

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 12/16/2016

**GAIN Report Number:** BU1655

## **Bulgaria**

### **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative**

### **FAIRS Country Report**

**Approved By:**

Russ Nicely

**Prepared By:**

Mila Boshnakova

**Report Highlights:**

Bulgaria, a member of the European Union (EU) since 2007, follows all EU directives and regulations. This report is an update of [BU1603](#) and outlines the applicable legislation regarding the export of U.S. food products to Bulgaria, particularly those rules that differ from EU legislation. This report should be read in conjunction with the GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU* available at United States Mission to the EU (USEU) website at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/fairs-reports/>. Updates of the information provided are also available in the USEU/FAS website [www.usda-eu.org](http://www.usda-eu.org).

**DISCLAIMER:** This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Sofia, Bulgaria, 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 regarding 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.

## **Section I. Food Laws:**

Bulgaria has been a member of the EU since 2007. As a member of the European Union (EU), Bulgaria follows all EU directives, regulations, and obligations where available. While EU Regulations are binding and directly applicable to the Member States, EU Directives have to be transposed into National law. EU Decisions are binding and directly applicable to whom they are addressed.

This report outlines the applicable legislation regarding the exports of U.S. food products to Bulgaria, particularly those rules that differ from EU legislation or regulation. Exporters should be aware that when EU-wide legislation is incomplete, absent or there is room for interpretation, Bulgarian laws apply and imported product must meet existing Bulgarian requirements.

For detailed information on EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*, see reports produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium which can be accessed from their website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/>. In addition, please see the report about Bulgarian Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards [BU1546](#) and [Bulgarian Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards BU1603](#).

Food and beverage products originating in the United States do not require any special Bulgarian permits and are not subject to special rules or regulations regarding retail sale in Bulgaria. However, all products must comply with the generally applied rules and regulations required for any food and beverage product sold within the EU market. Bulgaria's food regulations apply to both domestically produced and imported food products.

- **Bulgarian Food Law**

At the EU level, Regulation (EC) 178/2002 sets out general principles and objectives in food law. In Bulgaria, the Food Law published first in 1999, outlines the basic Bulgarian food and feed regulations.

The [current law](#) has been amended many times, especially after Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007. Since this was very comprehensive and important legislation on food trade, the MinAg took the decision to develop completely new legislation to be in full harmonization with the latest EU legislation, especially [EU Regulation 1169/2011](#). Three amendments to the Food Law were passed in 2016 – (Official Gazette #28 of April 8, in Official Gazette #44 of June 10 and in Official Gazette #88 of November 8). The amendments introduced new rules for trade in tobacco products and foods donated for charity purposes to the first Bulgarian Food Bank and were parts of larger legislative packages entering in force from January 1, 2017. No changes related to food safety or food trade were introduced.

The following sources contain all relevant international, EU and national legislation and implementing regulations applicable in Bulgaria:

*International, EU and National Legislation, Implementing Regulation and Tariffs can be found [here](#).*

International rules and agreements - [link](#) including international phyto-sanitary norms (FAO, International Standards for Phyto Sanitary Measures) - [link](#) and International Plant Protection [Convention](#).

*EU Legislation, Implementing Regulations and Documents can be found [here](#).*  
EU Directives ([link](#)).

*National Legislation can be found [here](#).*

National [Laws](#); National Implementing Regulations ([Ordinances](#)), and the Food Law and respective implementing regulations can be found [here](#). Most Frequently Used Examples of Documents [here](#).

A draft for a major revision of the Food Law was submitted to the Parliament in 2016 following intensive consultations with the industry and aimed at full harmonization with the EU legislation. It is expected that the Food Law will be debated by the Parliament either in January 2017 or after April 2017 due to the current political crisis and expected early elections in April 2017. A major change may occur in the area of labeling of imported foods and drinks, see GAIN report [BU1651](#).

In addition, the Bulgarian government is working on introduction of new legislation – the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Act. The [bill](#) was developed following extensive consultations with industry in 2016 and is currently being submitted to the Parliament. It is oriented towards full harmonization with the EU food laws and REFIT program.

- **Relevant Competent Authorities**

Bulgaria has a centralized system for testing and controlling the feed and food chain. The central government has total oversight over the control carried out in customs, and on monitoring and sampling plans throughout the food and feed chain. The Ministry of Agriculture and Foods controls agricultural product imports intended for human consumption, through Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA). It also controls imports of animal feed/ingredients and live animals not intended for direct human consumption.

The BFSA is the competent authority on official control on all food imports, exports and manufacturing with the exception of bottled water (mineral, spring, and table water). Contact data for BFSA can be found in Appendix I.

In 2016 the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods (MinAg) initiated legislative changes which introduced an institutional shift of the Risk Assessment Center from the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency to the Minister of Agriculture. Two laws were amended in this respect ([Law for Risk Assessment Center](#), Official Gazette #44, June 6, 2016 and [Bulgarian Food Safety Agency Law](#), Official Gazette #44, June 6, 2016). The goal of this change was to provide a greater independence for scientific risk assessment and to

make the connection between the Risk Assessment Center and the Minister of Agriculture closer so that unbiased science-based consultations can be provided to the policy makers more efficiently.

Another institutional change was the shutting down of the National Grain and Feed Agency. The duties performed by this Agency are assumed by the Food Safety Agency and MinAg Regional Offices. This was reflected by the [Feed Law](#) (Official Gazette, #58, July 26, 2016).

