

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: December 17,2020

Report Number: HU2020-0011

Report Name: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards
Country Report

Country: Hungary

Post: Budapest

Report Category: FAIRS Annual Country Report

Prepared By: Gellert Golya

Approved By: Kirsten Luxbacher

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 that are not yet harmonized.

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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hungary, as a part of the European Union (EU), 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 U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. Alternatively, the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) is also available.

Hungary placed 47th among 141 countries in an annual socio-economic ranking compiled by the [World Economic Forum](#) (WEF). Within the EU, Hungarian economic growth was the fourth largest, reaching 4.6 percent in 2019. Growth in real wages has remained unbroken resulting in increasing purchase power in households. Therefore, Hungary's foreign trade structure is stable. However, more than 90 percent of agricultural imports come from EU member states. Remaining non-EU imports mostly originate in Serbia, Ukraine, Turkey, China, and the United States.

Hungary maintains an open economy, and its high-quality infrastructure and central location are features that make it an attractive destination for investments and exports. Hungary's strategic location in Europe, easy access to both EU and non-EU markets, and sound infrastructure have led global companies to locate distribution facilities there. Improvements in technological readiness and financial markets also provide positive business incentives. Fiscal loosening and cuts in VATs, corporate income taxes, and social security contributions intensify the market and trade, and help profitability. The positive trends in consumption and spending on food provide opportunities for U.S. exporters. A broad range of consumers are open to American foodstuffs. An increasing number of buyers are seeking quality products or gourmet specialties from the United States, helped in part by stories, traditions (such as barbecue), and positive feelings for America.

SECTION I: FOOD LAWS

Hungarian food legislation generally conforms to EU regulations. Relevant national regulations are valid for imported food 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 must 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 to control the whole food chain, build consumer confidence, and make the food safety authority more efficient. Control of the food chain is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture’s [National Food Chain Safety Office](#) (in Hungarian).

Hungary’s consolidation of its food safety authority necessitated the revision of national laws regulating food chain control. Therefore, [Act XLVI of 2008](#) (in Hungarian) on the food chain and its control and several other implementing regulations were put into force. The act aims to protect consumer health and interests, provides guarantees of safe and quality food production and trade, and reduces 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 the organization and governance of state duties and define the duties of controlling bodies, public laboratories, scientific institutes, and the responsible minister. Special rules of public administration procedures are laid down with 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 levels of legislation in decrees and guidance documents.

Hungarian Food Codex

- [Decree No. 152 of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) 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.
- [Government Decree No. 220 of 2008](#) (in Hungarian) 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.

A number of regulations of the European Union do not require harmonization into national laws. Those regulations are directly applied in the EU member states and enforced by the National Food Chain Safety Office and County Government Offices in Hungary.

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 labeling legislation, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website on labeling](#).

On packaging of food to be placed on the market, labeling must 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 labeling requirements. The additional labeling must be made by the producer, exporter, importer, or the distributor prior to retail sale. The labeling and the presentation of food must not mislead the consumer. These rules and the relevant provisions must be applied to all of foodstuffs destined for the final consumer, including samples size products and institutional packed product.

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.
- Clearly indicated lists of allergens.
- Net weight or quantity in metric units.
- Nutritional and health claims.
- Date of minimum durability.
- Recommended conditions of storage.
- Instructions for use.
- Name and address of manufacturer or distributor.
- Country or place of origin.
- Genetically engineered (GE) product content (above 0.9%).

Other specific labeling requirement(s)

Labeling for organic products

According to the [Decree No. 34 of 2013](#) (in Hungarian) concerning the procedure of certification, production, marketing, labeling, and control of agricultural products and foodstuffs deriving from organic farming, the label of organic products must contain the name and references of the certifying organization (e.g. identification number). Labeling must be in Hungarian.

Labeling 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 and, consequently, in Hungary. The country follows the EU's labeling standards. If GE content is 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 regulations on labeling of GE-free food and feed within the EU, Hungary developed its own system. The [Decree No. 61/2016](#) (in Hungarian) on labeling GE-free products came into force on September 20, 2016. This legislation 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. The application of the GE-free labeling is voluntary. Producers and traders of food labeled as being from GE-free production are obliged to ensure the traceability of raw materials used to make the product.

