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**Prepared By:** Sanela Stanojcic-eminagic

**Approved By:** Frederick Giles

**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 this annual report were updated in December 2019.

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**Disclaimer:** "The Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina has prepared this report 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."

## **Executive Summary**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) food laws and regulations are still a mixture of old Yugoslavia laws and new laws that mirror European Union (EU) legislation as part of the EU integration process. BiH is a potential candidate for EU membership since 2003 and is continuously harmonizing its regulations with the EU's Acquis.

BiH comprised of two Entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS), which are responsible for agricultural policy and food safety and inspection issues in their respective territory. State and entity-level regulations may differ, as well as the regulations between the entities. The entities' procedures to clear shipments at the border and collect fees that are charged may be different for the same commodities depending on the border crossing.

Since so much new legislation is being drafted, and because BiH is not a single economic space, U.S. exporters should contact the FAS Sarajevo office if there is any confusion about the requirements.

## **Section I. Food Laws**

Under the Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is divided into two Entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS). The Entities are responsible for agricultural policy and food safety and inspection issues in their respective territory, and there is no national-level agricultural ministry. In the absence of a national agricultural ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER) has taken the lead in the establishment of a food safety system based on international requirements arising from the WTO, SPS and TBT agreements. An agricultural department has been established within the MOFTER to coordinate development of basic legislation in the veterinary, phytosanitary, quality control and food safety areas along with the establishment and oversight of institutions that are directly responsible for their implementation:

- The BiH State Veterinary Office (SVO) was created in 2000, as an administrative organization within MOFTER, responsible for developing draft regulations in the veterinary area relating to international trade, veterinary border inspection, and coordination of activities between the entity authorities and cooperation at the international level;
- The BiH Plant Health Protection Administration (PHPA) was created in 2005, as an administrative organization within the MOFTER, responsible for developing policy in the area of plant health protection, preparing legislation and overseeing implementation and coordination with the competent authorities of the entities and international cooperation in this area;
- The BiH Food Safety Agency (FSA) was created in 2006, as an independent administrative organization that reports directly to the Council of Ministers. In addition to all types of scientific activities linked to food and animal feed risk analysis, the Agency initiates, prepares and organizes the development of implementing regulations based on the Food Law and represents a point of contact for the activities of BiH in the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It performs these activities in cooperation with the SVO, PHPA and competent authorities.

The four most important national-level laws are: the Veterinary Law (BiH Official Gazette # 34/02), the Food Law (BiH Official Gazette # 50/04), the Law on Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (BiH Official Gazette # 50/08), and the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (BiH Official Gazette # 23/09).

BiH food laws and regulations are still a mixture of old Yugoslav laws and new laws that mirror EU legislation as part of the EU integration process. Often, the state and entity-level regulations differ, as well as the regulations between the Entities. For example, the Entities' procedures to clear shipments at the border and collect fees that are charged may be different for the same commodities depending on the border crossing. Since so much new legislation is being drafted, and because BiH is not a single economic space, U.S. exporters should contact the FAS Sarajevo office if there is any confusion about the requirements.

### **Foreign trade and customs policies**

The Law on BiH Foreign Trade Policy and the Law on BiH Customs Tariffs exist at the state level. The Law on BiH Foreign Trade policy promotes the free trade of goods and services. Officially, restrictions and import bans are applied to protect public health and the domestic market against subsidized or dumped products and to prohibit discrimination against imports or products from a particular country.

BiH has a single ministry in charge of foreign trade issues: the Ministry of Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER). MOFTER is a "super" institution on the national level, in charge of high-level trade issues such as international agreements and special agreements on trade with other countries.

BiH is not yet a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) but started accession negotiations in 1999. BiH is a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) which includes

Albania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo. Trade with the European Union has been significantly liberalized and regulated through the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) between the EU and BiH signed in June 2008. BiH currently has status as a potential candidate for EU membership. Following that, custom duties for most agricultural and food products were either abolished or gradually phased out until January 1, 2013, except for certain meat products, fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and sugar. In September 2016, BiH and the EU initialed the Protocol on Trade to the SAA that was adapted to reflect Croatian EU membership in July 2013. The adapted EU-BiH SAA that entered into force on February 1, 2017 provided for unlimited duty-free access for BiH fruits and vegetables and opened higher quotas for fish and wine coming from BiH into the EU market. On the other side, BiH established higher duty-free quotas for sugar, cigarettes, beef, pork, milk, poultry products and potatoes imported from the EU.

