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Eurasian Conformity Mark for Poultry and Red Meats

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Report Highlights:

This report contains an outline of the current Russian-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union (CU) “Eurasian Conformity” labeling requirements following assessment (confirmation) of conformity [1] for poultry and red meats. The relevant CU regulations allow for transition periods at which point the labeling of all raw, unprocessed poultry and meat products destined to the CU market must include a “Eurasian Conformity” mark. After such transition periods expire for poultry and meat on February 15, 2015, and December 31, 2015, respectively, all raw, unprocessed poultry and meat products for Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan must be labeled with the “Eurasian Conformity” mark.

^[1] Assessment (confirmation) of conformity in the CU should be carried out by legal entities that are registered in accordance with the legislation of the Customs Union Member State on its territory, such as importers.

General Information:

This report contains an outline of the current Russian-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union (CU) “Eurasian Conformity” labeling requirements following assessment (confirmation) of conformity¹ for poultry and red meats. The relevant CU regulations allow for transition periods at which point the labeling of all raw, unprocessed poultry and meat products destined to the CU market must include a “Eurasian Conformity” mark. After such transition periods expire for poultry and meat on February 15, 2015, and December 31, 2015, respectively, all raw, unprocessed poultry and meat products for Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan must be labeled with the “Eurasian Conformity” mark.

Regulatory framework

The CU regulatory framework on the “Eurasian Conformity” labeling for poultry and red meats, as well as the majority of other food products, includes the following documents:

- Decision of the CU Commission No. 711 of July 15, 2011 “On the Unified Mark of Circulation on the Market of the Customs Union Member States” (as amended) ([in Russian](#), automated [English](#) translation)

The document approves the following image of the unified mark of circulation on the market of the CU Member States (the “Eurasian Conformity” mark) and the relevant Regulation spelling out basic requirements for the image (e.g. in terms of its form, size, etc.) and rules of its application.



- CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) adopted by Decision of the CU Commission No. 880 of December 9, 2011 (for English please see GAIN report [RS1233 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Safety](#))

This is a key CU umbrella regulation covering standards and requirements for all food products and processes of their production. In the absence of a separate CU TR regulating poultry, the TR TS 021/2011 is currently the CU technical regulation covering poultry and products. This document is also relevant for red meats, even if there is a separate CU TR for meat and products (please see below.)

- CU Technical Regulation on Food Products Labeling (TR TS 022/2011) adopted by Decision of the CU Commission No. 881 of December 9, 2011 (for English please see GAIN report [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#))

The TR TS 022/2011 establishes uniform requirements for food products labeling, covering all food products sold in the CU.

¹ Assessment (confirmation) of conformity in the CU should be carried out by legal entities that are registered in accordance with the legislation of the Customs Union Member State on its territory, such as importers.

- CU Technical Regulation On Safety of Meat and Meat Products (TR TS 034/2013) adopted by Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 68 of October 9, 2013 (for English please see GAIN report [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#))

The TR TS 034/2013 is a key CU regulation covering standards and requirements for meat and meat products. At the same time, both the CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety and the CU Technical Regulation on Food Products Labeling above also apply to meat and meat products.

- Decision of the Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 298 of December 10, 2013 (original in [Russian](#), automated [English](#) translation)

The decision contains a number of transitional provisions in effect through December 31, 2015. For example, production and circulation of meat products in accordance with the current CU and national requirements of the CU Member States will be allowed until December 31, 2015.

Unofficial English translation of the relevant language from the CU regulations listed above regarding the “Eurasian Conformity” mark issue is attached to this report.

The CU technical regulations on Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) and on Food Products Labeling (TR TS 022/2011) came into effect July 1, 2013, while the CU Technical Regulation on Safety of Meat and Meat Products came into effect on May 1, 2014.

All of the CU technical regulations above require that the “Eurasian Conformity” mark be placed on packaging of food products prior to their release into circulation² on the CU market. The “Eurasian Conformity” mark is meant to show that the product has been produced in accordance with the relevant CU technical regulations and has passed all procedures of conformity assessment³ (confirmation) established in the relevant technical regulations. However, this mark cannot be simply added to all shipments right after the entry into force of the relevant technical regulation. The mark should not be included on unprocessed meat/poultry shipments that are being facilitated by a declaration of conformity⁴ (as further discussed below).

² The CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) defines the term “release of food products into circulation” as “an act of sale and purchase or other terms of food products transfer on the customs territory of the Customs Union starting from manufacturer or importer.”

