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Report Highlights:

Since its European Union (EU) accession in 2004, Lithuania has consistently harmonized its domestic food and agricultural regulations with EU standards. Post advises stakeholders to consult with Lithuanian importers and/or buyers to ensure current requirements are met. Post also recommends that the following report be read in conjunction with the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report, prepared by the U.S. Mission to the EU's Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA).

Disclaimer:

The following report was prepared by U.S. Embassy Warsaw's OAA, which has regional responsibility for Lithuania, for exporters of U.S.-origin food and agricultural products to Lithuania. While every effort was taken during preparation, Post cannot guarantee complete accuracy due to policy changes since publication, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was unavailable. Post recommends that U.S. exporters verify all import requirements with their Lithuanian customers before shipping any goods. 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 also should be read in conjunction with the EU-28 FAIRS report, which can be found [here](#). For updated developments regarding EU food and feed legislation, please see FAS Europe's [website](#).

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Executive Summary:

Lithuania follows the EU regulations and directives. Post recommends that this report should be read in conjunction with the FAIRS EU report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels in Belgium, available on the [GAIN Database](#). U.S. exporters should be aware that some interpretational variations can occur between EU Member States (MS). This report outlines specific requirements for food and agricultural product imports into Lithuania.

Section I. General Food Laws:

Lithuania follows EU regulations governing agricultural imports, as per the EU's single market principle, including Regulation EC/178/2002 (General Food Law) which establishes general principles and requirements under the EU's harmonized food law. While EU directives can dictate certain regulatory requirements within certain time frames, MS can oftentimes determine their own national implementing regulations. The Government of Lithuania (GOL) is responsible for ensuring that all food and agricultural stakeholders comply with EU food requirements.

In 2019, the European Commission (EC) amended the General Food Law after a 'fitness check' determined that ineffective risk-communication procedures had negatively affected consumer trust regarding risk management decisions. The EC also established Regulation 2019/1381 in June 2019

regarding transparency and sustainability of its risk assessment methodology. Regulation 2019/1381 aims to improve risk communication by creating a public registrar of private-sector research commissioned for approvals of genetically engineered (GE) products, novel foods, food and feed additives, plant protection products, and food packaging.

The two EU regulations which provide the basis of the EU's border control requirements for food and agriculture, and apply to all MS irrespective of national implementing regulations are:

- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 2016/2031 of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against plant pests.
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 2017/625 of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities carried out to ensure the application of food and feed law, and rules on animal health and animal welfare, plant health and plant protection products. The Regulation repeals former Regulation 882/2004.

The GOL regulates and enforces food and agricultural regulations via the Ministry of Agriculture (MinAg), State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS), Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Economy (MOE). SFVS is the central competent authority with overall responsibilities related to food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, and animal breeding. SFVS enforces food laws and regulations for commodities and other raw materials, processed foods, and feeds. SFVS ensures food and feed safety and free movement throughout the EU by ensuring that quality, labeling, and other requirements meet all relevant EU and Lithuanian regulations. Following a MinAg reorganization in 2019, a part of the State Animal Breeding Authority was moved from MinAg to under the SFVS. MinAg continues to develop and enforces laws and guidelines pertaining to food quality (raw and processed), plants, and organic foods.

The MOE regulates market policy in Lithuania, including implementing EU requirements. Regulations governing the movement of the food within Lithuania and the EU can be found via the [Seimas of The Republic of Lithuania](#) website. Food safety and quality for exported and imported food products are available online (only in the Lithuanian).

Other Relevant Lithuanian Food Laws:

- Law on Veterinary Activities (December 17, 1991, No I-2110 amended October 7, 1999)
- Law on Animal Welfare and Protection (October 03, 2012, No. XI-2271)
- Law on Product Safety (June 01, 1999, No. 64-2324, consolidated version: May 07, 2001)
- Law on Consumer Protection (November 10, 1994, No. I-657, consolidated version: from 01/01/2016 to 29/02/2016), as last amended on June 2015 _No XII-1867.
- Law on Seed Cultivation (November 15, 2001, No. IX-602, consolidated version: December 10, 2004).
- Law on Plant Protection (October 19, 1995, No. I-1069, consolidated version: June 04, 1998),
- Law on Alcohol (April 18, 1995, No I-857, consolidated version: February 07, 2013)
- Law on Environmental Protection (January 21, 1992, No. I-2223, consolidated version May 28, 2010), as last amended on 14 May 2015 – No XII-1718.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

Lithuanian food labeling requirements, standards, and specifications are based on EU requirements, chiefly Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding food information for consumers (FIC). The mandatory nutritional declaration requirement under the FIC were enforced as of December 13, 2016. In June 2018, the EC published additional [guidance](#) on the FIC implementation. Lithuania employs product of designated origin (PDO), geographic indication (GI), and traditional specialty guaranteed (TSG) protections. More information on labeling requirements can be found on FAS USEU's [website](#).