Legislation which may have direct or indirect effect on food imports are: The [Plant Protection Law](#) (last revision – Official Gazette #28, April 8, 2016) and the [Veterinary Medical Law](#) (last revisions in 2016 – Official Gazette #14 of February 19, Official Gazette #34 of May 3 and Official Gazette #58 of July 26, 2016). These changes contain mainly requirements for domestic producers (farmers) and are not related to trade.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements:**

- **General Labeling Requirements**

The U.S. standard label does not comply with EU labeling requirements. As of December 13, 2014, general rules on the labeling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs will be laid down by [Regulation \(EC\) 1169/2011](#). This regulation consolidates general labeling requirements in a single text. For detailed information on the EU-harmonized labeling legislation, please see the [USEU website section on labeling](#), [USEU report on New EU food labeling rules](#), and [GAIN report “How to Comply with the EU’s New Food Labeling Rules.”](#)

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

Bulgaria applies EU-harmonized legislation to:

- General Labeling Requirements
- Nutritional Labeling
- Product-Specific Labeling
- GE products labeling Regulation (EC) 1829/2003.

Chapter 3 (Article 10/4) of the Bulgarian Food Law presents requirements about labeling of food products. There is an implementing [Regulation of Food Labeling and Food Presentation](#) (December 13, 2014) which introduced Food Information to Consumers (FIC) [Regulation \(EC\) 1169/2011](#) labeling requirements in local legislation.

- **Compulsory information required includes:**
- Product name
- List of ingredients and quantity of certain ingredients or category of ingredients
- Allergens listed in Annex II

- Alcoholic content when it is over 1.2% in volume
- Net weight in packaged products
- Expiration date (date of minimum durability)
- Storage and use conditions
- Use instructions when essential to make a proper use the product
- Company identification: name and address of the manufacturer or packer or seller established within the European Union
- Country of origin or place of provenance in accordance with the provisions of Article 26
- Nutrition declaration
- **Warning on labels** - Annex III to FIC regulation 1169/2011 establishes a list of products that require a special warning on the label. Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import*

*Regulations and Standards for the EU.*

- **Minimum font size** - Article 13 of FIC regulation 1169/2011 introduces a minimum font size for

printing the mandatory information on food and drink labels. Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU.*

- **Language Requirements**

The Government of Bulgaria permits multi-language labeling and stickers; however, one of the languages must be Bulgarian (Art.9/1 Food Law). Article 15 of FIC regulation 1169/2011 stipulates that the mandatory information should be provided in “a language easily understood by the consumers of the Member States where the food is marketed.” In practice this means the official language of that Member State which in Bulgaria is Bulgarian. In order to avoid non-compliance with the new labeling rules, translations of mandatory information must be accurate.

- **Ingredients List**

In the list of ingredients “Vegetable oils” and “Vegetable fats” must be followed by a list of specific vegetable sources.

- **Allergen Labeling –**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/allergen-labeling/>.

Article 21 of the FIC regulation stipulates that each product or substance capable of inducing an allergic reaction must be indicated in the list of ingredients with reference to the name of the substance or product as listed in Annex II to the FIC regulation. Allergens must be highlighted in the list of ingredients.

- **Minimum Durability:**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/shelf-life/>.

Annex X to FIC regulation 1169/2011 sets out rules for the indication of the date of minimum durability, use-by date and date of freezing. The use-by date must be indicated on individual pre-packed portions. The durability date and the date of (first) freezing preceded by the words “frozen on” is required on labels of frozen meat, frozen meat preparations and frozen unprocessed fishery products. Dates must be given in the following order: day/month/year.

- **Quantitative Ingredients Declaration (QUID)**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/quantitative-ingredients-declaration/>

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*. If an ingredient is emphasized on the label, the quantity in percent must be indicated on the list of ingredients.

- **Additives and Flavorings** - Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

- **Country of Origin**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/country-of-origin-labeling/>

In the EU country of origin labeling is mandatory for beef and veal, fruit and vegetables, eggs, poultry meat, wine, honey, olive oil, aquaculture products and for organic products carrying the EU logo. Regulation 1169/2011 extended the mandatory country of origin labeling to meat listed in Annex XI (swine, sheep and goat, poultry) and when the country of origin of a food is not the same as its primary ingredient (please, see country of origin labeling). Article 39 of the FIC regulation sets conditions for

Member States to adopt additional mandatory national measures, including measures for country of origin labeling. In Bulgaria, the country of origin per the Food Law is mandatory for all food products although it is not strictly observed.

- **Alcoholic Beverages**

Alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.2% of alcohol by volume are still exempted from the obligation to bear a nutrition declaration and a list of ingredients. In late 2016, Bulgarian brewing industry committed on a voluntary agreement to label all locally manufactured beers with energy and calories content by the end of 2017. Allergen labeling is compulsory on all alcoholic beverages (see “Allergen Labeling”). The alcoholic strength must be indicated by a figure with maximum one decimal place followed by the symbol “% vol.”

- **Nutritional Labeling**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/nutritional-labeling/>.

Under FIC regulation 1169/2011, the nutrition declaration becomes mandatory on December 13, 2016. Nutrition information must be presented in tabular format and in a specific order expressed per 100 grams/ milliliter. Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

- **Gluten – Free and Trans Fats**

Harmonized compositional and labeling rules for foods for persons with gluten intolerance were previously set out in the EU’s directive on foods for particular nutritional uses (Directive 41/2009). This Directive was transposed in Bulgarian [Ordinance for Specific Use Foods](#) Official Gazette #86, November 2010.

With the adoption of the [new dietetic foods regulation 609/2013](#), it was decided that gluten-free foods would be regulated under the FIC regulation. Commission Implementing Regulation 828/2014, applicable since July 20, 2016, sets out conditions for using “gluten-free” and “very low gluten” statements on food labels. Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

- **Use of Stickers**

Specific rules on the use of stickers to provide mandatory labeling information are not included in FIC



regulation 1169/2011. On this issue, the European Commission refers to point 2.1.1 of [their Questions and Answers on the Application of Regulation 1169/2011](#) document which says that “labels should not be easily removable so as to jeopardize the availability or the accessibility of the mandatory food information to the consumer.” Some Member States may allow the use of stickers while other may not. U.S. food manufacturers or exporters are encouraged to contact their potential importer to learn the labeling requirements applicable.

