materials that come into contact with foodstuffs listed in HN 2.3.3.972-00. HN 2.3.3.972-00 also specifies 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 inspection and have a certificate of conformity. GOST P ISO 3394-99 establishes the permitted size, shape, and material of transport containers.

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. Certification is not required for containers, pallets, and other packaging that does not come into immediate contact with products. For additional information please see GAIN RS5067 *Guidelines For Regulating Wood Packing Material In International Trade*.

Air, water, and steam affect some products. Therefore, the permeability of the packaging material to gas, steam, water, fats, and odors is an important requirement. For instance, chilled meat must be packaged in material with low-vapor permeability in order to prevent the loss of moisture. The material must also have a specific gas-permeability to preserve the

³ Please note that there are also product-specific requirements.

color. Products must be packed reliably, taking into account their nature, the method of transport, and storage temperatures.

Sanitary and hygienic requirements must also be used when selecting food packaging. Packing material 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 it may not discharge hazardous substances in excess of permissible levels.

Section IV. Food Additive Regulations

Food additive control and regulation are included in Section 9 of SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 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 Russian government recently amended its food additive regulations with SanPiN 2.3.2.2364-08, Changes and Amendments No. 1 to SanPiN 2.3.2.1293-03 Hygiene Requirements for Use of Food Additives. Appendix 3, Section 3.1 of SanPiN-2.3.2.1293-03, regulates foodstuffs and food additives that are used for production and applied in accordance with the Technological Instruction Manual. Appendix 3 also lists foodstuffs, for example baby food, that have more stringent food-additive regulations.

Food additives prohibited in foodstuff manufacturing include:

Code	Name of the food additive	Technological function
E121	Citrus Red 2	Colorant
E123	Amaranth	Colorant
E240	Formaldehyde	Preservative
E924a	Potassium Bromate	Flour and bread enhancer
E924b	Calcium Bromate	Flour and bread enhancer

The Russian government may prohibit the use of other food additives if safety testing is incomplete. Since 2005, Rospotrebnadzor has also prohibited importing foodstuffs produced using preservatives E216 and E217.

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants

Russia enforces its own permissible content levels for pesticides and contaminants in domestic and imported products. Several official documents specify these levels. For example, SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 defines permissible content levels by product groups. SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 also mandates that the level of pesticide residue allowed in raw material (e.g., in grain or vegetables) should be tested for each product manufactured from the input.

The Ministry of Agriculture regulates application procedures and the use of officially registered pesticides. The Ministry of Agriculture also annually publishes standards in the State Catalogue of Pesticides and Agricultural Chemical Substances Allowed for Use in the Russian Federation, available in Russian on the Ministry of Agriculture website at http://www.mcx.ru/index.html?he_id=961&doc_id=7610. The catalogue contains chemical groupings, usage requirements, application timeframes, and a list of chemical agents to be used for each pest or weed. Chemical agents not listed in this catalogue are banned from use and their residue is not allowed in or on foodstuffs.

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements

SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 establishes specific requirements for safety with respect to various groups of foodstuffs. Appropriate sections of this report contain information about these requirements.

General Requirements for Products of Plant Origin

Three international documents form the basis of Russian phytosanitary requirements:

- the International Plant Protection Convention,
- the WTO agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and
- the Food and Agricultural Organization International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures.

Phytosanitary regulation applies to all imports of plants and products of plant origin. The Federal Legislation on Plant Quarantine of July 15, 2000 and the Ministry of Agriculture's Order No. 681 of September 3, 2002 state the main requirements. The latter deals specifically with plant quarantine when importing, storing, transporting, or using grain or grain products used for food, feed, or processing.

The Ministry of Agriculture and VPSS have issued a number of regulatory documents that clarify the quarantine requirements for products being imported into or transported domestically within Russia. The most important regulations are the Commodity Nomenclature Subject to Quarantine Phytosanitary Control, found at http://www.mcx.ru/images/download.html?pi_id=4481, and the List of Pests, Plant Diseases, and Weeds with Quarantine Issues, found at http://www.mcx.ru/index.html?he_id=484&doc_id=3252⁴.

The List of Pests, Plant Diseases, and Weeds with Quarantine Issues contains the following sections:

- I. Quarantine organisms not present in Russia
 - a. Plant pests
 - b. Plant diseases
 - c. Weeds
- II. Quarantine organisms of limited presence in Russia
 - a. Plant pests
 - b. Plant diseases
 - c. Weeds

In order to bring Russian rules on plant quarantine into conformity with European and WTO standards, the government enacted the Commodity Nomenclature Subject to Quarantine Phytosanitary Control on January 1, 2007. This document classifies products subject to phytosanitary quarantine control and specifies requirements for submitting import and export documents. VPSS and the Federal Customs Service are working jointly on this new nomenclature system. VPSS and the Federal Customs Service can amend such regulations. Additionally, the Federal Customs Service may add, drop, or amend tariff codes. Therefore, it is imperative that Russian-speaking employees of importers or exporters monitor these changes.

⁴ For details see GAIN Report RS7011 *List of Products that Require Quarantine and Phytosanitary Certificates*

Phytosanitary certificates are not presently required for some goods of plant origin, including pasta products and products packaged in vacuum packs or foil. Rospotrebnadzor requires sanitary-epidemiological certification or registration for these goods. Russia diverges from international norms by requiring phytosanitary certificates for many products not conventionally subject to such certification. In some cases, such as roasted coffee beans in large bags, Russia requires certification for products over which no U.S. Government agency has phytosanitary certification authority.

Several Ministry of Agriculture guidelines also regulate trade, including:

- Conditions for Using Imported and Domestic Grain and Grain Products, and List of Approved Facilities (1999); and
- Order No. 61 of April 4, 2006, On Temporary Procedures to Issue Permission for Imported Products Subject To Quarantine Procedures.

Any product subject to quarantine regulations can only be cleared at authorized customs temporary storage facilities as stated in the Ministry of Agriculture's Order No. 220 of August 3, 2005.

One of the latest documents is Ministry of Agriculture's Order No. 163 of March 14, 2007, On Organizing Activities To Issue Phytosanitary And Quarantine Certificates. The full text is available at http://www.mcx.ru/index.html?he_id=900&doc_id=14166. This document specifies requirements, procedures, and timelines for submitting import and export documents and for receiving phytosanitary and quarantine certificates. In accordance with the Federal Law on Plant Quarantine, quarantined products are to be classified as plants, products of plant origin, transport containers and packaging, soil or other organisms, or as objects or materials that may carry or spread hazardous organisms.

A quarantine certificate is mandatory for the above-mentioned products to be brought into the Russian Federation, transported within Russia, or taken out of a phytosanitary quarantine zone. VPSS has the authority to review, issue, or deny applications for phytosanitary and quarantine certificates.

VPSS issues certificates either from its headquarters or from regional offices closer to where the products will be delivered. A phytosanitary certificate is valid for 15 days after being issued. Imports must cross the Russian border during this time. There is also a procedure to reissue expired certificates.

