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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides information on the food and agricultural product import requirements for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Important points of contact for U.S. food exporters are listed in the appendices. All sections of the report have been reviewed and updated; however, no substantial changes have occurred over the last year.

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**Disclaimer:** This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

## Executive Summary

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has been a European Union (EU) candidate since December 2022 and is aligning its regulations with the EU *acquis*, including some that may restrict U.S. products. BiH is not yet a World Trade Organization (WTO) member but is close to joining, pending resolution of a few technical issues.

The country has two governing structures (the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska) and the Brcko District, each with customs procedures that may diverge. U.S. exporters should consult the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Sarajevo for guidance.

BiH has a growing trade deficit, with agri-food imports over four times higher than exports. Its main trading partners are EU and Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) countries. Low import duties and increasing tourism provides opportunities for U.S. products like beef, wine, and seafood. Challenges include complex governance, low incomes, and weak infrastructure. In 2024, U.S. agricultural exports to BiH totaled \$17.5 million, including food preparations, nuts, whiskey, and soft drinks. U.S. imports from BiH were \$4.1 million, led by

coffee, baked goods, and dairy. Many U.S. products enter BiH via the EU and are undercounted in trade data.

No major regulatory changes are expected in 2025. Once BiH joins the WTO, U.S. exporters are expected to benefit from better market access.

## **Section I. Food Laws**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) maintains two entities—the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS)—each managing its own agricultural policy, food safety, and inspections. There is no national agricultural ministry; instead, the [Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations \(MOFTER\)](#) leads coordination at the state level, particularly in aligning food safety systems with WTO, SPS, and TBT standards. MOFTER houses an agricultural coordination department, and oversees:

- [State Veterinary Office \(SVO\)](#), which drafts veterinary trade regulations, coordinates border inspections, and liaises with entity and international bodies.
- [Plant Health Protection Administration \(PHPA\)](#), which develops plant health policy, drafts legislation, and coordinates implementation with entities and international partners.

The [Food Safety Agency \(FSA\)](#) operates independently under the Council of Ministers. It conducts food/feed risk analyses, drafts regulations under the Food Law, and represents BiH in the Codex Alimentarius, coordinating with SVO, PHPA, and entity authorities.

Key national food-related laws include (local language only):

[Veterinary Law](#) (BiH Official Gazette/OG #34/02)

[Food Law](#) (BiH OG #50/04)

[Law on Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development](#) (BiH OG#50/08)

[GMO Law](#) (BiH OG #23/09).

BiH's legal framework blends legacy and EU-aligned laws, with discrepancies often existing between state and entity-level regulations. Border procedures and fees may vary by entity and crossing. U.S. exporters should consult FAS Sarajevo for guidance.

## **Foreign Trade and Customs Policies**

At the state level, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) enforces [the Law on BiH Foreign Trade Policy](#) and the [Law on BiH Customs Tariffs](#). The Foreign Trade Law promotes free trade while allowing restrictions to protect public health, counter unfair trade practices, and prevent discrimination against imports.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER) is the sole national authority for foreign trade, responsible for international and bilateral trade agreements.

Although not yet a WTO member (accession talks began in 1999), BiH is part of the Central European Free Trade Agreement and has liberalized trade with the EU through the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). This agreement eliminated or phased out most customs duties by 2013, with exceptions for sensitive products (e.g., meat, dairy, sugar). An adapted SAA, effective February 2017, expanded EU market access for BiH products and adjusted quotas for EU imports into BiH.

BiH maintains a single customs policy through the [Indirect Tax Administration \(ITA\)](#) and uses the Harmonized System (HS) for product classification. Agricultural tariffs range from 0 to 15 percent, with additional unit-based fees (KM 0.08–6.00 per kg). For detailed rates, consult the [BiH Customs Tariff Book](#) (local language only).

A unified 17 percent VAT is applied to domestic and imported goods.

## **Food Safety**

While foreign trade and customs policies are unified at the national level, food safety responsibilities are shared between state and entity authorities. Only animal product imports are managed at the national level, while plant product imports fall under entity-level jurisdiction, often following different regulations.

SVO handles border inspections for animal products and issues import requirements and approvals. The PHPA issues import permits for seeds, planting material, and pesticides, based on input from entity phytosanitary departments.

Entity inspectorates have consolidated veterinary, phytosanitary, sanitary, and market inspections, previously under various ministries. These inspectorates work with SVO, PHPA, MOFTER, FSA, and entity ministries to manage food safety oversight.

Border inspections are shared:

- SVO inspects animal products.
- Entity phytosanitary inspectors manage plant products.
- Entity food inspectors assess food safety at customs clearance or retail, including:
  - o Document checks
  - o Regulatory compliance
  - o Physical and sensory inspection
  - o Sampling and lab testing, if needed.

Key legislation includes the state-level Food Law (BiH OG #50/04), which provides the framework for:

- FSA establishment
- Food and feed safety principles
- Business operator responsibilities
- Regulation of novel foods and genetically engineered (GE) foods

- Official control systems and laboratories
- Crisis management procedures.

