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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. Significant changes to foodstuff regulations and requirements have been implemented since the last report, including increased food safety regulations and higher labeling standards included for products containing genetically modified components, a new classification nomenclature, new requirements for the confirmation of conformity, which call for some types of products to have a declaration of conformity, while others require a certificate of conformity, and increased control over products entering Russian territory from third countries. Most sections have been updated since the previous report.

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Executive Summary

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

This report is an overview of both general and commodity-specific requirements of Russian Federation government agencies for imported foodstuffs. Significant changes to foodstuff regulations and requirements have been implemented since the last report, including increased food safety regulations and higher labeling standards included for products containing genetically modified components, a new classification nomenclature, new requirements for the confirmation of conformity, which call for some types of products to have a declaration of conformity, while others require a certificate of conformity, and increased control over products entering Russian territory from third countries.

Despite Russia's ongoing preparation 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 juridical entities that are officially registered on 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").

It is important to acquire such documents as the Sanitary and Epidemiological Conclusion and the Certificate of Conformity. The latter document will be issued after other required certificates and documents have been 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 the national standards relating not only to food safety, but also to consumer quality indices.

Russian Legislation and Principal Regulatory Documents on Foodstuffs

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

1. THE 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, November 2, December 21, 2004)
2. THE FEDERAL LAW ? 29-FZ ON QUALITY AND SAFETY OF FOOD PRODUCTS (with the Amendments and Additions of December 30, 2001, January 10, June 30, 2003, August 22, 2004, May 9, December 5, 31, 2005, March 31, 2006)
3. THE FEDERAL LAW ? 52-FZ ON SANITARY AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION (as amended on December 30, 2001, January 10, 2004, June 30, 2003, September 22, 2004, May 09, 2005, December 31, 2005)
4. THE 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. THE FEDERAL LAW ON STATE REGULATIONS ON THE PRODUCTION AND HANDLING OF ETHYL ALCOHOL, SPIRITS, AND PRODUCTS CONTAINING ALCOHOL No. 171-FZ of November 22, 1995 as amended by the Federal Law of December 29, 2006 (No. 248-FZ)
6. THE FEDERAL LAW ON TECHNICAL REGULATION No 184-FZ of December 27, 2002 as amended by the Federal Law of May 1, 2007 (No 65-FZ)

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

1. HYGIENIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FOODSTUFF SAFETY AND NUTRITION (in force as of July 1, 2002 as SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01) with several recent additions and changes. The latest change establishes the 0.9 percent threshold level for biotech components in food products requiring labeling.
2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING CONSUMER INFORMATION REGARDING FOODSTUFFS (GOST P 51074-2003)
3. HYGIENIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD ADDITIVES (SanPiN 2.3.2.1293-03)

Russia's State Bodies Regulating Imported Foodstuffs

The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (Russian abbreviation **Rosselkhoznadzor**, commonly referred to in the West as **VPSS**) monitors veterinary and phytosanitary conditions and enforces Russian legal requirements regarding conformity with veterinary and plant health. Its authority extends both to the Russian Federation's borders (including state border-crossing checkpoints) and transportation within the Russian Federation. 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 considered to pose danger under sanitary and phytosanitary standards that fall under VPSS's jurisdiction.

The Federal Service for Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being (**Rospotrebnadzor**) of the Ministry of Health and Social Development is responsible for food and foodstuff safety. Rospotrebnadzor may prohibit 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 of the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Russian Federation (**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. Customs control is carried out at three levels: the Federal Customs Service of Russia, the regional (provincial) departments of Customs, and the Customs House and Customs Post.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (**MEDT**) regulates non-tariff external economic activity including licensing and quoting.

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

Recent Changes

As part of Russia's effort to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Russian Federation 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. This law was amended by the Federal Law No 65 FZ of May 1, 2006. The 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 the priorities.