³ Assessment (confirmation) of conformity in the CU should be carried out by legal entities that are registered in accordance with the legislation of the Customs Union Member State on its territory, such as importers.

⁴ Declaration of conformity is developed by the importer and registered by them with the Russian authorities.

Transition periods

The CU Commission Decision No. 880 of December 9, 2011, (for poultry and other products covered by the CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety) and the EEC Collegium Decision No. 298 of December 10, 2013, (for red meats) allow for a transition period before the “Eurasian Conformity” mark must be affixed to the products as follows:

Raw, Unprocessed Poultry

- Before July 1, 2013, unprocessed poultry products entered Russia with a veterinary certificate issued by USDA and a declaration of conformity developed by the importer and registered by them with the Russian authorities. The declarations varied in their length of validity (with a maximum of three years). After July 1, 2013, unprocessed poultry should enter Russia without the “Eurasian Conformity” mark if it is accompanied by the USDA veterinary certificate AND a valid declaration of conformity that was issued before July 1, 2013 (NOTE: after July 1, 2013, due to entry into force of the CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety, Russia stopped endorsing the declarations for unprocessed poultry).
- However, after February 15, 2015, all declarations of conformity will be invalidated (even if they were valid into March 2015 and beyond) and all unprocessed poultry must be labeled with the “Eurasian Conformity” mark (for full labeling requirements please see the CU Technical Regulation on Food Products Labeling and on Food Safety.)
- If, after July 1, 2013, unprocessed poultry enters Russia with the USDA veterinary certificate but not the declaration of conformity (because the importer does not have one, or the previous version expired), then the product must be labeled with the “Eurasian Conformity” mark now.

Raw, Unprocessed Meats (including blood and offal)

- Before May 1, 2014, unprocessed meat products entered Russia with a veterinary certificate issued by USDA and a declaration of conformity developed by the importer and registered by them with the Russian authorities. The declarations varied in their length of validity (with a maximum of three years). After May 1, 2014, unprocessed meats should enter Russia without the “Eurasian Conformity” mark if they are accompanied by the USDA veterinary certificate AND a valid declaration of conformity that was issued before May 1, 2014 (NOTE: after May 1, 2014, due to entry into force of the CU Technical Regulation on Safety of Meat and Meat Products Russia stopped endorsing declarations for unprocessed meats).
- However, after December 31, 2015, all declarations of conformity will be invalidated (even if they were valid into 2016) and all unprocessed meat products must be labeled with the “Eurasian Conformity” mark.
- If, after May 1, 2014, unprocessed meat products enter Russia with the USDA veterinary certificate but without the declaration of conformity (because the importer does not have one, or a previous declaration has expired), then the product must be labeled with the “Eurasian Conformity” mark now.

Unofficial English translation of the relevant language from the CU regulations regarding the “Eurasian Conformity” mark issue for poultry and red meats

- Decision of the CU Commission No. 711 of July 15, 2011 “On the Unified Mark of Circulation on the Market of the Customs Union Member States” (as amended) ([in Russian](#), automated [English translation](#))

2. “General Provisions” of the Regulation:

“The unified mark of circulation indicates that products labeled with the mark have passed all procedures of conformity assessment (confirmation) established in the technical regulations of the Customs Union and meet the requirements of all technical regulations of the Customs Union applicable to such products.

Marking with the unified mark of circulation shall be carried out prior to release of products into circulation on the market of the Customs Union Member States.”

4. “Procedure of application of the unified mark of circulation” of the Regulations says:

“Producers, persons authorized by the producer, importers (suppliers) of products have the right to mark them with the unified mark of circulation if the products have passed all procedures of conformity assessment (confirmation) established in the relevant technical regulation(s) of the Customs Union on the territory of any of the Parties, which is confirmed by documents established for the relevant forms of conformity assessment in the Customs Union.”

- CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) adopted by Decision of the CU Commission No. 880 of December 9, 2011 (for English please see GAIN report [RS1233 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Safety](#))

From **Article 4. Definitions:**

release of food products into circulation – act of sale and purchase or other terms of food products transfer on the customs territory of the Customs Union starting from manufacturer or importer;

non-processed food products of animal origin – carcasses (whole rounds) of producing animals of all types that have not been processed (reprocessed), their parts (including blood and offal), raw milk, raw skim milk, raw cream, beekeeping products, eggs and egg products, aquatic biological resources catch, aquaculture products;

From **Article 5. Rules of Circulation on the Market:**

1. Food products shall be released into circulation on the market provided that they conform to the present Technical Regulation as well as other Technical Regulations of the Customs Union, to which they are subject.