BiH has established a common customs administration, the Indirect Tax Administration (ITA) and according to the Law on BiH Customs Tariffs, the country applies a single customs policy for imports. The Harmonized System (HS) of commodity description and coding, developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO), is applied. Customs tariffs for agricultural products range from 0, 5, 10 and 15 percent with an additional charge for some agricultural products based on unit weight, in KM /kg ranging from KM 0.08 (\$0.05) /per unit to KM 6.00 (\$3.5) /per unit (for product specific tariff information, please check the following link: [BiH Customs Tariff Book](#)).

Taxes are applied at the same rates for locally produced and imported goods. On January 1, 2006, the ITA introduced a 17 percent single value-added tax (VAT).

### **Food safety**

While foreign trade and customs policies are unified at the national level, the food safety responsibility is still shared between the national-level and the entity-level authorities, including prior import approvals, food certificates and food regulations/requirements. Only imported animal products are controlled at the national level. Imported plant products are controlled by entity-level authorities that operate according to different regulations.

The BiH Government has tried to unify veterinary and phytosanitary laws and regulations. A national-level, State Veterinary Office (SVO) was established in December 2000, and a common veterinary law was adopted to harmonize the entity laws. Consequently, the SVO started to control imports and exports of animal origin products and took control of veterinary border inspections. The state-level Plant Health Protection Administration and the Food Safety Agency were established in 2005 and 2006. These agencies oversee policy issues, drafting regulations, improving food safety and plant health protection, serving as the inquiry point and representing BiH internationally. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations is the umbrella organization for the Phytosanitary and Veterinary agencies, while the Food Safety Agency is under direct authority of the Council of Ministers (state government).

The entity–level veterinary, phytosanitary, agricultural, food, sanitary and market inspections have been reorganized. These inspections used to be part of the entity ministries of agriculture, health and trade but now are part of a consolidated joint entity inspectorate.

The MOFTER, the SVO, the entities’ ministries of agriculture, health and trade, and the entity inspectorates share responsibility for food safety. The SVO issues import requirements and import approvals for live animals and animal products, while the state Plant Health Administration (PHA) has the responsibility to issue final import permits for seeds, planting material and pesticides, based on the entities’ phytosanitary department’s technical opinion. The SVO border inspectors and the entities’ phytosanitary inspectors inspect goods at border crossings.

The entities’ food, agricultural, phytosanitary and sanitary inspectors are responsible for the wholesomeness of imported foods. Inspections take place at border crossings or, more commonly, at the customs clearance point.

Finally, the entities’ market inspectors oversee food quality control. They inspect imported food products at the customs point and randomly check imported and locally produced food at retail distribution points. The inspection checks generally include the following steps:

- Documentary check
- Fulfillment of requirements check
- Products physical appearance check (visual and organoleptic)
- Additional check (product sampling and delivery of samples to an authorized laboratory for testing, if needed).

“BAS” is the officially recognized Bosnian voluntary standard (Law on Standardization, BiH Official Gazette #19/02) that replaced old Yugoslavia JUS standards. Most newly adopted food laws and regulations are in-line with European Union (EU) directives. Future laws and regulations will also be harmonized because BiH has undertaken major political and economic reforms with the goal of eventual accession to the EU.

The following laws and regulations are relevant both for locally processed and imported foods:

- *The state-level Food Law (adopted in November 2004, BiH Official Gazette # 50/04)* regulates the following issues:

- Establishment of the state-level Food Safety Agency;
- General principles and requirements concerning the safety of food and animal feed;
- Responsibilities of the relevant persons in the food business and cattle feed business regarding the safety of food and animal feed;
- General conditions for placing novel food on the market;

- General conditions for placing animal feed that contains or consists of genetically modified organisms on the market;
- Official control system;
- Official research laboratories and reference laboratories;
- Crisis management and emergencies management, etc.

The Law is just a framework law that is followed by specific and detailed regulations/bylaws. The Food Safety Office has made significant progress starting in late 2008 with the adoption of a new food regulation based on the Food Law. The most important regulations are listed in the Table 1.