Currently debated Food Bill by the Parliament in Bulgaria includes a controversial proposal to eliminate the practice of using stickers in Bulgarian language for imported foods and beverages and to require all imported foods to have Bulgarian language on the original label - please, see [BU1651](#). It still remains to be seen if this proposal will be approved by the authorities.

Please, see a checklist for Compliance with the FIC Rules in GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

- **Other Specific Labeling Requirements**

#### Nutrition Claims

The Annex to [Nutrition & Health Claims Regulation 1924/2006](#) lists the EU authorized nutrition claims and their conditions of use. The use of nutrition claims not included in the annex is not allowed.

#### Health Claims

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/nutrition-health-claims/>.

Health claims are only allowed if the importance of a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle is also stated on the label. Rules on the use of health claims are set out in [Nutrition & Health Claims Regulation 1924/2006](#). [Regulation 432/2012](#) establishes the EU positive list of functional health claims and their conditions of use. Any producer can use the permitted health claims provided the conditions set out in Regulation 432/2012 are met. The EU’s [online “Register of Nutrition and Health Claims”](#) lists the authorized health claims as well as the rejected claims and the reasons for their non-authorization. Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

#### Genetically Modified Foods and Feeds –

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/labeling-of-genetically-modified-products/>.

Regulation about GMs and their release in environment and on the market (last revision October 2005) can be found [here](#). A food containing an GE ingredient can be released on the market only after EU approval is granted based on Regulation 1829/2003 (Art.23/e Food Law). The Food Law has been changed in 2010 to ban use of GE ingredients and GE products in manufacturing of baby foods regardless of their safety evaluation (Art. 4a/4 for the Food Law). Advertising of GE food or foods containing GE ingredients or products is not allowed when children are used for the presentation of the product or when children consumer such products (Art.9a/Food Law). If an applicant would like to request an approval for a new food containing GE ingredients, this request should be accompanied by a risk assessment study with the effects on human health and the environment (Art.23/b Food Law). See

[BU1603](#) for more details.

### Non-GMO

EU-harmonized legislation defining “non-GM,” “GM-free” or similar labeling terms does not (yet) exist. National provisions and operator-specific “GM-free” and similar labeling schemes are planned to be implemented in Bulgaria in the Food Law in 2017.

### Organic Food Labeling

[Council Regulation 834/2007](#) is the EU’s general framework regulation that sets out rules for organic production and labeling. [Commission Regulation 889/2008](#) sets out detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation 834/2007. [Commission Implementing Regulation 2016/1842](#) published on October 19, 2016, sets new rules for the certification of EU organic food imports. Starting October 19, 2017, the EU will require electronic certification through the EU’s Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).

For more information see the European Commission’s website at [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_en). Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

Since June 1 2012 the European Union and the United States have their respective countries’ certified organic products mutually recognized. All products traded under the agreement must be accompanied by an organic export certificate. More information about this partnership can be found on the [USDA Organics Home Page for International Agreements](#). The Bulgarian Food Law contains special provisions regarding organic foods in Art. 6.

On July 1, 2012 the use of the EU organic logo became mandatory on all pre-packaged organic products produced in the EU. Organic products imported from third countries may carry the EU organic logo if they comply with the EU production rules. When the EU organic logo appears on the label, the indication of the place of farming is required. For more information please see [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service: National Organic Program \(International Trade Policies: European Union\)](#)

### Wine, Beer and Other Alcoholic beverages

The EU’s [Single Common Market Organization Regulation 1308/2013](#) establishes framework rules for wine. [Commission Regulation 607/2009](#), as amended by [Commission Implementing 1185/2012](#), lays down detailed rules on protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms and labeling. [Commission Implementing Regulation 579/2012](#) sets out the modalities for the labeling of allergens on wine. There is no specific EU-harmonized legislation for beer. In late 2016, the Bulgarian brewing industry committed on a voluntary agreement to label all locally manufactured beers with energy and calories content by the end of 2017.

### Spirit Drinks

[European Parliament and Council Regulation 110/2008](#) lays down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of spirit drinks. [Commission Implementing Regulation 716/2013](#) lays down rules for the application of Regulation 110/2008 as regards the use of compound terms and geographical indications of the spirit drinks. This regulation prohibits the use of the term “spirit drink” as part of a compound term.

- **Special Use Foods**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/dietetic-foods/>.

On July 20, 2016, the EU's new "foods for specific groups" rules set out in [European Parliament and Council Regulation 609/2013](#) became applicable. For detailed information on the new dietetic food rules see [GAIN report "New EU Rules on Dietetic Foods"](#), complemented by [GAIN report "New EU Rules on Dietetic Foods – Update"](#) and the Commission's website at [http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/labelling\\_nutrition/special\\_groups\\_food\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/labelling_nutrition/special_groups_food_en).

Bulgarian Ordinance for Special Use Foods Official Gazette #86, November 2010 can be found [here](#).

- **Meat Labeling**

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

- **Health and Identification Marks**

The EU's "Food Hygiene Package" introduced new rules concerning the application of health and identification marks. Chapter III of [European Parliament and Council Regulation 854/2004](#) lays down rules for applying a health mark to fresh meat.

- **Frozen Foodstuffs**

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

The EU legislation is transposed into Bulgarian legislation [Ordinance for fast frozen foodstuffs](#). Official Gazette #84 of September 27, 2013.

### **Vertical and Product Specific Legislation**

Vertical legislation on the manufacture and marketing of specific products has been developed for [sugars, cocoa and chocolate products, honey, fruit juices and similar products, preserved milk, coffee extracts and chicory extracts](#) and [fruit jams and similar products](#).

