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Report Highlights:

This report provides information of the food and agricultural laws and regulations currently in force in Vietnam. Updates made to Section I – Food Laws, Section II-Labeling Requirements, Section VI-Other requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures and Section IX-Import Procedures. New sections added to the report: Executive Summary, Section 5.4- Maximum Limits (MLs) of Contaminants in Feeds and Section X-Trade Facilitation

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Abbreviated terms for easy reference:

- MOH (Ministry of Health, Vietnam)
- VFA (Vietnam Food Administration, MOH)
- MARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam)
- DAH (Department of Animal Health, MARD)
- PPD (Plant Protection Department, MARD)
- DLP (Department of Livestock Production, MARD)
- NAFIQAD (National Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality Assurance Department, MARD)
- NOIP (National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam, MOST)
- CFS (Certificate of Free Sale)
- FBOs (Food Business Operators)
- GDVC (General Department of Vietnam Customs)
- MOST (Ministry of Science and Technology)
- MOIT (Ministry of Industry and Trade)
- DFISH (Directorate of Fisheries, MARD)
- FSL (Law on Food Safety)
- GVN (Government of Vietnam)
- WTO (World Trade Organization)

DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Hanoi Vietnam, 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 may have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is strongly 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.

Post also notes that this report may not cover the regulations released after December 2020 by the GVN, should U.S. exporters have any questions, please contact aghamoi@fas.usda.gov.

Executive Summary

Vietnam maintains MRLs for glyphosate

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued Circular 06/2020 dated April 24, 2020, to extend the use of glyphosate in Vietnam to June 30, 2021. The extension remains in MARD's Circular 10/2020 dated September 9, 2020, issuing the List of Permissible Pesticides and the List of Banned Pesticides in Vietnam. On June 10, 2020, the Vietnam SPS Office sent an official dispatch to FAS Vietnam confirming that the maximum residue limits (MRLs) for glyphosate, prescribed in MOH's Circular 50/2016, remain unchanged.

Vietnam tests for SARS-CoV-2 virus in packaging of imported foods

On November 24, 2020, the Ministry of Health (MOH) requested border inspection agencies to carry out sampling of food packaging to test for SARS-CoV-2 virus, especially frozen foods imported from countries identified as high risk based on the COVID-19 status. Later, in response to the United States and other trading partners' questions regarding the scientific basis and trade impacts, MOH stated that the COVID-19 test is for monitoring purposes, thus doesn't affect trade. As of December 2020, industry representatives reported the COVID-19 sampling as being carried out randomly at the same time as the veterinary check. FAS Vietnam continues to monitor and provide updates on the development of this issue.

GVN proposes to reform the specialized inspection of foods and agricultural products

As of October 2020, the General Directorate of Vietnam Customs (GDVC) submitted to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) its proposal to reform the specialized inspection scheme for imported goods. This plan proposes a risk-based model for food safety and quality inspection presided by GDVC with a focus on processed and packaged foods. For implementation of this reform plan, GDVC proposes the GVN to draft a new Decree in 2021 to revise Decree 15/2018 on Food Safety and Decrees guiding the Law on Quality of Goods and Products.

Section I: Food Laws

Law on Food Safety

The Vietnam Food Safety Law (FSL), entered into force on July 1, 2011, outlines responsibilities to ensure food safety; conditions for food safety; food production and trading; food import and export; food advertisement and labeling; food testing; food risk analysis; prevention and dealing with food safety incidents; communication on food safety; and state management of food safety.

According to the FSL, all imported food, food additives, substances used in food processing, and tools and materials used for containers and packing imported food shall be subject to import inspection for food safety, except in cases where the import inspection is exempt. Imported food is only granted

customs clearance once inspection results show that the products in question meet import requirements. The Food Safety Law outlines three categories of food inspection: 1) Strict Inspection; 2) Normal Inspection, and 3) Simplified Inspection. The FSL assigns responsibility for the inspection of imported food to three ministries, MOH, the MARD) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT).

Registration and Inspection of Food Safety

To improve the enforcement of the FSL, the Government of Vietnam (GVN) issued Decree 15/2018 on February 2, 2018, replacing Decree 38/2012, to detail the implementation of the FSL (GAIN Report [VM8016](#)). This Decree makes fundamental changes to the registration and inspection for both domestic and imported food and the assignment of food safety management among MOH, MARD, and MOIT. Decree 15 provides the lists of food products subject to MOH, MARD, and MOIT's jurisdiction in Appendix II, III and IV.

Under Decree 15, the GVN applies a new simplified registration procedure for pre-packaged processed foods, food additives, and food processing aids and authorizes food enterprises to produce, import, and sell these products immediately after the enterprises have published product self-declaration documentation. The GVN also set a new import inspection regime to streamline and synchronize the import inspection methods applied by MOH, MARD, and MOIT. The new inspection regime maintains three inspection methods for all imports - reduced inspection, tightened inspection, and normal inspection, but reduces the sampling frequency, and switches to post-clearance inspection.

Handling of Food Safety Violations

Violations in food safety are subject to severe penalties and additional sanctions under GVN's Decree 115/2018 dated September 4, 2018 on handling administrative violations in food production and trade, food import and export. According to this Decree, organizations or individuals found using expired materials or products, those of unclear origin, or those from animals and plants not yet quarantined, for food production will be given fines double the value of the infringing goods. Decree 115/2018 also increases fines for food safety violations up to VND 200 million or seven times higher than the value of the infringing goods. Additional penalties, such as revocation of certificates of food safety and registration of products and confiscation of materials or suspension of business operation can also be enforced. Violating businesses are required to destroy their infringing food products and pay all expenses for handling any resulting food poisoning cases. Decree 115 took effect on October 20, 2018.

Under Article 317 of the Penal Code 100/2015/QH13, which took effect from January 1, 2018, a certain number of violations, such as using banned substances in the manufacture, preparation, processing, preservation of food, or processing, providing, or selling food with the knowledge that it does not comply with technical or food safety regulations, are considered criminal offenses.

Reform of Food Safety Import Inspection

In 2020, the GVN assigned GDVC to propose a reform plan on specialized inspection scheme for imported goods. GDVC submitted this plan to the GVN in October 2020, with the key proposals: i) GDVC will become the focal point in quality examination and food safety import inspection; ii)

applying synchronously three methods of inspection per the Law on Food Safety for both quality examination and food safety; iii) **switching from inspection of each imported shipment to applying inspection policies for groups of imported identical goods**, regardless of importers; iv) fully applying the principle of risk management in quality examination and food safety inspection to improve the compliance of enterprises; and v) expanding the subjects exempted from quality inspection and food safety inspection. Post notes that while the GDVC plan has a focus on reforming the inspection regime for processed and packaged foods, the inspection regime for perishable foods subject to quarantine, such as meat, poultry, seafood, fruits and vegetables, likely remains under MARD's jurisdiction. For implementation of this reform plan, GDVC has proposed the GVN to draft a new Decree in 2021 to revise Decree 15/2018 on Food Safety and Decrees guiding the Law on Quality of Goods and Products.

