

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 12/5/2016

GAIN Report Number: HR1612

Croatia

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

Approved By:

Fred Giles

Prepared By:

Andreja Misir

Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the food and agricultural product import requirements for Croatia. Croatia, as a member of the European Union, follows EU directives and regulations. Thus, it is recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards report for the European Union (EU-28 FAIRS). Important points of contact for U.S. food exporters are listed in the appendices. All sections of this annual report were updated in November 2016.

Section I. Food Laws:

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

This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural product imports into Croatia. Croatia, as a member of the European Union, follows EU directives and regulations. It is therefore recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (EU-28 FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the European Union. Imports from third countries must comply with national legislation when EU law does not exist. Croatia's food laws and regulations are valid both for domestic and imported products and are generally applied regularly and consistently as part of border inspections.

Croatian laws and regulations can be found in the Croatian language at: www.nn.hr.

Croatia's food legislation consists of the following key laws:

- -- The Food Act (Governmental Gazette NN81/2013, NN14/2014);
- -- The Law on Food Hygiene and Microbiological Criteria for Food (Governmental Gazette NN81/2013);
- -- The Act on Protected Designations of Origin, Protected Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (NN80/2013, NN14/2014);
- -- The Law on Water for Human Consumption (Governmental Gazette NN56/2013);
- -- The Law on Food Additives, Aromas and Food Enzymes (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013);
- -- The Law on Nutritional and Health Claims and Food Enriched with Nutrients (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013);
- -- The Law on the Import of Food and Feed from Third Countries (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013);
- -- The Law on Food for Special Nutritional Purposes (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013);
- -- The Law on Materials and Objects in Direct Contact with Food (Governmental Gazette NN25/2013, NN41/2014)
- -- The Law on Contaminants (Governmental Gazette NN39/2013)
- -- The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 396/2005 on Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticide in and on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin (Governmental Gazette 80/2013)
- -- The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (Governmental Gazette NN70/2005, NN137/2009, NN28/2013, NN47/2014);
- -- the Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 1829/2003 on GMO Food and Feed and Regulation 1830/2003 on Traceability and Labeling of Food and Feed Derived from GMOs that

Amends EU Directive 2001/18/EC (Governmental Gazette NN18/2013, NN47/2014);

- -- The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 1946/2003 on Trans-boundary movement of genetically modified organisms (Governmental Gazette 81/2013)
- -- The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 258/97 on Novel Food and Novel Food Ingredients (Governmental Gazette NN18/2013, NN47/2014);
- -- The Law on the Transposition of the EU Regulation 834/2007 on Organic Production and Labeling of Organic Products (Governmental Gazette NN 80/2013, NN14/2014);
- -- The Wine Act (Governmental Gazette NN96/2003, NN55/2011, NN14/2014);
- -- The Law on Informing Consumer about Food (Governmental Gazette NN56/2013, NN14/2014; NN56/2016);
- -- The Law on Official Controls Performed in Accordance with Food, Feed, Health and Animal Welfare Legislation (Governmental Gazette NN81/2013, NN14/2014)
- -- The Law on Sanitary Inspection (Governmental Gazette NN113/2008, NN88/2010);
- -- The Law on Official Controls in Accordance with Legislation on Food, Feed and Animal Health and Wellbeing (Governmental Gazette NN81/2013, NN14/2014; NN56/2015)

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

A. General Requirements

As of December 13, 2014, EU Regulation 1169/2011 establishes the new horizontal food labeling requirements, except for the new mandatory nutrition declaration requirement which will come into effect on December 13, 2016. At this point, companies are advised to switch to all the provisions under EU Regulation 1169/2011 as soon as possible. For more details, please refer to the <u>EU-28 FAIRS</u> report.

B. Other Specific Labeling Requirements

For Nutritional Labeling Requirements and Nutritional/Health Claims please see the Law on Nutritional and Health Claims and Food Enriched with Nutrients (NN39/2013);

For Health/Nutrition Claims see Nutrition Health Claims

For Foods Containing or Derived from Genetically Modified Substances, see the Law on the Transposition of EU Regulation 1829/2003 on GMO Food and

Feed and EU Regulation 1830/2003 on Traceability and Labeling of Food and Feed Derived from GMOs that Amends EU Directive 2001/18/EC (NN18/2013, NN47/2014). Food and feed containing genetically engineered ingredients must have special, additional information on the label that informs consumers of all of its characteristics, that is, in Croatia a product must be labeled as GMO if it contains more than 0.9% of an approved event.