### **Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:**

- **Size and Content**

Bulgaria applies EU-harmonized legislation to packaging. There are two EU Directives related to the making-up by weight or by volume of certain prepackaged products ([Council Directive 76/211/EEC](#)) and laying down rules on nominal quantities for pre-packed products ([Directive 2007/45/EC](#)) that were transposed into Bulgarian's National Law Chapter 3 of the Food Law.

The maximum tolerable error between the actual content and the quantity indicated on the label, and methods to check this are fixed in [Council Directive 76/211/EEC](#).

[Directive 2007/45/EC](#) abolished regulations on mandatory pack sizes at both EU and national levels. The Directive frees sizes for all prepackaged products except wine and spirits, and coffee. Detailed information on "Legal Metrology" is available on the European Commission's website <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/legal-metrology/>.

- **Packaging Waste Management**

Bulgaria as a Member State is required to take measures to reduce packaging waste and must introduce systems for reuse, recovery and recycling of packaging materials. [Council Directive 94/62/EC](#) harmonizes national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste and its impact on the environment.

An overview of current EU legislation applicable to packaging and packaging waste is available on the European Commission's website <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:01994L0062-20150526&qid=1446639081652&from=EN>.

- **Materials in contact with foodstuffs**

[European Parliament and Council Regulation 1935/2004](#) specifies the main requirements for all materials that come into contact with foodstuffs. It also sets out labeling and traceability requirements and the procedure for the authorization of substances through the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Plastics: Adhesives used in food packaging must comply with [Regulation \(EC\) 1935/2004](#) on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food requirement as well as with the established in [Regulation \(UE\) 10/2011](#) on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, [Regulation \(EC\) 282/2008](#) on recycled plastic materials in contact with food and [Regulation \(EC\) 2023/2006](#) on good manufacturing practices for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. [Commission Implementing Regulation 321/2011](#) bans the use of Bisphenol A in plastic infant feeding bottles.

In Bulgaria the above EU legislation was transposed in the national law by articles in the Food Law and by [Ordinance 2, January 1, 2008](#), last amended in August 2013 and [Ordinance 3, June 4, 2007](#)., last amended in September 2008.

#### **Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:**

- **Additives**

Bulgaria applies EU-harmonized legislation regarding food additives. For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on food additive regulations, please consult the GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU* as well as the [USEU website section on additives](#).

The EU's "Package on Food Improvement Agents" includes four Regulations: [Regulation 1331/2008](#) establishing a common authorization procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavorings, [Regulation 1332/2008 on food enzymes](#), [Regulation 1333/2008 on food additives](#) and [Regulation 1334/2008 on flavorings](#). The use of flour bleaching agents chlorine, bromates and peroxides are not allowed in the EU, and respectively in Bulgaria.

The above EU legislation about food additives was transposed in Bulgarian Food Law and in [Ordinance 47 of December 28 2004](#), last amended in Official Gazette #90 of November 16 2010.

- **Flavorings**

[Regulation 1334/2008](#) on flavorings and certain food ingredients with flavoring properties sets specific rules for the use of the term "natural." Annex I of [Regulation 1334/2008](#) establishes a list of substances that are authorized for use in the EU also available in an [on-line database](#).

- **Enzymes**

[Regulation 1332/2008](#) on food enzymes introduced harmonized rules for their scientific evaluation and authorization in the EU and establishes labeling requirements. Specific labeling requirements are set in Articles 10-13 of Regulation 1332/2008.

Information for the risk assessment of food enzymes submitted by industry is in the process of being evaluated by EFSA. Based on EFSA's risk assessment, the Commission will establish an EU positive list of authorize enzymes.

- **Processing Aids**

EU harmonized rules exist only for certain categories of processing aids: a list of extraction solvents allowed in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients, along with their conditions of use has been established in [Council Directive 2009/32/EC](#).

#### **Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:**

Tolerance for pesticide residues were harmonized in the EU in 2008. Bulgaria strictly adheres to EU-harmonized legislation on pesticides and contaminants.

- **Pesticides**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/pesticides/>

[Regulation \(EC\) 1107/2009](#) for placing plant protection products on the market replaced Directive 91/414/EEC. This legislation, which applies from June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, defines zonal authorizations. Bulgaria is included in the Zone C (South) along with Spain, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Portugal). [Commission implementing Regulation 540/2011](#) establishes a list of approved active substances. The “Pesticide Package” also contains [Directive 2009/128/EC](#) for the sustainable use of pesticides.

For application for pesticide registration in Bulgaria the contact is the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (see the implementing regulations and required documents [here](#)), as follows: Ordinance 19 for Biological Testing of Plant Protection Products which is effective since November 15, 2016; Ordinance 104 of August 22, 2006 about Control on Market Release and Use of Plant Protection Products ([http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti\\_naredbi/PRZ/orz\\_nar-104.pdf](http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti_naredbi/PRZ/orz_nar-104.pdf)); and Ordinance about Labeling of Plant Protection Products of February 2006 ([http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti\\_naredbi/PRZ/orz\\_nar-prz\\_20091012.pdf](http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti_naredbi/PRZ/orz_nar-prz_20091012.pdf)).

- **Endocrine Disruptors** - Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.
- **Maximum Residue Levels (MRL)**

The complete list of MRLs, and commodity combinations allowed in the EU can be obtained from the [Commission’s webpage](#). Since September 2008 all MRLs in the EU have been harmonized by [European Parliament and Council Regulation 396/2005](#) on food or feed of plant and animal origin.

The Bulgarian National Pesticides Plan can be found [here](#). The implementing national regulation for MRL in foods is [Ordinance 2](#) of January 23, 2015, Official Gazette #9 of February 3, 2015.

- **Import tolerance**

Tolerance for pesticide residues was harmonized in the EU in 2008. Bulgaria adheres to EU-harmonized legislation on pesticides and contaminants. Harmonized sampling methods are established for the official control of residues in and on products of plant and animal origin by [Commission Directive 2002/63/EC](#).

