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Report Highlights:

This report provides an overview of Vietnam's laws and regulations for importing food and agricultural products. As of May 2025, there have been no significant changes to the existing regulations. Vietnam is currently in the process of amending several key laws and regulations related to food safety, quality, and technical regulations following its recent government reorganization.

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Abbreviated terms for easy reference:

- DAHP (Department of Animal Health and Production)
- FSL (Food Safety Law)
- GDVC (General Department of Vietnam Customs)
- GVN (Government of Vietnam)
- MAE (Ministry of Agriculture and Environment)
- MOF (Ministry of Finance)
- MOH (Ministry of Health)
- MOIT (Ministry of Industry and Trade)
- MOST (Ministry of Science and Technology)
- NAFIQPM (National Authority for Quality, Processing and Market Development)
- NOIP (National Office of Intellectual Property)
- PPPD (Plant Production and Protection Department)
- SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary)
- VFA (Vietnam Food Administration)
- WTO (World Trade Organization)

DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Hanoi, Vietnam, 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 may have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is strongly 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.

Post also notes that this report may not cover the regulations released after May 2025 by the Government of Vietnam (GVN). Should U.S. exporters have any questions, please contact aghanoi@usda.gov

Executive Summary

In 2024, Vietnam ranked as the tenth-largest export market for U.S. food and agricultural products, with total agricultural exports valued at \$3.44 billion USD. Among these, consumer-oriented products, including tree nuts, dairy products, meat and poultry, fresh fruits, and other items, achieved a record export value of \$1.16 billion USD.

The Government of Vietnam (GVN) has initiated an institutional restructuring of line ministries to improve efficiency, including those responsible for import inspection. Starting March 1, 2025, the new Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), formed by merging the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), officially began operations. The MAE continues to oversee food safety and quarantine inspections for agricultural and related products. This report continues to reference the regulations issued by MARD, as they remain in effect following the merger into MAE.

Vietnam is currently in the process of amending several key laws covering import requirements for food and agricultural products. These include amendments to the Law on Standards and Technical Regulations, the Law on Quality, and the Law on Food Safety. Vietnam notified the amendments to the laws on quality and technical standards to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2024. The amendments are scheduled for submission to the Vietnam National Assembly for review and endorsement in its May 2025 session, as they have raised multiple concerns regarding trade impact due to significant changes compared to the notified versions. Regarding the Food Safety Law (FSL), the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced its project to amend the FSL in September 2024 and notified the amendment of Decree 15 guiding the FSL to the WTO in March 2025.

Section I: Food Laws

1.1. Law on Food Safety

The Food Safety Law (FSL), which came into effect on July 1, 2011, serves as the comprehensive legal framework for food safety in Vietnam. The FSL delineates requirements for various aspects of food safety, including food production and trading; food import and export; advertisement and labeling; testing and analysis; risk analysis; prevention of and response to food safety incidents; communication and state management of food safety.

According to the FSL, all imported food, food additives, substances used in food processing, and tools and materials used for containing and packing food are subject to import inspection for food safety, except in cases where import inspections are exempt. Imported food is granted customs clearance only when inspection results confirm that the products meet import requirements.

The FSL categorizes import inspections into three types based on risk analysis: i) Strict Inspection; ii) Normal Inspection and iii) Simplified Inspection.

The responsibility for inspecting imported food is assigned to three ministries: the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) which was merged into the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) in March 2025—and the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT). Among these, the MOH holds the primary responsibility for the state management of food safety.

Reform of the FSL in 2018

The Vietnam National Assembly (NA) first reviewed the implementation of the FSL in 2017. Following this review, the NA issued Resolution 43/2017/QH14, requesting the GVN to facilitate risk analysis in food safety management. Subsequently, the GVN issued Decree 15 on February 2, 2018, to reform the food safety import inspection scheme and allow self-declaration for packaged foods ([VM8016](#)). This decree provides detailed guidance on the implementation of the FSL and introduces significant changes to the registration and inspection processes for both domestic and imported food, as well as the assignment of food safety management responsibilities among line ministries. Decree 15 includes lists of food products under the jurisdiction of each line ministry in Appendices II, III, and IV, respectively.

Under Decree 15, the GVN implements a self-declaration procedure for pre-packaged processed foods, including food ingredients, food additives, and food processing aids, prior to importation. Additionally, Decree 15 establishes an import inspection regime designed to streamline and synchronize the inspection methods applied by line ministries. The inspection regime maintains three inspection methods for all imports—reduced inspection, tightened inspection, and normal inspection—but reduces the sampling frequency and shifts to post-clearance inspection.

Recent Amendment of the Food Safety Law and Decree 15

In September 2024, the MOH officially solicited public comments for its plan to revise the FSL, aiming to submit this plan to the GVN in 2025. The MOH proposed amending major parts of the FSL, including all articles regulating the import inspection for imported foods.

As of March 2025, the Vietnam Food Administration (VFA) first notified the amendment of Decree 15/2018 to the WTO as G/TBT/N/VNM/339, with proposed changes significantly impacting the import of prepackaged foods and frozen products like poultry and seafood.

Due to significant feedback from local industry and trading partners regarding the potential impacts on trade, the VFA withdrew these changes and re-notified a simplified version of the amendment to Decree 15 to the WTO as G/SPS/N/VNM/167 on March 18, 2025. This amendment is currently under review by the GVN.

Reform of Specialized Inspection

In 2021, the GVN initiated the Specialized Inspection (SI) Decree to reform the inspection scheme for food safety and quality of imported goods, aiming to improve clearance procedures and facilitate trade. Vietnam Customs (GDVC), the implementing agency, notified a draft SI Decree to the WTO in July 2021. This Decree proposed merging self-declaration (for food safety) and conformity announcement (for quality inspection) into the import inspection registration, leading to significant changes to Decree 15 on Food Safety and related laws.

From 2022 to 2024, the SI Decree underwent extensive consultations among line ministries. However, due to disagreements between Customs and other ministries on the reform model, Vietnam Customs proposed suspending the development of the SI Decree in May 2024. Vietnam notified the WTO of the withdrawal of the SI Decree as G/SPS/N/VNM/122/Add.1 on July 2, 2024.