Section II: Labeling Requirements

Food labeling requirements remains unchanged in 2020, as the Directorate for Standard, Metrology and Quality (STAMEQ), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) delayed a draft to amend some articles of Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling. The draft, requesting the importer's name to be listed on the original label and additional information on nutrition labeling, had raised concerns about negative impacts on trade. FAS Vietnam will continue monitor the development of this issue.

2.1. General requirements

Government's Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling

Vietnamese law imposes strict requirements on the labeling of goods. On April 14, 2017, the GVN issued Decree 43/2017/ND-CP replacing Decree 89/2009 on goods labeling. Decree 43/2017 provided labeling requirements for all categories of food, beverages, and agricultural inputs circulated in Vietnam, both domestically produced and imported. This Decree went into effect from June 1, 2017 (GAIN report [VM7031](#)).

The FSL also provided specific requirements on the labeling of shelf life for prepacked food and special provisions for functional food, food additives, irradiated food, and genetically engineered food.

Along with these legal documents, Joint Circular 34/2014/TTLT-BYT-BNNPTNT-BCT issued by MOH, MOIT, and MARD on October 27, 2014 for Guiding the Goods Label for Various Foods, Food Additives, and Aids for Processing Packaged Foods remains in effect (GAIN report [VM5005](#)).

According to Decree 43, labels must be in Vietnamese and cover all mandatory contents. Depending on the requirements of each type of food, the contents can be included in a foreign language but must match the Vietnamese description, with their font size no larger than the relevant language in Vietnamese.

The mandatory labeling contents for food include: i) name of goods, ii) name and address of the enterprise responsible for the goods; iii) origin of goods, and iv) additional details in conformity with the nature of the goods prescribed in Appendix I of Decree 43/2017 and other relevant legal documents. This Decree provides flexible choices for the presentation of expiration dates that may be represented

either as a “use by” date or “best before” date. However, the manufacture and expiration dates must be written in the "date-month-year" format (according to the western calendar) and must also be noted in this order if those dates are presented in another order on the product.

Food imported for consumption and circulation in the Vietnamese market must be labeled in either of the following ways: 1) labeling in Vietnamese, including the full mandatory labeling contents; or 2) being attached to secondary labels which contain the Vietnamese translation from the mandatory information of the original label and to supplement other mandatory information according to the nature of the commodity as prescribed in Decree 43/2017. Secondary labels are exempted for food ingredients, food additives, and food processing aids imported for internal production only and not for resale in the market.

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) Circular 5/2019 guiding Decree 43/2017

On June 26, 2019, MOST issued Circular 5/2019 to detail the implementation of a number of articles of Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling. This Circular shall take effect on January 1, 2021. Article 8 of Circular 5/2019 requires that the quantity of an ingredient be shown on a goods label, if its name is shown on the label, in order to draw attention to the product.

Circular 5/2019 allows for labeling “no presence” or “not containing” or “no addition” of an ingredient” only if: i) the ingredient does not exist in the product nor in the materials used to produce the product; or ii) the product does not contain ingredients of the same group with similar properties or uses, unless the nature of the substitution is clearly stated. However, Circular 5/2019 accepts labeling per Codex’s guidance in certain cases, for example, goods are labeled “No sugar” if the sugar content is less than or equal to 0.5g/100g (solid) or 0.5g/100ml (liquid). Post notes some industries in Vietnam claim the “no presence” and “no addition” provisions are not in line with international practices and are requesting MOST and MOH to make revisions.

2.2. Other Specific Labeling Requirements

2.2.1. Labeling Food Additives

In addition to general labeling requirements stipulated in Joint Circular 34, food additives should be labeled as follows:

- Class name and international code (if any) must be enclosed with the name of the food additive.
- If two or more food additives are present in packaging, their names must be listed in the order of proportion by weight.
- The phrase “Use for food” (*Dùng cho thực phẩm* in Vietnamese) must be clearly written below the name of food additive using bold letters with a minimum height of 2 millimeters.

2.2.2. Labeling Irradiated Food

According to the FSL, in the case of food manufactured, processed, or preserved using irradiation, in addition to the mandatory labeling contents, the phrase “irradiated food”, or an internationally-recognized irradiation food symbol accepted by Vietnam must be printed on the label.

2.2.3. Labeling Functional Food

The key legislation regarding the labeling of functional food is the FSL and MOH’s Circular 43/2014/TT-BYT, dated November 24, 2014, regulating the management of functional foods (“Circular 43”). Circular 43 entered into force on January 15, 2015.

Under Circular 43, functional foods are categorized into four sub-groups: i) supplementary food (*Thực phẩm bổ sung* in Vietnamese); ii) health supplement, food supplement, and dietary supplement (collectively “*thực phẩm bảo vệ sức khỏe*”); iii) food for special medical purposes or medical food (*thực phẩm dinh dưỡng dùng cho mục đích y tế đặc biệt* or *thực phẩm dinh dưỡng y học*); and, iv) food for special dietary use (*thực phẩm dùng cho chế độ ăn đặc biệt*).

The labeling of these products must comply with the requirements applicable to foodstuffs. Along with complying with standard regulations, the labeling for functional food must meet the following requirements:

- The specific phrase for the relevant sub-group name must be recorded on the product label (supplemented food, health supplement, food for special medical purposes, and food for special dietary use). The nutrient contents (e.g., the quantity of vitamins, minerals, enzymes, fatty acids, amino acids, or biological substances) must be displayed on the label.
- For supplementary food, the label must include the following content: the objective of use, product utility, dosage, and special precautions or side effects of the product (if any);
- For food for special medical purposes and/or for special dietary uses, the label contents must include directions for use and special precautions (if any);
- For health supplements, food supplements, and dietary supplements, the statement "This product is not a medicine, nor effective to replace medicine" must be listed directly after the product’s effects or with other recommendations (if any). This phrase must have a contrasting color to the background color of the label and the letters must be at least 1.2 millimeters in height (or at least 0.9 millimeters if one side of the package is smaller than 80 square centimeters). In cases where the product name is the same as one of the main active ingredients, the quantity of such ingredients must be displayed on the label.

2.2.4. Labeling Genetically Engineered Food (GE food)

In addition to requiring mandatory labeling for most GE food, the FSL also requires the phrase “*thực phẩm biến đổi gen*” (“genetically engineered food”) to be displayed on the product.

MARD and MOST issued Joint Circular 45/2015/TTLB-BNNPTNT-BKHHCN (Circular 45) dated November 23, 2015, guiding the Labeling of Prepacked Genetically Engineered Foods, which details the labeling requirements applicable to food products containing GE organisms and products of GE organisms for sale in Vietnam. This Circular entered into force on January 8, 2016 (GAIN report

[VM5088](#)). This Circular applies to pre-packed foods containing at least one GE ingredient that is at least five percent of the total ingredients of the product. In instances where Circular 45 is applicable, the Vietnamese phrase “*biến đổi gen*” (aka: “genetically engineered”) must be printed next to the GE component on the ingredient listing of the Vietnamese-language secondary label that is affixed on a product.