- **Official Controls** - Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

- **Contaminants**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/contaminants/>

Bulgaria applies EU-harmonized legislation regarding food contaminants. Please consult the USEU website section on [contaminants](#).

#### Maximum Levels

EU- wide harmonized maximum levels for contaminants are set in the Annex of [Commission Regulation 1881/2006](#). The Annex to Regulation 1881/2006 includes maximum levels for nitrates, mycotoxins, heavy metals and other. Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU* for official control of maximum level in foodstuffs.

- **Aflatoxin Levels in Tree Nuts**

In 2015 the EU approved the pre-export checks (PEC) program for U.S. almonds and peanuts. U.S. almonds were included in the Annex to [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/949](#) which lists all EU approved Pre-export Check programs. The U.S. peanut program which was approved in 2009 is also covered by the general provisions of this regulation. The USDA Agricultural marketing Service started to issue PEC almond certificates on August 1, 2015. Under the regulation import authorities are directed to subject consignments of U.S. almonds and peanuts with a PEC certificate to a less than 1% control level at the border. The PEC program is voluntary; a PEC certificate is not a requirement for import into the EU. Shipments without a PEC certificate do not benefit from the reduced inspection levels upon import in the EU.

Bulgaria is a good market for tree and ground nuts and the United States is the primary supplier to Bulgaria. Initially, the border authorities faced challenges with clearance of U.S. shipments with PEC certificates. However, continuous professional assistance and collaboration provided by the U.S.

industry (Almond Board of California and U.S. Peanut Council) and FAS/Sofia resulted in liberalization of import procedures in December 2016 (see GAIN report [BU1642](#)).

On April 1, 2015 U.S. pistachios were included in the list of products/origins subject to increased import controls under [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 669/2009](#). Member states have to test 20 percent of all incoming shipments until the list in the Annex of the regulation is amended. This regulation does not impose any requirements on exporters.

Residues in Animals and Animal Product – please see <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/residue-plans/> and GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

### Private Industry Standards

While the official standards are set by the public administration, the large majority of food retailers require certification of good agricultural practices. The private certification schemes include not only stricter limits for MRL but also with other additional requirement. The most widely used schemes in Bulgaria include Globalgap, BRC, and IFS.

## **Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:**

- **Certification**

The Bulgarian Government applies EU-harmonized legislation for other related regulations and requirements including product inspection, registration and certification. For detailed information on certification, please see the [USEU certification site](#), and [Certification and Documentation Requirements](#).

*Composite Products:* U.S. exports of “composite products” are continuing to be restricted due to burdensome certification requirements introduced in a 2012 European Commission Regulation. Composite products are defined as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often no longer possible to ship the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients. Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU* and <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/>.

- **Product inspection:**

BFSA is responsible for carrying out inspections in the food and feed chain. Products can be checked at imports or at all further stages of marketing. Sampling plans are based on risk assessment and it is primarily done at the wholesale and the processing level. Infringements of EU food and feed legislation



are reported through the Rapid Alert System on Food and Feeds (RASFF). The database with RASFF notifications is accessible via the [RASFF portal](#). Criteria for laboratories conducting food controls have been harmonized but it is the Member States' responsibility to designate laboratories that are allowed to perform analyses.

BFSA list of designated laboratories for testing of foods of animal origin can be found [here](#). The list of all other laboratories for food safety control can be found [here](#).

Inspection fees for non-animal origin products differ from one Member State to another. For Bulgaria, please, see the currently applicable import fees [here](#). Measures in case of non-compliance also vary widely, ranging from non-admittance of a product to forced destruction. This may be a decisive factor in choosing a port of entry for products where problems are more likely.

## **Facility and Product Registration Requirements**

- **Facility Registration**

The EU approves establishments to ship products of animal origin based on submissions from U.S. government agencies. Only products processed in approved establishments may enter the EU. Detailed information on approved U.S. establishments is available on our website at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/>. Third country lists per sector and per country are published on the European Commission's website [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/third\\_country/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/third_country/index_en.htm).

- **Product Registration**

Generally, there is no EU requirement to register imported foods except for the introduction of novel foods. When introducing foodstuffs with particular nutritional uses, Bulgarian Food Safety Agency needs to be notified. Exporters of vitamin-enriched foods or nutritional supplements are mandated to notify respective [departments](#) at BFSA.

### **Section VII. Other Specific Standards:**

- **Novel Foods** - <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/novel-foods/>

The Novel Food [Regulation \(EC\) 258/1997](#) lays down detailed rules for the authorization of novel foods and novel food ingredients, including foods derived from, containing, or consisting of GEs. It defines novel foods as foods and food ingredients that were not used to a significant degree in the EU before May 15, 1997. The Regulation was adopted in the local legislation (Art.23 Food Law). Article 23a of the Food Law introduces the procedure for approval and release on the market of new ingredients and substances as novel foods. A special Commission on Novel and GE Foods to the Minister of Health

accepts requests for approval for such foods on the market. The Commission has an advisory role and consists of 15 scientists appointed for 4 years.

The EU catalogue on Novel Foods can be consulted in the [EU Commission's website](#). For more information see the European Commission's website at [http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/novel\\_food/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/novel_food/index_en.htm) , [GAIN report "Negative List for Novel Foods and Ingredients"](#) and GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*.

- **Food from Clones**

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*. <http://www.usda-eu.org/topics/animal-cloning/>

- **Nanotechnology**

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU* and FAS USEU website section on [nanotechnology](#).

- **Fortified Foods -**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/fortified-foods/>.

[European Parliament and Council Regulation 1925/2006](#) as amended by [Regulation \(EC\) 1170/2009](#) establishes an EU-wide regulatory framework for the addition of vitamins and mineral and of certain other substances such as herbal extracts to foods. It lists the vitamins and minerals that may be added to foods and sets criteria for setting maximum and minimum levels. The use of vitamins and minerals not included in the annexes to Regulation 1925/2006 is not allowed. Maximum permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in foods and food supplements are not yet EU harmonized. For additional information, visit FAS USEU website section on [fortified foods](#).