Applications for certificates will be approved or rejected within 30 days of receipt of the completed application and all required documents. Regional offices will send approved certificates to VPSS headquarters to obtain a registration number. Certificates without a registration number are invalid. Certificates will be distributed within 3 working days after VPSS approves or rejects them.

VPSS approved an application format and a list of documents required to obtain a certificate. As described in the quarantine regulations, each lot brought into or transported through Russian territory requires a quarantine certificate.

VPSS will issue phytosanitary and quarantine certificates and permits only in the name of the physical or legal entity registered in the territory of the Russian Federation with the Russian tax authorities.

If authorities detect a quarantined organism during quarantine inspections at border checkpoints, they have the right to decontaminate the shipment or return the shipment to

the exporter. If decontamination is not possible, the authorities may dispose of the shipment in a manner compliant with phytosanitary rules.

Since 2000 the Russian government has required registration of biotechnology events and has monitored marketing of products derived from products of biotechnology. A new regulation was approved and published in July 2007 requiring food to be labeled if more than 0.9 percent of the ingredients come from products of biotechnology. The threshold was previously set at 5.0 percent. This regulation went into effect September 1, 2007. Russia currently allows 13 kinds of biotechnology events, including: three types of soy, five types of corn, two types of sugar beets, two types of potatoes, and one type of rice (for details please see GAIN report RS7052 *Biotechnology Annual 2007* and GAIN report RS7053 *Russia Establishes 0.9% Threshold for Biotech Labeling*).

Additional Data

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.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards

1. Most Russian standards are codified in the State Standards (GOST). The website www.gost.ru includes a search engine and a list of recently published standards in Russian.
2. The Sanitary Rules and Norms (SanPiN) are de-facto standards, though they are not formally classified as such. The latest SanPiNs are available online in Russian at <http://www.rospotrebnadzor.ru/>. Earlier SanPiNs are only available in hard copy.
3. Federal agencies and services such as VPSS and Rospotrebnadzor may develop other rules from time to time. One example is the biotech-content threshold. As these are ad hoc, traders must closely monitor announcements of new rules that serve as de facto standards.

Section VIII. Copyright and Trademark Laws

Trademark and intellectual property laws are based Federal Law No. 3520-I of September 23, 1992. This law governs trademarks, service marks, and geographic appellations.

The government amended this law by passing Federal Law No. 166 on December 11, 2002. These amendments were made to facilitate Russia's integration into the global economy and WTO accession. The legislation seeks to better protect registered trademarks by defining infringing goods and facilitating the physical disposal of infringing products that have been seized.

The new law also offers a mechanism to contest intellectual property rights violations and bring suit for the illegal use of trademarks. These new procedures help ensure respect for applicants' rights. The amendments help clarify the standards and procedures for registering

trademarks, grounds for the denial of trademark registration, and methods for contesting trademark usage verdicts.

Section IX. Import Procedures

Overview

All imported commodities are classified in accordance with the Codes of the Customs Commodities' Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Russian Federation. Their descriptions can be found online at <http://www.customs.ru/ru/tariffs/>. These codes are close, but not identical, to the U.S. Customs Service Harmonized Code numbers.

Import Operations for Products of Animal Origin

When a consignment reaches the Russian border, the importer must give customs operators a bank document verifying that he has made a deposit for the assigned duties and taxes. Before a bank can provide documents for customs clearance, the importer must provide proof of business registration, a supplier contract, and veterinary documents permitting imports. Each lot must also have a domestic veterinary certificate (Form No. 2) from the veterinary service at the border. The importer can obtain Form No. 2 by providing the following:

1. Delivery contracts, loading bill, invoice, packing list, and customs declaration⁵;
2. Veterinary certificate;
3. U.S. veterinary health certificate;
4. Safety certificate;
5. Certificate of conformity; and
6. Certificate of origin.

The following documents are necessary to conduct a sanitary and epidemiological expert examination (SEZ) for imported products:



1. Completed application including:
 - a. Application form stamped by the applicant for conduct of inspection of the product being applied for,
 - b. Name and legal address of the applicant (for organizations)
 - c. Last name, first name, and patronymic of applicant or authorized representative;
2. Contract or data about the contract to supply the product;
3. Copies of documents confirming the product's safety for humans provided by authorities in the country of origin;
4. Copies of the regulatory and/or technical documents (technical specifications, regulations, technical instructions, specifications, formulas/compositions, etc.) that were used when manufacturing the

⁵ These documents must include a contract between the buyer and the supplier, a consignment layout showing how the transportation vehicle was loaded (e.g., on pallets), and an export declaration showing the value of the consignment.

- imported product;
5. Consumer label, draft of consumer label, or data to be included on consumer label;
 6. Testing protocols and conclusions of the accredited labs (if available); and
 7. Product samples in the quantity or volume required to conduct a sanitary and epidemiological evaluation if there are no results from previously conducted expert examinations and no evaluation estimates of toxicological, hygienic, or other tests.

The importer must submit one set of documents. Documents in a foreign language must be translated into Russian.

Certification of Individual Batches and Shipments Based on the Contract

Importers should submit the following items with the application:⁶

- Contract to supply the product
- Transport documents
- Invoice
- Certificate of origin
- Certificate of quality from the supplier or the manufacturer
- Veterinary certificate (for products of animal origin)
- Phytosanitary certificate (for products of plant origin)
- Veterinary certificate from the country of origin
- Import permit from VPSS when importing meat products

The list of required documents may be extended. Products under tariff rate quota, for example, may require proof that the importer holds an import-quota allocation from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Transport Documents

Transport documents are standard documents required by any national importer.

Customs Payments

Customs clearance usually occurs at the point of destination and typically takes between 2 and 4 days. All customs documents must be in the Russian language. 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 (i.e., product value plus transportation cost). The customs value cannot be less than the accepted value, a figure that customs authorities determine.

Traders should use the Russian Customs Tariff and Tax Code to calculate customs duties and fees. The Russian government published new customs tariff rates in Resolution 718 of November 27, 2006. Russia's Customs Tariff is a code of import-duty rates that corresponds with Russia's Commodity Nomenclature. 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, and thus importers and exporters must monitor amendments to the tariff schedule. The official website of the Russian Customs Service publishes tariffs at <http://www.customs.ru/ru/tariffs/>

⁶ These items are copies of the following documents with the stamp of the applicant.

Special Requirements for Importing Individual Commodity Groups

Meat and Poultry

Products derived from meat processing must comply with Russian and USDA standards. Meat must come from inspected and approved facilities. The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service's Export Library lists these facilities. It can be found online at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/Eligible US Establishments by Country/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations%20&%20Policies/Eligible%20US%20Establishments%20by%20Country/index.asp).

Inspection of Meat Processing and Packing Facilities

Poultry

Inspectors from VPSS must examine all facilities that process or store raw poultry intended for export to Russia. After inspection and approval, VPSS includes the establishments on an official list of approved facilities. Facilities must pay all inspection costs. The U.S.-Russia Criteria for Processing and Refrigeration Facilities Exporting Poultry to the Russian Federation states the requirements for facilities. To receive additional information on facilities' inspection, inspection criteria, or a list of approved facilities, please contact FSIS's Technical Service Center, Export Division at (402) 221-7400. A list of approved poultry facilities can be found online at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/RussiaPoulst.htm>.