The labeling of GE food products as stipulated in Joint Circular 45/2015 does not apply in the following cases: a) food carried by people on entry for personal use within the duty free limit; food in diplomatic bags; food temporarily imported for re-export; food in bonded warehouses; food used as samples for testing and research; and food used during exhibitions or trade shows; and b) materials/food additives/food processing aids, and food packaging material imported for internal production that are not for sale in the market or for internal transportation among warehouses of an enterprise.

Joint Circular 45/2015 also required the supplemental printing of the phrase “*biến đổi gen*” on the label of GE food products which were circulated in the market before this Circular took effect. Pre-packed GE food products lacking labels compliant with Circular 45/2015 are not allowed to be produced, traded, or imported into Vietnam.

Decree 15/2018/ND-CP dated February 2, 2018, continues to maintain the requirements for the labeling of foods containing at least one GE ingredient that exceeds five percent of the product’s total ingredients and labeling exemptions for GE food in the following cases:

- Pre-packaged food containing GE ingredients without the detection of the modified genes or products of the modified genes in the food;
- Fresh GE foods and unpackaged processed GE foods sold directly to consumers; and
- GE foods used in emergencies, such as natural disasters or epidemics.

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

MOH issued the following National Technical Regulations on food safety and hygiene for packages, containers, and equipment directly in contact with food:

- QCVN 12-1:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for synthetic resin packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food,
- QCVN 12-2:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for rubber packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food, and
- QCVN 12-3:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for metallic packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food.

Section IV: Food Additives Regulations

Vietnam maintained regulations on food additives in 2020. Currently, MOH's Circular 24/2019, dated August 30, 2019, provides regulations on the use of food additives and the lists of permissible additives in Vietnam (GAIN report [VM2019-0066](#)). Circular 24/2019 took effect on October 16, 2019 and replaced MOH's Circular 27/2012 and Circular 8/2015 on food additives.

Lists of Permitted Food Additives and Maximum Use Levels (MLs) in Food

Vietnam continues to adopt the use of food additives in accordance with Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) STAN 192-1995. Appendix 2A of Circular 24/2019 lists the additives permitted for use in food and their MLs in accordance with GSFA.

In addition, Circular 24/2019 permits the use of additional additives for wine, dairy products, spices, cereal, processed meat, sauces, and fish, which are currently not adopted in Codex standards. The list of additives and MLs that are not prescribed in GSFA, is provided in Appendix 2B of this Circular.

Flavorings

Vietnam allows the use of flavorings that are evaluated and determined as safe at estimated intakes or acceptable daily intake (ADI) by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). These flavorings must meet technical requirements on identity and purity prescribed in National Standard TCVN 6417:2010 guiding the use of flavorings.

Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

5.1. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides

MRLs for pesticides in food are regulated in MOH's Circular 50/2016/TT-BYT dated December 30, 2016 (GAIN report [VM7026](#)). This Circular, which took effect from July 1, 2017, provides MRLs for 205 compounds for a wide range of foods, including: fruits, vegetables, cereals, nuts, coffee, tea, meat, fat, skin, offal, eggs, milk and dairy products, dried food, vegetable oils, and spices. MRLs for a number of compounds, currently banned from use in Vietnam (e.g., endosulfan, endrin, lindane) are maintained in accordance with Codex standards.

As Vietnam initially banned the use of glyphosate in April 2019, the United States requested Vietnam to conduct appropriate risk analysis and maintain its current MRLs for glyphosate in align with Codex to avoid unwarranted trade disruptions. Resulting from extensive engagement from the United States, MARD notified its draft Circular to extend the use of glyphosate to the WTO as G/SPS/N/VNM/110 on February 17, 2020, for consultation with trading partners. MARD officially issued Circular 06/2020 on April 24, 2020, to extend the use of glyphosate to June 30, 2021. The extension is also listed in MARD's Circular 10/2020 dated September 9, 2020, issuing the List of Permissible Pesticides and the List of Banned Pesticides in Vietnam. On June 10, 2020, the Vietnam SPS Office sent a letter to FAS Vietnam, in response to the USG comments, to confirm the maximum residue limits (MRLs) for glyphosate, prescribed in MOH's Circular 50/2016, remain unchanged.

5.2. Maximum Limits for Mycotoxin and other Contaminants

MOH has promulgated the following National Technical Regulations (NTR) regulating the tolerance of contaminants in food:

- QCVN 8-1:2011, promulgating the tolerance of mycotoxin contamination in food. This regulation sets up the maximum limits of aflatoxin, ochratoxin A, and other mycotoxins in many types of food, including, nuts, corn, rice, raw milk, milk powder, spices, food formula for babies, etc.
- QCVN 8-2:2011, promulgating the tolerance of heavy metal contamination in food. This regulation establishes the safety limits for levels of contamination of arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, methyl mercury and zinc allowed in food.
- QCVN 8-3:2012/BYT, promulgating the tolerance of microbiological contamination in food. This regulation prescribes the limits of microbiological contamination in food for milk and dairy, eggs, and products from eggs, meat and products from meat, aquaculture products, nutrition products for children aged 0 to 36 months old, bottled natural water, bottled water and instant-use ice, cream, vegetables and fruits, and products from vegetables and fruits.

5.3. Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs

On September 7, 2016, MOH announced the amendment of Circular 24/2013/TT-BYT, dated August 14, 2013, regulating MRLs for veterinary drugs in food. The amendment proposed zero tolerances for a number of compounds in food, including ractopamine, trenbolone acetate, and zeranol.

In response, the USG and other countries requested Vietnam not deviate from its past practice of following Codex standards and urged MOH to maintain its current MRLs for ractopamine and other veterinary drugs. On May 31, 2017, the United States and Vietnam announced a resolution of the veterinary drug MRLs issue in a Joint Statement issued by the U.S. President and the Vietnamese Prime Minister. On November 9, 2018, MOH confirmed they reached an agreement with MARD to temporarily suspend the amendment of Circular 24/2013 and maintain the current MRLs for veterinary drugs in food.

On November 28, 2019, MARD issued Circular 21/2019 Guiding a number of Articles of the Animal Husbandry Law on Animal Feed. The Circular removes ractopamine, trenbolone acetate, and zeranol from the list of chemicals banned for domestic use in Vietnam (GAIN Report [VM2019-0065](#)).

5.4. Maximum Limits (MLs) of Contaminants in Feeds

MARD issued National Technical Regulation on Maximum Limits (MLs) of Undesirable Substances in Feed and Feed Ingredients (NTR190) on March 9, 2020. NTR190, was initially going to enter into force on July 1, 2020, set a zero tolerance for *Salmonella* and renewed MLs for heavy metals in feed and feed ingredients, including grains and oilseeds for both livestock and aquaculture feed (GAIN Report [VM2020-0016](#)).