Penalties and Additional Sanctions for Food Safety Violations

Violations of food safety stipulating under GVN's Decree 115/2018, are subject to severe penalties. Organizations or individuals using expired materials, products of unclear origin, or non-quarantined animal and plant products for food production face fines double the value of the infringing goods. Fines for food safety violations can reach up to VND 200 million or seven times the value of the infringing goods. Additional penalties include revocation of food safety certificates, confiscation of materials, suspension of business operations, and destruction of infringing products. Decree 115 took effect on October 20, 2018. The full text is available in Vietnamese at

<https://vanban.chinhphu.vn/default.aspx?pageid=27160&docid=194690>

Under Article 317 of the Penal Code 100/2015/QH13, effective January 1, 2018, certain violations, such as using banned substances in food production or selling non-compliant food, are criminal offenses. The revised Article 317 is available in Vietnamese at

<https://vanban.chinhphu.vn/default.aspx?pageid=27160&docid=190507>

1.2. Laws on Quality and Technical Standards

The Law on Quality of Goods and Products (Quality Law) and the Law on Standards and Technical Regulations (Technical Regulations Law), developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), serve as the legal framework for establishing national technical regulations (NTR) for food and agricultural products. According to the Quality Law, goods and products are classified into two categories: Group 1 – Goods and products that do not cause safety hazards, and Group 2 – Goods and products that potentially cause safety hazards to humans, animals, plants, and the environment. Consequently, Group 2 goods and products must be managed by technical regulations issued by relevant line ministries. This has led to the establishment of various NTRs for foods, feed, and feed ingredients, specifying maximum limits for contaminants such as mycotoxins, heavy metals, and harmful microorganisms.

Regarding import inspection, these laws mandate that Group 2 goods and products must undergo conformity announcement procedures for quality inspection before customs clearance. Since the two laws took effect in 2007, an increasing number of agricultural products, including feed, feed ingredients, and feed additives, have been required to undergo conformity announcements during import inspection.

In 2024, Vietnam notified the amendment to the Quality Law as G/TBT/N/VNM/313 and the amendment to the Technical Regulations Law as G/TBT/N/VNM/329. As of May 2025, these amendments are under discussion by the National Assembly.

Section II: Labeling Requirements

Vietnam imposes strict requirements on the labeling of goods. Mandatory labeling content is regulated under GVN's Decree 43/2017 ([VM7031](#)) and Decree 111/2021, amending and supplementing Decree 43 ([VM2021-0110](#)). The origin of imported goods must be presented on their original labels from February 15, 2022.

2.1. General Requirements

Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling

Decree 43/2017 outlines labeling requirements for all food, beverages, and agricultural inputs in Vietnam, both domestically produced and imported. Effective June 1, 2017, labels must be in Vietnamese and include all mandatory content. Foreign language content is allowed but must match the Vietnamese description and have a font size no larger than the Vietnamese text.

Mandatory labeling content includes:

- Name of the goods
- Name and address of the responsible enterprise
- Origin of the goods

- Additional details as specified in Appendix I of Decree 43/2017 and other relevant legal documents

Expiration dates can be shown as “use by” or “best before” dates, but manufacture and expiration dates must be in the "day-month-year" format.

Imported food must be labeled in Vietnamese with all mandatory content or use secondary labels with Vietnamese translations of the original label's mandatory information. Secondary labels are not required for food ingredients, additives, and processing aids imported for internal production only.

Decree 111/2021 Supplementing and Revising Decree 43/2017

In addition to mandatory requirements stipulated in Decree 43, Decree 111/2021 requires the original label of imported goods to include the origin of the goods. Accordingly, the origin of the goods should include one of the following phrases: “made in”; “manufactured in”; “producing country”; “origin”; “made by”; or “product of” in addition to the name of the country where the goods were produced. When the origin of goods cannot be determined, the place where the final stage of production is performed should be labeled using one of the following phrases: “assembled at”; “bottled at”; “blended at”; “completed at”; “packed at” or “labeled at” ([VM2021-0110](#)).

MOST Circular 5/2019 Detailing the Implementation of Decree 43/2017

MOST issued Circular 5/2019 on June 26, 2019, detailing the implementation of Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling. This Circular took effect on January 1, 2021.

Key points include:

- Article 8 requires the quantity of an ingredient to be shown on the label if the ingredient's name is highlighted for attention.
- Labels can state “no presence,” “not containing,” or “no addition” of an ingredient only if the ingredient is absent from the product and its materials, or if no similar ingredients are present unless clearly stated.
- Circular 5/2019 allows labeling per Codex guidance, e.g., “No sugar” if sugar content is $\leq 0.5\text{g}/100\text{g}$ (solid) or $\leq 0.5\text{g}/100\text{ml}$ (liquid).

The full text of Circular 5/2019 is available in Vietnamese

<https://vbpl.vn/bokhoahoccongnghc/Pages/vbpq-toanvan.aspx?ItemID=138459&Keyword=>

2.2. Other Specific Labeling Requirements

Vietnam imposes specific requirements on the labeling of the shelf life for prepacked food and special provisions for functional food, food additives, irradiated food, and genetically engineered food under the FSL.

2.2.1. Labeling Food Additives

According to Decree 43/2017, in addition to the mandatory requirements, labels of food additives must include the following content:

- The phrase “*Phụ gia thực phẩm*” (Food additive) must be printed on the label.
- If two or more food additives are present in packaging, their names must be listed in the order of proportion by weight.

2.2.2. Labeling Irradiated Food

According to the FSL, in the case of food manufactured, processed, or preserved using irradiation, in addition to the mandatory labeling contents, the phrase “*Thực phẩm đã qua chiếu xạ*” (Irradiated food) must be printed on the label.

2.2.3. Labeling Functional Food

Requirements for functional foods, as outlined in Decree 15, are currently under review and amendment. Post will issue a GAIN report once the GVN finalizes these amendments.

2.2.4. Labeling Genetically Engineered Food (GE food)

The FSL mandates labeling for most genetically engineered (GE) foods, requiring the Vietnamese phrase “*Thực phẩm biến đổi gen*” (Genetically engineered food) on the product.

Joint Circular 45/2015/TTLB-BNNPTNT-BKHCN, issued by MARD and MOST on November 23, 2015, details labeling requirements for prepacked GE foods. Effective January 8, 2016, this Circular applies to prepacked foods containing at least one GE ingredient making up at least five percent of the product. The phrase “*biến đổi gen*” (genetically engineered) must be printed next to the GE component on the ingredient list of the Vietnamese-language secondary label.

Exemptions to GE food labeling under Circular 45/2015 include:

- Food for personal use within duty-free limits, diplomatic bags, temporary imports for re-export, bonded warehouse food, samples for testing/research, and food for exhibitions/trade shows.
- Materials, food additives, processing aids, and packaging materials for internal production not for sale.

Decree 15/2018/ND-CP, dated February 2, 2018, maintains these labeling requirements and exemptions for GE foods, including:

- Pre-packaged food with GE ingredients without detectable modified genes.
- Fresh and unpackaged processed GE foods sold directly to consumers.
- GE foods used in emergencies like natural disasters or epidemics.

2.2.5. Nutrition Labeling

Starting January 1, 2026, pre-packaged foods must comply with nutritional labeling requirements outlined in MOH’s Circular 29/2023, issued on December 30, 2023 ([VM2024 - 0001](#)). This Circular

mandates labeling for energy, protein, carbohydrates, fat, and sodium for all pre-packaged foods manufactured, traded, imported, and circulated in Vietnam.

