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GAIN Report

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Required Report - public distribution

Date: 12/19/2016

GAIN Report Number: HU16008

Hungary

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

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Report Highlights:

Hungary is a member of the European Union (EU) and follows EU directives and regulations, including those relating to the importation of food products. This report provides an overview of food laws in force in Hungary that cover areas which are not yet harmonized.

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DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Budapest (Hungary) for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Hungary as part of the European Community has implemented and follows EU directives and regulations. This report focuses on specific requirements for food and agricultural product imports into Hungary but it should be read in conjunction with the [EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) report](#) produced by the US Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. Alternatively, the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) is also available.

SECTION I. FOOD LAWS

Hungarian food legislation generally conforms to EU regulations. The relevant national regulations are valid for both imported foods and products produced in Hungary. Besides the principle of the free movement of goods among the EU member states, there is a strong emphasis on ensuring that the final consumer receives safe food in Hungary. The path of raw materials has to be traced “from farm to fork,” which was the reason for the establishment of a unified monitoring system in Hungary. Government Resolution No. 2243/2006 decreed the establishment of a unified food safety organization. It controls the whole food chain and was expected to build consumer confidence, improve food safety and to achieve a more efficient food safety authority body. In Hungary, the control of food chain is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and its background institute, the National Food Chain Safety Office.

In forming a unified food safety authority, there were growing needs for the revision of national laws regulating food chain safety and control. Therefore, [Act XLVI of 2008 on food chain and its control](#) and several other implementing regulations were put into force. The act aims to protect consumer health and interests, provide guarantees of safe, quality food production and trade, and reduce risks of food origin by enhancing traceability and transparency in the sector. The governing system of public functions is also set forth in the act. Relevant articles contain rules on organization and governance of state duties, as well as define the duties of controlling bodies, public laboratories, scientific institutes and the responsible minister. Special rules of public administration procedures are laid down in regard to measures to be taken in case of epidemics or pest infestation. Sanctions, penalties, obligatory rules and professional guidelines are also set forth in the act (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus, Codex Pabularis Hungaricus, the Hungarian Code of Animal Health and Animal Welfare, Collection of Plant Protection Methods). The implementation of measures, provisions and recommendations of the Food Chain Act are detailed and specified at lower level of legislation in decrees and guidance documents.

Hungarian Food Codex

- [Government Decree No. 220 of 2008 \(VIII. 30.\)](#) concerns rules on the publication of mandatory regulations and recommended technical guidelines in the field of food chain safety. It provides rules regarding the publication of standard collections of regulations and guidelines, as well as the appointment and establishment of technical bodies and committees in charge of FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius, the Hungarian Codex Alimentarius, the Hungarian Animal Health and Animal Welfare Codex, the Hungarian Feedstuff Codex (Codex Pabularis Hungaricus) and the Collection of Plant Protection Methodology.
- [Decree No. 152 of 2009 \(XI. 12.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on binding provisions of Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus. Annexes to this decree provide binding rules on subjects comprised in the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus with the aim to adopt rules in conformity with EU regulations. These rules must be applied to foodstuffs produced and marketed within the territory of Hungary.

A number of regulations of the European Community (EC) and the European Economic Community (EEC) do not require harmonization into national laws. Those regulations are directly applied in the EU member states

SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

The EU law on food information to consumers ([Regulation No 1169/2011](#)) entered into force on December 13, 2014. The regulation mandates the declaration of certain product information for all pre-packaged food and drinks marketed in the EU. For detailed information on EU-harmonized labelling legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website on labelling](#).

On packaging of a food to be placed on the market, labelling shall appear in Hungarian, in an easily legible, understandable and clear manner. Imported packaged food may contain a foreign language label, but a stick-on label in Hungarian must be put on the top of the original one to meet Hungarian labelling requirements. The additional labelling must be made (by the producer, exporter, importer or the distributor) before the product gets to buyers. The labelling and the presentation of food shall not mislead the consumer. These rules and the relevant provisions must be applied to all kinds of foodstuffs destined to the final consumer.

The following information must be on the label:

- Name under which the product is sold
- List of ingredients (including food additives)
- Quantity or volume (percentage) of certain ingredients or categories
- Alcohol content by volume (above 1.2 percent of alcohol)
- Clearly indicated lists of allergens
- Net weight or quantity in metric units
- Date of minimum durability
- Recommended conditions of storage
- Instructions for use
- Name and address of the manufacturer or distributor
- Country or place of origin
- Genetically engineered (GE) product content (above 0.9%)

Labelling for organic products

The label of organic products must contain the name and references of the certifying organization (e.g. name and identification number). Labelling must be in Hungarian.