The United States and other trading partners raised concerns about the negative trade impacts of and NTR190MARD notified it to the WTO as G/SPS/N/VNM/113. On June 30, 2020, MARD issued Circular 08/2020 postponing the implementation of the zero tolerance for *Salmonella* and MLs for heavy metals in feed ingredients of plant origin until June 30, 2021, to allow time for further review and assessment.

FAS Vietnam continues to monitor the review and amendment of NTR190. Should U.S. exporters have any questions, please contact aghamoi@fas.usda.gov.

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations and Registration Measures

Vietnam requires several kinds of certificates for imported food and agricultural products. The list of export certificates and certification requirements relevant for each group of food and agricultural products are detailed in the FAIRS Export Certificate Report. Generally, Vietnam requires Export Certificates for meat, poultry, and seafood, and Phytosanitary Certificates for plant products. A Certificate of Free Sale or Health Certificate is required for health supplements, medical foods, food for special dietary uses, dietary products for children up to 36 months, genetically engineered (GE), and irradiated food. A Certificate of Analysis (COA) is required for feed ingredients, including grains and oilseeds. There are no mandatory requirements for COA, but Vietnamese importers usually request COA containing testing results of key specifications relevant with national technical regulations on food/feed safety.

Imported food and agricultural products are subject to relevant specialized inspections, including food safety inspection, quarantine inspection, and quality inspection at points of entry. Testing of safety indicators (per national technical regulations on food safety) is required for meat, poultry, seafood, and dairy products. Reportedly, Vietnam carries out testing to monitor residues of pesticides in imported fruits and vegetables. Imported foods are also subject to food safety monitoring in the domestic market.

Post notes that on November 24, 2020, MOH requested border inspection agencies to carry out food packaging sampling to test for SARS-CoV-2 virus, especially frozen foods imported from countries identified as high risk based on their COVID-19 status. Later, in response to the United States and other trading partners' questions regarding the scientific basis for such measures as well as their trade impacts, the Vietnam Food Administration (VFA) stated that the test is for monitoring purposes, thus won't affect trade. However, while emphasizing that the testing focuses on the packaging of frozen meat and seafood, VFA did not rule out testing of other products/packaging. VFA recommended that industry notify or discuss with VFA if there are any concerns or issues and confirmed that they will increase communication with MARD and GDVC to communicate that this is a 'monitoring' program. As of December 2020, industry representatives reported that the COVID-19 sampling is carried out randomly at the same time as the quarantine check. FAS Vietnam continues to monitor and provide updates on the development of this issue.

6.1. Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Facility Registration

Vietnam requires exporters to be registered on the list of establishments eligible for export of foodstuffs of animal origin and seafood. Starting from July 18, 2017, the Department of Animal Health (DAH) assumed responsibility for the registration of establishments (GAIN report [VM7036](#)).

As mentioned in Section I of this report, GVN's Decree 15/2018 consolidates import requirements for food derived from aquatic animals and terrestrial animals. Accordingly, Vietnam requires a two-step registration for the export of meat and seafood to Vietnam:

- Exporting countries are required to register for the list of countries and territories approved for export to Vietnam.
- Exporters of food derived from aquatic animals and terrestrial animals, except for processed and prepackaged products, are required to register on the list of facilities approved by Vietnam competent authorities.

In 2020, DAH has resumed approving applications for meat and seafood within 30 working days. Although it continues to approve facilities' application packages on a case-by-case basis. Post notes that, up to date, DAH accepts heat-treated and pre-packaged products as processed products, thus, heat treated products are exempted from facility registration.

The list of establishments eligible to export meat and meat products to Vietnam is available at: <http://cucthuy.gov.vn/Pages/danh-sach-cac-doanh-nghiep-cua-22-nuoc-du-dieu-kien-xuat-khau-thuc-pham-co-nguon-goc-dong-vat-tren-can-vao-viet-nam.aspx>

The list of establishments eligible for exporting seafood to Vietnam is available at: <http://cucthuy.gov.vn/Pages/danh-sach-thuy-san.aspx>

Should U.S. exporters have any questions or need clarification concerning the registration process for meat and meat products please contact: aghanoi@fas.usda.gov or usda4circ25@gmail.com.

For export of seafood to Vietnam, please refer to the guidance of the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's Seafood Inspection Program at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/export-requirements-country-and-jurisdiction-n-z#vietnam>

6.2. Product Registration

6.2.1. Processed and Pre-packaged Food

Decree 15/2018 requires food enterprises to publish a Product Self-Declaration to clarify quality specifications, labeling information, product shelf-life and other technical information prior to manufacture and/or import of these products.

Article 4.2 of Decree 15 allows products and raw materials imported for processing for re-export or for internal production that are not for domestic sale to be exempt from self-declaration. On March 9, 2018, the Directorate of Customs instructed local customs authorities to allow this exemption based on the importer's declaration on the purposes of use for imported shipments. Importers are fully responsible for the use of imported shipments in accordance with their declaration (GAIN Report [VM8016](#)).

6.2.2. Foodstuffs of Plant, Animal Origin, and Seafood

Vietnam requires foodstuffs of plant, animal origin, and seafood to be registered for import quarantine and food safety inspection prior to importation to Vietnam. The procedures are detailed in Section 6.3.

6.2.3. Live Aquatic Animals for Consumption

Vietnam allows imports of live aquatic animals for human consumption if they are listed in the Appendix VIII of Government's Decree 26/2019 guiding the implementation of the Law on Fishery - the list of aquatic animals eligible for trade in Vietnam. Post notes that DAH no longer requires U.S. exporters of live aquatic animals to register for export to Vietnam.

Risk Assessment of Live Aquatic Animals

For the initial import of live aquatic animals that are not included in the list of aquatic animals eligible for trade, the live aquatic animal's environmental impacts must be evaluated by the Directorate of Fisheries (DFISH). According to MARD's Circular 25/2018 regulating risk assessment and granting import permit for live aquatic animals, importers must submit applications to DFISH for their evaluation. The application consists of:

- An application for import permit.
- A description of the biological characteristics of imported live aquatic animals.
- A plan for the management and observation of imported live aquatic animals (using the form issued together with Circular 25/2018).

Import of Live Lobster to Vietnam

DFISH issued Decision 540/QD-TCTS-TTKN, dated September 7, 2015, recognizing American lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) as approved under a risk assessment. The Decision is available at: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Thuong-mai/Quy-dinh-540-QD-TCTS-TTKN-tom-hum-nhap-khau-thuy-san-song-da-duoc-danh-gia-rui-ro-289629.aspx>. This decision permits the importation of American lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) into Vietnam for food use, but importers are required to obtain an import permit for each shipment from DFISH (Article 6 of Circular 25/2018).

6.2.4. Genetically Engineered (GE) Food and Feed

GE products are required to obtain a Certificate of Approval for Food and/or Feed Use (herein referred as Food and Feed Certificate) prior to importation, production, and trade in Vietnam.