Additional requirements include:

- Total sugars for beverages, processed milk with added sugar, and other foods with added sugar.
- Saturated fat for fried foods.

Exemptions from nutritional labeling apply to:

- Food ingredients and foods not sold directly to consumers, including ice.
- Single-ingredient foods.
- Natural mineral water, bottled water (with only added CO₂ and/or flavorings).
- Food-grade salt, refined salt.
- Vinegar and vinegar substitutes (with only added flavorings).
- Flavorings, additives, food processing aids.
- Food-grade enzymes.
- Tea and coffee (with only added colors and flavorings).
- Health supplements, dietary supplements.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Fresh and raw foods, and processed foods without packaging sold directly to consumers.

Nutritional values must be presented per 100g or 100ml, per serving, or per packaged portion:

- Energy in kilocalories (kcal).
- Protein, carbohydrate, fat, saturated fat, and total sugar in grams (g).
- Sodium in milligrams (mg).

Section III: Packaging and Container Regulations

3.1. National Technical Regulations (NTR) for food packages and containers

MOH issued the following National Technical Regulations on food safety and hygiene for packages, containers, and equipment directly in contact with food:

- NTR 12-1:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for synthetic resin packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food,
- NTR 12-2:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for rubber packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food, and
- NTR 12-3:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for metallic packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food.

3.2. Packaging Sustainability Measures

Recycling of Packages

Vietnam requires mandatory recycling of food and beverage packages with a recycled value from January 1, 2024. According to the Law on Environment Protection (EPL) 72/2020/QH14 dated November 17, 2020, manufacturers/importers must recycle packages that are determined to have a

recycled value by self-organization of recycling or making a financial contribution to the Vietnam Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to support recycling. The 2020 EPL is available in Vietnamese at: <https://vanban.chinhphu.vn/?pageid=27160&docid=202613&classid=1&typegroupid=3>

On January 10, 2022, the GVN issued Decree 08/2022 detailing a number of articles of the EPL 72/2020. Article 77 of this Decree stipulates that the manufacturer and/or importer must recycle packages with a recycled value according to the mandatory recycling rates and specified specifications. The mandatory recycling rate for each type of package in the first three years is provided in Appendix XXII of Decree 08. The mandatory recycling rate is adjusted every three years gradually to meet the national recycling target and environmental protection requirements. According to Decree 08/2022, manufacturers/importers must register their recycling plan with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), then implement the plan and report the yearly recycling results to MONRE.

Roadmap to Single-use Plastic Restriction by 2030

Article 73.7 of the EPL stipulates that the GVN prescribes a roadmap to restrict the production and import of single-use plastic products and bio-persistent plastic packaging. According to Article 3.14 of Decree 08/2022, single-use plastic products include food utensils and containers with plastic components that are designed and marketed with the intention of being used once before being disposed of in the environment. These products will be banned in commercial centers, supermarkets, hotels, and tourist resorts starting on January 1, 2026. Manufacturers/importers of single-use plastic products, except those certified with Vietnam's ecolabel, must suspend their production/import by December 31, 2030. Decree 08/2022 is available in Vietnamese at: <https://vanban.chinhphu.vn/?pageid=27160&docid=205092>

Section IV: Food Additives Regulations

Vietnam currently regulates the use of food additives and the lists of permissible additives under the FSL and MOH's Circular 24/2019 ([VM2019-0066](#)). Circular 24/2019, replacing MOH's Circular 27/2012 and Circular 8/2015, took effect on October 16, 2019.

Lists of Permitted Food Additives and Maximum Use Levels (MLs) in Food

Generally, Vietnam adopts the use of food additives in accordance with Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) STAN 192-1995. Appendix 2A of Circular 24/2019 lists the additives permitted for use in food and their MLs in accordance with GSFA.

In addition, Circular 24/2019 permits the use of additional additives for wine, dairy products, spices, cereal, processed meat, sauces, and fish, which are currently not adopted in Codex standards. These additives must be used with specific MLs or in accordance with good manufacturing practice (GMP) provided in Appendix 2B of this Circular.

Starting November 2023, Vietnam allows the list of permitted food additives to be updated at the same time with GSFA ([VM2023-0073](#)). MOH's Circular 17/2023 amending Circular 24/2019 also extends the

list of food additives permitted for use with specific MLs or in accordance with GMP provided at Appendix 2B of Circular 24/2019.

Flavorings

Circular 17/2023 extends the lists of flavors allowed for food use in Vietnam, including those in one of the following lists:

- Flavors that have been evaluated by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and determined to be safe at expected intakes or acceptable daily intakes (ADI)
- Flavors generally recognized as safe (GRAS) issued by the American Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association (FEMA)
- Flavors for use in foods in the European Union issued by the Parliament and Council of the European Union.

Processing aids

Circular 17/2023 provides the renewed List of Processing Aids allowed for use in food production. The renewed List includes 221 processing aids with relevant chemical names. Other processing aids are allowed for use once they are determined to be safe in accordance with Point 3.3 and Point 3.4 of Item 3 Principles in Safe Use of Processing Aids provided in Vietnam Standard 11429:2016 (CAC/GL 75 :2010).

Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

5.1. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides

Vietnam manages the use and registration of pesticides under the Law on Plant Quarantine and Protection. The current list of permitted pesticides is provided in Appendix I of MARD's Circular 25/2014. The list of banned pesticides is provided at Appendix II of the same circular. Over the past few years, Vietnam has updated and notified the list of permitted pesticides annually. Most recently, Vietnam notified the amendment of the list of permitted pesticides as G/SPS/N/VNM/168, dated March 18, 2025.

Pesticide MRLs are managed under the Food Safety Law. Accordingly, MOH issued two key regulations establishing MRLs for pesticides in foods:

- Part 8 of MOH's Decision 46/2007, effective from 2007 to June 2017,
- Circular 50/2016/TT-BYT, effective from July 1, 2017.

Circular 50/2016 currently provides MRLs for 205 compounds for a wide range of foods, including: fruits, vegetables, cereals, nuts, coffee, tea, meat, fat, skin, offal, eggs, milk and dairy products, dried food, vegetable oils, and spices ([VM7026](#)). According to MOH, these MRLs were established in accordance with Codex MRLs and ASEAN MRLs. Vietnam still maintains MRLs for several banned

chemicals such as endosulfan, endrin, lindane, etc. Vietnam maintains MRLs for glyphosate given it suspended the domestic use of glyphosate from July 1, 2021.

According to the FSL, imported foods must meet relevant Vietnam MRLs regulations. Vietnam currently applies the same MRLs provided in MOH's Circular 50/2016 for both imported and domestic products. Vietnam has not yet provided any guidance on an MRL deferral pathway for imported products although the FSL allows the application of international agreements for imported products if Vietnam has no technical regulations.