*Table 1. BiH Food Regulation Adopted in the Period 2008 – 2018*

<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Official Gazette (OG) #</b>	<b>Amended regulation OG #</b>
Food Law	50/04	-
Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	23/09	-
Bylaw on Fruit Juices, Fruit Nectars and Similar Products	87/08	28/11
Bylaw on Honey and other Bee Products	37/09	65/10 and 25/11
Bylaw on Salt for Human Consumption	39/09	30/12
Bylaw on Sugar	25/10	-
Bylaw on Natural Mineral and Spring Water	26/10	32/12
Bylaw on Origin Marks and Geographical Indication Marks	27/10	-
Bylaw on Traditional Food Labels	27/10	-
Bylaw on Bottled Water	40/10	43/10
Bylaw on Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	42/10	-
<i>Bylaw on Restriction of Epoxy Derivates in Food Packaging</i>	42/10	-
Bylaw on Ceramic Articles in Contact with Food	42/10	-
Bylaw on Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	42/10	82/11
Bylaw on Grain Products	76/10	-
Bylaw on Pasta, Pastry and Pastry Products	77/10	-
Bylaw on Bakery Products	77/10	
Bylaw on Beer	77/10	97/10 and 30/12
Bylaw on Edible Vegetable Oils, Edible Vegetable Fats and Mayonnaise	21/11	37/11
Bylaw on Lubricating Grease	21/11	

<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Official Gazette (OG) #</b>	<b>Amended regulation OG #</b>
Bylaw on Condensed Milk and Milk Powder	21/11	-
Bylaw on Edible Casein and Caseinates	21/11	-
Bylaw on Active and Intelligent Materials and Articles in Contact with Food	25/11	-
Bylaw on Food Treated with Ionizing Radiation	50/11	
Bylaw on Quick-Frozen Foods for Human Consumption	51/11	-
Bylaw on Spices, Spice Extracts and Spice Mixes	51/11	-
Bylaw on Cacao and Chocolate Products	51/11	-
Bylaw on Biscuits and Similar Products	51/11	-
Bylaw on Egg Products	51/11	-
Bylaw on Tea, Herbal Tea, Fruit Tea and Instant Tea	54/11	-
Bylaw on Dietary Foods for Special Medical Purposes	71/11	-
Bylaw on Food Intended for Use in Energy-Restricted Diet for Weight Loss	71/11	-
Bylaw on Foods Enriched with Nutrients	72/11	68/14
Bylaw on Foods Intended for Particular Nutritional Uses	72/11	-
Bylaw on Coffee, Coffee Products Surrogates and Surrogate Products	72/11	-
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	68/12	-
Bylaw on Chocolate-Like Products, Cream Products and Bonbons	78/12	-
Bylaw on Starch and Starch Based Products	80/12	-
Bylaw on Fruit Jams, Jellies, Marmalades, Jam and Sweet Chestnut Puree	85/12	-
Bylaw on Maximum Pesticide Residues Levels in and on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin	89/12	-
Bylaw on Composition and Labeling of Foods Suitable for Gluten Intolerant Persons	105/12	-
Bylaw on Infant Formulas and Formulas After Breastfeeding	105/12	4/15
Bylaw on Food Hygiene	4/13	
Bylaw on Microbiological Criteria for Food	11/13	79/16
Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers	68/13	-



<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Official Gazette (OG) #</b>	<b>Amended regulation OG #</b>
Bylaw on Ground meat, Semi-Final Products and Meat Products	82/13	84/17
Bylaw on Food Enzymes	66/14	-
Bylaw on Maximum Permitted Amounts for Food Contaminants	68/14	79/16
Bylaw on Use of Food Flavors	78/14	-
Bylaw on Food Additives	33/18	-

- *The Bylaw on Official Controls Performed in Accordance to Food, Feed and Animal Welfare Regulations (BiH Official Gazette #5/13)* stipulates general rules of official control of all food and feed. Enforcement is carried out according to the entity laws on inspection (Federation OG #73/14 and Republika Srpska OG #74/10), based on the annual inspection plan.

- *The Law on Sanitary Requirements of Food and Goods for General Use (taken from Yugoslavia Official Gazette 53/91)* applies to foods, spices, additives, processing equipment, wrapping material, as well as tobacco and products. It regulates both food hygiene (subject to the specific ordinances regulating presence of pathogenic microorganisms, parasites, pesticides and other contaminants, mechanical residues, changes in food quality due to the physical, chemical, microbiological and other processes, expiration date, original package and bulk-packaged labeling) and nutritive value (subject to the specific ordinances regulating quality of each type of food). Sanitary inspectors in the Federation work in accordance with this Law. The sanitary and food inspectors in the Republika Srpska work in accordance to the 2017 Food Law (RS Official Gazette 19/17) that regulates the general conditions for food safety and feed, obligations and responsibilities for food business operators, protection of public health, environment, consumers, and to ensure the market functions efficiently.