Pork

Inspectors from VPSS must examine all facilities that process or store raw pork intended for export to Russia. After inspection and approval, VPSS includes the establishments on an official list of approved facilities. Facilities must pay all inspection costs. To receive additional information on facilities' inspection, inspection criteria, or a list of approved facilities, please contact FSIS's Technical Service Center, Export Division at (402) 221-7400. A list of approved pork facilities can be found online at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/lrupork.htm>.

Beef

Inspectors from VPSS must examine all facilities that process or store raw beef intended for export to Russia. After inspection and approval, VPSS includes the establishments on an official list of approved facilities. Facilities must pay all inspection costs. To receive additional information on facilities' inspection, inspection criteria, or a list of approved facilities, please contact FSIS's Technical Service Center, Export Division at (402) 221-7400. In July 2008 VPSS ended its ban on U.S. beef and approved several U.S. facilities for export of beef to Russia. A list of approved beef facilities can be found online at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/lrubeef.htm>

Labeling Information for Consumers

In addition to other regulation, the General Requirements for Consumer Information Regarding Foodstuffs, GOST P 51074-2003, establishes the following requirements:

- Refrigerated poultry meat, offal, consumer-ready products, sausage, or any meat products must be labeled as frozen or chilled;
- Packaging must be labeled for poultry meat, consumer-ready products, culinary items, sausage, products from meat, and culinary items from poultry meat if packaged in vacuum packs or modified gas media (MGM);
- The percentage of meat, fat, offal, and plant-origin components must be listed for canned products – including those from poultry meat, ham, porridges containing meat - and for consistent, finely ground products;
- Recommendations for the product's final preparation are required for consumer-ready canned products.

Food Additive Content Requirements

In June 2008 the Russian government issued a new amendment (SanPiN 2.3.2.2364-08) to the Hygiene Requirements for Use of Food Additives (SanPiN 2.3.2.1293-03). Enforcement of the new regulations will begin on August 1, 2008. This document bans some food additives and approves others.

This document will be translated and sent as a separate GAIN report.

Pesticides and other Contaminants

SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 establishes permitted levels of pesticides and other contaminants. Levels of contamination by heavy metals including cadmium, lead, mercury, and arsenic are considered when determining toxicological indices of safety for meat, poultry meat, and processed products thereof.

Maximum permissible levels are also set for:

- Antibiotics (Levomycesin, Grysine, Bacitracin, and the tetracycline group)
- Pesticides (hexachlorocyclohexane – alpha, beta, and gamma isomers)
- DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) and its metabolites
- Radionuclides (cesium, strontium)

In meat products manufactured using nitrites, maximum permissible levels exist for nitrosamines (total NDMA and NDEA), as well as for benzopyrene in smoked meat products. For all meat products, microbiological indices are established in SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01.

On June 2, 2008 the Russian government signed Decree No. 33, On Production and Circulation of Poultry Meat. Decree No. 33 prohibits handling poultry carcasses with water-based solutions that contain chlorine in amounts exceeding the hygienic requirements for drinking water. The resolution will come into effect on January 1, 2009. The new permitted chlorine-residue level will be 100 times more stringent than the current level set by Russian regulations for poultry production. The resolution will effectively prohibit a common industry practice of using chlorine in antimicrobial washes to kill surface food-borne pathogens such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli*.

Under Russia's current requirements, the free-chlorine content in water used to chill poultry may not exceed 50 milligrams per cubic decimeter (50 parts per million).

Import Quotas

Russian Federation Resolution № 732 of December 5, 2005, established the quota volumes of beef, pork, and poultry meat permitted for import under reduced tariffs from 2006 to 2009

as well as rates for the import customs duties both in and out of quota (please see GAIN RS5084 *Meat Tariff Rate Quota Decree Issued* for full details).

Changes to Resolution 733 (December 5, 2005) were made in Resolution 553 (September 8, 2006) to regulate importation of beef, pork, and poultry meat from 2006 to 2009. If a country of origin introduces limitations on the exportation of beef, pork, or poultry meat lasting more than 3 months of the year, or if there is not enough product available from the country of origin, the importer has the right to reregister a license to bring in the same product from any other country in the same quantity regardless of the established quota. Previously, this option was only available in the event of disease outbreaks in a country of origin to which a quota had been assigned

Resolution 186, adopted March 31, 2006, lists the criteria for adequate meat processing (for purposes of reclassifying products as further-processed in order to take advantage of inward processing incentives). For products made of raw materials in commodity nomenclature classifications 0201, 0202, 0203, 0204, 0205, and 0207, the following processing methods are no longer eligible:

- mixing of meat, including mechanically de-boned poultry meat, with spices, plant proteins, and/or salt;
- other operations that do not change the product substantially, including injection salting; and
- cutting up of bone-in meat or mechanical de-boning of poultry meat.

On June 7, 2008 Russia's Chief Medical Officer⁷ Gennadiy Onishchenko signed Resolution No. 30, On Approval of SanPiN 2.3.2 2362-08. With the exception of mechanically-separated meat and collagen containing raw materials from poultry meat, the resolution prohibits the use of frozen poultry meat for manufacturing baby food, dietetic nutrition, and specialized food products for pregnant and nursing women, effective January 1, 2010. It further prohibits the use of frozen poultry meat for manufacturing into any type of food product, effective January 1, 2011. Chilled meat and offals are defined as meat and offals obtained immediately from slaughter, cooled to temperatures ranging from 0° to 4° Celsius in deep muscle tissue.

Eligible/Ineligible Products

A. Eligible

1. Poultry and poultry products (including bulk-packed ground poultry)
2. Pork and pork products
3. Deboned beef, bone-in beef, and beef byproducts derived from cattle less than 30 months of age. The beef and beef byproducts must be derived from cattle raised in the United States and must be processed in a manner to prevent contamination with brain, spinal cord, eyes, skull, and vertebral column regardless of the age of the animal. Eligible beef and beef byproducts must be produced under an approved AMS Export Verification (EV) program for beef to Russia. Information about the EV program for Russia can be obtained from

⁷ Also called, in Russian, Chief State Sanitary Inspector of the Russian Federation. The Chief State Sanitary Inspector of the Russian Federation is the Head of the Federal Service for Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being (Rosпотребнадзор).