For Novel Foods see the law on the Transposition of EU Regulation 258/97 on Novel Food. Novel Food ingredients (NN18/2013, NN47/2014) regulates the labeling of novel foods. For details refer to the <u>EU-28 FAIRS</u> report.

Additional information can be found at:

Ministry of Health
Directorate for Sanitary Inspection and Public Health
Ksaver 200a, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
Sanitary Inspection
Tel. +385 1 4607 555
Fax. +385 1 4607 076
Sanitary Inspection

Further details on labeling of food and some specific food products (e.g. beef, wine, fruit juice, etc.) can be obtained from the FAS office in Zagreb.

Croatian authorities do not grant exceptions to the labeling regulations.

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

When it comes to the container content and indicated quantity, the maximum tolerable error between the actual content and the quantity indicated on the label, and methods to check this are fixed in Council Directive 76/211/EEC, as amended and transposed to Croatian Regulation on Measuring Requirements for Prepackaged Products of Constant Filling Marked with Weight or Volume (NN82/2016).

The Regulation on Metrological Requirements for Filling Packages and Bottles as Measuring Containers (NN82/2016) prescribes package nominal fillings and the marking of quantities. This regulation is in compliance with EU Council Directive 75/107/EEC from 12/19/1974.

EU Directive 2007/45/EC abolished older regulations on mandatory pack sizes at both the EU and national levels. The Directive sets sizes for all prepackaged products except wine and spirits and coffee. Mandatory nominal quantities for wines and spirits are in the Annex to Directive 2007/45/EC. This was transposed in to Croatia's Regulation on Nominal Quantities of Prepackaged Products (NN82/2016).

Detailed information on "Legal Metrology" is available on the European Commission's website http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/legal-metrology/.

Packaging materials and packaging material waste are covered by the Regulation on Packaging Materials and Packaging Material Waste (NN88/2015, NN78/2016).

Limitations on the type of packaging materials that can be used are described in the Law on Materials and Objects in Direct Contact with Food (NN25/2013, NN41/2014). This regulation puts into national legislation the EU regulations on the topic.

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

Additives are regulated by The Law on Food Additives, Aromas and Food Enzymes (NN39/2013).

Furthermore, Croatia applies EU regulations and does not have specific, national requirements for additives. For details on EU regulations see the <u>EU-28 FAIRS</u> report.

Croatia does not recognize the CODEX food additive list. All companies that seek to place food on the market in Croatia must comply with the EU list of food additives as published in EU Regulation 1333/2008 and Regulation 1334/2008 on flavorings.

New additives, flavorings and enzymes can be added to the list according to EU Regulation 1331/2008, which prescribes a single common procedure for the entire EU. This ensures consistency in the procedures used to approve additives, flavorings and enzymes with an emphasis on the safety evaluations by EFSA on which the approval procedure is based. For details on EU procedure see the EU-28 FAIRS report.

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

The maximum content of certain pesticide or pesticide residues in foodstuffs is governed by The Law on Transposition of the EU Regulation 396/2005 on Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticides in or on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin (NN80/2013). Other contaminants in food are regulated by the Law on Contaminants (NN39/2013), which incorporates all EU regulations dealing with contaminants, for details see the <u>EU-28 FAIRS</u> report.

Croatia's list of residues of pesticides on and in food is in full compliance with the EU lists. This regulation is enforced by municipal and customs sanitary and veterinary inspection officials.

The pesticide residue list is positive, i.e., stating what is permitted versus what is not permitted. Thus any residue that is not found on the list, regardless of quantity, is deemed an adulterant. For details see the <u>EU-28 FAIRS</u> report.

According to the Law on Transposition of the EU Regulation 1107/2009 on Placing of Plant Protection Products on the Market (NN80/2013), all pesticides must be registered. For details, see the <u>EU-28</u> <u>FAIRS</u> report.

For a list of authorized active substances or pesticide-MRL combinations, see the European Commission's online database at Pesticides list.