Labelling for food containing or deriving from genetically engineered organisms

A number of GE plant varieties are approved for industrial food use and as feed in the EU, consequently in Hungary. Hungary follows the EU's labeling standards. If GE content above 0.9 percent, it must be indicated on labels. If products derive from animals fed on GE feed, it is not required to be indicated.

Since there are no uniform rules and regulation on labeling of GE-free food and feed in the EU, Hungary developed its own labeling system. The [Decree No. 61 of 2016 \(IX. 15\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture on labeling GE-free products came into force on September 20, 2016. It provides special labeling of GE-free food and feed and processed products, as well as meat, fish, eggs and milk from livestock fed on certified GE-free feed and GE-free honey. The application of the "GMO-free" labeling is on a voluntary basis. For a product to be labeled "GMO-free", it must meet the criteria that it should contain no GE organisms or parts thereof, and it must not derive from livestock fed on feed that contained GE material.

This fact has to be verified by the producers. Producers and traders of food labeled as being from GE-free production are obliged to ensure the traceability of the products and raw materials used to make the product.

The “GMO-free” labeling cannot give the impression to customers that the product has special sensory and nutritional features and its effect on environment and health is better than the similar products. In addition, products that have no licensed GE version in the market cannot be labelled “GMO-free”.

Nutrition/Medical/Health Claims

After December 13, 2016, nutrition value labelling is mandatory for all pre-packaged food and drink products marketed in the EU. For detailed information on the EU-harmonized labelling legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website on nutrition and health claims](#).

The relevant Hungarian legislation on labelling requirements is as follows:

- [Joint Decree No. 19 of 2004 \(II. 26.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs, and the Ministry of Economy and Transport concerning the labelling of food. It must be applied to food intended for final consumption as defined in Act No. XLVI of 2008 on food chain control. It contains general rules for labelling, as well as rules concerning the method and content of labelling (such as the name and net quantity of the product, ingredients, quantity or categories of certain ingredients, durability, and special storage and use conditions).
- [Joint Decree No. 33 of 2010 \(V. 13.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on certain rules related to nutrition and health claims on foods.
- [Decree No. 36 of 2014 \(XII. 17.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture concerning food related information.
- [Decree No. 74 of 2012 \(VII. 25.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on the use of certain voluntary distinctive signs on food.
- [Joint Decree No. 83 of 2005 \(IX. 17.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs, and the Ministry of Economy and Transport on marking eggs sold at local public markets.
- [Act XI of 1997](#) on the protection of trademarks and geographical indications.
- [Government Decree No. 158 of 2009 \(VII. 30.\)](#) regarding the procedure for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs and spirit drinks, as well as the inspection of these products.
- [Decree No. 16 of 2004 \(IV.27.\)](#) of the Ministry of Justice on detailed formal requirements of trademark applications, and applications for the protection of geographical indications.
- [Decree No. 34 of 2013 \(V. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the procedure of certification, production, marketing, labelling and control of agricultural products and foodstuffs deriving from organic farming.

SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation on packaging and food containers. For detailed information, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#).

The relevant Hungarian legislation on packaging and container requirements is as follows:

- [Act CLXXXV of 2012](#) on waste. The purpose of this act is the protection of the environment and human health, the mitigation of environmental impact, the efficient management of natural resources, the improvement of resource use efficiency, the prevention of waste and its harmful effects, the reduction of waste quantity and hazardousness, as well as higher rates of waste recycling and environmentally sound disposal of non-reusable and non-recyclable materials.
- [Government Decree No. 442 of 2012 \(XII. 29.\)](#) on packaging and packaging waste management activities. It applies to packaging and packaging waste of goods distributed in Hungary and to their collection. Requisites of production, labelling and distribution of packaging materials are provided in it. The decree contains rules regarding obligations for producers and distributors, the collection and reuse of packaging materials, as well as the obligation of register keeping and reporting on related activities.
- [Joint decree No. 13 of 2008 \(VIII. 8.\)](#) of the Ministry of National Development and Economy, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development establishing rules for nominal quantity of pre-packaged products and methods for their control.
- [Decree No. 72 of 2013 \(VIII. 27.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the list of waste.
- [Provision No. 1-2-78/142](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles which contain vinyl chloride monomer and are intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in the Annex 23 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.
- [Provision No. 1-2-84/500](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in the Annex 24 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.
- [Provision No. 1-2-2007/42](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in the Annex 25 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.
- [Provision No. 1-2-82/71](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to the basic rules necessary for testing migration of constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in the Annex 26 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.

SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS

Regarding food additives, Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation. For detailed information, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU website](#).

National legislation is applied only to those additives that are not harmonized at EU level. For example, the [Decree No. 71 of 2013 \(XI. 20\)](#) of the Ministry of Human Resources set the highest permitted amount of trans-fats in food products, the conditions of inspection and distribution of trans fat containing foodstuffs, as well as rules for tracking the population's trans-fat consumption.

SECTION V. PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

Pesticides

Maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides in food of plant or animal origin are determined at EU level. The relevant national ordinance is harmonized under the Community rules. An EU database on pesticides MRLs is available at the [EC website](#). For more detailed information on EU-harmonized legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU website on pesticides](#).

For application of an import tolerance for a not yet regulated substance in Hungary, please contact the National Food Chain Safety Office:

[National Food Chain Safety Office](#)

Directorate of Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment,

H-1118 Budapest, Budaörsi út 141-145, Hungary

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu

Regulations on pesticide residues

- [Decree No. 66 of 2010 \(V. 12.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and relating to their official control.

Mycotoxins and heavy metals

Maximum levels of mycotoxins and heavy metals as contaminants are established in the [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1881/2006](#).

Microbiological contamination

- [Decree No. 4 of 1998 \(XI. 11\)](#) of the Ministry of Health on the permissible level of microbiological contamination in food.
- [Decree No. 81 of 2002 \(IX. 4.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the prevention of zoonosis.
- [Decree No. 66 of 2006 \(IX. 15.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on certain hygienic rules applicable to foodstuffs of animal origin.

Other undesirable substances of content

- [Decree No. 49 of 2014 \(IV. 29.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development concerning limit values of contaminants and harmful substances of natural origin in food, and regarding requirements for food contact substances and objects.
- [Decree No. 10 of 2002 \(I. 23.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on monitoring investigation for control of harmful to health residues in foodstuffs of animal origin.
- [Decree No. 24 of 2004 \(III. 2.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on prohibition of use of hormones, thyreostatical agents and beta-agonists in livestock production.

Ionizing irradiation

- [Decree No. 67 of 2011 \(VII. 13.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the rules on foodstuff treatment with ionizing radiation.

SECTION VI. OTHER REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Regarding facility or product registration, Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation. In compliance with the EU regulations, product registration is required only for novel foods in Hungary. There is no national registration requirement for imported products. Importers are responsible for the safety of commodities. Food inspection authorities control food importers and imported products by the same routine as they do with domestic manufacturers and distributors.

A wide range of foodstuffs (including meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, fish and fishery products, eggs and egg products, and animal by-products etc.) can enter the EU market only from EU approved U.S. establishments. Their lists can be found on the [FAS/USEU website](#).

National legislation related to facility and product registration requirements is as follows:

- [Act CLXIV of 2005](#) on trade.
- [Government Decree No. 210 of 2009 \(IX. 29.\)](#) on conditions for trading activities.
- [Act XCV of 2009](#) on the prohibition of unfair distribution practices against suppliers of agricultural and food products.
- [Government Decree No. 55 of 2009 \(III. 13.\)](#) on fairs, markets and shopping centers.
- [Act No. LXXVI of 2009](#) on general rules of starting and conducting service activity.
- [Decree No. 57 of 2010 \(V. 7.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on placing foodstuffs on the market and the authorization and notification of food production.

Beside the relevant EU legislation, there are no specific standards for import products in Hungary. There is no regular and mandated product testing of imports beyond the animal and plant health issues, the buyer's quality control, and the annual food safety monitoring program at wholesalers and retailers.

Animal Health and Plant Health Certificates are specific documentation. For detailed information on certification, please see the following websites:

- Certificates for plant products: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/plant-health-certification/>
- Certificates for products covered by veterinary certification: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/products-exempt-from-veterinary-certification/>

Imported products must meet Member State requirements and must be accompanied by the proper certification at the port of arrival. In general, health certificates are required for all imported products of animal origin. Phytosanitary certificates are needed for all plant products that could introduce pests into the EU. Certificates must be in Hungarian or certified translations into Hungarian must be used.