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5058609>

4. Horsemeat
 5. Baby food containing beef imported from Australia and/or New Zealand is eligible for export to Russia.
- B. Ineligible
1. Beef and beef products other than those identified in the Eligible Products section above and all bison meat and bison meat products.
 2. Red meat - Importation of ground red meat, packaged in bulk form or in the form of meat patties, is prohibited by the Russian authorities.
 3. Lamb, sheep, and goat products. However, fully cooked, canned baby food containing lamb is eligible for export to Russia.
 4. Consumer size packages of ground poultry, mechanically deboned poultry, and giblets are not eligible for export to Russia.
 5. Meat and Poultry imported into the United States from third countries
 6. Beef products originating from animals raised in states with counties which have had confirmed bovine cases of vesicular stomatitis within the last 12 months. Beef products originating from animals raised in Texas slaughtered on or after February 1, 2008 are eligible.
 7. Horsemeat originating from establishments located in the State of Texas. Horsemeat derived from animals slaughtered on or after February 1, 2008 is eligible.
 8. Fresh/frozen poultry meat derived from birds raised or processed in the State of West Virginia and slaughtered on or after April 1, 2007, but prior to September 18, 2007 is ineligible. Meat derived from birds slaughtered prior to April 1, 2007 or slaughtered on or after September 18, 2007 is eligible.
 9. Fresh/frozen poultry meat derived from birds raised or processed in the State of Minnesota and slaughtered on or after May 2, 2007, but prior to August 2, 2007, is ineligible. Meat derived from birds slaughtered prior to May 2, 2007 or slaughtered on or after August 2, 2007 is eligible.
 10. Fresh/frozen poultry meat derived from birds raised or processed in the State of Virginia and slaughtered on or after July 7, 2007, but prior to October 12, 2007, is ineligible. Meat derived from birds slaughtered prior to July 7, 2007 or slaughtered on or after October 12, 2007, is eligible.
 11. Fresh/frozen poultry meat derived from birds raised or processed in the State of South Dakota and slaughtered on or after November 15, 2007, but prior to February 13, 2008, is ineligible. Meat derived from birds slaughtered prior to November 15, 2007, or slaughtered on or after February 13, 2008, is eligible.
 12. Fresh/Frozen poultry meat derived from birds raised or processed in the State of North Carolina and slaughtered on or after May 3, 2008, is ineligible. Meat derived from birds slaughtered prior to May 3, 2008, is eligible.
 13. Fresh/Frozen poultry meat derived from birds raised or processed in the State of Arkansas and slaughtered on or after June 2, 2008, is ineligible. Meat derived from birds slaughtered prior to June 2, 2008, is eligible.

The list of ineligible products is updated frequently, so please contact the following U.S. Government offices for updated information.

For updated status of bans due to disease outbreaks:

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Technical Service Center
Omaha, Nebraska
tel. (402) 221-7400
fax (402) 418-8914

For current export requirements:

Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS)
Export Coordination Division
tel. (202) 501-6022
fax (202) 501-6929

The latest requirements are posted on the FSIS website:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/Russia Requirements/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations%20&%20Policies/Russia_Requirements/index.asp)

Importation Procedures

Because the Government of the Russian Federation has established tariff-rate quotas for the import of fresh, chilled, and frozen beef, pork, poultry, and poultry offal, to bring a product into the Russian Federation at the in-quota tariff rate it is necessary to secure a license. Under the previous administration, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) issued this license. The current administration moved some functions related to foreign trade to the Ministry of Industry. It also moved some agricultural-import functions to the Ministry of Agriculture. The administration has not yet decided what agency will be the final authority for agricultural trade.

The previous administration issued licenses with the following procedure. MEDT reviewed license applications within 5 days of submission and then issued the licenses. The Ministry evaluated license applications every year from December 15 until August 1. Licenses are to be obtained annually, or each time the volume of the imported meat increases. Unlicensed importers are subject to fines, as are importers who import in excess of their approved volumes.

VPSS must then grant an import permit, which the importer must request by letter from the local veterinary directorate for intended meat imports. The local veterinary directorates relay the requests to the central authorities of VPSS. Once granted, permission is sent to the border by telephonogram⁸, indicating the volume and place of origin for the meat that the importer is permitted to bring into the country, as well as the use for which it is approved (retail sale, industrial processing for food purposes, etc.) This process takes 2 weeks.

Approximately 3 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. When the shipment arrives at customs, the importer has to provide documents from the bank certifying payment has been made. The importer must sign an agreement with regional departments in advance, as well as provide documents to prove the business is registered (charter/terms of reference documents), the contract with the supplier,

⁸ A method used in Russia, whereby information transferred by telephone is documented in writing, so that it may be confirmed later.

the permission from the veterinary authorities allowing import of the meat, as well as bank confirmation of the transaction.

In order to obtain veterinary certification, the importer must present the documents listed in Section IX, above. Once the shipment has veterinary certification, customs services will permit the cargo to pass through the port.

Veterinary Certificates

All meat and poultry products shipped from the United States to Russia require an agreed Export Certificate of Health issued by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service. This document certifies that the product complies with the Russian veterinary requirements, and states that the product has been manufactured at a facility approved for export to Russia. Listed below are the veterinary certificate forms, based on the particular type of meat product:

- Raw pork and pork by-products, including bacon and pork for retail sale: FSIS 9450-3, Veterinary Certificate for Frozen Pork Meat and By-Products Exported into the Russian Federation for Processing or Retail Sale;
- Pork intestine raw material: FSIS Form 9450-6, Veterinary Certificate for Pork Intestine Raw Material, Exported into the Russia Federation;
- Poultry meat: FSIS Form 9450-4, Veterinary Certificate for Poultry Meat Exported to the Russian Federation;
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- Raw beef and beef by-products: FSIS Form 9450-5, Veterinary Certificate for Beef and Beef By-Products Exported from the USA to the Russian Federation;
- Fully-cooked meat and poultry products: FSIS Form 9450-7 (7/95), Veterinary Certificate for Prepared Meat Products Exported into the Russian Federation;
- Heat-treated but not fully-cooked or shelf-stable poultry products: FSIS Form 9450-7 (7/95) -- Veterinary Certificate for Prepared Meat Products Exported into the Russian Federation.

All certificates that accompany the product to the Russian Federation must be signed by FSIS veterinarians.

Other Documents

- Certificate of Conformity (the procedure for procuring this document is listed below),
- Certificate of origin (not required for all exporting countries),
- Sanitary-epidemiological conclusion (the procedure to obtain this document is listed below),
- Invoice containing information on goods and transportation (for sea transportation – the Bill of Lading, for vehicle transportation - CMR).

Certification of Meat and Meat Products

Exporters should remember that raw meat products and fully-cooked meat products have very different import procedures. To import raw meat and raw meat by-products, Russian importers should obtain an Import Permit issued by VPSS, and the U.S. exporter must provide veterinary certification. To import fully-cooked meat and dairy products, Russian importers must register the product with the Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor) prior to importation. In lieu of registration, importers may provide a Sanitary-Epidemiological Conclusion on the product. If the product is registered in the Russian Federation, the Russian importer must obtain a Certificate of Conformity for each shipment. In practice, the Certificate of Conformity is valid for one year. Meanwhile, the U.S. exporter should obtain FSIS Form 9450-7 as mentioned above. In the case of dairy, the U.S. exporter should obtain a veterinary certificate for milk and milk products.