- **Dietetic Foods**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/dietetic-foods/>

In June 2013 the EU adopted [Regulation 609/2013](#). The scope of this regulation is limited to infant formula and follow-on formula, processed cereal-based food and baby food, food for special medical purposes and total diet replacement for weight control. Regulation 609/2013 became applicable on July 20, 2016. Under the new rules, pictures of infants are no longer be allowed on labels. Foods that no longer fall within the scope of Regulation 609/2013 will be regarded as regular foods. [Commission Delegated Regulation 2016/217](#) sets out specific compositional and information requirements for infant-formula and follow-on formula. [Commission Delegated Regulation 2016/128](#)

sets out specific requirements for food for special medical purposes (FSMPs). For additional information, visit FAS USEU website section on [dietetic foods](#) and see GAIN report “[New EU Rules on Dietetic Foods](#)”.

- **Food Irradiation**

Harmonization of EU rules on food irradiation has been slow and only a few products have so far received EU-wide approval. [Framework Directive 1999/2/EC](#) outlines the marketing, labeling, import and control procedures and technical aspects of food irradiation. Irradiated foods or foods containing irradiated ingredients must be labeled "irradiated" or "treated with ionizing radiation." For more information see the European Commission's website at [http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/irradiation\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/irradiation_en).

[Implementing Directive 1999/3/EC](#) establishes a Community list of foods and food ingredients authorized for irradiation treatment. The list of Member States' authorizations of food and food ingredients which may be treated with ionizing radiation can be consulted in the [link](#). Art.22 of the Bulgarian Food Law regulates the use of irradiation in foods.

- **Seafood**

Detailed information on shipping seafood and fishery products to the EU is provided in the exporter guide “Exporting Seafood to the European Union – October 2016 Update” which can be downloaded from the Department of Commerce – NOAA Fisheries’ website at <http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/pdfs/howtoexportseafood2016.pdf>.

Information on labeling can also be found in the European Commission's “[Pocket Guide to the EU's new fish and aquaculture consumer labels](#)”, published in December 2014.

- **Pet Food**

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*. <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/pet-food/>

- **Vegetarian and Vegan Foods**

Please, see GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU*  
**Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws:**

- **Trademarks**

In the EU, trademarks can be registered at the national or EU level.

Applications for the protection of a trademark in all EU Member States must be submitted to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Full details on the registration process are available on the [EUIPO website](#). Rules on the protection of trademarks in the EU are set in EU [Directive 2015/2436](#). The Community Trade Mark gives the owner protection in all EU Member States with one single registration. Information on EU trade mark protection criteria can be found on the European Commission's website at [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/intellectual-property/trade-mark-protection/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/intellectual-property/trade-mark-protection/index_en.htm)

Trademarks registered at the national level are protected in one EU Member State. Applications must be submitted directly to the relevant national IP-office. Applications for registering under the Community Trademark Register must be submitted to the Patent Office of Bulgaria.

[PATENT OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA](#)

Sofia 1040, 52 b

Dr. G.M. Dimitrov Blvd., tel. (359-2) 9701 + extension number, fax: \*(359-2) 870 83 25

e-mail: [bpo@bpo.bg](mailto:bpo@bpo.bg);

In Bulgaria the legal basis for trademarks is laid down by [Law on Patent and Utility Model Registration](#) (last amendment in 2012). The trademark protection is granted for 10 years after which it can be renewed. The full list of applied national legislation, please see [here](#). The European legislation applied in Bulgaria can be found [here](#). Bulgaria applies international agreements in this area and the international legislation applied in Bulgaria can be found [here](#).

Please, consult GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU* and [BU1603](#) for more details.

- **Protected Geographical Indications**

<http://www.usda-eu.org/topics/geographical-indications/>

[European Parliament and Council Regulation 1151/2012](#) sets out rules on optional quality terms and regulates three EU-wide quality labeling schemes. It covers the “Protected Designation of Origin” (PDO) scheme, the “Protected Geographical Indication” (PGI) scheme and the “Traditional Specialties Guaranteed” (TSG) scheme. Registration under the different schemes is open to third countries. Wines and spirits are covered by specific legislation and do not fall within the scope of the regulation. The provisions on labeling and the use of EU logos for PDOs, PGIs and TSGs set out in [Regulation 1151/2012](#) became applicable on January 4, 2016.

Lists of protected names by country, product type, registered name and name applied for are available through the Commission's [online "DOOR" \(Database of Origin and Registration\) database](#).

There is a Bulgarian regulation about specific official control on use of PDO, PGI and TSG schemes for foods: [Ordinance 6](#) of May 5, 2011, last amendment in Official Gazette 69 of August 19, 2014.

Please, consult GAIN report *Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards for the EU* and [BU1603](#) for more details.

## **Section IX. Import Procedures:**

- **Union Customs Code**

As a member of the European Union (EU), Bulgaria follows all EU directives, regulations, and obligations where available. Since the EU is a customs union, all Member States apply the same import duties on goods imported from outside the EU (United or Union Customs Code/UCC) based on tariff classification of goods and the customs value. Once import goods are cleared in one Member State, they can be moved freely throughout the EU territory.

As of June 1, 2016 [Council Regulation \(EU\) 952/2013](#) is the framework regulation on rules and procedures for customs throughout the EU. Implementing provisions were published in Official Journal L 343 on December 29, 2015: [Commission Delegated Regulation 2015/2466](#) and [Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/2447](#). The new UCC along with the implementing provisions became applicable on May 1, 2016, but further changes will be phased in up to December 31, 2020. The [EU's 2016 Tariff Schedule](#) was published on October 30, 2015 in Official Journal L 285.