Compulsory Information

Article 9 of FIC Regulation 1169/2011 established the mandatory food and beverage label declarations:

- Name of the product
- List of ingredients
- Allergens listed in Annex II
- Quantity of certain ingredients or category of ingredients
- Net quantity of the product
- Date of minimum durability or “use by date”
- Any special storage conditions and/or conditions of use
- Name of business name and address of the food business operator under whose name the food is marketed. If that operator is not established in the EU, the name and address of the importer
- Country of origin or place of provenance as per provisions under Article 26
- Instructions for use where it would be difficult to make appropriate use of the food in the absence of such instructions
- Alcoholic strength by volume for beverages containing more than 1.2% by volume of alcohol
- Nutrition declaration
- Minimum font size for printing label/sticker is set at 1.2 mm

FIC Regulation 1169/2011 legislation establishes label visibility, font size, font and background contrast, and obligates disclosures for allergens, such as peanuts or dairy products, on product packaging. It also requires country of origin labeling (COOL) for fresh pork, poultry, goat, and sheep meat. The Regulation also requires nutritional information for processed foods. Its objective is to provide consumers with distinguishing characteristic between like-products produced from different ingredients (*e.g.* cheese-like products).

Food products intended for retail, hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) sales must comply with labeling requirements. The labeling, presentation, and advertising of food products must not mislead the consumer about the product’s characteristics or effects, or attributes related to disease prevention, treatment, or cure.

Flavorings

Annex III of the labeling directive designates flavorings be included in the list of ingredients. Specific requirements for the use of the term “natural” to describe a flavoring are established in Article 16 of

European Parliament and Council Regulation No. 1334/2008. For more information see Section IV “Food Additive Regulations.”

Organic Labeling

Organic labeling is overseen in Lithuania by the Ekoagros Company, a parastatal company founded by the Ministry of Agriculture. Ekoagros is accredited by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and it certifies agricultural products. Lithuania has a patented certification label for organic Lithuanian products. Lithuania follows all EU organic standards and regulations.

EU organic legislation covers wine via EC Implementing Regulation No. 203/2012, which establishes criteria to label wine as organic. Sorbic acid and desulfurization are not allowed and sulfite levels must be at least 30-50 mg per liter lower than nonorganic products. As Regulation 203/2012 was published in March 2012, just one month after the United States and the EU signed the Equivalency Arrangement, organic wine was not included in the deal. U.S. organic wines which are certified as meeting the EU’s organic wine-making rules can enter the EU.

Wine Labeling

Chapter II of Regulation (EC) No. 607/2009 establishes the application for PDO or GI wines. PDOs or GIs which have been accepted are entered in a “Register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications” maintained by the EC. The registrar is available online through the EC’s E-Bacchus database.

Chapter III of Regulation No. 607/2009 establishes on the use of traditional terms. The use of terms such as ‘style’, ‘type’, ‘method’, ‘as produced in’, ‘imitation’, ‘flavor’, ‘like’ or ‘similar’ in conjunction with a protected traditional term is not allowed. Traditional terms that are protected in the EU are listed in the E-Bacchus database. These terms are not allowed for use on products originating from non-EU countries. Since Regulation No.607/2009 was enforced, the EC received several applications from non-EU countries, mostly from the United States, to use protected EU terms.

Chapter IV of Regulation No. 607/2009 establishes compulsory and optional information on wine labels. The mandatory information must appear in the same field of vision on the container, in such a way that all the information (except the lot number) is readable without having to turn the container. Mandatory information must be clearly distinguishable from surrounding text or graphics.

Including the grape variety on the label is optional. For non-EU wines, the grape variety must be from at least one of the lists established by the International Organization of Vine and Wine, the Union for the Protection of Plant Varieties, or the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. The terms “barrel matured” and “barrel aged” (listed in Annex XVI to Regulation 607/2009) are not allowed for wines produced with oak chips.

Prepackaged Foods Labeling – Use of Stickers

Specific rules on the use of stickers to provide mandatory labeling information are not included in FIC Regulation No. 1169/2011. On this issue, the EC refers to point 2.1.1 of their Questions and Answers on the Application of Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 document which notes that “labels should not be

easily removable so as to jeopardize the availability or the accessibility of the mandatory food information to the consumer.”