In Hungary, food safety is a top priority and it is key responsibility of the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) and its background institute, [the National Food Chain Safety Office](#).

Enforcement and control regulations for food products are as follows:

- [Act XI of 1991](#) on statutory health and administrative activity.
- [Government Decree No. 323 of 2010. \(XII. 27.\)](#) on the National Public Health and Medical Officer's Service, the fulfilment of administrative responsibilities related to public health, as well as the appointment of the state administration agency for pharmacology.
- [Government Decree No. 186 of 2009. \(IX. 10.\)](#) on payable fines in the case of failure to report notifiable services and on general appointment of authorities overseeing services.
- [Government Decree No. 354 of 2013 \(X. 7.\)](#) on domestic operation of the Internal Market Information System and on rules of participation in it.
- [Government Decree No. 201 of 2001 \(X. 25.\)](#) on quality standards and control of potable water.
- [Decree No. 3 of 2010 \(VII. 5.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on data reporting and traceability relating to food production and sale.
- [Decree No. 66 of 2010 \(V. 12.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin, and relating to their official control.
- [Decree No. 141 of 2011 \(XII. 23.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the increased level of official control on imports of certain food and feed of non-animal origin.
- [Government Decree No. 158 of 2009. \(VII. 30.\)](#) on procedure for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs and spirits, as well as the inspection of these products.

SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Regulations concerning food safety measures

- [Decree No. 67 of 2011 \(VII. 13.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the rules of foodstuff treatment with ionizing radiation. It must be applied to the treatment of foodstuffs and food ingredients with ionizing radiation. The allowed products to be radiated with ionizing energy are dried aromatic plants, herbs and spices. The irradiation of other foodstuffs can be authorized by the National Food Chain Safety Office.
- [Decree No. 141 of 2011 \(XII. 23.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the increased level of official control on imports of certain food and feed of non-animal origin. The decree implemented EU norms regulating food and feed imports. According to its measures, official controls are performed by the competent government offices in counties.
- [Joint Decree No. 56 of 1997. \(VIII. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Ministry of Social Welfare on conditions and the method of foodstuff destruction. Deteriorated raw or processed food, ingredients and additives shall be destroyed according to the provisions of this decree by incineration, disposal at waste disposal sites or by treating at waste water treatment plants. Special provisions shall be applied to harmful wastes. Destruction shall be carried out or commissioned to a third person by the producer, distributor or the owner of the product. All costs of storage, transportation, guarding and destruction are owed by the owner of seized goods.

Regulations on organic foods

- [Decree No. 34 of 2013 \(V. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the procedure of certification, production, marketing, labelling and control of agricultural products and foodstuffs deriving from organic farming. It applies to internal organic farming, to the preparation, distribution and labelling of organic products and to the recognition, control and operation of certification bodies.

Regulations on dietetic foods

- [Decree No. 27 of 2004 \(IV. 24\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on foods with reduced nutritive value for losing body weight.
- [Decree No. 36 of 2004 \(IV. 26\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on foods with special nutrition values.
- [Decree No. 37 of 2004. \(IV. 26.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on food supplements.
- [Decree No. 20 of 2008 \(V. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health on infant milk and follow-on formulas.
- [Decree No. 35 of 2004 \(IV. 26.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on processed cereal based infant and baby foods.
- [Decree No. 24 of 2003 \(V. 9.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on nutritional formulas for specific medical purposes.
- [Decree No. 55 of 2011 \(IX. 20.\)](#) of the Ministry of Human Resources on certain aspects of addition vitamins, minerals and certain other substances to foodstuffs.

Regulations on drinking water

- [Government Decree No. 201 of 2001 \(X.25.\)](#) on quality standards and control of potable water. It shall be applied to quality standards and quality control of water destined for human

consumption. Potable water supply plants or the producer enterprises must provide for the control of water quality to be carried out by an authorized laboratory, according to the decree and in conformity with the control plan agreed with the competent authority. In case quality standards are exceeded, either one of the limit values or in an extraordinary event, the competent authority, the [National Public Health and Medical Officer Service](#), shall examine the reasons and order the necessary measures for quality improvement. All data have to be public regarding the quality of supplied water.