The latest changes in GOSTs and in other voluntary and mandatory branch norms are described in the commodity sections of this report. Most of changes are being made to bring Russian norms closer to international standards. Thus, the Russian government adopted a resolution on March 24, 2006, No. 159, under which the Russian veterinary service (VPSS) has authority to apply international standards to evaluation of the safety of imports of live animals and certain products of animal origin in the event that Russian regulations diverge from international standards.

Principal Requirements for Food Safety

General requirements are provided in detail in the Hygienic Requirements for Foodstuff Safety and Nutritional Value (SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, as amended by several recent SanPiNs). SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 forms the regulatory basis for activity of all persons and organizations involved in foodstuff production, importation, and distribution; and organizations engaged in retail and public catering. SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 also 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

On July 1, 2005, General Requirements for Consumer Information regarding Foodstuffs, GOST ? 51074-2003, came into effect. This standard took into consideration the Codex Alimentarius International Food-Packaging standards [Codex Stan 1-1985 (Rev.1-1991)]. Among other things, GOST ? 51074-2003 governs pre-packaged foods sold either in retail or wholesale markets, and are supplied to public catering facilities, schools, children's facilities, therapeutic facilities, or other facilities directly servicing consumers. GOST ? 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 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 identified¹, confirmation of conformity, and other data.

GOST ? 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 during the manufacturing of the product;
- food products that are genetically modified, obtained from genetically modified sources or contain components from genetically modified sources.

For products containing genetically modified components, information must be provided when the composition of the genetically modified components exceeds the standard amount established by regulation. The information on the label must read: 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 is allowed to list the basic mineral substances and vitamins inherent in the product without indicating their quantity. Listing a recommended daily allowance, in accordance with the established procedure, is required.

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 more than 5 percent of the daily recommended allowance of minerals or vitamins is included in a 100-gram serving. GOST ? 51074-2003 covers all special requirements for nutrition value labeling. GOST P 51074-2003 was designed to take international standards into consideration 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 ? 51074-97) for the following food categories: meat and meat products; poultry meat; eggs and processed egg products; milk, milk products, and products containing milk; fish, non-fish fishery products, and products manufactured from fish; canned products; preserves from fish and

¹ This requirement is not mandatory for products manufactured abroad.

² Please see also GAIN Report RS-7053 "Russia Establishes 0.9 percent Threshold for Biotech Labeling".

seafood; wine products; products manufactured by the beer and non-alcoholic beer industry; malt beverages; beverages manufactured with grain as a raw material; and 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 during the trading process. 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. The permitted size, shape, and material of transport containers are established by GOST ? ISO 3394-99.

A number of products being imported into Russia must meet packaging requirements specific to their product type. Packaged grains, for example, must be packaged in air-permeable materials as stated in the Ministry of Agriculture's Order ? 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 and paper boxes, plastic and polymer packets, bottles and 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 5067 on "Guidelines for regulating wood packing material in international trade".

Some products are affected by air, water, and steam. Therefore, the permeability of the packaging material to gas, steam, water, fats, and odors is an important requirement. For instance, it is necessary for chilled meat to be packaged in material with low-vapor permeability in order to prevent the loss of moisture and a specific gas-permeability to preserve the 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

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

characteristics (carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, allergenicity, etc.), change organoleptic or nutritional qualities of the foodstuffs, or 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. Foodstuffs and food additives that are used for production and applied in accordance with the Technological Instruction Manual are regulated by Appendix 3, Section 3.1 of SanPiN-2.3.2.1293-03. The same document lists foodstuffs that have more stringent regulations if food additives are used (e.g., baby food).

Food additives prohibited in foodstuff manufacturing include:

Code	Name of the food additives	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 not complete. Since 2005, Rospotrebnadzor has also prohibited importing foodstuffs if preservatives ?216 and ?217 were used during production.

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants

Russia enforces its own permissible content levels for pesticides and contaminants that are applied to domestic and imported products. These levels are published in several official documents including SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, which specifies permissible content levels by product groups. Additionally, SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01 specifies 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 use of officially registered pesticides. The Ministry of Agriculture also publishes standards annually 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. Detailed requirements are included in the appropriate sections of this report.

