

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: May 15,2020

Report Number: RS2020-0027

Report Name: Additional Conditions for Import of GE Soy and Soy Meal to Russia under Decree 520

Country: Russian Federation

Post: Moscow

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation, Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies, Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies Addendum, Biotechnology - Plants and Animals, Cloning

Prepared By:

Approved By: Deanna Ayala

Report Highlights:

On April 29, 2020, the Russian Ministry of Agriculture provided explanations to the industry and related associations on imports of genetically engineered (GE) soybeans and soybean meal used in the animal husbandry sector.

Report:

On April 16, 2020, the Russian Government signed Decree #520, which temporarily simplifies the import of soybeans and soy meal for feed. The Decree states that for the period from April 20, 2020 through January 1, 2021, imports of certain genetically engineered (GE) soybeans and soybean meal for feed are allowed without state registration. It applies only to GE soybeans and GE soymeal whose registration in Russia has expired and must be accompanied by the Expert Conclusion from Rosselkhoznadzor (VPSS) that was granted when the feed was previously registered. (The Expert Conclusion is the certificate for registration given by VPSS). (For more information, please see Gain RS2020-0022: Russia Temporarily Lifts Requirements for GE Registration of Soybeans and Soybean Meal).

This Decree raised a number of questions among market players regarding which soy and soybean meal products might be eligible for import under this protocol because both GE organisms and products containing GE organisms or produced through the use of GE organisms must be registered in Russia. The Ministry of Agriculture clarified that prior to July 1, 2017, the state registration of meals containing GE organisms followed the rules set in Governmental Decree #26 "On state registration of meals produced from GE organisms" dated January 18, 2002. The letter of the Ministry confirms that per Decree #26, all products containing GE organisms or produced through the application of a GE organism and intended for use in the animal husbandry sector, were allowed for import into the Russian Federation if the feed product was confirmed as safe by the Russian Federal Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) in accordance with Decree #26.

In contrast, effective July 1, 2017, in accordance with the rules set out in Decree #839¹, feed products containing GE organisms (in this case soy or soybean meal) became subject to state registration once the GE organism(s) that (a) was used to create the product or (b) that is contained in the product was registered. Therefore, only those products that were registered prior to July 1, 2017 are eligible for import under this recent Decree #520.

For the industry it means that only suppliers who registered their GE soy and soybean meal products before 2017 can now import those products to Russia provided they purchase their products from the same company and/or elevator that had been specified in their Registration Certificate issued before 2017 and that these products are free from other GE organisms that have not been registered in Russia.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ Decree #839 stems from Law 86-FZ that regulates GE activities in Russia.