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

Nutrition/Medical/Health Claims

Nutritional value labeling is mandatory for all pre-packaged food and drink products marketed in the EU. For detailed information on the EU-harmonized labeling legislation, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website on nutrition and health claims](#).

The relevant Hungarian legislation on labeling requirements is as follows:

- [Act XI of 1997](#) (in Hungarian) on the protection of trademarks and geographical indications.
- [Government Decree No. 158 of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) regarding the procedure for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs, and spirits, as well as the inspection of these products.
- [Decree No. 36 of 2014](#) (in Hungarian) concerning information related to food products. It must be applied to packaged food intended for final consumption. Special provisions address labeling of food containing allergens and intolerance substances. Lot identification is also ruled by this decree.
- [Decree No. 74 of 2012](#) (in Hungarian) on the use of certain voluntary distinctive signs on food. This decree sets out rules regarding the use of voluntary distinctive information by food producers on labels and images, and during the advertisement of food with the scope of getting the attention of consumers. It must be applied to food distributed in Hungary of which label, presentation, and advertisement refer to its origin, higher quality, or non-industrial production. The decree contains the requisites for the use of specific distinctive information, like “Hungarian product” or “national product.” Information regarding higher quality or non-industrial production may be used if the quality and the manner of production of a given product is in conformity with the principles and requisites of the Hungarian Food Codex.
- [Decree No. 33 of 2010](#) (in Hungarian) on certain rules related to nutrition and health claims on foods.
- [Decree No. 83 of 2005](#) (in Hungarian) on marketing eggs sold at local public markets.
- [Decree No. 16 of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) on detailed formal requirements of trademark applications, and applications for the protection of geographical indications.

SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation on packaging and food containers. For detailed information, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#).

Hungarian legislation on packaging and container requirements is as follows:

- [Act CLXXXV of 2012](#) (in Hungarian) 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, the higher rates of waste recycling, and environmentally sound disposal of non-reusable and non-recyclable materials.
[Government Decree No. 442 of 2012](#) (in Hungarian) on packaging and packaging waste management activities. This decree applies to packaging and packaging waste of goods distributed in Hungary and to their collection. Requisites of production, labeling 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, the obligation to register, and to keep records and report on related activities.
- [Decree No. 72 of 2013](#) (in Hungarian) concerning the list of waste.
- [Decree No. 13 of 2008](#) (in Hungarian) establishing rules for nominal quantity of pre-packaged products and methods for their control.
- [Provision No. 1–2–84/500](#) (in Hungarian) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in Annex 24 of Decree No. 152 of 2009 on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.

- [Provision No. 1–2–82/711](#) (in Hungarian) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to basic rules necessary for testing migration of constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in Annex 26 of Decree No. 152 of 2009 on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.
- [Provision No. 1–2–78/142](#) (in Hungarian) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles that contain vinyl chloride monomer and are intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in Annex 23 of Decree No. 152 of 2009 on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.
- [Provision No. 1–2–2007/42](#) (in Hungarian) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in Annex 25 of Decree No. 152 of 2009 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 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU website](#) on additives.

National legislation applies only to those additives that are not harmonized at the EU level. For example, [Decree No. 71 of 2013](#) (in Hungarian) set the highest permitted amount of trans-fats in food products, the conditions of inspection and distribution of trans-fat containing foodstuffs, and 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 the EU level. The relevant national ordinance is harmonized under EU rules. An EU database on pesticide MRLs is available on the [EU website](#). For more detailed information on EU-harmonized legislation, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#).

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](#) (in Hungarian)

[Directorate of Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment](#) (in Hungarian)

Budaörsi út 141-145, Budapest 1118, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 309 1000; E-Mail: nti@nebih.gov.hu

Legislation on pesticide residues:

- [Decree No. 66 of 2010](#) (in Hungarian) 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 No. 1881/2006](#).