MOH is no longer responsible for setting pesticide MRLs following the implementation of Decree 15/2018. Decree 15 has assigned MARD, now merged into MAE, the responsibility for establishing MRLs for agro-foods and commodities. However, the MRLs must be submitted to MOH for review and promulgation.

Since 2023, the United States has engaged with Vietnam to support the amendment of MRL regulations. The Vietnam Department of Plant Protection (PPD), now renamed the Department of Plant Production and Protection (PPPD), has initiated the review of Circular 50/2016 to update Vietnam's MRLs for plant products and establish regulatory guidelines for import tolerances. In September 2023, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in Hanoi, in collaboration with the FAS/Trade Capacity Building Division, supported PPPD in holding a workshop to discuss best practices in setting MRLs. As of May 2025, PPPD has confirmed that the amendment of Circular 50/2016 is ongoing. Reportedly, Vietnam conducts an annual monitoring program for pesticide residues on imported products, but there is no published data on its results.

5.2. Maximum Limits for Mycotoxins and other Contaminants

Below are highlights of current National Technical Regulations (NTR) regulating the tolerance of contaminants in food.

Mycotoxins

In 2011, MOH issued NTR 8-1:2011, promulgating the Maximum Limits (MLs) of Mycotoxins Contaminations in Food ([VM3070](#)). This NTR provides MLs of aflatoxin, including total aflatoxin, aflatoxin B1 and aflatoxin M1, ochratoxin A, and other mycotoxins in many types of food, including nuts, corn, rice, raw milk, milk powder, spices, food formula for babies, etc. According to GAIN Report VM3070, Vietnam did not notify the NTR to the WTO.

As of August 2023, the Vietnam Food Safety Administration (VFA) announced that it opened a review process to amend NTR 8-1:2011 on MLs of Mycotoxins in Foods. Vietnam has notified the amendment of NTR on MLs of Mycotoxins in Foods as G/SPS/N/VNM/165 dated January 6, 2025.

Heavy Metals

MOH issued NTR 8-2:2011 providing the Maximum Limits of Heavy Metal Contaminants in food. This NTR establishes the safety limits for arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, methyl mercury and zinc in various kinds of foods such as meat, processed meat, fruits, dried fruits, dairy products, juice, seafood, etc ([VM3070](#)).

Microbial Contamination

MOH issued NTR 8-3:2012 providing the Maximum Limits of Microbiological Contamination in Food. This NTR prescribes the limits of microbiological contamination in food for milk and dairy, eggs, and products from eggs, meat and products from meat, aquaculture products, nutrition products for children aged 0 to 36 months old, bottled natural water, bottled water and instant-use ice, cream, vegetables and fruits, and products from vegetables and fruits. Post noted that NTR 8-3:2012 currently sets zero tolerance for *Salmonella* in meat, poultry, cheese, dairy products, and seafood.

5.3. Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs

The establishment of MRLs for veterinary drugs is regulated under the FSL and Decree 15/2018. MOH issued its consolidated regulations on MRLs for veterinary drugs as Circular 24/2013/TT-BYT, which took effect on October 1, 2013. The MRLs provided in Circular 24/2013 align with Codex MRLs.

On September 7, 2016, the MOH announced an amendment to Circular 24/2013, proposing zero tolerances for several compounds in food, including ractopamine, trenbolone acetate, and zeranol, as these compounds were listed as banned chemicals for livestock in Vietnam. In response, the United States and other countries requested that Vietnam not deviate from its past practice of following Codex standards and urged the MOH to maintain its current MRLs for ractopamine and other veterinary drugs. On May 31, 2017, the United States and Vietnam announced a resolution to the veterinary drug MRLs issue. On November 9, 2018, the MOH confirmed that they had reached an agreement with MARD to suspend the amendment of Circular 24/2013 for further review of the list of chemicals banned for livestock.

On November 28, 2019, MARD issued Circular 21/2019, which guides a number of articles of the Animal Husbandry Law on Animal Feed. This Circular removed ractopamine, trenbolone acetate, and zeranol from the list of chemicals banned for domestic use in Vietnam ([VM2019-0065](#)). Since then, Vietnam has continued to maintain MRLs for ractopamine, trenbolone acetate, and zeranol in accordance with Codex MRLs.

5.4. Maximum Limits (MLs) of Contaminants in Feed

MARD issued National Technical Regulation 01-190:2020 on Maximum Limits (MLs) of Undesirable Substances in Feed and Feed Ingredients (NTR190) on March 9, 2020. NTR190, initially going to enter into force on July 1, 2020, set a zero tolerance for *Salmonella* and renewed MLs for heavy metals in feed and feed ingredients, including grains and oilseeds for both livestock and aquaculture feed ([VM2020-0016](#)).

MARD notified NTR190 to the WTO as G/SPS/N/VNM/113 as trading partners raised concerns about the impacts of NTR190. On June 30, 2020, MARD issued Circular 08/2020 postponing the implementation of the zero tolerance for *Salmonella* and MLs for heavy metals in feed ingredients of plant origin until June 30, 2021, for further review and risk assessment.

On July 1, 2021, MARD eliminated the zero tolerance for *Salmonella* and tolerances for heavy metals in feed ingredients of plant origin in NTR190 ([VM2021-0057](#)). The revision helps to avoid increasing testing costs and ensure the trade flow of grain and oilseed products, including soybean meals, distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), and corn gluten feed.

Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

Vietnam requires several kinds of certificates for imported food and agricultural products. The list of export certificates and certification requirements relevant for each group of food and agricultural products is detailed in the FAIRS Export Certificate Report. Generally, Vietnam requires Export Certificates for meat, poultry, and seafood, and Phytosanitary Certificates for plant products. A Certificate of Free Sale or Health Certificate is required for health supplements, medical foods, food for special dietary uses, dietary products for children up to 36 months, genetically engineered (GE), and irradiated food. A Certificate of Analysis (COA) is required for feed ingredients, including grains and oilseeds. There are no mandatory requirements for a COA, but Vietnamese importers usually request a COA containing test results of key specifications prescribed in national technical regulations on food/feed safety.

Imported food and agricultural products are subject to relevant specialized inspections, including food safety inspection, quarantine inspection, and quality inspection at points of entry. Testing of safety indicators (per national technical regulations on food safety) is required for meat, poultry, seafood, and dairy products. Vietnam carries out testing to monitor residues of pesticides in imported fruits and vegetables. Imported foods are also subject to food safety monitoring in the domestic market.

6.1. Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Facility Registration

Vietnam requires exporters of meat, poultry, and seafood to be registered on the list of establishments eligible for export of foodstuffs of animal origin and seafood prior to exporting these products to Vietnam. The Department of Animal Health (DAH), now renamed as the Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) is in charge of review and approval of establishments eligible for export of meat, poultry and seafood to Vietnam ([VM7036](#)).