It is possible to obtain Binding Tariff Information (BTI) from a Member State Customs Authority. In the case of Bulgaria Customs Agency ascribed to the Ministry of Finance, is the responsible entity. Contact data for Customs Agency can be found in Appendix I.

Other taxes applicable to agricultural products include the Value Added Tax (VAT) and inspection fees which are not harmonized throughout the EU. The Bulgarian standard VAT rate is 20% percent. The reduced rate applicable to hotel and tourist services is set at 10%.

A list of excise duties applicable on alcoholic beverages and tobacco can be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/taxation/excise\\_duties/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/excise_duties/index_en.htm).

A [guidance document on "Customs formalities on entry and import into the European Union"](#) is available on DG Taxud's website.

In late 2015 [Bulgarian Excise Taxes Law](#) was amended (Official Gazette #92, November 27, 2015, please, see the new changes [here](#) and [here](#)) and currently applicable excise duties can be found in Chapter V, Article 33 for alcohol and Article 37-39 for tobacco and tobacco products.

- **Customs Clearance**

The European Commission's DG Trade "Export Helpdesk" provides a complete overview of documents needed for customs clearance:

[http://exporthelp.europa.eu/thdapp/display.htm?page=rt%2frt\\_Requirements.html&docType=main&languageId=en](http://exporthelp.europa.eu/thdapp/display.htm?page=rt%2frt_Requirements.html&docType=main&languageId=en)

[Bulgarian Customs Agency](#) is the institution in charge of collection of excise duties upon imports, all details about procedure and required documents can be found [here](#).

- **Import Duties**

The EU's [on-line "Taric" customs database](#) can be consulted to look up commodity codes and relevant import duties. Taric is a multilingual database covering all measures relating to tariff and trade legislation. The [EU's 2017 Tariff Schedule](#) was published on October 28, 2016 in Official Journal L 294.

Duties payable on goods imported into Bulgaria include:

- import duty (expressed as ad valorem tariffs or specific tariffs per unit weight/volume/number of pieces) – EU harmonized
- additional duties on flour and sugar (processed products) – EU harmonized
- entry price (fruit and vegetables) – EU harmonized
- inspection fees - not harmonized in the EU, see the fees for Bulgaria [here](#)
- Value Added Tax (VAT) - not harmonized in the EU, for Bulgaria VAT uniform and is at 20%.
- excise duties (alcohol and tobacco) - not harmonized in the EU (see above for the Bulgarian excise duties).

- **Import Documentation and Process**

The following documents are required for ocean or air cargo shipments of food products into Bulgaria:

- Bill of Lading and/or Airway Bill
- Commercial Invoice
- Phyto-sanitary Certificate and/or Health Certificate when applicable
- Import Certificate

Most food products require an Import Certificate issued by the competent Bulgarian authorities. This certificate must be obtained by a registered importer as it is intended for tariff classification purposes.

The import process requires:

- Pre announcement by Common (veterinary) Entry Document (CVED or CED)
- Documentary Check
- Identity Check
- Physical check

Agricultural and food products are examined when they enter Bulgaria by the Bulgaria Border Inspection Posts (BIP). TRACES software system is applied in all BIPs. The lists of all 8 BIPs and performed import control at each of them as well as contact data, can be found [here](#).

Complete list of all BIPs, implementing import regulations and import procedures can be found at BFSAs website, [Border Control](#) webpage.

Regulation about Requirements to Border Inspection Points and Border Inspection Veterinary Control: [http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti\\_naredbi/naredba\\_47\\_granichen\\_kontrol.pdf](http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti_naredbi/naredba_47_granichen_kontrol.pdf)

Order for phyto-sanitary inspections at BIPs:

[http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Zapovedi\\_Granichen\\_k\\_l/Zapoved.pdf](http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Zapovedi_Granichen_k_l/Zapoved.pdf)

Some BIPs can perform only documentary checks and some can also perform identity and physical checks per Regulation (EC) 2015/175, Regulation (EC) № 885/2014 - please, see the list of these BIPs [here](#).

Designates point of entry (DPE) for import of food of non-animal origin in the EU according to Regulation (EU) № 884/2014, can be found [here](#). Designates point of entry (DPE) for imports of food of non-animal origin in the EU according to Regulation (EU) № 669/2009 can be found [here](#). Designated Point of Entry (DPE) for import of feed of non-animal origin in the EU according to Regulation (EU) № 669/2009 can be found [here](#).

In addition to 8 approved by the EC border inspections posts /BIP/ for veterinary control, entry points are added as follows: Vrashka Chuca, Strazimirovtsi, Logodaj, Lesovo, Malko Tarnovo, Oltomantsi: <http://www.nvms-gvc.com/granichnipunktove.htm>

Competent authority on certificates is the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. Agency responsibility covers products intended for human consumption and those for non-human consumption.

Goods are only released for free circulation within the EU once the documentary and analytical requirements are checked and the import duty and other taxes that may be due are paid.

U.S. exporters interested in introducing a product into the Bulgarian market should obtain local representation and/or a local importer/distributor to gain knowledge of the market, up-to-date

information, and guidance on trade laws and business practices, sales contacts, and market development expertise. As local importers have primary responsibility to the Bulgarian Government for imported food products entering Bulgarian territory, they are in the best position to provide guidance to U.S. exporters through the market-entry process. For additional information on the Bulgarian Market, please consult the latest Bulgaria's Exporter Guide.