Microbiological contamination

- [Decree No. 66 of 2006](#) (in Hungarian) on certain hygienic rules applicable to foodstuffs of animal origin.
- [Decree No. 81 of 2002](#) (in Hungarian) on prevention of zoonosis.
- [Decree No. 4 of 1998](#) (in Hungarian) on the permissible level of microbiological contamination in food. Inspection of microbiological food safety is binding on foodstuffs, food additives, treated food, raw food, and food ingredients; on equipment and any surface

and packaging material being in direct contact with food (technological agents); and on persons dealing with, handling, or processing foodstuffs. Procedures of microbiological analysis and judgement of foodstuffs are set out in the Annex 1 of the decree. It contains rules of sampling, the list of compulsory analyses and limit values, and instructions for the evaluation of results. Distribution, utilization for human consumption, and – temporarily – the production of food must be prohibited when the contamination exceeds the limit values of micro-organisms or pathogens; when any kind of toxin is traceable in infant or dietary food; and/or if the food is very probably contaminated by a pathogenic micro-organism on the basis of epidemiological inspection. Foodstuffs which are not up to standards may not be used for human consumption without transformation. Inspection of equipment and technological agents, and cleanliness of personnel are covered by Annex 3. Annex 4 proposes analyses and limit values for facultative internal quality control, which do not substitute official inspection.

Other undesirable substances of content

- [Decree No. 49 of 2014](#) (in Hungarian) concerning limit values of contaminants and harmful substances of natural origin in food, and regarding requirements for food contact substances and objects. This decree lays down limit values of certain contaminants of technological and environmental origin and of harmful substances of natural origin. It also provides requirements relative to certain food contact substances and objects. Annex 1 contains limit values of technological contaminants and requirements regarding food contact substances and objects. Annex 2 shows limit values for environmental contaminants and Annex 3 shows those for harmful substances of natural origin.
- [Decree No. 24 of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) on prohibition of hormone use, thyreostatical agents, and beta-agonists in livestock production.
- [Decree No. 10 of 2002](#) (in Hungarian) on monitoring investigation for control of harmful to health residues in foodstuffs of animal origin. This decree applies to breeders, traders, and processing plants of animals for food production. A national residue monitoring system must be operated, and an annual inspection plan must be released by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry coordinates the activities of institutions responsible for the implementation of this decree and collects data necessary for evaluation of the implementation. Oversight of breeders and producers is carried out by official veterinarians and the National Food Chain Safety Office according to the provisions. Sanctions for offenders include quarantine measures, forced slaughtering, and seizure.

Ionizing irradiation

- [Decree No. 67 of 2011](#) (in Hungarian) concerning the rules on foodstuff treatment with ionizing radiation. This decree must be applied to the treatment and marketing of foodstuffs and food ingredients treated with ionizing radiation. This provides a list of allowed foodstuffs (e.g., dried aromatic plants, herbs, spices) to be treated with ionizing radiation and absorb doses of ionizing energy. Foodstuffs may be treated with ionizing radiation only if the conditions of Annex 2 are satisfied. Allowed sources of ionizing radiation are listed in Annex 3. The calculation method of the total average dose absorbed by foodstuff is determined in Annex 4. Treatment with ionizing radiation can be performed only by authorized establishments which must conform to the "recommended operational rules of foodstuff irradiating establishments" contained in Annex 5.

SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

Besides the relevant EU legislation, there are no specific standards for imported products in Hungary. There is no regular and mandated product testing of imports beyond those established to

detect animal and plant health issues, buyers' quality control, and the annual food safety monitoring program at wholesalers and retailers.

For detailed information on required Animal and Plant Health Certificates, 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 proper certification at the port of entry. 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.

In Hungary, food safety is a top priority, and it is a key responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture's National Food Chain Safety Office.

Enforcement and control regulations for food products are as follows:

- [Act XI of 1991](#) (in Hungarian) on statutory health and administrative activity.
- [Government Decree No. 354 of 2013](#) (in Hungarian) on domestic operation of the Internal Market Information System and on the rules of participation in it.
- [Government Decree No. 323 of 2010](#). (in Hungarian) on the National Public Health and Medical Officer's Service, the fulfillment of administrative responsibilities related to public health as well as on the appointment of the state administration agency for pharmacology.
- [Government Decree No. 186 of 2009](#). (in Hungarian) on fines in the case of failure to report notifiable services and on general appointment of authorities overseeing services.
- [Government Decree No. 158 of 2009](#). (in Hungarian) on procedures for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs, and spirits, and the inspection of such products.
- [Government Decree No. 201 of 2001](#) on quality standards and control of potable water.
- [Decree No. 28 of 2017](#). (in Hungarian) on requirements for self-monitoring systems to be operated by food businesses.
- [Decree No. 141 of 2011](#) (in Hungarian) concerning the increased level of official control on imports of certain food and feed of non-animal origin.
- [Decree No. 66 of 2010](#) (in Hungarian) 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. 3 of 2010](#) (in Hungarian) on data reporting and traceability relating to food production and sale.