As mentioned in Section I of this report, GVN's Decree 15/2018 consolidates import requirements for food derived from aquatic animals and terrestrial animals. Accordingly, Vietnam requires a two-step registration process for the export of meat and seafood to Vietnam:

- Exporting countries are required to register to be included on the list of countries and territories approved for export to Vietnam.

- Exporters of food derived from aquatic animals and terrestrial animals, except for processed and pre-packaged products, are required to register to be included on the list of establishments approved for export to Vietnam.

DAH, now known as DAHP, does not require registration for heat-treated meat, poultry, and seafood since these products are considered processed products

DAHP continues the review and approval of establishments' application packages on a case-by-case basis, within 30 days of receiving an application. U.S. exporters of meat and poultry products wishing to register an establishment or update a registration should reach out to aghamoi@usda.gov or usda4circ25@gmail.com. FAS/Hanoi will provide exporters with the application packet or information needed to update a current registration.

U.S. seafood exporters should refer to the guidance of the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's Seafood Inspection Program at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/export-requirements-country-and-jurisdiction-n-z#vietnam>

The list of establishments eligible to export meat and meat products to Vietnam is available at: <https://cucthuy.gov.vn/web/guest/danh-sach-cac-doanh-nghiep-cua-22-nuoc-du-dieu-kien-xuat-khau-thuc-pham-co-nguon-goc-dong-vat-tren-can-vao-viet-nam>

The list of establishments eligible for exporting seafood to Vietnam is available at: <https://cucthuy.gov.vn/web/guest/danh-sach-doanh-nghiep-xk-thuy-san>

6.2. Product Registration

6.2.1. Self- Declaration for Processed and Pre-packaged Food

Decree 15/2018 requires food enterprises, including importers, to publish a Product Self-Declaration to clarify quality specifications, labeling information, product shelf-life, and other technical information prior to manufacture and/or import of these products.

Article 4.2 of Decree 15 allows products and raw materials imported for processing for re-export or for internal production that are not for domestic sale to be exempt from self-declaration. On March 9, 2018, the Directorate of Customs instructed local customs authorities to allow this exemption based on the importer's declaration on the purposes of use for imported shipments. Importers are fully responsible for the use of imported shipments in accordance with their declaration ([VM8016](#)).

6.2.2. Product Declaration for Health Supplements and Dietary Products

Requirements for health supplement and dietary products, as outlined in Decree 15, are currently under review and amendment. Post will issue a GAIN report once the GVN finalizes these amendments.

6.2.3. Registration for Import Inspection of Foodstuffs of Plant, Animal Origin, and Seafood

Vietnam requires foodstuffs of plant, animal origin, and seafood to be registered for import quarantine and food safety inspection prior to importation to Vietnam. The procedures are detailed in Section 6.3.

6.2.4. Registration for Import of Live Aquatic Animals for Consumption

Vietnam allows imports of live aquatic animals for human consumption if they are listed in the Appendix VIII of Government's Decree 26/2019 Guiding the Implementation of the Law on Fishery - The List of Aquatic Animals Eligible for Trade in Vietnam. Since 2018, DAH (now DAHP) has no longer required U.S. exporters of live aquatic animals to register for export to Vietnam.

6.2.5. Approval of Genetically Engineered (GE) Products for Food and Feed Use

GE products are required to obtain a Certificate of Approval for Food and/or Feed Use (Food and Feed Certificate) prior to importation and trade in Vietnam.

Under Decree 69/2010/ND-CP dated June 21, 2010, on Biosafety for Genetically Modified Organisms, MARD is responsible for reviewing applications and granting Food and Feed Certificates for GE products. The conditions for import and trade of GE food and feed, previously prescribed in Decree 69/2010, are consolidated in Decree 123/2018 dated September 17, 2018, amending and supplementing conditions for agricultural trade and business.

The process for applying for a Food and Feed Use Certificate is detailed in MARD's Circular 2/2014 dated January 24, 2014. The Circular also regulates the process to revoke Food and Feed Use Certificates.

6.3. Specialized Inspection

6.3.1. Food Safety Inspection

Decree 15/2018 set an import inspection scheme for imported foods, including three inspection methods: reduced inspection, tightened inspection, and normal inspection ([VM8016](#)).

Exemption from Food Safety Import Inspection

As mentioned in Section I - General Food Laws, Decree 15/2018 establishes a broader range of foods exempt from of import inspections. According to Article 13 of Decree 15/2018, the following products are exempted from import inspection:

- The product has a Certificate of Registered Product Declaration.
- Food in hand luggage of inbound passengers that is sent before or after arrival to serve the passengers' personal needs or travel purpose, gifts within duty-free allowances.
- Imports for personal use of people eligible for diplomatic immunity.
- Products in transit, temporarily imported for re-export or in bonded warehouses.

- Samples for testing or research whose quantities are suitable for these purposes and confirmed by the owners.
- Products used for display at exhibitions or fairs.
- Products or raw materials imported for production or processing for export or internal production that are not for domestic sale.
- Temporarily imported products for sale at duty-free shops.
- Imports serving emergency purposes under orders of the Government or the Prime Minister.

6.3.2. Import Quarantine for Plants and Plant Products

Plant quarantine is governed by the Law 41/2013/QH13 on Plant Protection and Quarantine. This law entered into force on January 1, 2015. The Plant Protection Department (PPD), under MARD, is the agency responsible for import quarantine of products of plant origin. The list of its inspection bodies is specified in Appendix II of this report.

Under the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine, MARD released the following Circulars (in Vietnamese) to guide the implementation of the law:

- [Circular 14/2024](#) dated October 31, 2014, issuing the list of articles subject to plant quarantine and the list of articles subject to pest risk analysis before importation into Vietnam.
- [Circular 33/2014](#) dated October 10, 2014, providing guidance on quarantine procedures for import, export, and in-transit consignments of plant origin.
- [Circular 04/2023](#) dated August 15, 2023, replacing Circular 35/2014. This Circular provides an amendment of the list of quarantine pests for plants and plant products imported to Vietnam.

According to Circular 04/2023, Vietnam has removed creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* from the list of quarantine pests. Wheat and soybean exported to Vietnam no longer need to be certified as free of creeping thistle from September 29, 2023.

In addition to the general list of articles subject to plant quarantine, MARD has specified the harmonized schedule (HS) codes relevant with each line of plants and plant products imported to Vietnam. The list of HS codes for imported goods subject to MARD's management, first issued in 2015, is revised periodically. On February 2, 2024, MARD issued the latest list of HS codes for imported goods under the Ministry's specialized inspection under Circular 01/2024. This Circular replaces Circular 11/2021 and takes effect from March 20, 2024. Accordingly, updated HS codes for plants and plant products subject to plant quarantine are specified at Section 9 of Appendix I Circular 01/2024 ([VM2024-0003](#)).