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

- A. All shipments that contain food go through a sanitary inspection. Random tests are conducted for GMO content and compliance with microbiological and contaminant health standards.
- B. An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates can be found on the FAS Brussels website at Certification EU Import Rules.
- C. On April 14, 2015, the EU approved U.S.-origin almonds to be included under Article 23 of Regulation 882/2004 on Pre-Export Checks (PEC). The acceptance into the PEC program reflects the

EU's recognition of aflatoxin controls performed in the United States. EU Regulation 2015/949 was published on June 19, 2015 and became effective on July 10, 2015. The PEC program is voluntary; thus, a PEC certificate is not a requirement for import into the EU, but it means that shipments with a PEC certificate are only supposed to be subjected to less than 1% controls at the border. The predecessor to the PEC program, the Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Plan (VASP) program, was initiated in 2007 by the California almond industry in response to the EU introducing special measures for aflatoxin and was another mechanism to reduce the mandatory testing requirement at the point of entry. However, it has since been supplanted by the PEC program.

E. Product samples shipped via express mail and food for fairs are treated like any other food import-they must comply with all the food regulations applicable in the EU and/or Croatia (for details consult <u>EU-28 FAIRS</u>). The invoice must also state that it is a sample and free of charge - then it is treated as a sample for customs purposes in terms of levying duties.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

- A. Consumer packaging or municipal waste disposal, see Section III.
- B. Only metric weights and measures are accepted.
- C. Fortification of foods with vitamins and minerals is permitted. In this case, labeling must be carried out per the Regulation on Citing Nutritional Value of Food (NN29/2009) and the Law on Nutritional and Health Claims and Food Enriched with Nutrients (NN39/2013).
- D. Food products produced from substances derived from GMOs are regulated by:
- --The Food Act (NN81/2013, NN14/2014) that governs the responsible bodies and their tasks, responsibilities of stakeholders in food and feed handling, official controls and legal measures.
- -- The Law on the Transposition of EU Regulation 1829/2003 on GMO Food and Feed and Regulation 1830/2003 on the Traceability and Labeling of Food and Feed Derived from GMOs that amends EU Directive 2001/18/EC (NN18/2013, NN47/2014) establish the responsible bodies and their tasks relating to the handling of biotechnology products as well as the penalties for breaching the provisions of the law.
- --The Instructions for Placing on the Market in the Republic of Croatia of GMO Food and Feed (NN83/2013) gives procedures for placing biotech products on the market.

Novel foods are regulated by the Law on the Transposition of EU Regulation 258/97 on Novel Food and Novel Food Ingredients (NN18/2013, NN47/2014). This law deals with all aspects of novel food, that is, all foods which were not consumed in the EU to a significant degree before May 15, 1997.

E. Dietetic or special use foods fall under the Law on Food for Special Nutritional Purposes (NN39/2013). This regulation deals with infant food, baby food, gluten free food, food for diabetics, etc. It is in compliance with EU regulations on this topic.

F. Food sanitation: This subject is covered by the Law on Food Hygiene and Microbiological Criterions for Food (NN81/2013). This law incorporates Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles and transposes the appropriate EU legislation. Some of the requirements of this law are the following: HACCP application; official controls of production facilities when it comes to HACCP; procedures if there is misconduct (product destruction, fines, etc.); recording and tracking of temperatures within the cold chain and official inspections of the cold chain; sampling procedures and validated testing methods for microbiological food safety; ministries and their responsibilities including guidance to industry regarding different good manufacturing practices, etc.

Only a small number of foods is authorized to be preserved with irradiation according to the Regulation on Food Treated with Irradiation (NN 38/2008). Irradiation of food needs to be stated on the food label.

- G. Animal quarantine: To import live animals, animals must pass through quarantine which can range from 5 to 30 days, depending on the type of animal, health status and accompanying certification. For example, quarantine for cattle imported for slaughter is 5 days on the importer's farm and for breeding 30 days on the importer's farm. The competent authority is the Veterinary Inspection Service, Ministry of Agriculture, for contact information please see Appendix I.
- H. Wine is regulated by The Wine Act (NN96/2003, NN 55/2011, NN14/2014), The Regulation on Wine (NN96/1996, NN7/1997, NN117/1997, 57/2000), The Regulation on Wine Production (NN 02/2005, NN 137/2008, NN48/2014), The Regulation on the Categories of Grape Wine, Oenological Practices and Restrictions (NN114/2010), The Regulation on Fruit Wines (NN 73/2006, NN24/2011, NN28/2011, NN62/2011, NN82/2011, NN120/201, NN59/2013), etc.

 The Regulation on Wine and Fruit Vinegar (NN121/2005, NN53/2006, NN26/2011) regulates wine and fruit vinegars. Beer is regulated by The Regulation on Beer (NN142/2011, 141/2013), and strong alcohol is regulated by The Regulation on Strong Alcohols Drinks (NN61/2009, NN141/2009, NN86/2011, NN104/2011, NN118/2012).