2. Food products that conform to the present Technical Regulation as well as other Technical Regulations of the Customs Union, to which they are subject, and that have passed the procedures of assessment (confirmation) of conformity shall be marked with the unified mark of circulation on the market of the Customs Union Member States.

From **CHAPTER 4. ASSESSMENT (CONFIRMATION) OF CONFORMITY**

Article 21. Forms of Assessment (Confirmation) of Conformity of Food Products and Processes of Production (Manufacturing), Storage, Shipment (Transport), Sale, and Disposal

1. Assessment (confirmation) of conformity of food products, except for products specified in paragraph 3 of the present Article, to the requirements of the present Technical Regulation and (or) technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products shall be carried out in the following forms:

- 1) confirmation (declaration) of conformity of food products;
- 2) state registration of specialized food products;
- 3) state registration of novel food products;
- 4) veterinary-sanitary inspection.

2. Assessment (confirmation) of conformity of the processes of production (manufacturing), storage, shipment (transport), sale, and disposal of food products to the requirements of the present Technical Regulation and (or) technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products shall be carried out in the form of inspection (control) of observance of the requirements established by the present Technical Regulation and (or) technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products, except for the processes of food products production (manufacturing), specified in Article 32. Assessment (confirmation) of conformity of those processes of production (manufacturing) shall be carried out in the form of state registration of production facilities.

3. Assessment (confirmation) of conformity of food products of noncommercial manufacture and food products of catering facilities (public catering), intended for sale during servicing, as well as processes of sales of the specified food products shall be carried out in the form of state surveillance (control) of observance of the requirements for food products, established by the present Technical Regulation and (or) technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products.

Article 22. Applicant for Assessment (Confirmation) of Conformity of Food Products

1. Applicants for assessment (confirmation) of conformity of food products, except for state control (surveillance), may be legal entities or natural persons as individual entrepreneurs

who are registered in accordance with legislation of the Customs Union member-state on its territory, who are either manufacturers, or sellers, or those who perform the functions of a foreign manufacturer acting on the basis of a contract with the latter in terms of ensuring conformity of the delivered food products to the requirements of the present Technical Regulation and (or) other technical regulations of the Customs Union, to which they are subject, and in terms of liability for their failure to conform to the requirements of such technical regulations.

2. The applicant shall ensure conformity of food products to the requirements of the present Technical Regulation and (or) other technical regulations of the Customs Union, to which they are subject.

Article 23. Declaration of Conformity

1. Food products released into circulation on the customs territory of the Customs Union shall be subject to declaration of conformity, except for the following:

- 1) non-processed food products of animal origin;
- 2) specialized food products;
- 3) vinegar.

2. Declaration of conformity of food products to the requirements the present Technical Regulation and (or) technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products shall be carried out by way of choosing by the applicant to issue a declaration of conformity based either on his own evidence and (or) evidence obtained with the participation of a third party.

3. Declaration of conformity of food products shall be carried out according to one of the schemes of declaration, established by the present Technical Regulation, by choice of the applicant, unless otherwise established by the technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products.

and

CHAPTER 6. FOOD PRODUCTS LABELING

Article 39. Requirements for Food Products Labeling:

Food products labeling should conform to the requirements of the technical regulations of the Customs Union that establish the requirements for food products with respect to their labeling and (or) the relevant requirements of technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products.

Food products that have passed the procedures of assessment (confirmation) of conformity shall be marked with the unified mark of circulation on the market of the Customs Union member-states, unless otherwise established by the technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products except for food products of noncommercial manufacture, produced by individuals at home, in private household farms or by individuals who engage in horticulture, gardening, and cattle raising, and intended for release into circulation on the customs territory of the Customs Union; as well as food products sold through catering facilities (public catering).

In case of unpacked food products the unified mark of circulation on the market of the Customs Union member-states shall be marked on their supporting documents, unless otherwise established by the technical regulations of the Customs Union for certain types of food products.

- CU Technical Regulation on Food Products Labeling (TR TS 022/2011) adopted by Decision of the CU Commission No. 881 of December 9, 2011 (for English please see GAIN report [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#))

From **Article 2. Definitions:**

Packaged food products - food products placed into a consumer package.