In accordance with the certification system GOST P, confirmation of conformity may be exercised by way of declaring conformity and mandatory certification. The following meat products must be confirmed by the declaration of conformity:

- Meat from any type of slaughter and/or commercially hunted animals, as well as agricultural poultry and game;
- Offal from slaughter animals, poultry, alimentary blood;
- Crude fat resulting from beef, pork and poultry; chilled and frozen pork fat;
- Poultry meat processed using freeze drying and thermal drying processes, and bouillon cubes; and
- Edible gelatin.

Listed below are the products subject to mandatory certification.

- Meat-based baby foods;
- Chilled, salted, and smoked pork fat;
- Sausage items, smoked and culinary items from meat and poultry, pâté and aspic, etc.; and
- Canned meat and canned meat with vegetables.

The certificate of conformity for mandatory certification is issued using a yellow form; the certificate of conformity for voluntary certification is issued using a blue form, and declaration of conformity, a white form.

To obtain certification, the applicant must submit the following documentation to the certification body:

- Contract,
- Invoice,
- Bill of lading (CMR),
- Veterinary certificate,
- Veterinary certificate (Form 2),
- Certificate of origin, and
- Label.

The charter/terms of reference of the applicant's business are also necessary, if this is a first application.

Regardless of the procedure for conformity confirmation, the commission takes a sample from the lot of products for identification and laboratory testing, then the commission composes a report on the results of the laboratory tests. The samples are forwarded to an accredited laboratory, where they are tested. Upon completion of testing, the testing records are forwarded to the certification body. A similar set of documents is prepared to obtain the sanitary-epidemiological conclusion, which is issued by an office of Rospotrebnadzor. Based on these documents, the protocol of identification, the testing protocols, the sanitary-epidemiological conclusion and the certificate of conformity are issued.

Imported meat is usually certified using Schematic 7 (lot certification) or Schematic 10 (serial release, for a contract). The term of validity for Schematic 7 is limited by the expiration date of the meat product, and the term of validity for Schematic 10 is usually limited to 1 year.

The sanitary-epidemiological conclusion of a product is valid for 1 year.

Rospotrebnadzor plans to introduce a new set of requirements for meat products that are imported to Russia, regardless of the country of origin. This system sets forth analogous requirements for the meat quality intended for both processing and for retail sale.

Alcoholic Products

(2203 – beer; 2204 – wine; 2208 – alcoholic beverages)

The principal laws and legislative acts regulating Russian Federation alcohol imports (excepting those indicated in the general section) are:

- Federal Law № 171 of November 22, 1995 on State Regulation of Production and Handling of Ethyl Alcohol, Alcohol Products, and Alcohol Containing Products (as amended as of December 1, 2007 by Federal Law № 302);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 31, 2005, № 866, Labeling Alcohol Products with Excise Stamps;(Changes were made in Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of October 24, 2007, № 699);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 31, 2005, № 872, Certification Attached to the Shipment Customs Declaration;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of February 8, 2006, № 80, amending the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of January 19, 1998, № 55, and repealing certain acts regarding the retail sale of alcohol products; and
- Resolution of the Chief Medical Officer of the Russian Federation of February 28, 2007, № 7, "Increased Supervision over Production and Handling of alcohol products".

Federal Law 171 establishes the legislative groundwork for the production and handling of ethyl alcohol, alcohol products and products containing alcohol in the Russian Federation. Federal Law 171 does not cover the production and handling of beer, nor does it cover the production and handling of natural beverages with alcohol content below 6 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. These special requirements include:

- Mandatory marking of products imported into the Russian Federation (ethyl alcohol content exceeding 9 percent by volume of the final product) with excise stamps;
- Documents necessary for import, as well as the documents that are necessary for the supplier and importer to carry out the production and handling of alcoholic beverages and products containing alcohol;

- Registration data about the alcoholic beverages and products containing alcohol in the Unified State Automated System (EGAIS);
- Information on the alcoholic product in the Russian language;
- Information about how consumer packaging ensures that one can determine if the product has been tampered with; and
- Quality of the alcohol products brought into the Russian Federation.

Alcoholic products may pass through Customs into the Russian Federation only if the importer has a license to procure, store, and import such products.

The importer is responsible for marking the imported alcohol products with the excise stamps before the products enter the Russian Federation. To do this, the importer must provide for registration of the imported alcohol product in the unified state automated system (EGAIS), 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;
- Producer of the alcoholic product;
- Country of origin of the alcoholic product;
- Identification of the special economic zone (OEZ); and
- Other data in accordance with Article 12 of Federal Law "On state regulation of production and handling of ethyl alcohol, alcoholic products and alcohol containing products."

Information Requirements

Labeling requirements for alcoholic products in the Russian language are presented in Federal Law 171 and in GOST P 51074-2003. In addition to the general information required for a majority of all imported products, the following specific requirements are needed.

- 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, the name 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 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. For all alcohol products, information about the presence of the following is mandatory:

- Food additives,
- Flavorings,
- Biologically active food additives,
- Ingredients of non-traditional products,
- Any components of the product (if any) derived from products of biotechnology,
- Content of substances that are hazardous to health, determined in conformity with the mandatory requirements of applicable Russian standards and technical regulations.

Safety and Quality

Safety and quality of alcoholic products imported to the Russian Federation must be not lower than those established by Russian standards and regulations. To clear Customs, alcoholic products must be accompanied by documents confirming conformity with Russian standards of safety and quality: the sanitary-epidemiological conclusion and the certificate of conformity. To expedite customs clearance procedures, and to reduce the cost of clearance and temporary storage, it is recommended that sanitary-epidemiological expert examinations and certification of the imported products be conducted approximately 1 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 (as a rule, four bottles of 0.7-0.8 dm³ capacity or six bottles of 0.5 dm³ capacity. If the capacities are different, then the total volume of the product to be tested must constitute at least 2 dm³; if the product is supplied in kegs, drums, or barrels, then the quantity of the product must be at least 6 dm³. 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, assay and analysis; for products manufactured serially an ISO 9000 certificate of quality;
- Samples or mockups of the label; and
- Power of attorney on behalf of the manufacturer to the Russian firm to carry out activities to certify their products (for products manufactured serially).

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.

Russian regulatory documentation requirements are more rigid for particular quality indices and safety indices of the alcohol products. This creates a substantial obstacle to obtaining

sanitary-epidemiological conclusions and certificates of conformity. For example, the following information is required:

- Content of methanol, fusel oil, 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 sanitary-epidemiological conclusions and certificates of conformity obtained is entered into a document attached to the shipment's customs declaration that is required for alcoholic 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 the reference to the number of the Russian national technical regulation or technical specifications with which the product must comply.

As of July 1, 2008, alcohol is subject to the following rates of import duties: for beer (2203) – 0.6 euros per liter; for wine (2204) – 20% ad valorem; for alcoholic beverages (2208) – 2 euros per liter of 100% alcohol equivalent.