- [Joint Decree No. 65 of 2004 \(IV. 27.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs, and the Ministry of Economy and Transport on the rules of bottling and marketing natural mineral water, spring water, drinking water, flavored water and drinking water enriched with mineral substances.
- [Decree No. 45 of 2006 \(VI. 15\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on safety regulations of production and bottling of soda water and storage and transportation in bottles and balloons.

Wine regulations

If there are no other rules based on international treaties, wine imports shall be qualified by the national wine authority:

National Food Chain Safety Office

[Directorate of Wine products and Alcoholic Beverages](#)

H-1118 Budapest, Budaörsi út 141-145, Hungary

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: bor@nebih.gov.hu

Sampling laboratory: H-1118 Budapest, Higany u. 2, Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 346-0938

The importer has to apply for qualification for each shipment and pass the qualification report (certification) to the distributor or retailer of the wine. The qualification can be substituted by qualification from accredited certifiers of the region of production if the lists of accredited quality certifiers were mutually recognized and published by the parties of a relevant international treaty. A copy of the (foreign) qualification report has to be sent to the wine authority by the importer within eight days after the shipment entered Hungary. Quality and volume report of import wines may substitute the Certificate of Origin. Bottled wines of foreign origin must be sold in their original container and with the original label.

National legislation related to wine production and trade:

- [Act No XVIII of 2004](#) on Viticulture and Wine Industry. This act regulates the planting, cultivation and felling of grapevine, the production, distribution and inventory of wine products, as well as the administrative duties and competencies related to viticulture and wine making. The act lays down rules of vine growing with special regard to vineyard cadaster and registration, allowed vine species, vineyard planting and felling. It rules wine industry products, and regulates certain enological practices (e.g. sugar content, storage, registration, brandy production and treatment). The act deals with the distribution of wine products too. It contains detailed rules regarding the certificate of grape and wine origin, as well as the external trade. It determines the competent authorities for viticulture and the wine industry, their duties and competences (inspection of plantations, origin and quality control, control of production process, compliance

with laws, sanctions and penalties). The act lays down food hygiene and sanitary rules and regulates data reporting as well.

- [Act No. CCXIX of 2012](#) on wine growers' associations. The purpose of the act is to protect the interests of national viticulture, improve wine quality and marketability, develop quality and origin protection, and establish self-governing organizations. Wine growers' associations are public bodies and can be established for the promotion of common interests of wine growers and buyers, working in one or more villages of the same wine production area, and for the protection of wine origin and quality. The Act regulates the constitution of wine growers' associations, territorial and national councils, their duties, operation and membership.
- [Decree No. 30 of 2014 \(XII. 5.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture on the extension of market measures concerning the controlling activity of the National Council of Wine Growers' Associations in connection with the improvement of traceability of winery products without geographical indications and the payable control fees.

Regulations on catering

- [Decree No. 62 of 2011 \(VI. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on food safety rules of production and marketing of goods in the catering industry. It applies to commercial and public catering including free tastings and catering linked to promotional activities. The decree regulates food storage, hygiene and labelling and lays down rules for freezing and ice cream production as well.
- [Decree No. 37 of 2014. \(IV. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Human Capacities on nutrition and health regulations for public catering.

Regulations on gene technology activities

- [Hungary's Basic Law](#). The new Hungarian Constitution entered into force on January 1, 2012 and declared the need for Hungary's GE-free agriculture: "Constitution, Chapter 'Freedom and Responsibility' Article XX (1) All have the right to physical and spiritual health. (2) Hungary promotes the realization of the rights as stated in paragraph (1) by operating an agriculture free of genetically modified organisms, by providing access to healthy food and drinking water, by organizing labor safety and health care, by subsidizing sports and regular physical training and by ensuring protection of the environment."
- [Act No. LIII of 1996](#) on nature conservation. It was the first law in Hungary to include provisions on GE organisms. The law declared that creation of such organisms, conducting of experiments with them, their cultivation and importing to or exporting from the country may only occur according to certain conditions.
- [Act No. XXVII of 1998](#) on biotechnology activities. The legislative goal was to prevent the unregulated entry of GE plant varieties into production in Hungary. The act gave expanded powers to environmental, agricultural and industrial biotechnology authorities and mandated GE variety owners to cooperate with them.
- [Decree No. 142 of 2004 \(IX. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Economy and Transportation on certain rules of gene technology activity in the field of agriculture and industry.