#### **Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:**

##### **Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

Blvd. Hristo Botev 55 Sofia 1040 Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-985-11858;

Fax: (+359) 2-981-7955

Website: <http://www.mzh.government.bg>

##### **Ministry of Health**

Sqr. Sveta Nedelya 5, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-981-0111

E-mail: [press@mh.government.bg](mailto:press@mh.government.bg)

Website: <http://mh.government.bg>

Direction Public Health

Tel.: (+359) 2-9301-252

<http://www.mh.government.bg/bg/kontakti/>

##### **Bulgarian Food Safety Agency**

Bul. Pencho Slaveikov 15A, Sofia 1606, Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-915-98-20

Fax: (+359) 2-954-9593

E-mail: [bfsa@bfsa.gov](mailto:bfsa@bfsa.gov)

Website: <http://www.babh.government.bg/en/>

##### **Bulgaria Customs Agency, Ministry of Finance**

Str. Rakovski 47, Sofia 1202, Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-9594-210

Fax: (+359) 2-9859-4528

E-mail: [pr@customs.bg](mailto:pr@customs.bg)

Website: <http://customs.bg>

##### **Ministry of Economy and Energy**

Str. Slavyanska 8, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-940-71

Fax: (+359) 2-987-2190

E-mail: [e-docs@mee.government.bg](mailto:e-docs@mee.government.bg)

Website: <http://www.mi.government.bg>

##### **National Drug Agency**

8 Damyan Gruev Str., Sofia 1303

Tel.: (+359) 2-8903-555

Fax: (+359) 2-8903-434;

E-mail: [bda@bda.bg](mailto:bda@bda.bg);

Website: <http://en.bda.bg/>

##### **National Center of Public Health and Analyses**

Acad. Ivan Evst. Geshov 15 blvd Sofia 1431 Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-8056-444

Fax: (+359) 2-9541-211

E-mail: [ncpha@ncpha.government.bg](mailto:ncpha@ncpha.government.bg)

Website: <http://ncpha.government.bg>



### **Bulgarian Institute for Standardization**

Lachezar Stanchev" Str. Nr 13

"Izgreve" Complex

1797 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-8174-504

Fax: (+359) 2-8174-535

Website: <http://www.bds-bg.org/en/contact/index.php>

### **Executive Agency Bulgarian Accreditation Services**

52 A "Dr. G. M. Dimitrov" Blvd. 1797 Sofia Bulgaria,

Tel/Fax: (+359) 2-8735-303

E-mail: [ea\\_bas@abv.bg](mailto:ea_bas@abv.bg); [office@nab-bas.bg](mailto:office@nab-bas.bg)

Website: <http://www.nab-bas.bg/bg/>

### **Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:**

#### **American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria**

Business Park Sofia, bld. 2, fl. 6. Sofia 1766 Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-9742

Fax: (+359) 2-9742-741

E-mail: [amcham@amcham.bg](mailto:amcham@amcham.bg)

Website: <http://www.amcham.bg>

#### **Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Str. Iskar 9, Sofia 1058 Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-811-740

Fax: (+359) 2-987-3209

E-mail: [bcci@bcci.bg](mailto:bcci@bcci.bg)

Website: <http://www.bcci.bg>

#### **Bulgarian Industrial Association**

Str. Alabin 16-20, Sofia 1000 Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-932-0911

Fax: (+359) 2-987-2604

E-mail: [office@bia-bg.com](mailto:office@bia-bg.com)

Website: <http://www.bia-bg.bg>

#### **Association of Producers, Importers and Traders of Spirits (SpiritsBulgaria)**

40, Bratia Bukston Blvd., Sofia 1618 Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-956-60-90

Fax: (+359) 2-956-60-92

E-mail: [office.apitsd@gmail.com](mailto:office.apitsd@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.spirits.bg>

#### **Bulgarian Association of Food and Beverage Industries**

Address: 1606, София; ул."Владайска"29

Tel.: (+359) 2-952-0989

Fax: (+359) 2-952-0989

E-mail: [bafdi@mb.bia-bg.com](mailto:bafdi@mb.bia-bg.com)

Website: <http://www.bia-bg.com/member/26>

#### **Bulgarian Retail Association**

Sofia, 150 Kliment Ochridski Blvd

Tel.: (+359) 2-962-4055; (+359) 8-9702-0733

Fax: (+359) 2-962-0162

E-mail: [upr.savetbra@gmail.com](mailto:upr.savetbra@gmail.com)

Website: <http://bra-bg.org/>

#### **Bulgarian Association for Modern Trade**

Sofia 1756, Iztok area, 5“Lachezar Stanchev“ St.,  
Sofarma Business Towers, Tower B, fl. 4, office 1  
Tel.: (+359) 8-957-7746 and (+359) 2-4433-444.  
E-mail: [office@moderntrade.bg](mailto:office@moderntrade.bg) Website: <http://www.moderntrade.bg/>

**Other Import Specialist Contacts:**

European Union – Delegation of the European Union to the United States  
2300 M Street  
NW, Washington, DC 20037  
Tel.: (+1) 202-862-9500 Fax: (+1) 202-429-1766

United States Mission to the European Union  
Office of Agricultural Affairs  
27 Boulevard du Regent  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel.: (+32) 2-508-2760 Fax: (+32) 2-511-0918  
E-mail: [AgUSEUBrussels@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgUSEUBrussels@fas.usda.gov) Website: <http://www.usda-eu.org>

European Commission Mission to Bulgaria  
24, Rakovsky St., 1000 Sofia  
Tel.: (+359) 2-933-5252 Fax: (+359) 2-933-5233  
E-mail: [COMM-REP-SOF@ec.europa.eu](mailto:COMM-REP-SOF@ec.europa.eu)  
Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/bulgaria/about\\_representation/contact/index\\_bg.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/bulgaria/about_representation/contact/index_bg.htm)

The USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service Office for Bulgaria located in Sofia, can also assist U.S. exporters in obtaining specific national legislation on all food product directives. You may contact us at the following address:

Foreign Agricultural Service  
Office of Agricultural Affairs  
American Embassy Sofia  
16, Koziak St. 1408 Sofia Bulgaria  
Tel.: (+359) 2-939-5720/5704/5774 Fax: (+359) 2-939-5744  
Email: [AgSofia@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgSofia@fas.usda.gov)