Quality control for all types of products is done by visual checks and for products listed in the above-mentioned Laws (almost everything that is considered a food), additional safety checks are done using laboratory testing on basic ingredients. Visual checks involve product identification (origin, type, quantity), determining if labeling and packaging requirements have been met, and checking for the necessary statements containing the importer's name and address, the product's general appearance, taste, flavor, presence of residues, color, structure, etc. Specific ordinances define sampling procedures.

Quality control of imported products can be done again after the import procedure has been completed and prior to retail distribution on the market. Inspection can be done also after retail distribution.

The quality of individual groups of products is subject to specific ordinances (e.g. Bylaw on Meat and Meat Products, Bylaw on Grain Products, Bylaw on Honey and Other Bee Products, etc.).

- *The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms or GMO (BiH Official Gazette # 23/09)* is an overarching law for biotechnology. This Law sets conditions for limited use, importation, deliberate release into environment, and marketing of products that are composed of GMOs, contain GMOs, or are derived from GMOs. The law is only a framework law, thus BiH's Council of Ministers recently adopted six bylaws that establish procedures to import and market biotech products. The bylaws also establish procedures to assess risks, monitor compliance, and register products.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements**

### **General Labeling Requirements**

The Bylaw on Providing Information to Food Consumers (BiH OG #68/13) and the Republika Srpska Law on Food Labeling (RS OG #47/15) prescribe general requirements for the labeling of food intended for distribution to final consumers or public food facilities. It defines responsibilities of food business operators, includes a list of substances that can cause allergies, and defines the size of letters on labels. The label must be present on both retail and bulk packaged foods and must indicate the following: expiration date, type and content of food additives, type and content of added vitamins, minerals, and other ingredients added to enrich the product's nutritional value. It also provides specific rules related to presentation and advertising of food.

For foods placed on the market, the label must be written in one of the official alphabets and languages in use in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian.

The label must be easily and clearly noticeable, legible, unchangeable, non-erasable, and must not be covered with other text, stickers or marks. The label declaration shall include any written marks, commercial marks, protection marks, trademarks, graphical logos or symbols pertaining to food, which is posted on the containers, stickers or tags, wrapping of foodstuffs and on the documents and notices accompanying or pertaining to such food.

The letters used to print product names and manufacturer names must be larger than the letters used to print other data in the declaration, and their size must allow the consumer to easily obtain clear data and knowledge on the product.

Multi-language labels are permitted. The metric system is used in BiH.

The label information should not misguide consumers in terms of origin, composition, net quantity, expiry period (see below), method of production or manufacture of foods.

Imported foods must possess declarations written in one of the alphabets or languages in official use in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **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 packages and/or places the food on the market

For import 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 control veterinary number etc.).

Information on the label must be printed in letters no smaller than 1.2 mm, and for products up to 80cm<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.

Specific labeling regulations apply to specific foods such as genetically modified organisms (GMO), baby food, diet food, food aimed at reduction of 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) prescribes nutritional value labeling for end consumer foods and foods for institutions and the service sector. Mandatory nutritional labeling should include:

- a) Energy value; and
- b) 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.

### *Organic Labeling*

The Republika Srpska's Organic Law (RS OG #75/04) regulates organic labeling only for that respective part of the country.

Stating the name of the organic certifier on the label is mandatory. Products can be labeled as organic, bio or eco depending on the country of origin. The label for imported products must be translated into the local language. The content of the export declaration on the organic product packaging shall be determined by the organic certifier.

Declarations of fruit and vegetables are an exception. Information on the date and place of production shall be indicated on 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.

### **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 50g 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 the expiry date. Regarding packaging materials, there are four new bylaws (published in OG #42/10 and OG #21/11, and OG #25/11):

- 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 special requirements concerning packaging material and container size. BiH consumers generally prefer larger packages at lower prices.

Collection and recycling of used packaging materials are regulated by 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). 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-paks). The Federation Ministry of Environment and Tourism has set a 35% recycling target for 2016 -2020.

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 kilogram (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.