General Requirements for Products of Plant Origin

Three international documents form the basis for 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.

All imports of plants and products of plant origin are subject to phytosanitary regulation. The main requirements are stated in the Federal Legislation on Plant Quarantine (July 15, 2000) and in the Ministry of Agriculture's Order ? 681 (September 3, 2002) on plant quarantine while importing, storing, transporting, and using grain and grain products that are imported into Russia for food, feed, and 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 List of Pests, Plant Diseases, and Weeds with Quarantine Issues (http://www.mcx.ru/index.html?he_id=484&doc_id=3252), and the Commodities Nomenclature Subject to Quarantine Phytosanitary Control⁴

(http://www.mcx.ru/images/download.html?pi_id=4481). The List of Pests, Plant diseases, and Weeds with Quarantine Issue consists of 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, a Commodities Nomenclature Subject to Quarantine Phytosanitary Control was enacted on January 1, 2007. The nomenclature 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.

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

Trade is also regulated by several Ministry of Agriculture guidelines, such as:

⁴ For details see GAIN Report RS 7011 "List of Products that Require Quarantine and Phytosanitary Certificates"

- Conditions for Using Imported and Domestic Grain and Grain Products, and List of Approved Facilities (1999),
- Order ? 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 220 (August 3, 2005).

One of the latest documents is Ministry of Agriculture Order N 163 of March 14, 2007, "On Organizing Activities To Issue Phytosanitary And Quarantine Certificates" (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 origins, transport containers and packaging, soil or other organisms, or objects or materials that may carry hazardous organisms or facilitate spreading of 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 been approved to review applications and issue and 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 it is issued. Imports must cross the Russian Federation border during this time. A procedure to reissue expired certificates has also been adopted.

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 to be assigned a registration number. Certificates without a registration number are invalid. Certificates will be distributed within 3 working days of the approval or rejection decision.

A list of documents required to obtain a certificate was established and an application format was approved. As described in the quarantine regulations, a quarantine certificate is necessary for each lot of the product brought into or transported through the Russian Federation territory.

The Phytosanitary and Quarantine certificates and permits can be issued by VPSS only in the name of physical or legal entity registered on the territory of the Russian Federation with the Russian tax authorities.

If a quarantined organism is detected during a quarantine inspection at a border checkpoint, the authorities have the right to return the consignment to the exporter or decontaminate the consignment. If decontamination is not possible, the authorities may dispose of the consignment 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 genetically modified sources. 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 genetically modified sources. The threshold was previously set at 5.0 percent. This regulation will come into effect September 1, 2007. Russia currently allows 13 kinds of genetically modified sources, 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 RS-7052 "Biotechnology Annual 2007" and GAIN report RS 7053).

Section VII. Other Specific Standards

1. Most Russian standards are codified in the State Standards (GOST). The Russian-language website www.gost.ru includes a search engine as well as a list of recently published standards.
2. The Sanitary Rules and Regulations (SanPIN) are de facto standards, though not formally classified as such. They are not available on line, but only in hard copy.
3. Other rules may be promulgated from time to time by relevant federal agencies and services, particularly VPSS and Rospotrebnadzor (e.g., the GMO content threshold). As these are ad hoc, it is incumbent on traders to monitor closely announcements of new rules that serve as de facto standards.

Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws

Trademark and intellectual property laws are based on the Russian Federation Law ? 3520-I (September 23, 1992), which governs trademarks, servicemarks and geographic appellations.

The law was amended December 11, 2002, by passage of Federal Law ? 166. These amendments were made to assist with Russia's integration into the global economy and Russia's accession to the WTO. The legislation was designed to provide better protection of 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 to file cases over the illegal use of trademarks. These new procedures help ensure applicants' rights are observed. 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 and their descriptions can be found at <http://tkn.ru/db/tknved>. These codes are close, but not identical, to the US Customs' Harmonized Code Numbers.