Fish and Seafood (0301, 0302, 0303, 0304, 0305, 0306, 0307)

The following commodity codes apply for fish and seafood: for live fish, chilled fish, frozen fish, ground fish: 0301, 0302, 0303, 0304. Code 0305 applies to fish products that are salted, spiced, marinated, cured by drying, dried, or smoked (cold smoked products and hot smoked products). For seafood (shellfish, crustaceans, and other animal origin invertebrates, as well as products resulting from them), the codes are 0306 and 0307.

Not all these products are subject to mandatory certification. Products having codes 0301, 0302, and 0303 have been withdrawn from the procedure of mandatory certification. Products with codes 0304 and 0305 are subject to mandatory certification. Seafood products with codes 0306 and 0307 are not subject to mandatory certification if the product is live, fresh, chilled, or raw-frozen. If, however, the product is cooked (boiled) and frozen it is subject to mandatory certification.

Certification of fish, fish products, and seafood requires different procedures; most frequently Schematic 2 or 3a, less frequently Schematic 7 or 3, are being used in accordance with GOST R to certify such products. The certificate of conformity in accordance with Schematic 2 is usually issued for the term of 1 year, if the contract, and other aforementioned documents, are in order.

Regardless of the form of conformity confirmation (certificate of conformity or declaration of conformity – the latter document accompanies the product to be sold with the following codes: 0301, 0302, 0303, 0306, and 0307, for product alive, fresh, chilled, or raw-frozen), the testing proceeds, with respect to safety indices, using the same rules and criteria of SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, as amended.

Importing fish products, as well as products manufactured from the non-fish hydro-bionts (shellfish, mollusks, and other invertebrates), requires presenting the following accompanying documents:

- Invoice and Packing List - The packing list for the invoice should contain the product description in the Russian language (name of the product and kind of packaging), and the lot volume (net weight and gross weight);
- Contract and specifications to the contract - The specification in the Russian language indicates the name of the product, the country of origin, the Russian commodity code (TN VED), and the lot volume;
- Veterinary certificate (in English and Russian, issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service)

Certificate of origin (Russian officials require this document as proof of the country of origin for all imported food products. It is also used to determine duties and tariffs).

The most important accompanying documents constitute the first three items, including the veterinary certificate. Veterinary Certificate issued by the U.S. government-approved authority must accompany all imports of fish and seafood products. The Certificate confirms that the product meets all specified health and sanitary specifications. Fish products exported from the United States are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Regional NMFS offices issue health certificates for all U.S. exports of fish that meet the Russian Federation requirements.

When product is under scrutiny of the Russian veterinary service, the following documents are reviewed: the certificate of origin, certificate of health (hygienic health), certificate of conformity, and certificate of quality from the manufacturer. These documents, if in proper order, facilitate health inspections.

A label in the Russian language must contain information in accordance with the requirements of GOST P 51074 - 2003. Foodstuffs. Information for Consumers. General requirements, pp. 4-5:

- 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);
- Packed under vacuum (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.

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

- GOST R 51493-99, Frozen cut fish and uncut fish, technical specifications;
- GOST R 51494-99, Frozen fillet of marine fish, technical specifications;
- GOST R 51495-99, Frozen squid, technical specifications;
- GOST R 51496-99, Frozen raw shrimp, blanched shrimp, and cooked shrimp, technical specifications;
- GOST R 51497-99, Fish, shellfish, and cuttlefish. dimensional categories.

Other imported goods from fish and seafood must have 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.

The important safety indices for all fish products and seafood are the absence of parasites and their larvae, especially those that present danger for human beings.

During parasitological inspection, samples are checked for presence of the following groups of ichthyic-parasitological fauna:

- Parasitological fauna that present a danger to human beings - to get a permit to use fish for food purposes, there must be no live parasites of certain kinds since they are dangerous only when they are alive;
- Parasitological fauna that change the physical-chemical properties of fish – during inspection, calculating the quantity of parasites in this group is not important; the important matter is the level of fish tissue damage resulting from this kind of parasite;
- Parasitological fauna that damage the commodity appearance/aspect of the fish material or fish product – this type of parasite is detected visually;
- To determine whether fish is fit for human consumption, experts examine the product for parasitological fauna of muscle tissues; when liver, fish eggs, or milt are to be used, the parasites are assessed that could localize in these tissues;
- Special attention is devoted to certain safety indicators; inspectors look for the following in shipments of seafood products:
 - Toxic elements,
 - Pesticides,
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls,
 - Histamines (for the following families: tuna, mackerel, salmon and herring),

- Radionuclides,
- Microbiological indices, and
- Absence of parasites.

SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 and its amendments cite the allowable levels of potentially dangerous substances and microorganisms in products, and in some cases specify zero tolerance for certain pathogenic microflora in a product.

In accordance with GOST R 51493-99, frozen fish (code 0303) may be manufactured to contain only the food additives ascorbic acid, sodium ascorbate E 301, or potassium ascorbate E 303, not to exceed 1 gram/kilogram of ascorbic acid.

The food additives indicated in the table below are permitted in manufacturing of frozen fillets:

Name and Code of the Food Additive	Allowable Level in a Food Product
Sodium ortho-phosphate 1 – substituted E339 I, potassium ortho-phosphate 1 – substituted E 340 i, sodium pyrophosphate E 450 iii, potassium pyrophosphate E 450 v, sodium triphosphate 5 – substituted E 451 i, potassium triphosphate 5 – substituted E 451 ii, calcium polyphosphate E 452 iv, sodium polyphosphate E 452 i – individually or in combination	10 g/kg (including not more than 5 g/kg of the phosphate added) recalculated into P ₂ O ₅
Sodium alginate	5 g/kg
Sodium ascorbate E 301 or potassium ascorbate E 303	1 g/kg for ascorbic acid

GOST R national standards, referred to above, have been harmonized with international standards for similar products. These standards dedicate special attention to the characteristics of the organoleptic indicators. For instance, in accordance with the GOST R 51494, the requirements for importing frozen fillet from ocean and sea fish (0304) emphasize external appearance, the packing order, cutting, flesh consistency, flesh color, smell after defrosting, taste and smell after cooking, deep dehydration/de-watering (not to exceed 10% from the area of the unit surface or an individual fillet), presence of bones (limiting index), and presence of alien/foreign admixtures (not allowed).

GOST R 51495-99, Frozen squid, technical specifications (code 0307), establishes requirements for the quality of the product relating to the external appearance, cutting, color, and smell (after defrosting), taste and smell (after cooking/boiling), meat consistency (after defrosting and cooking/boiling). It also establishes limitations for deep dehydration and it does not allow alien/foreign admixtures. The net weight of the glazed squid must be indicated without the glazing weight. If the product was glazed with seawater the label should contain an additional annotation, stating, "The product is glazed with sea water."

Quality of live fish (code 0301) is evaluated based on organoleptic indices, fatness, and liveliness. The fish should be free of disease.