Regarding facility or product registration, Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation. In compliance with EU regulations, product registration is required only for novel foods. Food business operators can place a novel food on the market only after the European Commission (EC) has processed an application authorizing its use and has updated the [Union list](#). Therefore, the applicant must first submit an [online application](#) for authorization to the EC before placing a novel food on the market. There is no national registration requirement for imported products. Food inspection authorities control food importers and imported products by the same routine as they do 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 No. LXXVI of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) on general rules of starting and conducting service activity.
- [Act XCV of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) on the prohibition of unfair distribution practices against suppliers of agricultural and food products.
- [Act CLXIV of 2005](#) on trade (in Hungarian).
- [Government Decree No. 210 of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) on conditions for trading activities.
- [Government Decree No. 55 of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) on fairs, markets, and shopping centers.
- [Decree No. 57 of 2010](#) (in Hungarian) on placing foodstuffs on the market, and on the authorization and notification of food production.

SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Food safety measures

- [Decree No. 141 of 2011](#) (in Hungarian) 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 government offices in counties.
- [Decree No. 67 of 2011](#) (in Hungarian) 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. 56 of 1997](#). (in Hungarian) on conditions and the method of foodstuff destruction. Deteriorated raw or processed food, ingredients, and additives must be destroyed according to the provisions of this decree by incineration, disposal at waste disposal sites, or by treating at wastewater treatment plants. Special provisions must be applied to harmful wastes. Destruction must be carried out or commissioned to a third party 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.

Dietetic foods

- [Decree No. 55 of 2011](#) (in Hungarian) on certain aspects of the addition of vitamins, minerals, and certain other substances to foodstuffs.
- [Decree No. 20 of 2008](#) (in Hungarian) on infant milk and follow-on formulas.
- [Decree No. 37 of 2004](#). (in Hungarian) on food supplements.
- [Decree No. 36 of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) on foods with special nutritional value.
- [Decree No. 35 of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) on processed cereal based infant and baby foods.
- [Decree No. 27 of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) on foods with reduced nutritive value for weight loss.
- [Decree No. 24 of 2003](#) (in Hungarian) on nutritional formulas for specific medical purposes.

Drinking water

- [Government Decree No. 201 of 2001](#) (in Hungarian) on quality standards and control of potable water. It must be applied to quality standards and quality control of water destined for human consumption. Potable water supply plants, or producer enterprises must provide samples 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 must examine the reasons and order the necessary measures for quality improvement. All data have to be public regarding the quality of supplied water.
- [Decree No. 45 of 2006](#) (in Hungarian) on safety regulations of production and bottling of soda water, and storage and transportation in bottles and balloons.

- [Decree No. 65 of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) on the rules of bottling and marketing natural mineral water, spring water, drinking water, flavored water, and drinking water enriched with mineral substances.

Wine

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

National Food Chain Safety Office

[Directorate of Wine Products and Alcoholic Beverages](#) (in Hungarian)

Budaörsi út 141-145, Budapest 1118, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 346 0930; E-Mail: bor@nebih.gov.hu

Sampling laboratory:

Higany u. 2, Budapest 1118, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 346-0938

The importer must apply for qualification for each shipment and pass the qualification report (certification) to the distributor or retailer of wine. The qualification can be substituted by a 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 of the shipment's entry into 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. CCXIX of 2012](#) (in Hungarian) 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.
- [Act No XVIII of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) 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 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 provides rules for wine industry products and regulates certain enological practices (e.g., sugar content, storage, registration, brandy production, and treatment). The act also deals with the distribution of wine products. It contains detailed rules regarding the certificate of grape and wine origin and external trade. It determines the competent authorities for viticulture and the wine industry, their duties and competences (e.g., 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.

Catering

- [Decree No. 37 of 2014](#). (in Hungarian) on nutrition and health regulations for public catering.
[Decree No. 62 of 2011](#) (in Hungarian) 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 labeling, and lays down rules for freezing and ice cream production. Institutional prepacked products must be labeled per portion in accordance with the mandatory labeling requirements for prepacked foods. In addition to the mandatory elements, the label must also include the name and address of the manufacturer.