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

The recently adopted Bylaw on Food Additives (BiH Official Gazette 33/18) regulates general requirements for use of additives in food and labeling. The ordinance does not apply to aromas and enzymes used in food or to vitamins and minerals added to foods in order to improve their nutritional value. Additive or food in which the additive is present may be placed on the market only if they are in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and are listed in Annex II and III (additives may be added to the list under the prescribed criteria). Additives must not affect/decrease a food product's nutritive value or change significantly the taste and flavor of products, unless this is the intent. [Annex I](#) (available in local language only) provides classes of food additives such as sweeteners, colors, preservatives, carriers etc.

Annex II lists additives approved for use in food and stipulates conditions of use. This list includes the specific additive name and its E number in accordance with Annex V of this bylaw. It also lists the foods to which the additive may be added, conditions in which the additive can be used, and restrictions for the direct sale of additives to the final consumer. There is also a list of foods in which the presence of additives is not permitted such as unprocessed foods, honey and butter.

Annex III contains the list of permitted carriers of additives used to enrich certain foods (e.g. with vitamins and minerals), while Annex IV lists six colors for which additional labeling information is required, such as Sunset Yellow. Finally, Annex V stipulates specific requirements for additive purity.

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

In general, imported food products must comply with domestic rules. However, BiH recognizes the CODEX maximum residue limits (MRLs) for imported foodstuffs.

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 #89/12 and 92/17) provides the residue limits for pesticides, and other contaminants, (e.g. hormones, antibiotics and mycotoxins). According to the regulation, pesticides are substances used for protection of agricultural products against diseases and pests. The bylaw includes lists of various food and feed items in which pesticides can be found (Annex I) and maximum pesticide contents in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of food (Annex II and II). Active substances in plant protection products treated according to the Law on Plant Protection Products and pertaining bylaws are listed as items for which MRLs are not required (Annex IV).

The Bylaw on Maximum Permitted Amounts for Certain Food Contaminants (BiH OG #39/14 and 79/16) stipulates MRLs for nitrates, mycotoxins, metals, dioxin, etc. in foods.

Hormones and antibiotics residues are generally not allowed in food products.

Maximum residue limits of mycotoxins are also regulated for grains, flour, legumes, beans, nuts, coffee, roasted cocoa and peanuts. The above-mentioned lists are available from the FAS office in Sarajevo (see Appendix II).

For import of pesticides, prior approvals must be obtained at the Entities' Ministries of Agriculture for approved pesticides. The information on approved pesticides and required documents can be obtained from the following offices:

**For the Federation in BiH:**

Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry  
Phytosanitary Department  
Hamdije Cemerlica 2  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tel. +387 33 726 586  
Email: [info@fmpvs.gov.ba](mailto:info@fmpvs.gov.ba)

**For the Republika Srpska:**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
Phytosanitary Department  
Trg Republike Srpske 1  
78000 Banja Luka  
Tel: +387 51 338 397, 338 398  
Fax: +387 51 338 866  
E-mail: [mps@mps.vladars.net](mailto:mps@mps.vladars.net)

## **The Plant Health Administration issues final import permits:**

BiH Plant Health Administration  
Titova 9a  
71000 Sarajevo  
Tel/fax: +387 33 290 700 and 290 711  
E-mail: [infoprava@uzzb.gov.ba](mailto:infoprava@uzzb.gov.ba)

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

Upon an importer's request, the State Veterinary Office (SVO) provides the specific requirements for the import of live animals and products of animal origin (for contact details see Appendix I). Those requirements are in accordance with the World Animal Health Organization/Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and with EU requirements. According to the Veterinary Law, import of foodstuffs, raw materials, products, animal feed, veterinary medicines and waste shall be authorized only if the establishment of origin complies with the prescribed conditions and are registered with the European Union. Exceptionally, the SVO may authorize import from other establishments, if it has been recognized that regulations, standards, production methods and supervision carried out by the exporting country are at least equivalent to the regulations of BiH and at least equivalent consumer protection has been guaranteed in those countries. Exporting facilities need to register with the SVO the first time they export to BiH.

Food products must be tested for microbe levels at laboratories within the Entities' Institutes for Public Health (see Appendix II). The bylaw on "Microbiological Criteria for Food" (BiH Official Gazette #11/13 and #79/16), specifies the maximum content of different microorganisms in food products as well as general and special hygiene requirements that food business operators must fulfill.