This law is supported by detailed implementing regulations. The most important implementing regulations are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Food Regulation (until May 2025; available in local language only)

Regulation	BiH Official Gazette (OG) #	Amended regulation OG #
Food Law	<a href="#">50/04</a>	-
Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	<a href="#">23/09</a>	-
Bylaw on Honey and other Bee Products	<a href="#">37/09</a>	<a href="#">25/11</a>
Bylaw on Salt for Human Consumption	<a href="#">39/09</a>	<a href="#">30/12</a>
Bylaw on Sugar	<a href="#">25/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Natural Mineral and Spring Water	<a href="#">26/10</a>	<a href="#">32/12</a>
Bylaw on Origin Marks and Geographical Indication Marks	<a href="#">27/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Traditional Food Labels	<a href="#">27/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Bottled Water	<a href="#">40/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	<a href="#">42/10</a>	-
<i>Bylaw on Restriction of Epoxy Derivates in Food Packaging</i>	<a href="#">42/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Ceramic Articles in Contact with Food	<a href="#">42/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	<a href="#">42/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Grain Products	<a href="#">76/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Pasta, Pastry and Pastry Products	<a href="#">77/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Bakery Products	<a href="#">77/10</a>	-
Bylaw on Beer	<a href="#">77/10</a>	<a href="#">30/12</a>
Bylaw on Edible Vegetable Oils, Edible Vegetable Fats and Mayonnaise	<a href="#">21/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Lubricating Grease	<a href="#">21/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Raw Milk	<a href="#">21/11</a>	<a href="#">62/14</a> and <a href="#">17/19</a>
Bylaw on Dairy Products and Starter Cultures	<a href="#">21/11</a>	<a href="#">17/19</a>
Bylaw on Condensed Milk and Milk Powder	<a href="#">21/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Edible Casein and Caseinates	<a href="#">21/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Active and Intelligent Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	<a href="#">25/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Food Treated with Ionizing Radiation	<a href="#">50/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Quick-Frozen Foods for Human Consumption	<a href="#">51/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Spices, Spice Extracts and Spice Mixes	<a href="#">51/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Cacao and Chocolate Products	<a href="#">51/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Biscuits and Similar Products	<a href="#">51/11</a>	-

<b>Regulation</b>	<b>BiH Official Gazette (OG) #</b>	<b>Amended regulation OG #</b>
Bylaw on Egg Products	<a href="#">51/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Tea, Herbal Tea, Fruit Tea, and Instant Tea	<a href="#">54/11</a>	<a href="#">24/23</a>
Bylaw on Dietary Foods for Special Medical Purposes	<a href="#">71/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Food Intended for Use in Energy-Restricted Diet for Weight Loss	<a href="#">71/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Foods Enriched with Nutrients	<a href="#">72/11</a>	<a href="#">68/14</a>
Bylaw on Foods Intended for Particular Nutritional Uses	<a href="#">72/11</a>	-
Bylaw on Coffee, Coffee Products Surrogates and Surrogate Products	<a href="#">72/11</a>	-
Bylaw on the Conditions and Procedures for Issuing Permits for Placing Novel Foods for the First Time on BiH Market and Special Labeling Requirements for Novel Foods	<a href="#">68/12</a>	-
Bylaw on Chocolate-Like Products, Cream Products and Bonbons	<a href="#">78/12</a>	-
Bylaw on Starch and Starch Based Products	<a href="#">80/12</a>	-
Bylaw on Fruit Jams, Jellies, Marmalades, Jam and Sweet Chestnut Puree	<a href="#">85/12</a>	-
Bylaw on Composition and Labeling of Foods Suitable for Gluten Intolerant Persons	<a href="#">105/12</a>	-
Bylaw on Infant Formulas and Formulas After Breastfeeding	<a href="#">105/12</a>	-
Bylaw on Food Hygiene	<a href="#">4/13</a>	-
Bylaw on Microbiological Criteria for Food	<a href="#">11/13</a>	<a href="#">79/16</a> and <a href="#">64/18</a>
Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers	<a href="#">68/13</a>	-
Bylaw on Ground meat, Semi-Final Products and Meat Products	<a href="#">82/13</a>	<a href="#">84/17</a>
Bylaw on Food Enzymes	<a href="#">66/14</a>	-
Bylaw on Maximum Permitted Amounts for Food Contaminants	<a href="#">68/14</a>	<a href="#">79/16</a> and <a href="#">84/18</a>
Bylaw on Use of Food Flavors	<a href="#">78/14</a>	-
Bylaw on Food Additives	<a href="#">33/18</a>	<a href="#">6/21</a>
Bylaw on Fruit Juices and Similar Products Intended for Human Consumption	<a href="#">84/19</a>	-
Bylaw on Maximum Pesticide Residues Levels in and on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin	<a href="#">48/21</a>	-

BiH food and feed safety is regulated through a combination of national and entity-level legislation, with enforcement guided by official control plans.

- The Bylaw on Official Controls (BiH OG [#5/13](#) and [#62/17](#)) sets general rules for food, feed, and animal welfare inspections. Enforcement is conducted under entity inspection laws (FBIH OG [#73/14](#), RS OG [#74/10](#)), following annual inspection plans.
- The Law on Sanitary Requirements of Food and Goods for General Use (OG #53/91, from former Yugoslavia) governs hygiene and nutritive value standards for food, additives, packaging, tobacco, and related goods. Federation inspectors follow this law, while Republika Srpska inspectors follow the 2017 Food Law (RS OG [#19/17](#)), which outlines food/feed safety, operator responsibilities, public and environmental health protection, and consumer rights.

