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## Russian Federation

**Post:** Moscow

### Russia May Tighten Control over GMO Labeling of Food

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology and Other New Production  
Technologies

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**Report Highlights:**

The Russian Government Commission on Legislation approved draft amendments to the federal law “Russian Codex of Administrative Violations” that will tighten control over labeling of genetically engineered (GE) food and determine fines for labeling violations. After this approval, the draft will be discussed at a meeting of the Government, and will be submitted for consideration to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Russia’s main legislative body.

## General Information:

On August 19, 2014, the Government Commission on Legislation approved draft amendments to the federal law “Russian Federation Codex of Administrative Violations”. The amendments concern penalties for violations of mandatory requirements for labeling food products derived from genetically engineered organisms (referred to as “GMO” in the Russian documents) or containing such organisms. The draft was prepared by the Russian Federal Service for Consumer Protection and Public Health (Rospotrebnadzor) and was placed for public comment in April 2014. The public comment period ended on April 23, 2014. The proposed fines for individual entrepreneurs are from 20 thousand to 50 thousand rubles (from \$555 to \$1,389), and for legal entities are from 100 thousand to 150 thousand rubles (from \$2,778 to \$4,167). The draft provides Rospotrebnadzor with the authority to draw up protocols on administrative violations in such cases (point 3 of the draft.) The Russian text of the draft amendments to the Codex of Administrative Violations and information on its status is on the site: [http://regulation.gov.ru/project/13452.html?point=view\\_project&stage=2&stage\\_id=9033](http://regulation.gov.ru/project/13452.html?point=view_project&stage=2&stage_id=9033). The unofficial translation of the draft is given below.

In accordance with routine procedures, after approval of the Government Commission on Legislation, the draft will be discussed at the meeting of the Government, and, if approved, will be submitted for consideration of the State Duma, the lower Chamber of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Russia’s major legislative body. If the State Duma adopts the draft, and the Federation Council (upper Chamber of the Federal Assembly) approves it, the Russian President may sign it into law.

This draft is one of a series of draft legislative documents that Rospotrebnadzor recently prepared in order to increase control over food products containing genetically engineered ingredients. Recently it proposed amendments to the Customs Union Technical Regulation “On Labeling Food Products” (TR CU 022/2011) to require the labeling of food products containing genetically engineered ingredients with a specific “GMO” label. FAS/Moscow reported on this in the GAIN report [New Draft Amendments to GMO Labeling of Food Products 7-29-2014.pdf](#).

*Unofficial translation of draft amendments to the Codex of Administrative Violations begins:*

Draft

### Federal Law

#### On Amendments to the Russian Federation Codex of Administrative Violations in Part of Strengthening Responsibilities for Failure to Comply with Food Labeling Requirements

1. To amend the Russian Federation Codex of Administrative Violations as following:
  - 1) Part 1 of Article 14.43 after words “articles 14.37, 14.44, 14.46” to add with “14.46.1”;
  - 2) To add Article 14.46.1 of the following content:  
“Article 14.46.1. Violations of mandatory requirements for labeling of food products produced with the use of genetically modified organisms or containing such organisms.

Violation of mandatory requirements for labeling of food products produced with the use of genetically modified organisms or containing such organisms in part of information on the presence in food products of components derived from genetically-engineered-modified

organisms or with the use of such organisms -

causes administrative penalties for persons engaged in entrepreneurial activities without forming a legal entity - from 20 thousand to 50 thousand rubles, with or without the confiscation of the products subject to administrative violation; and for legal persons - from 100 thousand to 150 thousand ruble, with or without the confiscation of the products subject to administrative violation;

- 3) Paragraph 19, Part 2 of Article 28.3 after words “14.43 – 14.46” to add with the words “14.46.1”.

2. The present Federal Law comes into force on the moment of signing.

President of the Russian Federation

V. Putin