Under Decree 69/2010/ND-CP dated June 21, 2010, on Biosafety for Genetically Modified Organisms, MARD is responsible for reviewing applications and granting Food and Feed Certificates for GE products. The conditions for import and trade of GE food and feed, previously prescribed in Decree 69/2010, are consolidated in Decree 123/2018 dated September 17, 2018, amending and supplementing conditions for agricultural trade and business.

The process for applying for a Food and Feed Use Certificate is detailed in MARD's Circular 2/2014 dated January 24, 2014. The Circular also regulates the process to revoke Food and Feed Use Certificates.

6.3. Specialized Import Inspection

6.3.1. Food Safety Inspection

Decree 15/2018 set a new import inspection scheme to streamline and synchronize inspection methods conducted by MOH, MARD, and MOIT. The new inspection regime includes three inspection methods: reduced inspection, tightened inspection, and normal inspection, which reduce the amount of required sampling, mainly through document examinations (GAIN report [VM8016](#)).

Exemption of Food Safety Import Inspection

As mentioned in Section I - General Food Laws, Decree 15/2018 establishes a broader range of foods exempt from of import inspections. According to Article 13 of Decree 15/2018, the following products are exempted from import inspection:

- The product has a Certificate of Registered Product Declaration.
- Food in hand luggage of inbound passengers that is sent before or after arrival to serve the passengers' personal needs or travel purpose, gifts within duty-free allowances.
- Imports for personal use of people eligible for diplomatic immunity.
- Products in transit, temporarily imported for re-export or in bonded warehouses.
- Samples for testing or research whose quantities are suitable for these purposes and confirmed by the owners.
- Products used for display at exhibitions or fairs.
- Products, raw materials imported for production or processing of exports or internal production and that are not for domestic sale.
- Temporarily imported products for sale at duty-free shops.
- Imports serving emergency purposes under orders of the Government or the Prime Minister.

6.3.2. Import Quarantine for Plants and Plant Products

Plant Quarantine

Plant quarantine is governed by the Law 41/2013/QH13 on Plant Protection and Quarantine. This law entered into force on January 1, 2015. The Plant Protection Department (PPD), under MARD, is currently the agency responsible for import quarantine of products of plant origin. The list of its inspection bodies is specified in Appendix II of this report. Under the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine, MARD released Circular 30/2014/TT-BNNPTNT (dated September 5, 2014), Circular 33/2014 (dated October 10, 2014), and Circular 35/2014/TT-BNNPTNT (dated October 31, 2014). Circular 30/2014 published the list of articles subject to plant quarantine and the list of articles subject to pest risk analysis before importation into Vietnam. This Circular outlines that articles subject to plant quarantine must be quarantined at the Vietnamese port of entry in order to be granted customs clearance (GAIN report [VM4057](#)). Circular 33/2014 provides guidance on quarantine procedures for import, export, and in-transit for consignments of plant origin. Circular 35/2014 circulated the list of quarantine pests (GAIN report [VM4067](#)). All these Circulars have been in force since January 1, 2015.

MARD released a list of Harmonized Schedule (HS) codes for the list of regulated articles subject to plant quarantine in Section 11- Appendix I of Circular 15/2018 dated October 29, 2018 promulgating HS Codes for the list of goods subject to its jurisdiction (GAIN Report [VM9002](#)). The list includes some kinds of processed products such as flour, meal, and powder of potatoes (HS code 1105.10) and flakes, granules, and pellets of potatoes (HS code 1105.20) which are not included in the list of processed products eligible for U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)'s phytosanitary certificate. As of October 2020, MARD announced its plan to revise the list of HS codes for products subject to quarantine, FAS Vietnam continues to work with PPD/MARD to request the exemption of these processed products from the list.

6.3.3. Import Quarantine for Animals and Animal Products

Animal quarantine is governed under the Law on Animal Health, which entered into force on July 1, 2016. DAH is currently the agency in charge of both quarantine and food safety inspections for imported food of animal origin. In regards to inspection procedures on the quarantine of terrestrial animals and aquatic animal products DAH stated that they must follow the GVN's Decree 15/2018 on food safety as well as Circular 25/2016 (GAIN report [VM6065](#)) and Circular 26/2016 (GAIN report [VM6053](#)).

The inspection bodies responsible for quarantine and food safety inspection for imported food of animal origin are the Regional Offices of Animal Health (RAHO) under DAH. These inspection bodies are listed in Appendix II of this report.

Quarantine of Terrestrial Animals and Products Thereof

Quarantine inspection of terrestrial animals and products thereof, is detailed in MARD's Circular 25, dated June 30, 2016 (GAIN report [VM6065](#)). The list of HS Codes for animal and animal products subject to quarantine requirements is prescribed in Section 1 Appendix I of Circular 15/2018 dated October 29, 2018 promulgating HS Codes for the list of goods subject to MARD's jurisdiction. Post

notes that imported animal products, including processed meat and poultry, dairy products, and egg products are subject to both food safety and quarantine inspection.

Quarantine of Aquatic Animal and Products Thereof

Quarantine for aquatic animal and products thereof is prescribed in MARD's Circular 26/2016, dated (GAIN report [VM6053](#)) and MARD Circular 36/2018 (GAIN report [VM9020](#)). A detailed list of HS 8-digit codes for aquatic animals and aquatic animal products subject to quarantine is currently prescribed in Section 6 – Appendix I of MARD's Circular 15/2018 promulgating HS Codes for the list of goods subject to its jurisdiction. The list includes but is not limited to aquatic animal products in the forms of processed, canned, simply-prepared, frozen, chilled, and fresh products.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

7.1. National Technical Regulations on Food Quality and Safety

MOH has promulgated National Technical Regulations (NTR) setting quality specifications and safety limits for food products, including:

- NTR for nutritious cereal products for children ages 6 to 36 months,
- NTR on supplemental formula products for children ages 6 to 36 months,
- NTR on special medical-treatment products for children ages 0 to 12 months,
- NTR on micronutrient fortified food,
- NTR on natural mineral water and bottled water, and
- NTR on food additives including acidity regulators, firming agents, artificial sweeteners, antifoaming agents, antioxidant agents, and others.

The NTRs are available at: <http://www.vfa.gov.vn/van-ban.html>

7.2. Micronutrients and Fortified Food

GVN issued Decree 9/2016/ND-CP, dated January 28, 2016, regulating the mandatory fortification of salt, wheat flour, and vegetable oils (GAIN report [VM6012](#)). Accordingly, the following foods must be fortified with the relevant micronutrients:

- Edible salt and salt used for food processing must be fortified with iodine;
- Wheat flour used for food processing must be fortified with iron and zinc and;
- Vegetable oils which contain one of the following ingredients: soy oil, palm oil, rapeseed oil, and peanut oil, must be fortified with vitamin A, except for vegetable oils used for food processing.