Import Operations for Products from Animal Origin

When a consignment reaches the Russian border, the importer must provide customs operators with a bank document proving that a deposit covering the assigned duties and taxes has been made. Before a bank can provide documents for customs clearance, the

importer must provide proof of business registration, a contract with a supplier, and veterinary documents permitting imports. Each lot of a product must also have a domestic veterinary certificate (form ? 2) from the veterinary service at the border, which can be obtained by the importer providing the following:

1. delivery contracts, bill of lading, invoice, packing list, and customs declaration⁵;
2. veterinary certificates;
3. U.S. veterinary health certificate;
4. safety certificate;
5. certificate of conformity; and
6. certificate of origin.

The following documents are required 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. the name and legal address of applicant (for organizations);
 - c. and 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 imported product;
5. consumer label, draft of consumer label, or data to be included on consumer labels;
6. testing protocols and conclusions of the accredited labs (if available);
7. and product samples in the quantity or volume required to conduct sanitary and epidemiological evaluation if there are no results from previously conducted expert examinations and no evaluation estimates of toxicological, hygienic, or other tests.



There must be one set of documents submitted. Documents in a foreign language must be translated into Russian.

Certification of Individual Batches and Shipments Based on the Contract

The application is submitted to the certification body with the following items attached⁶:

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

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

- 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 product of plant origin);
- veterinary certificate from the country of origin; and
- import permit from VPSS to import the meat product.

The list of the 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 Economic Development and Trade.

Transport Documents

Transport documents are the standard documents required by any national importer.

Customs Payments

Customs clearance usually takes place 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 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, which is determined by customs authorities.

The Russian Customs Tariff and Tax Code should be used to calculate customs duties and fees. The Russian Federation Government published resolution 718 of November 27, 2006, which specified new customs tariff rates. Russia's Customs Tariff is a code of import duty rates that corresponds with Russia's Commodities' Nomenclature. Customs duties, fees, and payments are charged based on rates from the customs value of the good and are assigned while developing the consignment's customs declaration.

Tariff rates are subject to change, and thus it is incumbent on importers and exporters to monitor amendments to the tariff schedule.

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.

Special Requirements for Importing Individual Commodity Groups

Meat and Poultry

Products resulting from meat processing intended for export to Russia must comply with Russian and USDA standards. Meat must come from inspected and approved facilities. These facilities are listed on the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service's Export Library website http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/export_information/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, facilities are included in an official list of approved facilities. Facilities must pay all inspection costs. The requirements for facilities are stated in the U.S.-Russia Criteria for Processing and Refrigeration Facilities Exporting Poultry to the Russian Federation. 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. For a current list of approved facilities and updates, please see http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/export_information/index.asp

Pork

Inspectors from VPSS must examine all facilities that process or store raw pork intended for export to Russia. After inspection and approval, facilities are included in 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 the approved facilities, please contact FSIS's Technical Service Center, Export Division at (402) 221-7400. For a current list of approved facilities and updates, please see http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/export_information/index.asp

Beef

Inspectors from VPSS must examine all facilities that process or store raw beef intended for export to Russia. After inspection and approval, facilities are included in 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 the approved facilities, please contact FSIS's Technical Service Center, Export Division at (402) 221-7400. At this time (July 2007) no U.S. facilities have been approved for export of beef to Russia. When facilities are approved for export, they will be listed in the FSIS Export Library at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/export_information/index.asp

Information for Consumers (Labels)

In addition to general requirements, General Requirements for Consumer Information Regarding Foodstuffs, GOST ? 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);
- for canned products, including canned products from poultry meat, ham, porridges containing meat, and consistent, finely ground products, the percentage of meat, fat, offal, and plant-origin components must be listed; and
- for consumer-ready canned products and poultry, recommendations for the product's final preparation must be given.

Food Additive Content Requirements

The following food additives are regulated by specific product standards:

- sodium nitrite (sodium nitrite is not used in Russia's food industry) in ready-to-eat sausages and products from meat which include nitrites may not exceed 0.005 percent and raw smoked products may not exceed 0.003 percent; and
- phosphates are not to exceed 1.0 percent when re-calculated into P_2O_5 , including introduced phosphorus; cooked sausage items may not exceed 0.5 percent.