6.3.3. Import Quarantine for Animals and Animal Products

Animal quarantine is governed under the Law on Animal Health, which entered into force on July 1, 2016. DAH, now renamed as DAHP, is the agency in charge of both quarantine and food safety inspections for imported food of animal origin. DAHP follows the GVN's Decree 15/2018 on Food

Safety as well as MARD's Circular 25/2016 ([VM6065](#)) for quarantine of terrestrial animals and products thereof, and Circular 26/2016 ([VM6053](#)) for quarantine of aquatic animal products and products thereof.

The inspection bodies responsible for quarantine and food safety inspection for imported food of animal origin are the Regional Offices of Animal Health (RAHO) under DAHP.

Quarantine of Terrestrial Animals and Animal Products

The quarantine inspection process for terrestrial animals and animal products is detailed in MARD's Circular 25, dated June 30, 2016 ([VM6065](#)). The current list of products subject to animal quarantine and their HS Codes was revised in Appendix I, Section 1, of MARD's Circular 01/2024 ([VM2024-0003](#)). Previously, MARD removed processed products under HS codes 19, 21 and 22 from the list of products subject to animal quarantine ([VM2021-0104](#)). Post notes that imported animal products, including processed meat and poultry, dairy products, and egg products are subject to both food safety and quarantine inspection.

In 2022, MARD issued an amendment of Circular 25/2016 on quarantine regulations for terrestrial animals as Circular 09/2022 ([VM2022-0065](#)). According to Circular 09/2022, Vietnam's DAHP accepts an electronic quarantine certificate for terrestrial animals and terrestrial animal products once DAHP and the competent authority of an exporting country reach an agreement on the electronic certification. In addition, Circular 09/2022 specifies the list of pathogens being tested for animal products. Among those, frozen meat and poultry, by-products and offal are listed as high-risk products; and processed meat, by-products and offal are listed as low-risk products. Each category of products, for example, poultry, beef or port shall be tested for relevant animal pathogens.

Vietnam continued to amend quarantine regulations for meat and poultry in 2024. On April 1, 2024, MARD issued Circular 04/2024 which mandates testing high-risk products, including meat and poultry for *Salmonella* spp. and *E. coli* O157:H7 ([VM2024-0009](#)). This Circular has led to multiple industry concerns regarding increased time and costs due to stringent testing requirements.

Most recently, on April 14, 2025, Vietnam notified the amendment of Circular 04/2024 as G/SPS/N/VNM/169, which includes a potential reduction in the testing frequency for meat and poultry.

Quarantine of Aquatic Animals and Aquatic Animal Products

The quarantine inspection process for aquatic animals and aquatic animal products is prescribed in MARD's Circular 26/2016 ([VM6053](#)) and MARD Circular 36/2018 ([VM9020](#)). The current list of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products subject to quarantine and their HS codes has been revised in Appendix I, Section 5 of MARD's Circular 1/2024 ([VM2024-0003](#)). MARD removed processed fishery products including, smoked, salted, brined, and heat-treated products from the list of aquatic products subject to quarantine.

In 2022, MARD issued Circular 06/2022 ([VM2022-0058](#)) amending Circular 26/2016 on quarantine of aquatic animals. Accordingly, Vietnam's DAHP accepts an electronic quarantine certificate for aquatic animals and aquatic animal products once DAHP and the competent authority of an exporting country reaches an agreement on the electronic certification.

Section VII: Other Specific Standards

7.1. National Technical Regulations on Food Quality and Safety

MOH has promulgated National Technical Regulations (NTR) setting quality specifications and safety limits for food products, including:

- NTR for nutritious cereal products for children ages 6 to 36 months,
- NTR on supplemental formula products for children ages 6 to 36 months,
- NTR on special medical-treatment products for children ages 0 to 12 months,
- NTR on micronutrient fortified food,
- NTR on natural mineral water and bottled water, and
- NTR on food additives including acidity regulators, firming agents, artificial sweeteners, antifoaming agents, antioxidant agents, and others.

The NTRs are available in Vietnamese at: <https://vfa.gov.vn/van-ban.html>

7.2. Micronutrients and Fortified Food

The GVN issued Decree 9/2016/ND-CP, dated January 28, 2016, regulating the mandatory fortification of salt, wheat flour, and vegetable oils ([VM6012](#)). Accordingly, the following foods must be fortified with the relevant micronutrients:

- Edible salt and salt used for food processing must be fortified with iodine,
- Wheat flour used for food processing must be fortified with iron and zinc, and
- Vegetable oils which contain one of the following ingredients: soy oil, palm oil, rapeseed oil, and peanut oil, must be fortified with vitamin A, except for vegetable oils used for food processing.

MOH issued Circular 44/2015/TT-BYT, dated November 30, 2015, promulgating the List of Micronutrients Allowed for Supplementation and Fortification in Food Products. However, this Circular is not applicable for nutritional formula products for children ([VM6005](#)).

7.3. Plant-based Meat and Dairy Alternatives

Plant-based meat and dairy alternatives are regulated under the FSL and Decree 15/2018. Depending on the ingredients, these products may be subject to specific NTRs on maximum limits of contaminants in foods. For example:

- Dairy Alternatives: These are subject to NTR 6-2:2010, which sets maximum limits for heavy metals, microorganisms, and mycotoxins in non-alcoholic beverages. Additionally, dairy

alternatives must comply with regulations on pesticide MRLs in foods. Importers are required to follow regulations on food import inspection and self-declaration for dairy alternatives.

- **Plant-Based Meat:** Products such as "giò chay" or "chả lụa chay," primarily made from soybeans and green peas, have been consumed in Vietnam for centuries for religious reasons. Recently, pea protein-based burger patties and sausages have been introduced to the Vietnamese market. Currently, Vietnam has no specific requirements for these products. Generally, they are subject to NTRs on maximum limits of contaminants in food, such as NTR 8-3:2012, which sets maximum limits for microbiological contaminants.

Both plant-based meat and dairy alternatives are also subject to regulations on food additives and flavors, as well as regulations on labeling and advertising

Section VIII: Geographical Indications, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

Geographical indications, trademarks, brand names and intellectual property rights are protected under the Vietnamese Intellectual Property (IP) Laws and related legislation.

8.1. Laws on Intellectual Property

Vietnam's National Assembly (NA) approved the Intellectual Property (IP) Law 50/2005/QH11 on November 29, 2005. This law, which came into force on July 1, 2006, stipulates copyrights, copyright-related rights, industrial property rights, rights for plant varieties, and the protection of these rights. Rights to trademarks, brand names, and geographical indications are listed under industrial property rights. The 2005 IP Law in English can be accessed on the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) website: [WIPO - 2005 IP Law](#).