Because of European outbreaks of FMD, BSE, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Bluetongue and Avian Influenza, the SVO has banned imports and transportation of domestic and wild ruminants and their products from several countries, as well as feed containing proteins of animal origin. The United States was not listed in any of the import bans, except for BSE; however, beef imports from the U.S. are allowed if they meet certain requirements such as those pertaining to hormone use, the contagious diseases (OIE A List), radioactivity level, etc.

There are specific conditions to import semen and embryos. These may 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 export country's relevant authorities (e.g. USDA/APHIS).

Foods that are subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections can enter BiH only at the following border crossings: Orasje, Gradiska, Izacic, Gorica, Kamensko and Doljani (on the border with Croatia),



Raca and Karakaj (on the border with Serbia), Klobuk (on the border with Montenegro) and the Sarajevo Airport. Inspection services are much more expensive if done after regular working hours and on weekends and holidays.

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

**Genetically modified organisms (GMO):** 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. Four laboratories have the authority to test for 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 Laboratory for GMOs and Food of the Institute for Genetic Engineering Biotechnology in Sarajevo; and
4. The GMO Laboratory of the Federation Agricultural Institute in Sarajevo.

**Veterinary drugs:** Veterinary drugs must be on an approved list maintained by the State Veterinary Office (See Appendix I for the contact information).

**Seeds and planting materials:** Seeds can be imported only if the varieties are recognized in the country. The National List of Recognized Varieties (BiH OG #59/10) is available at the Plant Health Administration or online: [BiH Variety List](#) (in local language only). If a variety is not on the list, importers can request its recognition from the Seeds Commission (request forms available at the Ministries of Agriculture, per the Law on recognition of agricultural varieties F BiH Official Gazette 31/00 and the Law on Plant Protection RS Official Gazette 13/97).

**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 Official Gazette No. 52/09) aligns import policies for live animals and animal products with OIE recommendations. Live animals are subject to the ordinance on quarantine requirements for imported animals issued by the SVO. For ruminants, the required quarantine is 30 days, for poultry and pets 21 days, for semen and inseminated egg cells 14 days.

**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 issues control excise stamps, which are to be included in the packaging prior to export to BiH.

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

The Law on Industrial Property Rights (BiH Official Gazette No. 3/02) and the Law on Copyrights (BiH Official Gazette 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 a new 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. Jurisdiction 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 products to BiH using a locally registered office or a local company/shipping agency registered for import activities. It is common for agents to help with food import regulations.

Prior import approvals and licenses are required for live animals and animal products, and seeds and pesticides. For animals and certain animal products, the State Veterinary Office (SVO) provides prior approvals. For seeds, planting materials and pesticides the entity agriculture ministry provide prior approvals. Forms are available at the SVO and the Ministries (see Appendix I). It is important to note that requirements for prior import approvals differ between the two Entities. All food products must be accompanied with standard documents that follow each shipment and by health certificates issued by relevant authorities of exporting countries (e.g. veterinary certificate for meat and meat products, phytosanitary certificates for fruits, vegetables, seeds etc.) and are subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections at border crossings and sanitary/food and market inspections at customs points.

Sanitary inspectors in the Federation and Food Inspectors in the Republika Srpska visually inspect all food for sanitary wholesomeness prior to customs clearance and take samples for laboratory tests (see Appendix II). Imported goods are held at the customs point until testing is complete.

Market inspectors issue quality certificates at inspection points (see Appendix I). Quality control inspections are done at the exporter/importer's written request, which should be received at least 24 hours prior to the customs clearance. The request for quality control must be accompanied with basic documents that follow each shipment, translated into Bosnian/Croatian for the F BiH or into Serbian for the RS.

The following information must be provided in the documents:

- type and name of product;
- country of origin;
- exporter's name;
- manufacturer's name;
- type and number of transport means;
- port of loading and unloading;
- total pieces;
- packaging unit;
- gross and net weight; and,
- product's quality basic data.

If the same product is imported again, and it has been tested within 90 days, only a visual check is done. Both Entities have officially recognized laboratories to test imported food products (Appendix II).

If a market inspector rejects an importer's request, goods are stored until the procedure is complete - the inspector can order the return or destruction of goods, if necessary, at the importer's expense or can order certain changes prior to customs clearance.