Quality control involves visual checks (labeling, packaging, appearance, and origin) and, for most foods, laboratory testing of basic ingredients. Specific ordinances govern sampling and define standards for categories like meat, grain, and honey. Inspections may occur post-import and at any stage of retail distribution.

The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms/GMO (BiH OG #23/09) provides the framework for regulating GE food and feed in BiH. It covers conditions for limited use, import, release, and marketing of GE products. Six supporting bylaws establish procedures for risk assessment, compliance, and product registration.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements**

### **General Labeling Requirements**

The Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers (BiH OG [# 68/13](#)) sets labeling requirements for food intended for final consumers and public food establishments. It outlines responsibilities for food business operators, lists allergens that must be declared, regulates label font sizes, and provides rules on food advertising and presentation.

Labels—mandatory for both retail and bulk packaging—must include:

- Expiration date
- Type and quantity of additives, vitamins, minerals, or other nutritional enrichments.

Labeling must be in Bosnian, Croatian, or Serbian, using an official BiH alphabet. Labels must be clearly visible, legible, permanent, and free from obstruction by other marks or stickers. Product and manufacturer names must appear in a larger font than the rest of the label text. Labels can be printed directly or affixed as stickers and may include multiple languages. The metric system is required.

Labeling must not mislead consumers regarding origin, composition, net weight, shelf life, or production methods. Imported products must also comply with declarations written in one of BiH's official languages.



The label of packaged food must contain the following data:

- Name under which the food is sold and the commercial name if the food has it
- List of all ingredients
- Allergenic substances
- Quantity of specific ingredients or ingredient category
- Net quantity, in units of volume (for liquids) or weight for packaged other food, expressed in the measurement units used in BiH
- Expiry date (best before date)
- Conditions for storage and warehousing of food, where this is required or where these may affect the durability of the foodstuff
- Name and address of manufacturer or one that packs and/or places the food on the market.
- For imported products, in addition to the name and full address of the manufacturer, also include the name and full address of importer, country of origin («manufactured in ...»), and country from which the food or foodstuff is imported («imported from...»)
- Instruction for use, where this is required
- For drinks, the quantity of alcohol by volume, if they contain more than 1.2 vol % of alcohol
- Nutritional value declaration
- Lot number (series, batch, or lot) of food
- Quality category and class of product if foodstuff is under a separate regulation subject to categorization or classification
- The label should contain the full address of the manufacturer and full name and address of the importer (city, street, and number, and it may also contain the telephone number, post office box number, and the electronic mailing address).
- Food that is processed by ionizing radiation must be labeled with the mark «treated or processed by ionizing radiation» or »conserved by radiation», which must be placed close to the name of the food.
- Food that is packaged using gases permitted for packaging for the purpose of preservation must be labeled with the mark «packaged in controlled atmosphere».
- Allergenic substances must always be labeled.

The label for food must also contain information pertaining to the food, if this is prescribed by a separate regulation (e.g., statement on the nutritional or biological and energy values, the bar code, the veterinary number control, etc.).

Information on the label must be printed in letters no smaller than 1.2 mm, and for products up to 80 cm<sup>2</sup>, letters must be 0.9 mm or bigger.

For bulk packaged foods designated for bulk sale or in the public facilities for food consumption, the label must contain product's name and brand name if any, product net-weight (mass or volume), and expiration date. Food samples do not require labeling; however, all they must be clearly marked with: "Samples – not for sale."

Specific labeling regulations apply to specific foods such as genetically engineered foods, baby food, diet food, food aimed at reducing body mass, food for athletes, food additives, containers

and packaging materials, cocoa and chocolate products, honey, sugars, fruit juices, jams, natural mineral water, fast-frozen food, and substances that may cause allergies (e.g., alcohol).

A general requirement is that labels must not contain words, pictures, drawings, or health-related information that could mislead consumers regarding the product's origin, quantity, or quality. The list of ingredients must state all food ingredients by the falling sequence in relation to their mass at the time of use in the production of the foodstuff.

## **Other Specific Labeling Requirements**

### *Nutritional Labeling Requirements*

[The Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers](#) (BiH OG # 68/13; available in local language only) prescribes nutritional value labeling for end consumer foods and foods for institutions and the service sector. Mandatory nutritional labeling should include:

- Energy value; and
- Amount of fat, saturated fatty acids, carbohydrates, sugar, protein, and salt.

The Bylaw provides instructions on the labeling method, calculation of energy value, and measurement units for energy and nutritional values. The U.S. nutritional fact panel is generally acceptable, as well as the Recommended Daily Intake (RDI). The RDI for some products might need to be adjusted because BiH follows the EU's regulations on this matter.

### *Organic Labeling*

There is no national-level organic law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Organic production and labeling are regulated separately by the [Republika Srpska's Organic Law](#) (RS OG #12/13; available in local language only) and the [Federation's Organic Law](#) (FBIH OG #72/16; available in local language only), each applying within its respective entity.

Labels for organic products must include:

- The code number of the exporter's control body responsible for the final production or processing stage
- The name of the organic certifier (mandatory)
- Terms such as organic, bio, or eco, depending on the product's country of origin.

For imported products, labels must be translated into one of BiH's official languages, and the export declaration content is determined by the certifier.

An exception applies to fresh fruit and vegetables, where the date and place of production must be included in the shipping document at delivery.