Nutritional and Health Claims

The Annex to Nutrition & Health Claims Regulation (EC) No.1924/2006 lists the EU authorized nutrition claims and their U.S. Exporters should be aware that different pieces of legislation may apply to single product conditions of use. The use of nutrition claims not included in the annex is not allowed.

Health Claims

Rules on the use of health claims are regulated under the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006. Regulation (EU) No. 432/2012 establishes the EU’s list of functional health claims and the conditions of their use. Health claims in reference to certain botanical substances have been put on hold while the EC and MS discuss potential conflicts of the Health Claims Regulation with the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. Since December 14, 2012, all claims not authorized, and not on hold, and/or under consideration are not allowed. Food labels with any claims must comply with the provisions of FIC Regulation 1169/2011. EC Implementing Decision 2013/63 of January 24, 2013, establishes guidelines for regulating specific conditions for permitted health claims.

The list of permitted functional health claims is different from the individual applications for health claims relating to disease risk reduction and claims referring to the health and development of children which require an authorization on a case-by-case basis, following the submission of a scientific dossier to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). A simplified authorization procedure has been established for health claims based on new scientific data.

Regulation (EC) 353/2008 of 18 April 2008 sets out implementing rules for applications for the authorization of health claims as provided for in Article 15 of Regulation 1924/2006. Guidance on stakeholder applications for health claim approvals can be downloaded from EFSA’s [website](#).

Regulation (EU) 907/2013 of September 20, 2013, establishes rules for the use of “generic descriptors” which could be interpreted by consumers as health claims. Generic descriptors such as “digestive biscuits” and “cough drops” might normally be banned under Regulation 1924/2006 if they suggest a health benefit not evaluated scientifically by EFSA. For more information find the ‘New EU Regulation on Generic Descriptors’ report available on the [GAIN website](#). Trademarks and brand names that suggest health and/or nutritional benefits, but do not comply with the new rules, must be removed from the EU market by January 19, 2022.

COOL

COOL is mandatory for honey, fruit and vegetables, olive oil, fishery, aquaculture products, beef, pork, sheep, goat meat, and poultry. For more information on COOL requirements please refer to the [FAS EU website](#). On May 29, 2018, the EC published [Implementing Regulation 2018/775](#) mandating dual origin labeling when a country of origin is given or visually implied on the label of a food product but the origin is not the same as that of its primary ingredient. This Regulation will enter into force on April 1, 2020. Lithuania has launched national COOL scheme on milk, and milk used as an ingredient in dairy products on September 13, 2016.

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

Requirements on packaging and product containers in Lithuania are in accordance with the EU standards and regulations, chiefly Regulation (EC) 1935/2004 of 27 October 2004. Also, Regulation (EC) No 450/2009 of 29 May 2009 addresses materials and products which come into contact with food. Additional information on plastic material which come in contact with the food is described in Regulation (EU) No. 10/2011 of 14 January 2011 (OJ L12, 15.1.2011, page 1). This Regulation cites 21 permitted substances (plastic materials and articles) that may come into contact with food. Additional directives applied in Lithuania established by the Lithuanian legislative acts are published in the Lithuanian Official Journal '[Valsybes zinios](#)' online. For more information on size and content of packages and containers requirements please refer to the EU-28 FAIRS Report [here](#).

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

The EU's "Package on Food Improvement Agents" includes four Regulations: Regulation 1331/2008 establishing a common approval procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavorings; Regulation (EC) 1332/2008 on food enzymes; Regulation (EC) 1333/2008 on food additives; and Regulation 1334/2008 on flavorings.

Regulation (EC) No.1331/2008 establishes an approval process for food additives, food enzymes and food flavorings based on safety evaluations carried out by EFSA. Implementing regulations are established under Regulation 234/2011, which clarifies administrative and technical data required by the EC. The EC will then request EFSA to verify the suitability of the data. An application consists of a letter, a technical dossier, and a summary of the dossier.

Approved additives are listed in Annex II to the Food Additives Regulation 1333/2008. The approved uses of additives are listed according to the food category which they may be added. Annex I to Regulation 1333/2008 lists 26 different categories of food additives. Chlorine, bromates, and peroxides are not allowed as flour bleaching agents by the EU. Additional information on regulations pertaining to food additives laws in the EU can be obtained [here](#).

Section V. Pesticides and Contaminants:

Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 entered into force in 2009 and established rules for plant protection product (PPPs) approval and supersedes Directive 91/414/EEC. This Regulation also established the list of approved active substances. Only PPPs containing EU-approved active substances are authorized for use. According to the Regulation, the EU is divided into three different zones. Once an MS approves the PPP, it can be mutually recognized and authorized as per Annex I of the Regulation.