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

### **1. Imports of live animals and products, and veterinary drugs:**

State Veterinary Office  
Titova 9a/II  
7100 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tel. +387 33 565 714  
Fax +387 33 565 725  
E-mail: [info@vet.gov.ba](mailto:info@vet.gov.ba)  
Website: <http://www.vet.gov.ba/>

### **2. Import of seeds and planting material, and pesticides:**

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

F BiH Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry  
Phytosanitary Department

Hamdije Cemerlica 2  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tel. +387 33 726 586  
E-mail: [info@fmpvs.gov.ba](mailto:info@fmpvs.gov.ba)  
Website: <https://fmpvs.gov.ba/en/homepage-eng/#>

RS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
Phytosanitary Department  
Trg Republike Srpske 1  
78000 Banja Luka  
Tel: +387 51 338 397, 338 398  
Fax: +387 51 338 866  
E-mail: [mps@mps.vladars.net](mailto:mps@mps.vladars.net)  
Website: <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mps/Pages/default.aspx>

### **3. Sanitary and market inspection:**

Federation BiH Inspectorate  
Fehima ef. Curcica 6  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Tel: + 387 33 563 350  
Fax + 387 33 563 351  
Email: [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  
Tel. + 387 51 337 627  
Fax: +387 51 307 955  
Email: [uprava@inspektorat.vladars.net](mailto:uprava@inspektorat.vladars.net)  
Website: <http://www.inspektorat.vladars.net/>

### **4. Alcohol, nonalcoholic beverages, tobacco:**

Indirect Taxation Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bana Lazarevica bb  
Banja Luka, 78000  
Phone: 38751 335 494  
Fax: 387-51 335 101  
Website: <http://www.uino.gov.ba/>

## 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  
Tel.: +387 33 704 305  
Fax: +387 33 659 722  
Contact: Sanela Stanojcic, Agricultural Specialist  
E-mail: [AgSarajevo@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgSarajevo@fas.usda.gov)  
Website: <https://ba.usembassy.gov/embassy/sarajevo/sections-offices/fas-bih/>

### Officially recognized laboratories:

Federation Institute for Public Health  
Titova 9  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Tel: + +387 33 564 604  
Fax: +387 33 220 548  
[kabinet.sa@zzjzfbih.ba](mailto:kabinet.sa@zzjzfbih.ba)  
Website: <http://www.zzjzfbih.ba/>

Agricultural Institute Sarajevo  
Butmirska Cesta 40  
71210 Ilidza Tel: +387 33 774 230  
Fax: +387 33 637 601  
Email: [fzpz@fzpz.gov.ba](mailto:fzpz@fzpz.gov.ba)  
<http://www.fzpz.com.ba/>

University of Sarajevo, Veterinary College  
Department for Food Hygiene  
Zmaja od Bosne 90  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Tel/fax: +387 33 643 684  
E-mail: [vetfaksa@bih.net.ba](mailto:vetfaksa@bih.net.ba)  
Website: <http://vfs.unsa.ba/web/>

Veterinary Institute “Vaso Butozan” Banja Luka  
Branka Radicevica 18  
78 000 Banja Luka  
Tel.+387 51 229 210  
Fax: +387 51 229 242  
Email: [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  
Tel.: +387 51 491 600  
Fax: +387 51 216 510  
Email: [info@phi.rs.ba](mailto:info@phi.rs.ba)  
Website: <http://www.phi.rs.ba/>

Agricultural Institute Bijeljina  
Stefana Decanskog bb  
76 300 Bijeljina  
Tel. +387 55 240 137  
Fax: +387 55 240 032

Agricultural Institute Banja Luka  
Knjaza Milosa 17  
78 000 Banja Luka  
Tel. +387 51 303 112  
Fax: +387 51 312 792  
Email: [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  
Tel. +387 36 334 382  
Email: [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  
Tel. +387 33 566 222  
Fax: +387 33 214 292  
E-mail: [cis@komorabih.ba](mailto:cis@komorabih.ba)  
Website: <http://komorabih.ba/>

Federation BiH Chamber of Economy  
Branislava Djurdjeva 10  
71 000 Sarajevo  
Tel. +387 33 217 782 and 566 300  
Fax: +387 33 663 632 and 663 635  
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

Tel. +387 51 215 744

Fax: +387 51 215 565

E-Mail: [info@komorars.ba](mailto:info@komorars.ba)

Website: <https://komorars.ba/>

**Attachments:**

No Attachments