### *Biotechnology Labeling*

The Law on GMO says that food products that contain or are composed of GMOs must be labeled as follows:

- For packed products for retail the label on the packaging should read: “This product contains GMO components” or “This product contains GM (name of organism).”
- For retail products that are not packed the label should read “This product contains GMO components” or “This product contains GM (name of organism)” and should be placed directly on the product or by the product. The labeling threshold is set at 0.9%, meaning that products must be labeled if they contain levels of GMO above the set threshold.

### *Labeling Plant-Based Meat and/or Dairy Alternatives*

There are no specific labeling requirements for plant-based meats and dairy alternative products. However, the Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers says that label information should not misguide consumers in terms of origin and composition of foods (e.g., almond “milk”).

## **Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations**

Packaging requirements are subject to specific ordinances for each type of food. For example, packaging material for raw coffee packed in ½ kg units must weigh less than 50 g per square meter. Packaging requirements for salt for human consumption are that it should be placed on the market packed in polypropylene bags, to preserve an adequate level of iodine through expiry date. Regarding packaging materials, there are four new bylaws (published in BiH OG # 42/10 and BiH OG # 25/11; available in local language only):

- [Bylaw on Materials and Articles in Contact with Food](#)
- [Bylaw on Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food](#)
- [Bylaw on Ceramic Articles in Contact with Food](#), and
- [Bylaw on Active and Intelligent Materials and Articles in Contact with Food](#).

Exporters can obtain specific packaging information at the FAS office in Sarajevo (see Appendix II).

However, in most cases there are no specific requirements concerning packaging material and container size. BiH consumers prefer larger packages at lower prices.

## **Packaging Sustainability Measures**

The Federation Bylaw on Packaging and Packaging Waste Management (FBiH OG # 88/11 and 28/13) and the Republika Srpska Bylaw Packaging and Packaging Waste Management (RS OG #50/13, 8/12, 38/13, and 5/14) regulate collection and recycling of used packaging materials. The

Federation uses what is known as an “Extended Producers Responsibility” (EPR) system to meet EU recycling targets. EPR covers essentially all recyclable materials – paper, plastic bottle, plastic wraps, metal, glass, hazardous materials, multi-material (tetra-packs). For example, companies are obliged to ensure the proper management of packaging waste, if in a calendar year the quantity of packaging material used for packed goods placed on the market exceeds:

- 100 kilograms (kg) for paper and cardboard
- 300 kg for glass
- 30 kg for metals
- 80 kg for plastic
- 100 kg for wood
- 50 kg total for all other packaging materials,
- have a sales / production area of less than 50 m<sup>2</sup>.

Companies are obliged to report to the Environmental Protection Fund on the quantities of packaging placed on the market.

BiH follows the EU waste directives and environmental standards related to separate collection and treatment of waste as part of the EU integration process. Several strategies (entity and canton-level) for sustainable waste management imply reducing the amount of waste produced and sustainable management of produced waste, but with partial implementation. Separation of waste and recycling rates are estimated at less than 15 percent.

Currently, there are no specific bans, restrictions, or limitations on the use of packaging materials, such as single-use plastics, which may affect imported products.

#### **Section IV. Food Additive Regulations**

BiH follows the EU policy on additives. The Bylaw on Food Additives (BiH OG # [33/18](#) and # [6/21](#); available in local language only) regulates general requirements for the use of food additives and related labeling. It does not apply to flavorings, enzymes, or vitamins and minerals added to enhance nutritional value.

Food additives or products containing them may only be placed on the market if they comply with this bylaw and are listed in Annexes II and III. Additives may be added to these lists if they meet prescribed criteria. Additives must not reduce the nutritional value of a food product or significantly alter its taste or flavor, unless such change is intentional.

Annex I classifies food additives into categories such as sweeteners, colors, preservatives, and carriers.

Annex II lists approved food additives, including their E numbers (per Annex V), conditions of use, applicable food categories, and restrictions on the direct sale of additives to final consumers. It also identifies foods where additives are prohibited, such as unprocessed foods, honey, and butter.

Annex III lists permitted carriers used in enriching foods (e.g., with vitamins or minerals).

Annex IV details six colors (e.g., Sunset Yellow) that require additional labeling.

Annex V specifies purity standards for food additives.

To be included in the approved additive lists (Annex II and III), an additive must benefit consumers by fulfilling specific purposes such as preserving nutritional value, meeting special dietary needs, improving quality or sensory properties (without misleading consumers), or assisting in food production and handling—while not masking poor quality or illegal/unhygienic practices.

U.S. exporters can obtain the list of permitted (or prohibited) additives FAS office in Sarajevo (see Appendix II).

## **Section V. Pesticide and Contaminants**

In general, imported food products must follow domestic rules.

The Bylaw on Maximum Levels of Pesticide Residues That can be Found in or on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin (BiH OG # [48/21](#)) establishes permissible pesticide residue levels. This bylaw transposes the provisions of [Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005 on maximum pesticide residue levels in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin](#) and amending [Council Directive 91/414 / EEC](#) concluding with [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2021/155 amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#).

Under this bylaw, pesticides are defined as substances used to protect agricultural products from pests and diseases. Annex I contains a list of various food and feed items in which pesticide residues may be present. Annexes II and III specify maximum pesticide residue levels in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of food. Active substances evaluated under the EU regulation on placing plant protection products on the market are listed in Annex IV, which includes substances for which MRLs are not required.