Gene technology activities:

- [Basic Law](#) (in Hungarian).
Hungary's Constitution bans the cultivation of GE crops:
"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. 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.
- [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 experiments with them; their cultivation, imports, or exports may only occur according to certain conditions.
- [Decree No. 86/2006](#). (in Hungarian) on coexistence measures on the cultivation of genetically modified, conventional, and organic plants.
- [Decree No. 31 of 2006](#) (in Hungarian) on the import and distribution of certain genetically modified feeds.
- [Decree No. 142 of 2004](#) (in Hungarian) on certain rules of gene technology activity in the field of agriculture and industry
- Government [Decree No. 132/2004](#). (in Hungarian) on the authorization procedure of gene technology activity and on coordination with the European Commission in the course of that.
- [Decree No. 48/2004](#). (in Hungarian) concerning the production and marketing of seeds of arable crop species.
- [Decree No. 128/2003](#). (in Hungarian) on the organization and the activity of the Gene Technology Advisory Committee.
- [Decree No. 111/2003](#). (in Hungarian) on activities that shall be considered as gene technology activity and on authorities that are entitled to control such activities.
- [Decree No. 82/2003](#). (in Hungarian) on rules of registration and reporting of gene technology activity, and on the documentation that shall be enclosed in the notification (application for authorization) of such activities.

SECTION VIII. TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Hungary has a complete codification covering the protection of industrial property, copyright, and authors' 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 a 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
II. János Pál pápa tér 7, Budapest 1081, 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 27 FAIRS Report](#).

SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES

Hungary is a landlocked country. Import volumes of U.S. processed foods are typically low. A large portion of imported shipments are conducted 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 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC websites](#) 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.

The [Department of Trade](#), Defense Industry, Export Control and Precious Metal Assay of the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest issues import licenses for agricultural products, in accordance with the EU legislation. Typically, 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, application 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](#) (in Hungarian)
Keleti K. utca 24, Budapest 1024, Hungary; Tel: +36 1 336 9000; E-Mail: aai@nebih.gov.hu

Imported goods are subject to a 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 also be subject to an excise tax.

SECTION X. TRADE FACILITATION

Regarding border inspections, trade facilitation, advance rulings, pre-clearance programs, and the acceptance of electronic certificates, Hungary directly applies the related EU regulations. For detailed information, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#).

Consignments of plant or animal origin from third countries, or those arriving from EU member states through the territory of a third country to the Hungarian border, must be subject to sanitary (clinical and animal welfare) or phytosanitary inspections. Detailed rules of the payment and the amount of administrative service fees payable in the procedures of the National Food Chain Safety Office and the agricultural administrative units of county government offices are laid down in [Decree No. 63/2012](#) (in Hungarian).

APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

Ministry of Agriculture (in Hungarian)

Department of International Relations

Address: Apáczai Csere János u. 9, Budapest 1052, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 795 1126; E-Mail: peter.kiraly@am.gov.hu

Ministry of Agriculture (in Hungarian)

Department of Food Chain Control

Address: Apáczai Csere János u. 9, Budapest 1052, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 795 3762; E-Mail: effo@am.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office (in Hungarian)

Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate (in Hungarian)

Address: Keleti Károly utca 24, Budapest 1024, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 336 9000; E-Mail: aai@nebih.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office (in Hungarian)

Directorate of Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment (in Hungarian)

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

Tel.: +36 1 309 1000; E-Mail: nti@nebih.gov.hu

Hungarian Trade Licensing Office

Address: Németszőlgyi út 37-39, 1124 Budapest, Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 458 5514; E-Mail: keo@bfkh.gov.hu

National Public Health and Medical Officer Service (in Hungarian)

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

Tel.: +36 1 476 1100; E-Mail: tisztifoovos@nnk.gov.hu

APPENDIX II. OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

Hungarian Intellectual Property Office

Address: II. János Pál pápa tér 7, Budapest 1081, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 312 4400; E-Mail: sztnh@hipo.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office (in Hungarian)

Directorate of Wine Products and Alcoholic Beverages (in Hungarian)

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

Tel.: +36 1 346 0930; E-Mail: bor@nebih.gov.hu

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

Address: Oroszvég lejtő 16, Budapest 1112, Hungary

Tel: +36 1 336 1166; +36 1 336 1122; E-Mail: -info@biokontroll.hu

Attachments:

No Attachments