MOH issued Circular 44/2015/TT-BYT, dated November 30, 2015, promulgating the List of Micronutrients Allowed for Supplementation and Fortification in Food Products. However, this Circular is not applicable for nutritional formula products for children (GAIN report [VM6005](#)).

7.3. Health Supplements and Dietary Products

Decree 15/2018 requires a Product Declaration for the following products:

- Health supplements, medical foods, food for special dietary uses.
- Dietary products for children up to 36 months.
- Mixed food additives with new usages, food additives that are not on the permitted list, or food additives not intended for use for the food categories as prescribed by MOH.

Importers are required to submit applications for product declaration to either VFA or provincial competent authorities. Within seven working days (for unregistered food additives, medical foods, food for special dietary uses, and dietary products for children up to 36 months) or 21 working days (for health supplements) from the day the competent authorities receive adequate documents, the authorities shall verify the application and issue a Certificate of Registered Product Declaration. An application for product declaration consists of:

- Certificate of Free Sale, or Certificate of Exportation, or Health Certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of origin/exporting country, which has a safety assurance statement for users or permits the free sale of the products in the country of origin/exporting country (the certificate must be consular-notarized);
- Original copy or certified true copy of the testing results issued by recognized laboratories or ISO 17025 accredited laboratories within 12 months up to the date of document submission. The testing results must specify safety indicators prescribed by MOH according to risk management principles under international regulations or standards applied by the supplier if relevant MOH regulations are not available.
- Documents about the scientific evidence of the effects of the product or ingredients: original or authenticated copy.
- Authenticated copy of Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) or an equivalent certificate for health supplements are required from July 1, 2019.

Section VIII: Trademark Law, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

Copyright and trademarks are protected under the Intellectual Property Law and related legislation. MOST's National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP), is the relevant Vietnam trademark authority.

On November 12, 2018, Vietnam became the seventh member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to ratify the agreement, which includes greater protection of intellectual property rights. On June 30, 2019, Vietnam and the European Union signed the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), which provides safeguards for protected designation of origin products like cheese, cognac, and wine. Should Vietnam enact new laws and regulations on trademark or geographical indicators (GIs), Post will issue new GAIN Reports notifying these revisions.

8.1. Laws on Intellectual Property (IPL)

- Law 50/2005/QH11 of November 29, 2005, on Intellectual Property (the English translation is available at <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5005>). This law stipulates copyright, copyright-related rights; industrial property rights; rights in plant varieties and for the protection of these rights. This law entered into force on July 1, 2006.
- Law 36/2009/QH12 of June 19, 2009, amending and supplementing a Number of Articles of the Law on Intellectual Property (the English translation is available at <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=6566>). This law entered into force on January 1, 2010.

8.2. Related Regulations on Trademark Registration

- Decree 103/2006/ND-CP of September 22, 2006, detailing and guiding the Implementation of a Number of Articles of the Law on Intellectual Property regarding Industrial Property. The Decree details provisions and guidelines for implementing certain articles of the 2005 Intellectual Property Law concerning industrial property rights, including rights to trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, and patents. The Decree entered into force on October 21, 2006 (see details at: <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5011>).
- Circular 1/2007/TT-BKHHCN issued on February 14, 2007, guiding the Implementation of the Government's Decree 103/2006/ND-CP from September 22, 2006 detailing and guiding the Implementation of a Number of Articles of the Law on Intellectual Property Regarding Industrial Property, details provisions on the procedures for the registration of industrial property rights. The Circular entered into force on May 6, 2007 (available at: <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5013>).
- MOST's Circular 18/2011/TT-BKHHCN of July 22, 2011, amending and supplementing several provisions of Circular 1/2007/TTBKHHCN of February 14, 2007 on procedures for the registration of industrial property rights (available at: <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=14703>).
- Decree 99/2013/ND-CP from August 29, 2013, the Government on Sanctioning of Administrative Violations in Industrial Property, specifies administrative violations in industrial property, sanctioning forms and levels, remedies; procedures for filing written requests for handling of violations; competence and procedures for settling written requests for handling of violations; sanctioning competence and procedures and enforcement of decisions to sanction administrative violations in industrial property. The Decree entered into force on October 15, 2013 (available at: http://www.noip.gov.vn/vi_VN/web/guest/van-ban-phap-luat-quy-che).

Section IX: Import Procedures

9.1. Law on Customs

Vietnam's National Assembly promulgated the new Law on Customs 54/2014/QH13, which entered into force on January 1, 2015. Accordingly, live animals, plants, goods difficult to preserve, or deemed

as other special goods shall be prioritized for customs inspection. Importers will conduct the customs declaration before the date that the commodities arrive at the border checkpoint or within 30 days from the date on which the commodities arrive at the border checkpoint. Post notes that this change signified a regulatory easing, compared with previous regulations, which only allowed declarers (importers or customs brokers) to make changes to the declaration form before the physical examination of goods.

According to the Law on Customs, the customs declaration shall be made electronically. A paper declaration may be made for the following exceptions:

- Imported and exported goods of border residents;
- Imported and exported goods in excess of the limit of tax exemption applied to incoming and outgoing persons;
- Cargo for the purpose of emergency assistance and humanitarian aid;
- Cargo that is personal gifts, presents, properties;
- Cargo that is equipment containing goods according to the temporary importation/re-exportation, temporary exportation/re-importation rotation method.
- Cargo to be temporarily imported and re-exported or exported and re-imported and carried by incoming and outgoing persons for working in the pre-determined time.
- If the customs electronic data processing system or electronic customs declaration system fail to carry out transactions which may be caused by the operational failure of one or both systems or caused by other reasons. In cases where the electronic data processing system fails to carry out the customs procedures, customs authorities shall be responsible for making an announcement at least 1 hour from the time when such failures take place.
- Other cargo, as stipulated by the Minister of Finance.

The Customs electronic data processing system shall receive, examine, register, and handle electronic customs declarations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

9.2. Decrees and Circulars Guiding the Law on Customs

GVN's Decrees guides the Law on Customs

The GVN issued Decree 08/2015/ND-CP, dated January 21, 2015, promulgating the implementation of the Law on Customs in detail regarding customs procedures, customs supervision, and inspection. Decree 08/2015 entered into force on March 15, 2015.

On April 20, 2018, the GVN issued Decree 59/2018/ND-CP that revises and supplements a number of articles of Decree 08/2015/ND-CP on the regulations and enforcement rules for customs procedures, audits, and inspections. Decree 59/2018/ND-CP amends and supplements contents on customs declaration; valuation methods for import goods; customs inspection authority; customs procedures for temporary import and export goods, in-transit goods, etc. Decree 59/2018 took effect from June 5, 2018. The Vietnamese version of this Decree is available at: <http://vbpl.vn/botaichinh/Pages/vbpq-van-ban-goc.aspx?ItemID=128827>

Regarding the calculation of the value of imported goods under the previous regulation (Decree 08/2015/ND-CP), if importers did not agree with the customs authorities' adjusted value as compared to the importers' declared value, the customs authorities would release the goods and transfer the case to the post-clearance inspection. Clause 9 of Decree 59/2018 requests that importers adjust their declarations within 5 working days if their declared customs value has been rejected. If importers do not adjust the relevant declarations within this time, the customs authorities will adjust the customs value at their own discretion and impose a tax and duty assessment. This process will also apply in cases where the customs authorities have doubts on the importer's declared customs value and where, following a consultation with customs, an importer fails to adjust the declared customs value as requested within 5 working days from the date of the consultation with the customs authorities.