From **Article 4. Requirements for Labeling of Food Products**

4.1. Requirements for Labeling of Packaged Food Products

1. Labeling of packaged food products shall include the following information:

- 1) Name of food products;
- 2) Ingredients of food products, except in cases stipulated in Clause 7 of Part 4.4 of this Article, and unless otherwise envisaged by the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union for particular types of food products;
- 3) Quantity of food products;
- 4) Manufacture date of food products;
- 5) Shelf life of food products;
- 6) Storage conditions of food products set forth by the manufacturer or stipulated in the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union for particular types of food products. Storage conditions after opening a package shall be indicated for food products, the quality and safety of which change after opening the package protecting the products from spoiling;
- 7) Name and location of the food products manufacturer, or surname, name, patronymic and location of the individual entrepreneur-manufacturer of food products (hereinafter referred to as manufacturer's name and location), and in the events stipulated in the present Technical Regulations of the Customs Union, name and location of the manufacturer's authorized representative, name and location of the importing organization or the surname, name, patronymic and location of the individual entrepreneur-importer (hereinafter referred to as importer's name and location);

- 8) Recommendations and (or) restrictions on use, including those on cooking of food products in case the use thereof without such recommendations or restrictions is difficult, or may harm the consumers' health or property, lead to reduction or loss of taste characteristics of food products;
- 9) Nutrition value indicators of food products considering provisions of Part 4.9 of this Article;
- 10) Information on the presence of food product ingredients obtained with the use of genetically modified organisms (hereinafter referred to as GMO);
- 11) The uniform mark of products circulation on the market of the Customs Union Member States.

4.2. General Requirements for Labeling of Food Products Placed into Transport Packages

1. Labeling of a transport package containing food products shall include the following information:

- 1) Name of food products;
- 2) Quantity of food products;
- 3) Manufacture date of food products;
- 4) Shelf life of food products;
- 5) Storage conditions of food products;
- 6) Information which permits identification of the batch of the food product (for example, the batch number);
- 7) Name and location of the food product manufacturer, or surname, name, patronymic and location of the individual entrepreneur-manufacturer of the food product.

If the food product is placed into the transport package without the consumer package and if such food product is intended by the manufacturer to be packaged later (candies, sugar and other food products), the labeling of the transport package containing such food products shall comply with the requirements envisaged by Clause 1 of Part 4.1 of this Article.

4.12. Requirements for Methods of Clear and Readable Labeling

3. The information envisaged by Sub-clauses 2, 3, 7 - 11 of Clause 1 of Part 4.1 of this Article shall be placed onto the consumer package and (or) label, and (or) package leaflet, and (or) package leaflet inserted into each packaging unit, or enclosed with each packaging unit.

- CU Technical Regulation On Safety of Meat and Meat Products (TR TS 034/2013) adopted by Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 68 of October 9, 2013 (for English please see GAIN report [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#))

From II. Key Definitions

“product of slaughter – non-processed food products of animal origin obtained as a result of slaughter of productive animals under the industrial conditions and used for further

processing (treatment) and/or marketing, including meat, offal, crude fat, blood, bone, mechanically deboned (finally deboned) meat, collagen-containing raw materials and raw casings;”

From IV. Rules for Circulation of Slaughter Products and Meat Products in the Market of the Customs Union Member-States and Common Economic Space

11. Slaughter products and meat products that comply with the requirements of this Technical Regulation and the technical regulations of the Customs Union applying thereto and that have passed assessment (confirmation) of conformity are marked with a unified mark of products circulation on the market of the Customs Union member-states.

XIV. Marking with a Unified Mark of Products Circulation on the Market of the Customs Union Member-States

147. Marking with a unified mark of products circulation on the market of the Customs Union member-states is performed prior to release of slaughter products and meat products into circulation.

Slaughter products and meat products that passed the assessment (confirmation) of conformity to the requirements of this Technical Regulation and the technical regulations of the Customs Union applying thereto shall be marked with a unified mark of products circulation on the market of the Customs Union member-states.

148. Marking with a unified mark of products circulation on the market of the Customs Union member-states for unpacked slaughter products and meat products is made on shipping documentation.

149. Marking with a unified mark of products circulation on the market of the Customs Union member-states for slaughter products and meat products, placed in shipping packaging is made on the shipping packaging and/or label, and/or insert put inside every shipping packaging or attached to every shipping packaging, or on the shipping documentation.