The Bylaw on Maximum Permitted Amounts for Certain Food Contaminants (BiH OG # 39/14 and 79/16; RS OG 32/21) sets MRLs for various contaminants, including nitrates, mycotoxins, heavy metals, dioxins, and others. The use of hormones and antibiotics in food products is prohibited. Maximum permitted levels of mycotoxins are specified for grains, flour, legumes, beans, nuts, coffee, roasted cocoa, and peanuts. Detailed lists are available from the FAS office in Sarajevo (see Appendix II).

To import pesticides, prior approval must be obtained from the entity-level Ministries of Agriculture for approved products. The following offices provide information on approved pesticides and required documentation:

### Federation

#### [Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry](#)

Phytosanitary Department  
Hamdije Cemerlica 2

71 000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Phone: +387 33 726 586  
E-mail: [info@fmpvs.gov.ba](mailto:info@fmpvs.gov.ba)

Republika Srpska

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Phytosanitary Department  
Trg Republike Srpske 1  
78000 Banja Luka  
Phone: +387 51 338 397, 338 398  
E-mail: [mps@mps.vladars.rs](mailto:mps@mps.vladars.rs)

Plant Health Administration - issues final import permits

BiH Plant Health Administration

Marsala Tita 9a  
71000 Sarajevo  
Phone: +387 33 290 700 and 290 711  
E-mail: [infouprava@uzzb.gov.ba](mailto:infouprava@uzzb.gov.ba)

**Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures**

Upon an importer's request, the SVO provides specific requirements for the import of live animals and products of animal origin (see Appendix I for contact details). These requirements are aligned with both the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and EU requirements. According to the Veterinary Law, the import of foodstuffs, raw materials, products, animal feed, veterinary medicines, and waste is authorized only if the establishment of origin complies with prescribed conditions and is registered with the EU. Exceptionally, the SVO may authorize imports from other establishments if the exporting country's regulations, standards, production methods, and supervisory systems are deemed at least equivalent to those of BiH and if consumer protection is adequately ensured.

Exporting facilities must register with the SVO prior to their first export to BiH.

Food products must be tested for microbial contamination at laboratories within the respective entity-level Institutes for Public Health (see Appendix II). The bylaw on "Microbiological Criteria for Food" (BiH OG # 11/13 and # 79/16), specifies maximum levels of various microorganisms in food, as well as general and specific hygiene requirements that food business operators must meet.

Due to European outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Bluetongue, and Avian Influenza, the SVO has imposed bans on the import and transit of domestic and wild ruminants and their products from several countries, as well as on feed containing proteins of animal

origin. The United States is not currently subject to these bans; however, U.S. beef imports must comply with specific requirements, including those related to hormone use, listed contagious diseases (WOAH A List), radioactivity levels, and others.

There are specific import conditions for semen and embryos, which can be obtained from the SVO (see Appendix I).

### **Certification and Documentation**

Live animals, meat, and dairy products require veterinary certification, while fruits and vegetables require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the relevant authority in the exporting country (e.g., USDA/APHIS).

Foods subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections may enter BiH only through the following border crossings:

- Croatia border: Izacic and Bijaca
- Serbia border: Raca, Pavlovica Most, and Karakaj
- Montenegro border: Klobuk
- Air transport: Sarajevo Airport

Inspection services incur significantly higher costs if conducted outside regular working hours, on weekends, or public holidays.

### **Section VII. Other Specific Standards**

**Dietary or Special Use Foods:** The Federation Ministry of Health and the Republika Srpska Ministry of Health and Social Protection are responsible for issuing permits for placing dietary foods on the market such as dietary supplements, medical food, food for special dietary use (for contact details see Appendix I).

**Genetically Engineered Foods:** Based on the 2009 Law on GMOs, BiH permits the licensed use of biotech products. To date, the first and only GE product approved for import is GE soybean meal for feed. BiH does not produce biotech crops and there are no biotechnology crops under development in BiH. BiH's anti-GE border practices, which include random testing, can occasionally influence commercial imports of grains. Imported foods that contain soy, corn, or rice are often tested for GMO presence. Three laboratories have the authority to test biotech:

1. The Biotechnology Laboratory of the Agricultural Institute in Banja Luka
2. The GMO Laboratory of the Federation Agro-Mediterranean Institute in Mostar
3. The GMO Laboratory of the Federation Agricultural Institute in Sarajevo.

**Veterinary Drugs:** Veterinary drugs must be on an approved list maintained by the SVO (see Appendix I for the contact information).

**Seeds and Planting Materials:** Seeds can be imported only if the varieties are recognized in the country, in accordance with the Bylaw on Registration of Plant Varieties in BiH (BiH OG # 6/11 and # 29/2017). The National List of Recognized Varieties (BiH OG # 59/10) is available at the Plant Health Administration or online: [BiH Variety List](#) (local language only). If a variety is not on the list, importers may request its recognition from the Seeds Commission (request forms available at the Ministries of Agriculture, per the Law on recognition of agricultural varieties FBiH OG # 31/00 and the Law on Plant Protection RS OG 13/97). The PHPA is responsible for issuing final import permits for seeds, planting materials, and pesticides, based on the technical opinion of the entities' phytosanitary departments.