Croatian wine legislation is based on EU wine legislation. The Croatian Wine Act, including related ordinances, transposes the relevant EU regulations of the Common Market Order (CMO) of wine. Croatia, however, has maintained its individuality. Three general traditional terms within quality designations are recognized: table wine, wine of quality, and "top quality" wine. The categories are determined by the quality of processed grape, yield per hectare, amount of alcohol and other natural ingredients and organoleptic (sensory) properties. Mandatory information on the label should include: wine category, real alcoholic strength, net quantity, for some wines (sparkling) - amount of sugar, for some wines (e.g. protected geographic indications) traditional name, origin, bottler for still wines, producer for sparkling wines, lot number, importer and amount of allergens. Additional data on the label can include: geographical area of production, vintage (for wines with at least 85 percent of the grapes from that vintage), grape variety, bottling place, etc. Wines from third countries may be marketed with the original label in accordance with the requirements of the country of production.

I. Organic products: The Law on the Transposition of EU Regulation 834/2007 on Organic Production and Labeling of Organic Products (NN 80/2013, NN 14/2014) governs organics. For details refer to the <u>EU-28 FAIRS</u> report.

J. Product samples and mail order shipments are treated like any other import.

Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws:

Trademarks are legally protected in Croatia. A trademark is valid for a period of 10 years, and after ten years the validity has to be renewed. The number of renewals is indefinite.

Companies interested in registering trademarks or brand names must apply at the State Intellectual Property Office where information and forms are available. Information on the registration process in Croatia can be found on the State Intellectual Property Office's web page: <u>Trademarks</u>.

Besides trademark protection at the EU Member State level, it is also possible to seek a Community Trade Mark. A Community Trade Mark (CTM) is valid in all Member States of the European Union, and the registration procedure is carried out by the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OAMI) which is headquartered in Alicante, Spain. A CTM is valid in the European Union as a whole, it is not possible to limit protection geographically only to certain Member States.

Protected Geographical Indications (GI)

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for regulating the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for food and wine. The Regulation on Protected Designations of Origin, Protected Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (NN65/2015) transposes EU Regulation 1151/2012 and regulates national level registration. The Regulation on Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications, Traditional Expressions and Labeling Wines (NN141/2010, NN31/2011, NN78/2011, NN120/2012) is pertinent for wine (see Section VI. of this report on wine).

Third countries can have their geographic names for food and wine recognized and protected at the EU level, which is then also valid in Croatia. To qualify for protection in all the Member States, designations of origin and geographical indications should be registered only at the EU level. Member states are able to grant transitional protection at the national level without affecting intra-EU or international trade once the registration has been filed. In theory, the protection afforded by EU Regulation 1151/2012 upon registration is equally available to designations of origin and geographical indications of third countries that meet the corresponding criteria and that are protected in their country of origin.

Lists of protected names by country, product type, registered name and name applied for are available through the Commission's online "DOOR" (<u>Database of Origin and Registration</u>) database.

The State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia is the competent authority governing the procedures of other products and services in compliance with the Act on Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin of Products and Services (NN173/2003, NN76/2007, NN49/2011), and Regulations on Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin of Products and Services (NN72/2004, NN117/2007, NN66/2011).

Contact information for State Intellectual Property Office:

State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia Ulica grada Vukovara 78 HR - 10000 Zagreb CROATIA

Receiving office Tel: +385 1 61 06

Tel: +385 1 61 06 418 Fax: +385 1 61 12 017

Independent Service for Customer Support and Information Services

Tel: +385 1 61 09 825 Fax: +385 1 61 12 017 e-mail: <u>info@dziv.hr</u> http://www.dziv.hr/en/

Section IX. Import Procedures:

Incoming goods must go through customs storage at transport terminals or airports. After goods arrive at the customs storage, the importer or freight forwarder should begin procedures for checking and clearing goods, which includes special documents that should be sent to the Inspection Departments and the Customs Office. The procedure begins at the Sanitary Inspection Department of the Ministry of Health, which checks all products (except animal products, which are checked by the Veterinary Inspection Department from the Ministry of Agriculture). More specifically, from time to time, samples are taken for food safety, quality and biotech testing. The importer must pay for product inspections. If products are flagged for further quality and/or health standard review their sale will be prohibited until the analytical results are returned and they are deemed to be safe. Customs clearance and removal from storage is carried out under the supervision of a customs officer who compares the documents with the commodities after they have been checked by the sanitary or veterinary inspector for quality, ingredients and health standards.