The EU implemented special import conditions on testing almonds supplied to the EU. Regulation (EC) No. 1152/2009 imposes special regulations for importing of almonds to EU from third countries due to the aflatoxin contamination.

Regulation (EU) No 178/2010 of 2 March 2010 amended Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 which relates to groundnuts (peanuts), other oilseeds, tree nuts, apricot kernels, licorice, and vegetable oil (OJ L52, 3.3.2010, page 32).

Regulation (EU) No. 165/2010 of 26 February 2010 amended Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 sets maximum aflatoxin levels (OJ L50, 27.2.2010, page 8).

In November 2017, Regulation (EU) 2017/2158 established benchmark levels to reduce acrylamide levels in food. The new regulation requires that food business operators apply mandatory measures to reduce the presence of acrylamide, proportionate to the size and nature of their establishment.

Maximum Residue Limits (MRL)

Since 2008, MS harmonized Regulation (EC) No.396/2005 on MRLs in food or feed of plant and animal origin. Pesticide MRLs for processed or composite products are based on levels in raw agricultural ingredients. See the EC's [website](#) at for the latest updates.

Import Tolerances

Information on MRLs and import tolerances is available in '[Pesticide Use and Food Safety](#)' guide published by the European Crop Protection Association.

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

The descriptions of regulations can be found in the Regulation (EC) No 606/2009. Beer, wine, fermented beverages, and beverages other than beer and wine (e.g. cider), intermediate products (e.g. port and sherry), and distilled spirits are subject to duties as per EC Directive 92/83/EEC. Directive COM (2006) 486 of 8 September 2006 increased minimum excise duties due to inflation.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

Specific standards are required when importing wine and spirits from non-EU countries. An import license, issued by [Lithuanian National Paying Agency](#), must be provided for wine shipments exceeding 3,000 liters. Lithuanian customs also require non-EU countries to provide a single administrative document along with imported food products. Specific taxation information can be found on the EC's [website](#). U.S. wine exports must also include a simplified export certificate or VI1 document.

Novel Foods Labeling

GE foods and ingredients must be labeled in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names and Intellectual Property Rights:

Lithuania copyright and trademark laws are harmonized with EU requirements. Regulation (EC) No. 207/2009 establishes a unified EU trademark registration for EU MS.

Section IX. Import Procedures:

Regulation (EEC) No. 2913/92 and Regulation (EEC) No. 2454/93 establish the basis for EU customs procedures. Implementing Regulation (EC) No. 1875/2006 enhanced security aspects of these regulations. Customs provides electronic information on current EU issues, trade laws, and regulations, access to administrative forms, custom consultation committees, restrictions, prohibitions, and access to tariff regulations regarding foreign trade.

The Integrated Tariff of the Republic of Lithuania ([LITAR](#)) database provides information resources on EU tariff and Lithuanian taxes, import, and export procedures and regulations. Information found on LITAR must be cross-referenced with EC legal regulations and Lithuanian excise and VAT laws. EU tariff and non-tariff requirements can be found online in [TARIC database](#). Supplemental information on free movement of goods in Lithuania can be found on the [europa.eu](#) website.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

The Ministry of Agriculture

Gedimino av. 19 (J. Lelevelio 6)

LT-01103 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 5 239 1111

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<http://www.zum.lt>

State Food and Veterinary Service

Siesikų str. 19

LT-07170 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 5 240 4361

Fax: +370 5 240 4362

Email: vvt@vet.lt

<http://vmvt.lt/en>

Ministry of Health

Vilnius str. 33,

LT-01506 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 800 66 004; +370 5 268 5110

Fax: +370 5 266 1402

Email: ministerija@sam.lt<http://sena.sam.lt/en> <http://www.sam.lt/go.php/lit/English>

Ministry of Economy

Gedimino Ave. 38 / Vasario 16-osios st. 2,

LT-01104 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 5 2625515; +370 5 262 6584

Fax: +370 5 262 3974

Email: kanc@ukmin.lt

<http://www.ukmin.lt/web/en/>

Customs Department

A. Jakšto g. 1/25

LT-01105 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 5 266 6111

Fax: +370 5 266 6010

E-mail: info@cust.lt

<http://www.cust.lt>

National Paying Agency

Blindžių g. 17

LT-08111 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 5 252 6703

Fax: +370 5 252 6945

E-mail: info@nma.lt

<http://www.nma.lt>

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities contact:

Office of Agricultural Affairs (Covering Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia)

Warsaw, Poland

Ph: +48 22 504 2336

Email: agwarsaw@usda.gov

Attachments:

No Attachments