For the rest of the permitted food additives, the general requirements are applied as stipulated in federal standards (GOST and SanPiN).

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 (Levomycetin, the tetracycline group, Grysine, Bacitracin),
- pesticides (hexachlorocyclohexane – alpha, beta and gamma isomers) and DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) and its metabolites, and
- radionuclides (cesium, strontium).

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

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 RS-5084 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.

Products Permitted/Prohibited for Supplies

Permitted products include:

- poultry meat and products from poultry meat including ground poultry meat delivered in bulk;
- pork and pork products;
- horse meat;
- and baby food containing beef imported from Australia or New Zealand.

Prohibited products include:

- beef and beef products, bison and bison products⁷;
- ground red meat, packaged in bulk form or in the form of meat patties;
- products from lamb, mutton, and goat meat⁸;
- consumer size packages of ground poultry, mechanically deboned poultry, and giblets;
- meat and poultry imported to the U.S. from a third country;
- beef products from animals raised in a country where cases of vesicular stomatitis have been registered in cattle in the past 12 months;
- horsemeat manufactured at a facilities in the State of Texas; and
- poultry meat from states under ban within the framework of the coordinated response to avian influenza (please check the FSIS website for up-to-date information).

The list of prohibited 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

⁷ Beef and beef products and bison meat and bison meat products are currently ineligible. However, deboned beef, bone-in beef, and beef byproducts derived from cattle under 30 months of age will be eligible from production establishments and cold storages that are approved after joint U.S.-Russia on-site inspection. 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 the following website:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/arc/bev.htm>. Production establishments interested in export of beef to Russia should contact AMS. AMS will maintain a list of establishments that comply with the additional requirements identified above on the EV program website. Cold storage establishments interested in export of beef to Russia should notify the U.S. Meat Export Federation (MEF) of their interest. USDA, in conjunction with MEF, will use the production plant and cold storage lists to develop a schedule of on-site plant inspections by Russian officials. Establishments seeking approval to export to Russia should contact AMS or MEF by December 8, 2006.

⁸ Fully cooked, canned baby food containing lamb is eligible for export to Russia.

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

Importation Procedures

Because the Government of the Russian Federation has established quotas for the import of fresh, chilled, and frozen beef, pork, poultry, and poultry offal, to bring a product into the Russian Federation it is necessary to secure a license from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT).

MEDT reviews applications for such a license within 5 days of submission, and then issues the licenses. The Ministry evaluates 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. There is a fine for importers operating unlicensed, or importing in excess of their approved volumes.

VPSS must then grant an import permit, which the importer must request by letter from the local veterinary establishment for their intended meat imports. The local veterinary establishments send the requests to the central authorities of VPSS. Once granted, permission is sent to the border by telephonogram⁹, 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, the permission from the veterinary authorities allowing importing 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, pp. 11-12, 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 from the United States require an Export Certificate of Health. 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.

⁹ A method used in Russia, whereby information transferred by telephone is documented in writing, so that it may be confirmed later.

- Pork – input material, including bacon and pork for retail sale - FSIS Form 9450-3 — Veterinary Certificate for Pork Meat Exported to the Russian Federation.
- 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
- Beef - FSIS Form 9450-5 — Veterinary Certificate for Beef Meat Exported into the Russian Federation
- Prepared meat and prepared poultry - FSIS Form 9450-7 — 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 (required not 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 landing, for vehicle transportation - CMR).

Certification of Meat and Meat Products

In accordance with the certification system GOST ?, 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;
- 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, the 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
- 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 on State Regulation of Production and Handling of Ethyl Alcohol, Alcohol Products, and Alcohol Containing Products (as amended as of December 31, 2006);
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 31, 2005, ? 866, Labeling Alcohol Products with Excise Stamps;
- 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 not 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),
- 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 ? 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 the must in 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 genetically modified organisms
- Content of substances that are hazardous for the 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.
- 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.