Regulations on mushrooms

- [Decree No. 107 of 2011 \(XI. 10.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on collection, processing and marketing of wild edible mushrooms.

- [Decree No. 24 of 2012 \(III. 9.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the harvesting of subterranean mushrooms.

Regulations on herbal drugs

- [Decree No. 81 of 2003 \(XII. 23.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on traditional herbal drugs for direct household consumption and on their usual sales units in retail.
- [Decree No. 52 of 2010 \(IV. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on conditions of food production, processing and marketing by small-scale producers.

SECTION VIII. COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS

Hungary has a complete codification covering the protection of industrial property, copyright and author's right ([Act No. XXXIII of 1995](#) on invention protection by patents, in Hungarian). Regarding industrial properties, the law regulates patents, trademarks, utility models and industrial designs, and deals with trade secrets and the good commercial practice. Trademarks and brand names are legally protected in Hungary. The country is an active member of the [World Intellectual Property Organization](#).

Companies interested in the registration of trademarks or brand names have to apply to the [Hungarian Intellectual Property Office](#) where information folders and application forms are available:

Hungarian Intellectual Property Office
H-1054 Budapest, Garibaldi utca 2., Hungary
Tel.: +36 1 312 4400
E-mail: sztnh@hipo.gov.hu

Those companies that also export to other EU member states may want to consider obtaining European Community Trademarks. For detailed information please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#).

SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES

Hungary is a landlocked country. Import volumes of U.S. processed foods are usually low. A great part of import shipments is through middlemen in Germany, the Netherlands or other receiving ports in the EU. For detailed information on the EU import legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#), as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website](#) on import conditions.

EU administration requires the member states to designate certain border checkpoints for imports where shipments of specific products coming from non-EU countries can be handled. In the course of these procedures, export certificates must be submitted in the official language of Hungary, which is Hungarian. Certified translations of the certificates may also be used.

[The Hungarian Trade Licensing Office](#) issues import licenses for agricultural products, in accordance with the EU legislation. Usually the importer (possibly the exporter) applies to the authority filling out the [prescribed form](#) with all relevant details.

For non-harmonized exports of live animals and animal products to Hungary, the prescribed [application form](#) must be submitted to the [Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate](#) of the National Food Chain Safety Office:

National Food Chain Safety Office

[Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate](#)

Address: H-1024 Budapest, Keleti K. utca 24., Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 336 9000

E-mail: aai@nebih.gov.hu

Import goods are subjects to Value Added Tax (VAT), which is handled by the importer or the distributor. Certain imports of commodities (e.g. alcoholic beverages) may require special licensing and procedures and may be subjects to excise tax, too.

APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

Ministry of Agriculture

Department of International Relations

Address: H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 11, Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 7951126

E-mail: zsolt.belanszky@fm.gov.hu

Ministry of Agriculture

Department of Food Chain Control

Address: H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 11, Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 795 3762

E-mail: effo@fm.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office

Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate

Address: H-1024 Budapest, Keleti K. utca 24, Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 336 9000

E-mail: ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu; aai@nebih.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office

Directorate of Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment

Address: H-1118 Budapest, Budaörsi út 141-145, Hungary

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu

Hungarian Trade Licensing Office

Address: H-1124 Budapest, Németvölgyi út 37-39, Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 4585-800

E-mail: mkeh@mkeh.gov.hu

National Public Health and Medical Officer Service

Address: H-1097 Budapest, Albert Flórián út 2-6, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 476 1100

E-mail: okk@okk.antsz.hu

APPENDIX II. OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS

Hungarian Intellectual Property Office

Address: H-1054 Budapest, Garibaldi utca 2, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 312 4400

E-mail: sztnh@hipo.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office

Directorate of Wine Products and Alcoholic Beverages

Address: H-1118 Budapest, Budaörsi út 141-145, Hungary

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: bor@nebih.gov.hu

Biokontroll Hungária Inspection and Certification Nonprofit Ltd. (approved certifier of organic products)

Address: H-1112 Budapest Oroszvég lejtő 16, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 336 11 66; +36 1 336 11 22; +36 1 336 11 23

Email: -info@biokontroll.hu

Website: <http://www.biokontroll.hu/cms/>

Hungária Öko Garancia Ltd. (approved certifier of organic products)

Address: H-1033 Budapest, Miklós tér 1, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 336 0533

E-mail: info@okogarancia.hu