**Live Animals:** The Bylaw on Conditions of Import and Transit of Live Animals, Animal Products, Veterinary Drugs, Animal Feed and Waste of Animal Origin of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH OG # 52/09) aligns import policies for live animals and animal products with WOA recommendations. Live animals are subject to quarantine requirements issued by the SVO. The quarantine period is 30 days for ruminants, 21 days for poultry and pets, and 14 days for semen and inseminated egg cells.

**Alcoholic Beverages, Nonalcoholic Beverages, and Tobacco:** Products are subject to specific taxation rules and require an import license issued by the Indirect Tax Administration (ITA). The ITA also issues control excise stamps, which must be affixed to packaging prior to export to BiH.

**Plant-Based Meat and/or Dairy Alternatives:** These products are not currently subject to specific regulations.

**Halal Foods:** [The Agency for Halal Quality Certification \(AHQC\)](#) is a single halal certification body in BiH, established in 2006 by the Islamic Community in BiH. It specializes in certifying halal products, manufacturers, and services, and in monitoring compliance with [halal standard BAS 1049:2010](#) in companies that have implemented the standard. The standard applies to food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products. The BiH halal standard is compatible with international quality management standards (ISO) and aligns with the halal standard of the OIC/SMIIC I - Halal Food. U.S. halal certificates are recognized and accepted if they comply with the BAS standard. Border and customs procedures for halal products are the same as for other food products. For example, products of animal origin must be accompanied by a standard veterinary/health certificate, and plant products must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate.

## **Section VIII. Geographical Indicators, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights**

**Geographical Indications (GI):** BiH is in an early stage of implementing GI. The Food Safety Agency is the body responsible for registration of products in the country and at the EU level. So far, 20 products have been protected in BiH with Protected Designation of Origin/ PDO, (cheese, cream cheese, and olive oil), Protected Geographical Indication/PDI (potatoes, cabbage, okra, cheese, cheese, dry beef, honey, and grape jelly), and Traditional Specialty Guaranteed /TSG (pasta and cevapcici).



**Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** The Law on Industrial Property Rights (BiH OG # 3/02) and the Law on Copyrights (BiH OG # 7/02) protect trademarks and brand names. Domestic and foreign applications must be submitted to the BiH Institute for Intellectual Property (see Appendix II). According to research done by the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, intellectual property rights (IPR) are often inadequately enforced and intellectual property, patents, copyrights, and trademarks inadequately protected.

BiH adopted and put into force an IPR framework that consists of seven laws in 2010. This new legislation is compliant with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of IPR (TRIPS) and EU regulations and includes laws on copyrights, patents, trademarks, geographical indications, and the topography of integrated circuits. Although existing legislation provides a basic level of protection, stronger enforcement is sought. Authority over IPR investigations is split between customs officials, entity inspectorates, and state and entity law enforcement agencies, and no institution has specialized IPR investigation teams. IPR crimes are prosecuted primarily at the state level.

## **Section IX. Import Procedures**

Foreign exporters can export food and feed products to BiH through a locally registered office or a local company or shipping agency authorized for import activities. It is common for such agents to assist with navigating food import regulations.

Prior import approvals and licenses are required for live animals and animal products, seeds and pesticides. For seeds, planting materials, and pesticides, the relevant entity-level Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for approvals. Application forms are available at the SVO and the respective ministries (see Appendix I). It is important to note that requirements for prior import approvals can differ between the two entities.

All food products must be accompanied by standard shipping documents and health certificates issued by the relevant authorities in the exporting country (e.g., a veterinary certificate for meat and meat products, phytosanitary certificates for fruits, vegetables, seeds, etc.). These shipments are subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections at border crossings, as well as food and market inspections at customs points.

Border food inspectors in both the Federation and Republika Srpska conduct visual inspections of all food shipments for sanitary compliance prior to customs clearance and collect samples for laboratory testing (see Appendix II). Imported goods are held at the customs point until testing is completed.

The frequency of sampling is based on risk assessment through the following factors:

- Type of food or feed being imported
- Target consumer group (e.g., children, pregnant women)
- Market presence of the product
- Frequency of imports

- Results of previous tests
- Country of origin
- Reputation of the producer
- Alerts from the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
- Consumer complaints
- Information from other sources indicating the product may be unsafe

Market inspectors in the Federation and food inspectors in Republika Srpska issue quality certificates at designated inspection points (see Appendix I). Quality control inspections are conducted upon written requests from the exporter or importer, which must be submitted at least 24 hours before customs clearance. The request must be accompanied by the standard shipment documents, translated into Bosnian/Croatian for the Federation of BiH or into Serbian for Republika Srpska.

The following information must be included in the import documentation:

- Type and name of the product
- Country of origin
- Exporter's name
- Manufacturer's name
- Type and number of transport means
- Port of loading and unloading
- Total number of pieces
- Packaging unit
- Gross and net weight
- Basic product quality data

If the same product is re-imported within 90 days and has already undergone laboratory testing, only a visual inspection is required. Both entities in BiH have officially recognized laboratories for testing imported food products (see Appendix II).

If a market or food inspector denies an import request, the goods will be held in storage until the resolution of the inspection process. Depending on the outcome, the inspector may order the return or destruction of the goods at the importer's expense or may require specific modifications to the product or documentation prior to customs clearance.

BiH lacks comprehensive legislation regulating e-commerce.