Customs clearance for food products, if all documents are in order and no tests are pending, can be done in one day.

Complete information on EU import rules for food products may be found at: <u>EU Import Rules</u>.

Import certificates must be in the official language of the Member State where the border inspection occurs. In Croatia, according to the Law on Import of Food and Feed from Third Countries (NN39/2013), the responsible party in the import procedure is obligated to provide inspectors with analytical reports and certificates in the Latin alphabet and translated into Croatian (bilingual English/Croatian certificates are admissible). All the certificates can be found in Croatian on the EU Official Journal website (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html) under the relevant regulation.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

Control over the products governed by the laws covering meat, animals (including animal breeding), and plants (including wine) are regulated by:

Government of the Republic of Croatia Ministry of Agriculture Grada Vukovara 78 10000 Zagreb Tel. +385 1 6106 111 Fax. +385 1 6109 201

E mail: pisarnica01-MP@mps.hr

http://www.mps.hr/default.aspx?id=5340

Government of the Republic of Croatia Ministry of Agriculture Planinska ulica 2a, 10000 Zagreb Veterinary Directorate Tel. +385 1 6443 540 Fax. +385 1 6443 899

E mail: <u>uprava.veterinarstva@mps.hr</u> http://www.mps.hr/default.aspx?id=5340

Government of the Republic of Croatia Ministry of Health Ksaver 200a 10 000 Zagreb Sanitary Inspection Tel. +385 1 4607 555 Fax. +385 1 4677 076 https://zdravstvo.gov.hr/

Control of metrological requirements for packages and bottles is regulated by:

State Office for Metrology Department for Metrology Capraska 6 10 000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 1 563 00 00 Fax: +385 1 563 00 01 E-mail: pisarnica@dzm.hr http://www.dzm.hr/en/

General trade legislation is overseen by:

Government of the Republic of Croatia Ministry of Economy Grada Vukovara 78 10000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 1 6106 111 Fax: +385 1 6109 110 http://www.mingo.hr/en

Waste disposal is regulated by:

Government of the Republic of Croatia Ministry of Environment and Energy Radnicka c. 80 10 000 Zagreb Tel. +385 1 3717 111 Fax. +385 1 3717 149 http://www.mzoip.hr/en/

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

Useful contacts for general advice on food trade in Croatia:

Croatian Chamber of Economy (Commerce)
Agriculture, Food Industry and Forestry Department
Rooseveltov trg 2
10000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 4826 066
Fax. +385 1 4561 545
E mail: poljoprivreda@hgk.hr
http://www.hgk.hr/english

Croatian Customs
Alexandera von Humbolta 4a
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 6211 300, +385 0800 1222
Fax. +385 1 6211 011, +385 1 6211 012

E-mail: ured-ravnatelja@carina.hr, javnost@carina http://www.carina.hr/Test/ConstructionEN.aspx

Selected food laboratories in Croatia:

Croatian Public Health Institute Department for Food Safety Rockefellerova 7 10 000 Zagreb Tel. +385 1 4863 222 Fax. +385 1 4863 366 E-mail: hzjz@hzjz.hr http://www.hzjz.hr/english/

Public Health Institute "Dr. Andrija Štampar" Mirogojska cesta 16 10 000 Zagreb Tel.+ 385 1 46 96 111 Fax. + 385 1 64 14 006 E-mail:info@stampar.hr http://www.stampar.hr/en

Croatian Veterinary Institute Savska cesta 143 10 000 Zagreb Tel. +385 1 612 36 66 E-mail: ured@veinst.hr http://www.veinst.hr/en/

Quick information on establishing a Croatian company can be found at:

Hitro HR
Tel. 0800 0080
E-mail info@hitro.hr.
http://www.hitro.hr/Default.aspx?sec=43

EMBASSY (USDA/FAS) POINT OF CONTACT

For questions regarding other issues not covered in this report, please contact:

Ms. Andreja Misir American Embassy Foreign Agricultural Service Thomas Jefferson St. 2 10000 Zagreb Tel. +385 1 665 8951 Mobile +385 91 455 2365

E mail: AgZagreb@fas.usda.gov

Information for reports on Croatia and other countries can be found at: **GAIN Reports**