The 2005 IP Law was subsequently amended by the NA's Law 36/2009/QH12, issued on June 19, 2009. This amendment came into force on January 1, 2010. The 2009 IP Law in English can be accessed on the WIPO website: [WIPO - 2009 IP Law](#).

On November 12, 2018, Vietnam became the seventh member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to ratify the agreement, which includes greater protection of intellectual property rights. On June 30, 2019, Vietnam and the European Union signed the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), which provides safeguards for protected designation of origin products like cheese, cognac, and wine ([VM2020-0059](#)).

On June 16, 2022, Vietnam's NA officially approved the third amendment of the IP Law. The amended IP Law, which took effect on January 1, 2023, reflects Vietnam's commitment to several international agreements in recent years, including the CPTPP and EVFTA. Regarding foods and agricultural products, the amendment provides revisions concerning trademark registration, well-known trademarks, geographic indications, and plant variety rights. The 2022 IP Law in Vietnamese is available at: [Vietnam Government Gazette - 2022 IP Law](#).

8.2. Trademark Registration

The 2005 IP Law defines a trademark as “any sign used to distinguish goods and/or services of different organizations or individuals.” Article 87 grants manufacturers and service providers the right to register trademarks. To do so, they must submit an application to the National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP).

Article 72 outlines eligible signs for trademark protection, including visible signs such as letters, words, drawings, images, holograms, or combinations thereof, in one or more colors. These signs must be distinguishable from those of others. The 2022 amendment adds sound marks to the list of eligible signs.

Certificates of registered trademarks are valid for 10 years from the filing date and can be renewed indefinitely in 10-year terms.

The GVN has issued several regulations to guide the implementation of IP Laws. Most recently, [Decree 65/2023](#) (in Vietnamese), issued on August 23, 2023, provides measures for implementing the IP Law regarding industrial property and trademark registration. Further guidance on trademark registration is provided in [Circular 23/2023/TT-BKHHCN](#) (in Vietnamese) issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

8.3. Trade Name Protection:

According to Article 76 of the 2005 IP Law, a trade name shall be protected when it is capable of distinguishing the business entity bearing it from other business entities operating in the same business field and locality.

Although a trade name is subject to industrial property rights, it is not protected in the form of a certificate. A trade name does not need to undergo registration procedures for protection at the IP Office but is recognized through its use in business activities.

8.4. Geographical Indications

A definition of Geographical Indication (GI) was first provided in the 2005 IP Law. It was later amended in the 2022 IP Law to state: “Geographical indication means a sign that is used to indicate the geographical origin of a product from a specific region, locality, territory, or country.”

The conditions for GI protection were renewed in the 2022 IP Law, including:

- The product bearing the GI must originate from the area, locality, territory, or country corresponding to such GI.
- The product bearing the GI must have a reputation, quality, or characteristics mainly attributable to the geographical conditions of the area, locality, territory, or country corresponding to such GI.

Under the EVFTA, Vietnam recognizes a list of 171 GIs, mostly for wine, cheese, spirits, cured meat, and olive oil products from European countries. However, Vietnam accepts the use of exceptions if the

owners of the indications made actual commercial use in good faith of these indications in Vietnam prior to January 1, 2017. This includes “Asiago,” “Fontina,” and “Gorgonzola” for cheeses, and “Feta” for cheeses made from sheep's milk or a combination of sheep and goat’s milk. Vietnam also endorses the protection of GIs under CPTPP. Accordingly, Vietnam recognizes that GIs may be protected through a trademark or a sui generis system, or other legal means.

To register for GI protection, organizations and individuals manufacturing products bearing GIs must submit applications to the NOIP. Requirements for applications for GI protection were provided in Article 106 of the 2005 IP Law. This law stipulates that certificates of registered GIs have indefinite validity starting from the granting date.

Section IX: Import Procedures

9.1. Law on Customs

Vietnam’s National Assembly enacted the Law on Customs 54/2014/QH13, effective January 1, 2015. It prioritizes customs inspection for live animals, plants, and other special goods. Importers must declare customs before or within 30 days of the commodities arriving at the border checkpoint. The law is available in Vietnamese [here](#).

Customs declarations are made electronically, except for:

- Border residents' goods.
- Goods exceeding tax exemption limits for travelers.
- Emergency assistance and humanitarian aid cargo.
- Personal gifts and properties.
- Equipment containing goods for temporary import/export.
- Temporarily imported/exported cargo for work purposes.
- System failures in electronic data processing or customs declaration systems.
- Other cases as stipulated by the Minister of Finance.

9.2. Decrees and Circulars Guiding the Law on Customs

The GVN issued the following Decrees to guide the implementation of the Law on Customs:

- [Decree 08/2015/ND-CP](#), dated January 21, 2015, promulgating the implementation of the Law on Customs, regarding customs procedures, customs supervision, and inspection. Decree 08/2015 entered into force on March 15, 2015.
- [Decree 59/2018/ND-CP](#), dated April 20, 2018, revising and supplementing a number of articles of Decree 08/2015/ND-CP on the regulations and enforcement rules for customs procedures,

audits, and inspections. Specifically, Decree 59/2018/ND-CP amends and supplements content on customs declaration; valuation methods for import goods; customs inspection authority; customs procedures for temporary import and export goods, in-transit goods, etc. Decree 59/2018 took effect from June 5, 2018.

- [Decree 85/2019/ND-CP](#), dated November 14, 2019, prescribing the performance of administrative procedures under the national single-window mechanism and ASEAN Single-Window mechanism and specialized inspection of imports and exports

Following the Law and GVN's Decrees on Customs, MOF issued the following Circulars to provide further guidance on customs procedure, customs valuation, and identification of origin of goods:

- [Circular 39/2018/TT-BTC](#), dated April 20, 2018, amending, and supplementing a number of articles of Circular 38/2015/TT-BTC. These Circulars provide guidance on customs procedures, customs supervision, inspection, export tax, import tax, and tax administration applied to exported and imported goods.
- [Circular 33/2023/TT-BTC](#), dated May 31, 2023, replacing Circular 38/2018/TT-BTC. This Circular regulates the determination of the origin of imported and exported goods.

Certificate of Origin

[Circular 33/2023/TT-BTC](#) mandates a Certificate of Origin (C/O) for imported meat, poultry, and processed meat products with HS codes under Chapters 2, 15, and 16. The required information for a C/O remains unchanged, but it must now be signed by the issuing person or agency. Required C/O information includes: i) Name of exporter; ii) Name of importer; iii) Means of transport; iv) Goods description and HS codes; v) Quantity, weight, or volume of goods; vi) Countries, groups of countries, or territories of origin; vii) Date of issuance; and viii) Signature of the person and/or the agency in charge of issuing the C/O.