## **Section X. Trade Facilitation**

Bosnia and Herzegovina does not operate preclearance programs and does not accept electronic certificates. Also, the country does not participate in the Global ePhyto Hub managed by the International Plant Protection Convention.

As an EU accession country, BiH uses the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), the European Commission's multilingual online platform used for sanitary and phytosanitary

certification. TRACES is required for the import of animals, animal products, food and feed of non-animal origin, as well as plants into the EU, and for intra-EU trade and exports of certain animal products.

State veterinary inspectors apply uniform inspection fees at all border inspection posts. However, the entity authorities and the Brcko District set their own phytosanitary inspection fees, which vary depending on the specific border crossing or point of entry into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Inspection Fees for Live Animals and Animal Products**

For dairy products, the inspection fee is \$62.47 (110 KM) for shipments under 6 metric tons (MT). An additional \$11.19 (18 KM) fee is charged per additional MT of weight.

For meat and meat products, the inspection fee is \$39.74 (70 KM) for shipments under 6 MT. An additional \$5.11 (9 KM) fee is charged per additional MT.

For live animal shipments, the inspection fee is \$34.06 (60 KM) for shipments under 6 MT. An additional \$3.41 (6 KM) fee is charged per added MT of weight.

For veterinary drugs, the inspection fee is \$62.47 (110 KM) per shipment, regardless of weight.

Inspection services conducted after regular working hours (after 8:00 p.m.), and on weekends and holidays, incur an additional fee of \$170.32 (300 KM) per shipment. Inspection checks are typically completed within one hour.

### **Inspection Fees for Plant Products, Seeds, Pesticides, and Mineral Fertilizers**

#### **The Federation of BiH**

For plant products, the inspection fee is \$14.19 (25 KM) for shipments under 10 MT. An additional \$1.14 (2 KM) is charged for each additional MT. At ports, the inspection fee is \$0.34 (0.60 KM) per MT, with a minimum charge of \$15.90 (28 KM) per shipment. For shipments in transit, the importer pays 50 percent of the regular fee.

For seeds and planting material (excluding wheat and corn), the inspection fee is \$15.90 (28 KM) for shipments under 10 MT. An additional \$2.27 (4 KM) is charged for each additional MT.

For pesticides, the fee is \$11.36 (20 KM) for shipments under 100 liters or 100 kilograms. An additional \$1.14 (2 KM) is charged for each unit over 100 liters or 100 kilograms.

For mineral fertilizers, the inspection fee is \$0.28 (0.50 KM) per MT.

For combined shipments that include more than three LOTs, the fee is 50 percent higher than the fee charged for individual shipments.

For shipments that arrive after regular working hours (after 8 pm), the inspection fee is 100 percent higher than usual. Inspection checks are usually done within an hour.

### *The Republika Srpska*

For plant products, the minimum inspection fee is \$11.36 (20 KM) per shipment, regardless of weight. An additional \$1.14 (2 KM) is charged for each additional MT.

For pesticides, the inspection fee is \$11.36 (20 KM) for shipments under 1 MT. An additional \$2.84 (5 KM) is charged for each MT over 1 MT.

For mineral fertilizers, the inspection fee is \$0.28 (0.50 KM) per MT.

For shipments arriving after regular working hours (after 8:00 p.m.), inspection fees are doubled. In most cases, inspections are completed within one hour.

### *The Brcko District*

For plant products, seeds, and pesticides, the inspection fee is \$14.19 (25 KM) for shipments under 10 MT. An additional \$1.14 (2 KM) is charged for each additional MT. At ports, the inspection fee is \$0.57 (1 KM) per MT, with a minimum charge of \$28.39 (50 KM) per shipment. Inspection checks are typically completed within one hour.

Road shipments to Brcko are limited to a maximum of 3.5 MT due to the bridge's load-bearing capacity. Larger shipments may be transported by vessel via the Brcko Port on the River Sava.

## **Appendix I. Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts**

### **Imports of Live Animals and Animal Products, and Veterinary Drugs**

State Veterinary Office  
Marsala Tita 9a/II  
7100 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Phone: +387 33 565 000  
E-mail: [info@vet.gov.ba](mailto:info@vet.gov.ba)  
Website: <http://www.vet.gov.ba/>

### **Imports of Seeds and Planting Material, and Pesticides**

BiH Plant Health Administration  
Marsala Tita 9a  
71000 Sarajevo  
Phone: +387 33 290 700 and 290 711  
E-mail: [infoprava@uzzb.gov.ba](mailto:infoprava@uzzb.gov.ba)  
Website: <http://uzzb.gov.ba/>

F BiH Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry  
Phytosanitary Department  
Hamdije Cemerlica 2  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Phone: +387 33 726 586  
E-mail: [info@fmpvs.gov.ba](mailto:info@fmpvs.gov.ba)  
Website: <https://fmpvs.gov.ba/>

RS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
Phytosanitary Department  
Trg Republike Srpske 1  
78000 Banja Luka  
Phone: +387 51 338 397; 338 398  
E-mail: [mps@mps.vladars.rs](mailto:mps@mps.vladars.rs)  
Website: <https://www.vladars.rs>

### **Border Food and Market Inspection**

Federation BiH Inspectorate  
Fehima ef. Curcica 6  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Phone: + 387 33 563 350  
E-mail: [info@fuzip.gov.ba](mailto:info@fuzip.gov.ba)  
Website: <http://www.fuzip.gov.ba/>