In accordance with GOST R 51496 - 99, raw, blanched, boiled, and frozen shrimp of certain species are sorted, their shells removed (but preserving the tail fin, clean shrimp meat, and keeping the neck covered with shell); GOST describes in detail the requirements for organoleptic indices, the tolerable level of food additives, including coloring, Ponceau 4R E124. Examiners pay close attention to apparent defects, deep de-hydration, alien admixtures, alien taste and smell, and unnatural color. Other standards regulating the quality of the frozen fish and seafood products focus carefully on the characteristics of the texture, which deteriorates when deep dehydration takes place, which happens in the absence of glazing. Standards cite methodological descriptions of how to determine the weight of glazing and to assess the taste and aroma properties after defrosting and thermal processing.

VPSS establishes rigid control over fish and seafood entering Russia. In the future these products will be shipped to Russia only from facilities that Russian veterinary inspectors have approved. VPSS has already completed inspections of the largest fish and seafood suppliers, such as China, Chile and Norway. Correspondence between Russia and the U.S. veterinary authorities on U.S fish and seafood trade with Russia is under way. VPSS plans to complete its international inspections and approvals by the end of 2008.

Live Animals

Live animals, like other animal-origin products, are subject to state border veterinary supervision. Export from the United States to Russia is possible only for live animals for which the two countries have agreed on a veterinary health certificate.

Customs processing may begin only after VPSS issues the necessary permission. To clear customs, the shipment is subject to state veterinary supervision. Veterinary certificates issued by the border veterinary point must be exchanged for the veterinary certificates from the supplier's country of origin, and the documents accompanying the shipment with the original stamp of the border veterinary point, stating that "release is allowed," and bearing the signature and the personal stamp of the veterinary officer of the border veterinary point and the date.

The following shipments must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate, form N1:

- All animals (agricultural, domestic, wild, zoo, sea, commercial fur, circus, laboratory animals, etc.), and
- All birds (domestic, wild, ornamental, etc.)

Exporters should also take into consideration the following Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation Number, 1410, The Application of Veterinary Measures on the Import of Live Animals and Products of Animal Origin:

To facilitate Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization, the Government of the Russian Federation decrees:

1. Prior to adopting the documents envisioned by the Federal legislation "Technical Regulation" (Legal Code of the Russian Federation, 2002, N 52, page 5140; 2005, N 19, page 1752), which constitute the regulations establishing mandatory requirements for veterinary safety with respect to live animals that are classified in commodity positions 0101, 0102, 0103, 0104, 0105, 0106, 0301, 0306, 0307 and 9508 of the Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity, when such commodities are brought into the territory of the Russian Federation, one has to be regulated by the veterinary requirements that are in effect in the Russian

Federation that do not contradict the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE).

2. It is established that in a case when the veterinary requirements that are in force in the Russian Federation contradict the veterinary requirements that are in force in the World Trade Organization, the norms of the Code shall apply, the Code being referred to on the first page of this resolution.

When brood domestic animals are exported to the Russian Federation, traders should take into account: Resolution 244 of April 24, 2007, exempting from value added tax the following commodity line items:

From 0102 Brood cattle
From 0103 Brood swine
From 0104 Brood sheep and goats

This Resolution came into force as of the date of its official publication and covers legal relations arising as of January 1, 2007.

Dairy products

(0404 – Milk whey, 0405 – Butter and other fatty products, and Butter manufactured from milk; 0406 – Cheeses and curd/cottage cheese).

The requirements for the import of dairy are much like the requirements for the majority of animal origin products. They are subject to state border veterinary supervision, and customs clearance may start only upon presentation of the necessary permits, which are issued by VPSS. For milk products in consumer packaging, a sanitary-epidemiological conclusion is required. For milk products that are subject to the state veterinary supervision, a certificate of conformity is only necessary when the veterinary certificate, issued by the veterinary border supervision authorities, indicates that it is "for sale without limitations."

Grains and Oilseeds

(1001 – 1008 different types of cereals, 1101 – 1106 flour, groats, etc., from cereals; 12 – oilbearing crops and products, including sunflowerseeds, soybeans, rapeseed, and other oleagenous crops) .

These products are subject to phytosanitary inspection and require phytosanitary certificates. The main procedures and requirements are described in Paragraph "General Requirements for Products of Plant Origin" in section VI of this report.

Some grain products require Rospotrebnadzor's sanitary-epidemiological conclusion. For example, this conclusion is required for the grains from gramineous plants, which are used for food, or food products manufacturing, not for kernels, because they are not separated from ears and stalks. Sanitary-epidemiological conclusion is also necessary for importing rapeseed (or canola), both crushed and non-crushed, used for food purposes or for manufacturing food products, and seeds and fruit of other oil-bearing crops, crushed or non-crushed, that are used for food purposes or for manufacturing food products.

VPSS issues certificates of quality for grain and processed grain products for export and import. These certificates may be obtained also in independent commercial agencies accredited by the VPSS. However, none of these independent agencies has been accredited by VPSS so far. The grains and seeds of oilbearing crops must have a phytosanitary certificate from the exporting country's authorities; the phytosanitary regulation is spelled out in the Nomenclature of Products Subject to the Quarantine Phytosanitary Control, in

effect as of January 1, 2007, and the Order of April 4, 2006, 3 61, "Temporary Procedure for Issuing Quarantine Import Permissions to Import."

VPSS has placed a ban on importing seed corn for planting from the United States, demanding phytosanitary data that are not required by international standards. Corn-grain imports are permitted if the corn is used for feed

Nuts (including 0802 almonds and 1202 peanuts)

These products are subject to phytosanitary inspection. Permission to bring nuts into the Russian Federation is based only on decision of VPSS. The Government of the Russian Federation decided to waive duties temporarily on the import of peanuts in the shell, almonds, hazelnuts in the shell, and sesame seeds, as of February 26, 2007. Before this decision, the import duty for these types of nuts was 5 percent. This decision was based on rising prices for these particular types of nuts on the global market, because they were negatively affecting the developing confectionary industry in Russia. It is worth noting that Brazilian peanuts and American nuts and chestnuts have reportedly been discovered to contain higher than expected aflatoxin levels.

Fresh Fruit (including 0805 citrus; 0806 grapes; 0808 apples & pears, 0809 stone fruit)

Fresh fruits must be accompanied by a sanitary-epidemiological conclusion. These products are subject to phytosanitary inspection. As is the case with nut imports, the Russian Federation only allows fruits to enter the country with permission from VPSS. A product certificate, issued by the appropriate Russian certification establishment, is required for customs clearance. To obtain a product certificate, the following documents are also necessary:

- Signed contract and transportation documents
- Certificate of origin
- Phytosanitary certificate from the exporter
- Quality certificate
- Importer's license
- Certificate of Conformity

Fresh Vegetables (0701 potatoes; 0702 tomatoes; 0703 onions; and 0706 carrots)

The requirements for the import of fresh vegetables to the Russian Federation are characteristic for other products of plant origin. Like nuts and fresh fruits, fresh vegetables must be accompanied by a sanitary-epidemiological conclusion. These products are subject to phytosanitary inspection. It is possible to import fresh vegetables only with permission of VPSS.

VPSS has imposed a *de facto* ban on imports of fresh potatoes from the United States.