In October 2020, FAS Vietnam addressed GDVC's concerns about the authenticity of unstamped U.S. C/Os. On October 28, 2020, GDVC issued Official Letter 6932/TCHQ-GSQL, instructing Customs Departments that a signed C/O from a certifying authority is accepted without a stamp.

Customs Valuation

Clause 9 of Decree 59/2018 requires importers to adjust their documentation within five working days if their declared customs value is rejected. If not adjusted, Customs will determine the value and impose taxes. This also applies if Customs doubts the declared value and holds a consultation meeting. Following the meeting, importers have five days to adjust the value, or Customs will do so and impose taxes.

On August 30, 2019, MOF issued [Circular 60/2019](#), revising Circular 39/2015 on customs value determination. Customs can use: a) transaction value of imported goods, b) transaction value of identical

goods, c) transaction value of similar goods, d) deduction value method, e) calculation value method, or f) inference method. The Directorate of Customs manages a list of goods at risk of undervaluation for comparison.

Customs valuation was a concern as GDVC used reference pricing for U.S. meat and poultry imports. GDVC notified their customs valuation legislation to WTO members as G/VAL/N/1/VNM/1 on June 7, 2021.

Section X: Trade Facilitation

Vietnam has promoted the implementation of the National Single Window (NSW) to improve the customs clearance procedures, and the application of risk management to reform the specialized inspection system for imported goods. Vietnam implemented the Trade Facilitation Program (TFP), funded by the United States, for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) from 2018 to 2022.

Pre-clearance Program

Currently, Vietnam has no pre-clearance program for food and agricultural products exported from the United States.

National Single Window and E-Customs System

Vietnam has implemented the registration for specialized inspections of imported and exported goods via the National Single Window (NSW). Currently, single-window procedures apply to most food and agricultural products, including quarantine and food safety inspection for meat, poultry, and seafood; quarantine and food safety inspection for plant products; quality inspection of feed ingredients; and food safety inspection for processed and packaged foods

Customs procedures are managed through the e-Customs system, "Vietnam Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System/ Vietnam Customs Intelligence Information System (VNACCS/VCIS)." VNACCS/VCIS has six key functions: e-Declaration, e-Manifest, e-Invoice, e-Payment, e-Certificate of Origin and Selectivity. The Selectivity function automatically assigns imported shipments to one of three channels (green, yellow, or red), each subject to different levels of customs inspection based on the importers' history and the risks of the specific commodity.

E-certificates

DAH, now known as DAHP, accepts Export Certificates for U.S. meat and poultry products, issued by the U.S. Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), with digital signatures starting from December 21, 2020, when FSIS updated its animal health attestations in the certificates.

For plant products, starting January 1, 2022, the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has implemented a new format for phytosanitary certificates, that includes improved security

measures generated in its Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) system. However, PPD, now renamed as PPPD, continues to request phytosanitary certificate printed on plain paper to be physically signed by authorized certification officials.

Port Fees

Port fees vary from port to port. Major fees include but are not limited to storage fees; repair and maintenance fees; lift-on and off fees; fees for transferring goods to the inspection yard; unloading fees related to manual inspections, and sampling. Large ports usually publish their fee schedules on their respective websites. Information on service fees in 2025 (in Vietnamese) at major ports is available at:

- Quang Ninh: [Quang Ninh Port](#)
- Hai Phong: [Hai Phong Port](#)
- Da Nang: [Da Nang Port](#)
- Ba Ria Vung Tau: [Tan Cang - Cai Mep International Terminal](#)
- Ho Chi Minh City: [Saigon New Port Cooperation](#)

Average Release Times

Release times for goods depend on various factors, including specialized inspections, freight operations, and customs inspections at entry points. According to regulations, customs must inspect cargo within eight working hours after receiving specialized inspection results. In special cases, this can be extended to two days. The use of electronic documents via the NSW has reduced customs clearance time and costs. A 2020 survey showed the average total time for customs procedures at entry gates was 27.2 hours, a 43% reduction from 2019, and the time to prepare import documents was 27.6 hours, half of 2019's time.

Specialized inspection times vary by goods and lab tests. Industry sources report release times for frozen meat and poultry shipments as three to five working days, processed foods up to three days, and grains and oilseeds around three to five days. In 2022, GDVC reported an average release time of 127 hours from arrival to departure, nearly seven hours less than in 2021.

Common Delays

Shipment release delays can occur due to various reasons, including documentation issues, quarantine pests or regulatory changes. For meat and poultry, delays may be caused by discrepancies between export certificates and product labels; parts of the shipment sourced from unlisted facilities; facility numbers not matching the export certificate and DAHP's approved list

Vietnam customs also reported delays due to difficulties in identifying HS codes for products which are not detailed in the HS code lists issued by line Ministries.

For dairy products, delays may be caused by: certificates issued after the bill of lading date; shipments for food use obtaining an APHIS certificate instead of an AMS certificate; discrepancies in product descriptions between the sanitary certificate and other export documents

New regulatory requirements, especially those without clear guidance and sufficient lead time, can also cause delays or detainments at ports.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE)

Department of International Cooperation (ICD)

10 Ton That Thuyet Street, Hanoi,

Contact: Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan, Director General,

Email: ndatuan2@mae.gov.vn

Department of Plant Production and Protection (PPPD)

2 Ngoc Ha, Hanoi

Website: www.ppd.gov.vn

Contact: Dr. Huynh Tan Dat, Director General,

Email: htqt_ttbvtv@mae.gov.vn

Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP)

2 Ngoc Ha, Hanoi

Website: <https://cucthuy.gov.vn/>

Contact: Dr. Duong Tat Thang, Director General

Email: dtthang3@mae.gov.vn

Ministry of Health (MOH)

Vietnam Food Administration (VFA)

Lane 135 Nui Truc, Hanoi

Website: <https://vfa.gov.vn/>

Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT)

54 Hai Ba Trung, Ha Noi

Website: <https://moit.gov.vn/>

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP)

386 Nguyen Trai, Hanoi

Website: <https://www.ipvietnam.gov.vn/>

Ministry of Finance (MOF)

General Department of Vietnam Customs

Block E3 - Duong Dinh Nghe street, Hanoi

Website: <https://www.customs.gov.vn/>

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts

National Institute of Food Control

65 Pham Than Duat, Hanoi

<http://nifc.gov.vn/index.php/en/>

Quality and Certification Centre 1

8 Hoang Quoc Viet, Hanoi

<https://quatest1.com.vn/>

Quality and Certification Centre 2

02 Ngo Quyen, Da Nang.

<http://quatest2.gov.vn/en/>

Quality and Certification Centre 3

49 Pasteur, HCMC

<http://www.quatest3.com.vn/>

Ho Chi Minh City Institute of Public Health

159 Hung Phu, HCMC

<http://www.iph.org.vn/>

National Institute of Nutrition

48B Tang Bat Ho, Hanoi

<http://viendinhduong.vn/>

Attachments:

No Attachments