A substantial obstacle to obtaining sanitary-epidemiological conclusions and certificates of conformity often turns to be the more rigid requirements of the Russian regulatory documents for particular quality indices and safety indices of the alcohol products.

- 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);
- 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, 2007, 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 the products manufactured from the non-fish hydrobionts (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 ? 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)
- 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 ? 301, or potassium ascorbate ? 303, not to exceed 1 gram/kilogram of ascorbic acid.

It is allowed to manufacture frozen fillets with the food additives indicated in the table below:

Name and Code of the Food Additive	Allowable Level in a Food Product
Sodium orto-phosphate 1 – substituted ?339 I, potassium orto-phosphate 1 – substituted ? 340 i, sodium pyrophosphate ? 450 iii, potassium pyrophosphate ? 450 v, sodium triphosphate 5 – substituted ? 451 i, potassium triphosphate 5 – substituted ? 451 ii, calcium polyphosphate ? 452 iv, sodium polyphosphate ? 452 i – individually or in combination	10 g/kg (including not more than 5 g/kg of the phosphate added) recalculated into ? ₂ ? ₅
Sodium alginate	5 g/kg
Sodium ascorbate ? 301 or potassium ascorbate ? 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 by 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, liveliness - the fish should be free from diseases.

In accordance with GOST R 51496 - 99, raw, blanched, boiled, and frozen shrimp of certain kinds 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 ?124. 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.

The net weight of packed goods constitutes a norm index as well. The allowed deviations from a net weight norm are registered in the GOST 8. 579-2002 Requirements of the quantity of packed goods, packaging, selling and importing.

In the future, VPSS plans to establish rigid control over fish and seafood entering Russia. These products will be shipped to Russia only from facilities that Russian veterinary inspectors have approved. A similar procedure is already under way with respect to meat-processing facilities. VPSS plans to complete its first round of international inspection and approval activities by Autumn 2007.

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 the 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.)
- 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, the following Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation should be taken into account: Resolution 244 of April 24, 2007, approving the list of codes in conformity with the Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Russian Federation whose importation to the territory of the Russian Federation from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008, inclusive, is exempted from the value added tax.

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

This Resolution comes 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 in 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 12 – oilbearing crops and products, including sunflowerseeds, soybeans, rapeseeds, and other oilbearing 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 04, 2006, 3 61, "Temporary Procedure for Issuing Quarantine Import Permissions to Import."

VPSS has placed a de facto ban on importation of corn from the United States based on a demand for phytosanitary data that is not a requirement under international standards. In September 2007 VPSS imposed a ban on imports of rice from the United States.

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 the decision of the 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, as it is demanding information on disease incidence that does not conform to international phytosanitary standards.

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 permission of VPSS.

Grocery Products

General Requirements

- **1806 – Chocolate and other prepared foodstuffs containing cocoa** – require sanitary-epidemiological conclusion
- **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 sanitary-epidemiological conclusion and phytosanitary certificate; 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%)
- Non-Conformity with transportation terms and conditions (1.2%)
- Sometimes the 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, supplying meat products from uncertified (unapproved) facilities, failure to pay fees, etc.

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.
- 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
www.gsen.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.mcx.ru>

Certification bodies:

VNIIS – issues certificates of conformity
All-Russian Scientific-Research Institute for Certification (VNIIS)
Elektricheskiy 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
Nakhimovskiy 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
Kozhevnickeskaya ul., 1?
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 and Trade: <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/scripts/AttacheRep/attache_lout.asp

General

RS6067 Russia Changes Customs Code
RS6015 Consumer Information About Goods

Biotechnology

RS7053 Russia Establishes 0.9% Threshold for Biotech Labeling
RS7028 Russian Sanitary Inspectors Strengthen Control Over Biotech Food
RS7023 "GMO-Free" Labeling of Food Products in Moscow
RS6039 New Resolution Transfers GMO Feed Registration Duties to VPSS
RS6038 Annual Agricultural Biotechnology Report

Livestock

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

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