As of December 2020, GDVC published a draft Amendment of Decree 08/2015 and Decree 59/2018, providing revisions of guidance on enforcement of the Customs Law on customs-related procedures, examination, and supervision and control measures. FAS Vietnam will monitor the amendment of these Decrees and provide updates on new developments.

Ministry of Finance (MOF) Details Customs Procedures

On April 20, 2018, MOF also issued the following Circulars on customs procedures:

- Circular 39/2018/TT-BTC amending and supplementing a number of articles of Circular 38/2015/TT-BTC, dated March 25, 2015, on customs procedures, customs supervision, inspection, export tax, import tax, and tax administration applied to exported and imported goods.
- Circular 38/2018/TT-BTC regulating the identification of origin of imported and exported goods.

For goods subject to food safety inspection, Clause 21 of Circular 39/2018 requests imported goods to be held at checkpoints, in-land ports, or warehouses for inspection, except in the event that the specialized inspection body allows the goods to be inspected at the designated places; or in the event that the import goods are brought to the storage places at the request of the customs declarant.

Certificate of Origin

For animal products in HS Code Chapters 2, 15, and 16, due to Circular 38/2018/TT-BTC, a Certificate of Origin (C/O) is required for meat, livestock, and poultry products from June 5, 2018 (GAIN Report [VM8062](#)). This C/O must contain the following required information including: i) Name of exporter; ii) Name of importer; iii) Means of transport; iv) Goods description, HS codes; v) Quantity, weight or volume of goods; vi) Countries, groups of countries or territories of origin; vii) Date of issuance; and viii) Signature of the person in charge of issuing the C/O.

As of October 2020, FAS Vietnam has engaged with GDVC to address their questions on the authenticity of the C/O issued by U.S. authorities not containing a stamp. On October 28, GDVC issued Official letter 6932/TCHQ-GSQL providing instructions to customs departments at entry points, not to

require a C/O to bear a stamp of the issuing authority. A signed C/O from a certifying authority is accepted without a stamp.

Customs Valuation

On August 30, 2019, MOF issued Circular 60/2019 to revise a number of articles of Circular 39/2015 on the determination of customs value for imported and exported goods. Accordingly, the Customs authorities shall determine the customs value of imported goods by using either: a) the transaction value of imported goods (actual price paid by the buyer); b) the transaction value of identical imported goods; c) the transaction value of similar imported goods; d) the method of deduction value; d) the method of calculation value or e) the method of inference. The Directorate of Customs manages the list of exported and imported goods with risk of the value being declared at a lower price than the actual transaction price, which is the basis for customs authorities to compare and check the declared value of the customs declarant.

Customs valuation has been arising as an issue of concerns in 2020 as GDVC continues to use reference pricing to value U.S. meat and poultry imports. FAS Vietnam recommended GDVC fulfil its WTO Customs Valuation Agreement obligations by notifying their national customs valuation legislation. FAS Vietnam will continue to work with GDVC on this issue.

Section X: Trade Facilitation

Pre-clearance Program

Currently, Vietnam has no pre-clearance program for food and agricultural products from the United States.

National Single Window and E-Customs System

Vietnam implements the National Single Window (NSW) for specialized inspections of imported and exported goods. Up to date, single-window procedures are applicable for most kinds of food and agricultural products, including quarantine and food safety inspection for meat, poultry, and seafood, quarantine inspection for plant products, quality inspection of feed ingredients, quarantine and food safety inspection for plant products used for food, food safety inspection for processed and packaged foods.

Customs procedures are managed through an e-Customs system, “Vietnam Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System/ Vietnam Customs Intelligence Information System (VNACCS/VCIS),”. There are six key functions within VNACCS/VCIS: e-Declaration; e-Manifest; e-Invoice; e-Payment; e-Certificate of Origin; and “Selectivity.” Selectivity automatically assigns imported shipments to three channels: green, yellow, and red, which are subject to different levels of customs inspection based on assessment of importers’ history and commodity risks.

E-certificates

DAH accepts certificates with digital signatures for U.S. meat and poultry products as of December 21, 2020. For plant products, PPD requests original certificates on paper. However, due to logistical challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, PPD currently accepts paper copies of certificates while importers must provide original copies at a later day.

Port Fees

Port fees vary from port to port. Major fees include but are not limited to storage fees; repair and maintenance fees; lift-on and -off fees; fees for transferring goods to the inspection yard; unloading fees related to manual inspections, and sampling. Large ports usually publish their fee schedules on their respective websites. For information on major ports, please see: [Cai Mep Port](#); [Cai Lan Port](#); [Phu My Port](#); [Da Nang Port](#); and, [Hai Phong Port](#).

Average Release Times

Release times for goods depends on a number of factors, including but not limited to timing of specialized inspections, freight operations, and timing of customs inspection at the points of entry.

According to current regulations, if imported goods are subject to specialized inspection, customs must inspect the cargo within eight working hours upon receipt of the specialized inspection result. In special cases involving extremely large volumes, diverse products, or complicated inspection processes, customs can extend the cargo inspection, but not more than two days. Reportedly, the average time for customs inspection at Ha Noi Customs was ten hours and twenty-two minutes in 2019, reduced by more than six hours from 2018¹. The 2020 annual release time measurement has not been released yet, but industry has reported release times were prolonged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the lockdown during April and May.

Time required for specialized inspection vary depending on applicable lab tests. According to industry sources, release times for frozen meat and poultry shipments is between three to five working days. For processed foods, release times could be up to three working days if the products are subject to required tests. For grains and oilseeds, release times are around five to seven working days.

Common Delays

Delays in a shipment release can occur for various reasons, including but not limited to documentation issues, quarantine pests, or regulatory changes. In 2020, FAS Vietnam identified numerous issues leading to delays in shipment releases. For meat and poultry, shipments could be detained due to discrepancy between export certificates and product labels, parts of the shipment sourced from an unlisted facility, or facility numbers that do not match with the export certificate and DAH's approved list. For dairy products, the main reasons for detainments include certificates issued later than the date

¹ <https://customsnews.vn/ha-noi-customs-average-customs-clearance-time-reduced-more-than-six-hours-16593.html>

on the bill of lading, shipments for food use but having a certificate from APHIS (for feed use), and discrepancy in the product description between the sanitary certificate and other export documents.