Republika Srpska Inspectorate  
Trg Republike Srpske 8  
51000 Banja Luka  
Phone: + 387 51 334 627  
E-mail: [uprava@inspektorat.vladars.net](mailto:uprava@inspektorat.vladars.net)  
Website: <https://inspektorat.vladars.rs/>

### **Alcohol, Non-Alcoholic Beverages, and Tobacco**

Indirect Taxation Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bana Lazarevica bb  
Banja Luka, 78000  
Phone: 387 51 335 494  
E-mail: [info@uino.gov.ba](mailto:info@uino.gov.ba)  
Website: <http://www.uino.gov.ba/>

### **Dietary Foods**

FBiH Ministry of Health

Marsala Tita 9  
Sarajevo, 71000  
Phone: +387 33 220 929  
E-mail: [amra.karic@fmz.gov.ba](mailto:amra.karic@fmz.gov.ba)  
Website: <https://www.fmoh.gov.ba/>

Republika Srpska Ministry of Health and Social Protection  
Trg Republike Srpske 1  
Banja Luka, 78000  
Phone: +387 51 339 486  
E-mail: [ministarstvo-zdravlja@mzs.vladars.rs](mailto:ministarstvo-zdravlja@mzs.vladars.rs)  
Website: <https://vladars.rs/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mzs/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts**

### **Office of Agricultural Affairs (Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS])**

U.S. Embassy to BiH  
Robert Frasure Street 1  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Phone: +387 33 704 305  
Contact: Sanela Stanojcic, Agricultural Specialist  
E-mail: [AgSarajevo@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgSarajevo@fas.usda.gov) ; [AgRome@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgRome@fas.usda.gov)  
Website: <https://ba.usembassy.gov/about/foreign-agricultural-service/>

### **Officially Recognized Laboratories**

Federation Institute for Public Health  
Marsala Tita 9  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Phone: +387 33 564 604  
E-mail: [kabinet.sa@zzjzfbih.ba](mailto:kabinet.sa@zzjzfbih.ba)  
Website: <http://www.zzjzfbih.ba/>

Agricultural Institute Sarajevo  
Butmirska Cesta 40  
71210 Ilidza  
Phone: +387 33 774 230  
E-mail: [fzzp@fzzp.gov.ba](mailto:fzzp@fzzp.gov.ba)  
Website: <https://www.fzzp.gov.ba/>

University of Sarajevo, Veterinary Faculty  
Department for Food Hygiene  
Zmaja od Bosne 90  
71 000 Sarajevo

Phone: +387 33 643 684  
E-mail: [vetfaksa@bih.net.ba](mailto:vetfaksa@bih.net.ba)  
Website: <https://vfs.unsa.ba/portal/>

Veterinary Institute “Vaso Butozan” Banja Luka  
Branka Radicevica 18  
78 000 Banja Luka  
Phone: +387 51 229 210  
E-mail: [info@virs-vb.com](mailto:info@virs-vb.com)  
Website: <http://virs-vb.com/>

Republika Srpska Institute for Health Protection  
Jovana Ducica 1  
78 000 Banja Luka  
Phone: +387 51 491 600  
E-mail: [info@phi.rs.ba](mailto:info@phi.rs.ba)  
Website: <http://www.phi.rs.ba/>

Agricultural Institute Bijeljina  
Stefana Decanskog bb  
76 300 Bijeljina  
Phone: +387 55 240 032  
E-mail: [poljoprivrednizavod@yahoo.com](mailto:poljoprivrednizavod@yahoo.com)

Agricultural Institute Banja Luka  
Knjaza Milosa 17  
78 000 Banja Luka  
Phone: +387 51 303 112  
E-mail: [polj.institut.bl@blic.net](mailto:polj.institut.bl@blic.net); [vtrkulja@blic.net](mailto:vtrkulja@blic.net)  
Website: <http://www.poljinstrs.org/>

### **Other Useful Contacts**

BIH Intellectual Property Rights Institute  
Kralja Petra Krešimira IV/8a.  
88000 Mostar  
Phone: +387 36 334 382  
E-mail: [info@ipr.gov.ba](mailto:info@ipr.gov.ba)  
Website: <http://www.ipr.gov.ba/en>

BiH Foreign Trade Chamber  
Branislava Djurdjeva 10  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Phone: +387 33 566 222  
E-mail: [cis@komorabih.ba](mailto:cis@komorabih.ba)  
Website: <https://komorabih.ba/>

Federation BiH Chamber of Economy  
Branislava Djurdjeva 10  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Phone: +387 33 217 782 and 566 300  
E-mail: [m.jasarspahic@kfbih.com](mailto:m.jasarspahic@kfbih.com)  
Website: <http://www.kfbih.com/>

Republika Srpska Chamber of Commerce  
Djure Danicica 1/II  
78 000 Banja Luka  
Phone: +387 51 215 744  
E-Mail: [info@komorars.ba](mailto:info@komorars.ba)  
Website: <https://komorars.ba/>

Agency for Halal Quality Certification  
Turalibegova 39  
75000 Tuzla  
Phone: +387 35 258 427  
E-Mail: [agencija@halal.ba](mailto:agencija@halal.ba)  
Website: <http://www.halal.ba>

**Attachments:**

No Attachments