Frozen or Processed Vegetables (0710 frozen; 0711 preserved; 0712 dried, 0713 leguminous dried)

Products must be accompanied by a sanitary-epidemiological conclusion. For 07013 - leguminous dried, de-shelled, cleared from the seed skin, chipped or non-chipped – products

are subject to phytosanitary inspection. It is possible to import these products only with advance permission of VPSS.

Grocery Products

General Requirements

- **1806 – Chocolate and other prepared foodstuffs containing cocoa** – require sanitary-epidemiological conclusions.
- **1904 – Ready food products resulting from popping or frying of kernels of grain (e.g., corn flakes); grain crops (except for corn) as kernels or as flakes or grains processed by a different technique (except for fine and coarse flour or meal) that have been advance cooked/boiled or prepared by any other technique.** – requires a Quality Certificate from VPSS; goods are subject to state supervision and inspection by VPSS regarding quality when entering Russia.
- **2103 – Products involving sauces and ready-to-use sauces; taste additives and mixed spices; mustard powder and ready-to-use mustard.** – require basic certificate, as well as a sanitary-epidemiological conclusion, except for “Spices and taste additive-concentrates”. Letter from the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation N 06-73/44906 of December 19, 2006.
- **1902 – Pasta items, whether or not heat treated, with or without fillings (of meat or other products), or prepared using a different technique, such as spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, pasta elbows, dumplings, ravioli, cannelloni; couscous ready to eat or not ready to eat.** – require sanitary-epidemiological conclusion, phytosanitary certificate; certificates are required for quality of flour, bread, and pasta items imported into the territory of the Russian Federation, issued by the federal public health authorities – the Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology of the Rospotrebnadzor; Letter from the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation N 06-73/30396 of August 31, 2006.

Typical Errors When Supplying Foodstuffs to Russia

Listed below are the most common reasons for prohibiting or suspending suppliers’ imports of foodstuffs to Russia:

- Absence of the sanitary-epidemiological conclusion for the products (55.4%);
- Absence (non-conformity) of labeling (41.0%);
- Non-conformity with sanitary-hygienic requirements (2.4%); and
- Non-conformity with transportation terms and conditions (1.2%).

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 issues relating to labels in the Russian language; and return of potentially dangerous products to the supplier is not covered, either. Other problems include price discrepancies, documentary discrepancies (e.g., wrong health certificate, different products described in bill of lading and health certificate), supplying meat products from uncertified (unapproved) facilities, and failure to pay fees.

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

- For food materials of plant origin - information about the pesticides used when

growing the plants, fumigation of the premises, and tare for storing the products, methods of pest control, etc.;

- For food materials of animal origin – information about the use of pesticides indicating the name of the pesticide and the pesticide expiration date; and
- Documents confirming the quality and safety of products for human consumption.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Federal Service for Technical Regulation and Metrology (formerly Gosstandart)
Moscow, Leninskiy Prospekt, 9
Tel: 011 7 (495) 230-1320
Tel: 011 7 (495) 237-5468, fax: 011 7 (495) 237-6231
<http://www.gost.ru/wps/portal/>

Federal Service for Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being (Rospotrebnadzor)
Moscow, Vadkovskiy per. 18/20
Tel: 011 7 (495) 973-2748, fax. 011 7 (495) 200-0212, 258-4497
Tel: 011 7 (495) 973-2748, fax 011 7 (495) 200-0212
Tel: 011 7 (495) 973-2666, 973-1803, 973-2674, fax 011 7 (495) 258-4497
Certification Center Tel: 011 7 (495) 973-1571, 973-1976, 973-2710
<http://www.rospotrebnadzor.ru/>

Russian State Agricultural Research Institute of Control, Standardization, and Certification of
Veterinary Substances
Moscow, Zvenigorodskoye Shosse 5
tel. 011 7 (495) 253-1491, 253-1472, 256-0381

Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance
Orlikov per., 1/11
107139 Moscow
Russian Federation
Tel. 011 7 (495) 975-4347, fax 011 7 (495) 207-5111
<http://www.fsvps.ru>

Certification bodies:

VNIIS – issues certificates of conformity
All-Russian Scientific-Research Institute for Certification (VNIIS)
Elektricheskij per. 3
Moscow
tel. 011 7 (495) 253-3580, fax 911 7 (495) 253-3360

ROSTEST– all procedures for quality control and safety control
"Rostest - Moskva", Russian Center for Test and Certification, GOSSTANDART
Nakhimovskij prospect, 31
117418 Moscow
tel. 011 7 (495) 129-3200, fax 011 7 (495) 124-9966

REA-TEST
Stremyanniy per., 36
Moscow
tel. 011 7 (495) 958-2939

PRODEKOTEST
Kozhevnikovskaya ul., 1a
Moscow
tel. 011 7 (495) 235-7390

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts

Russian Federation web sites include:

Ministry of Health: http://www.government.ru/institutions/ministries/details.html?he_id=143

Ministry of Economic Development: <http://www.economy.gov.ru/wps/portal>

Federal Customs Service of Russia: <http://www.customs.ru/en/>

Appendix III. Selected Relevant GAIN Reports

These reports are accessible via the search engine at this URL:

http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/AttacheRep/attache_lout.asp

General

RS8053 Amendments and Additions to SanPiN on Food Additives

RS7069 FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual

RS6067 Russia Changes Customs Code

RS6015 Consumer Information About Goods

Biotechnology

RS8051 Adventitious Presence of Biotech Components in Feeds

RS7078 Registration Procedure for GMO Feeds

RS7077 Federal Law Sets Biotech Labeling Threshold at 0.9 Percent

RS7053 Russia Establishes 0.9% Threshold for Biotech Labeling

RS7052 Biotechnology Annual Report 2007

RS7028 Russian Sanitary Inspectors Strengthen Control Over Biotech Food

RS7023 "GMO-Free" Labeling of Food Products in Moscow

Livestock

RS8050 Chlorine Use in Poultry Production Banned

RS8049 Frozen Poultry for Further Processing To Be Banned

RS7041 Russia Increases Import Quota for Pork

RS7039 Russia Distributed All Meat and Poultry TRQs

RS7031 Russia Lifts BSE Ban From Canada

RS7029 VPSS Solicits Public Comment on Draft Import Permit Regulation

RS7008 Russia Lowers Out-of-Quota Import Duties on Beef

RS6058 Russia Exempts VAT on Pedigree Livestock

Plant Products

RS8038 Oilseeds Annual 2008

RS8024 Grain and Feeds Annual 2008

RS7015 Seasonal Import Tariffs on Rice and Rice Products

RS7011 List of Products that Require Quarantine and Phytosanitary Certificates

RS7007 Seasonal Decrease in Import Tariffs for Cabbage, Carrots, and Table Beets

RS6045 Import Duties on Half Processed Vegetable Fats, Oils and Margarine

Wine and Spirits

RS7323 Wine FAIRS Product Specific

RS7310 Wine and spirits: New bank guarantee requirement limits import growth

RS7304 Russian wine and spirits regulations updated

RS7301 New health label required for wine and spirits