For grains and oilseeds, if there is a suspected issue with quarantine pests, shipment clearance may take up to four working days, depending on lab test results times and the endorsement of plant inspection certificates. In some cases, new regulatory requirements, especially those without clear guidance and sufficient lead time, can cause delays or detained shipments at ports.

APPENDICES

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

International Cooperation Department (ICD)

(MARD) 2 Ngoc Ha Street, Hanoi,

Tel: 84.24.38459670; Fax: 84.24.37330752

Contact: Ms. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan, Director General,

Email: htqt@mard.gov.vn

Plant Protection Department (PPD)

149 Ho Dac Di, Hanoi

Tel: 84.24.38519451 Fax: 84.24.35330043

Website: www.ppd.gov.vn

Contact: Mr. Hoang Trung, Director General,

Email: htqt.bvtv@mard.gov.vn

Department of Animal Health (DAH)

15/78 Phuong Mai-Dong Da Hanoi

Tel: 84.24.38696788; Fax: 84.24.38691311

Website: www.cucthuy.gov.vn

Contact: Mr. Pham Van Dong, Director General

Email: TY@mard.gov.vn;

DAH/Animal Quarantine Division

Tel: 84.24.38687151; Fax: 84.24.38686339

Contact: Nguyen Hoang Tung, Deputy Head of Animal Inspection Division

Directorate of Fisheries (DFISH)

10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Hanoi

Tel: 84.24.37245371 ; Fax : 84.24.37245120

Email : tcts@mard.gov.vn

Department of Livestock Production (DLP)

16 Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Ha Noi

Tel: 84.24.37345443; Fax: 84.24.37345444

Email: cn@mard.gov.vn

National Agro-Forestry and Fishery Quality Assurance Department (NAFIQAD)

10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Hanoi;

Tel: 84.24.8354 966; Fax: 84.24.8317221

Contact: Mr. Nguyen Nhu Tiep, Director General

Email: nafiqad@mard.gov.vn;

MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH)

Vietnam Food Administration (VFA)

138A Giang Vo, Hanoi

Tel: 84.24. 38464489-38463702; Fax: 84.24.38463739

Email: vfa@vfa.gov.vn;

Website: www.vfa.gov.vn;

Contact: Mr. Nguyen Thanh Phong, Director General; Ms. Tran Viet Nga, Deputy General Director.

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MOIT)

Department of Science and Technology

54 Hai Ba Trung, Hoan Kiem, Ha Noi

Tel: 84.24. 22 202 222

Fax: 84.24.22 202525

Website: www.moit.gov.vn

Email: VKHCN@moit.gov.vn

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP)

386 Nguyen Trai, Thanh Xuan, Hanoi;

Tel: 84.24.3858 3069, 84.24.3858 3425; Fax: 84.24.3858 8449, 84.24.3858 4002

Website: www.noip.gov.vn

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

General Department of Vietnam Customs

Block E3 - Duong Dinh Nghe street, Yen Hoa, Cau Giay, Hanoi

Website: <https://www.customs.gov.vn/home.aspx?language=en-US>

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts

Processed and Packaged Foods

National Institute of Food Control

65 Pham Than Duat, Cau Giay District, Hanoi

Tel: 0243.933.5741

Quality and Certification Centre 1

8 Hoang Quoc Viet, Cau Giay District, Hanoi

Tel: 0243.836.1399

Quality and Certification Centre 2

02 Ngo Quyen, Son Tra District, Da Nang.

Tel: 02363.833.009

Quality and Certification Centre 3

49 Pasteur, District 1, HCMC

Tel: 0283.829.4274

Ho Chi Minh City Institute of Public Health

159 Hung Phu, District 8, HCMC

Tel: 0283.855.9503

National Institute of Nutrition

48B Tang Bat Ho, Hai Ba Trung district, Hanoi

Tel: 0243.971.7090

Food Industry Research Institute

301 Nguyen Trai, Thanh Xuan district, Hanoi

Tel: 02438.582.752

Plant Products

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region I

2 Tran Quang Khai, Hai Phong

Tel: 84.225.3821839; Fax: 84.225.3842593

Email: kdtv1hp@yahoo.com

Management area: Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Hung Yen, Hai Duong, Quang Ninh

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region II

28 Mac Dinh Chi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: 84.28.38.251.401; Fax: 84.28.38.293.266

Email: kdtvv2hcm@vnn.vn

Management area: Ho Chi Minh City, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai, Long An, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Dong Thap, Ba Ria Vung Tau

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region III

146 Hoang Dieu, Da Nang

Tel: 84.511.3821622; Fax: 84.511.3873099

Email: kdtv3@vnn.vn

Management area: Da Nang, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region IV

66 Le Hong Phong, Quy Nhon, Binh Dinh

Tel: 84.256.3822964; Fax: 84.256.3822964

Management area: Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Daklak, Dak Nong

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region V

149 Ho Duc Di, Dong Da, Hanoi

Tel: 84.24.35.331302; Fax: 84.24.35332118

Email: cckdtv5@fpt.vn

Management area: Ha Noi, Bac Ninh, Bac Giang, Vinh Phuc, Phu Tho, Ha Tay, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Ha Nam, Hoa Binh, Son La

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region VI

28 Tran Phu, Vinh city, Nghe An;

Tel: 84.238.3837796;

Email: cckdtvv6@hn.vnn.vn

Management area: Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region VII

98B Ngo Quyen, Dong Kinh ward, Lang Son

Tel: 84.205.3875797; Fax: 84.205.3875797

Email: chicuckdtv7@gmail.com

Management area: Lang Son, Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Thai Nguyen

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region VIII

7 Nguyen Hue, TP Lao Cai

Tel: 84.214.3830503

Management area: Lao Cai, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Yen Bai, Lai Chau, Dien Bien

PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region IX

386B Cach Mang Thang 8, Can Tho

Tel: 84.292.3826709; Fax : 84.292.3828408

Email: kdtvv9@hcm.vnn.vn

Management area: Hau Giang, An Giang, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Vinh Long

Animal Products

DAH/Regional Animal Health Office I

Phuong Mai, Dong Da, Ha Noi

Tel: 84.24.38686971; Fax: 84.24.38685390

DAH/Regional Animal Health Office II

23 Da Nang, Ngo Quyen District, Hai Phong

Tel: 84.225.3836304; Fax: 84.225.3551698

DAH/Regional Animal Health Office III

51 Nguyen Sinh Sac, Vinh City, Nghe An

Tel: 84.238.3854390; Fax: 84.238.3584159

DAH/Regional Animal Health Office IV

12 Tran Quy Cap, Hai Chau district, Da Nang

Tel: 84.236.3887714

DAH/Regional Animal Health Office V

Buon Ma Thuat, Dak Lak

Tel: 84. 262.3877795

DAH/Regional Animal Health Office VI

521/1 Hoang Van Thu, Tan Binh District, Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: 84.28.39830722; Fax: 84.28.38569050

DAH/Regional Animal Health Office VII

88 Cach Mang Thang 8, Can Tho

Tel: 84.292.3767048

Attachments:

No Attachments