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Prepared By: Jana Fischer

Approved By: Matthew Snyder

Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the laws, regulations, and import requirements for food products in the Czech Republic as well as Czech contact information. It is recommended to read this report in conjunction with the European Union (EU) Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards. The following sections include updates since the last report: I., III., V., VI., IX., and the Appendices. Please note notification requirements for importers of certain foodstuffs in Section VI.

Disclaimer:

This report was prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Prague, Czech Republic, 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

As a member of the European Union (EU) the Czech Republic follows all EU directives, regulations, and obligations. This report focuses on food laws in force in the Czech Republic that cover areas which are not yet EU-harmonized. EU Regulations are explained in the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium, and referenced throughout this report as the [EU-27 FAIRS Country Report](#)¹. It is available at the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#).²

Section I. Food Laws

In May 2004, the Czech Republic became a member of the European Union. All EU directives apply in the Czech Republic. Suppliers from the United States must be familiar with EU regulations and directives and Czech food laws for products and topics not harmonized at the EU level.

All EU regulations and directives can be obtained at the [EUR-Lex](#)³ website.

The Czech Republic follows the EU food safety approach based on risk analysis and traceability (of both inputs and outputs), with the aim of guaranteeing food safety and consumer protection. The Czech Ministry of Agriculture published a document “[Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy 2030](#)”⁴ that provides information on the system and implementation of food safety and nutrition policy in the Czech Republic. It is accessible on-line, in English, at the bottom of this website:

<https://www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz/strategie-bezpecnosti-potravin-do-roku-2030-posileni-bezpecnosti-i-kontrolniho-systemu-vzdelavani-spotrebitelu-a-otazky-vyzivy.aspx>.

For questions, clarification, or copies of the following regulations, please contact the FAS office in Prague, Czech Republic, agberlin@usda.gov or call (011-420) 257-022-000.

The most important Czech national acts and regulations regarding food are as follows:

Food Act

The Food Act 110/1997 as amended by legislative Acts: 166/1999, 306/2000, 119/2000, 146/2002, 131/2003, 274/2003, 94/2004, 316/2004, 558/2004, 392/2005, 444/2005, 229/2006, 296/2007, 120/2008, 224/2008, 227/2009, 281/2009, 375/2011, 279/2013, 128/2014, 138/2014, 139/2014, 180/2016, 26/2017, 183/2017, 302/2017, 277/2019, 174/2021, 167/2023, and 321/2024. Amendment 174/2021 came into force on May 12, 2021, and implements EU Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of March 15, 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products. The amendment 321/2024 will apply as of January 2025.

¹<https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual%20Brussels%20USEU%20European%20Union%20E42024-0031>.

²<https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>.

³<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>.

⁴https://www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz/UserFiles/publikace1/Strategie_EN_web.pdf.

It deals with the control of psychomodulants and new psychoactive substances in order to minimize the health and social risks of their use and to inform and protect consumers.

The Food Act defines requirements related to:

- hygiene and sanitary condition of food production.
- food, additives, foods for special diet, irradiation of food.
- classification of slaughter animals.
- packaging of food.
- labeling of food.
- placing of food on the market.
- transportation of food and tobacco products.
- the system of official control of food.
- penalty assessment for non-compliance.

Imported food products essentially have the same status as domestically produced products according to Food Act 110/1997, its amendments, and implementing decrees.

The most important national laws and regulations regarding food include:

- 69/2016 (concerning meat, meat preparations, fish, other aquatic organisms and preparations from them, egg and egg preparations).
- 211/2019 (concerning carcasses and animals intended for slaughter).
- 397/2016 (concerning milk, dairy products, frozen creams, edible fats, and oils) - amended by 274/2019. Another amendment of the decree is in preparation. It will ensure that the requirements for milk, dairy products, frozen creams, edible fats and oils comply with European regulations, scientific knowledge and technological developments.
- 329/1997 (concerning starch, legumes, and oil seeds) amended by 418/2000 and 399/2013. The Decree 329/1997 will be repealed and replaced by a new one, most probably some time in 2025.
- 187/2023 (concerning tea, coffee, and coffee substitutes).
- 398//2016 (concerning spices, edible salt, dehydrated products, condiments, cold sauces, dressings, and mustard).
- 397/2021 (concerning canned fruits and canned vegetables, nuts, mushrooms, potatoes, and derived products thereof, and bananas). An amendment of this Decree is in preparation. The Decree amendment will transpose EU Directive 2024/1438 of May 14, 2024, amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption. The amendment will also adapt the requirements for preserved fruit, preserved vegetables, nuts, mushrooms, potatoes and their products and bananas to directly applicable European Union

legislation, scientific knowledge and technological developments in the food sector. The date of application of the amended Decree is now foreseen to be July 1, 2025.

- 18/2020 (concerning cereals, grains, pasta, bakery products, and confectionery products and pastries).
- 76/2003 (concerning sweeteners, honey, cocoa, and chocolate) amended by 43/2005 and 148/2015. The Decree 76/2003 will be repealed and replaced by a new one. The work on a new decree has already started. The main reason for developing a new decree is to adapt the requirements for natural sweeteners, foods with sweetening properties, confectionery and cocoa and chocolate products and honey to new scientific knowledge and technological developments in the food sector and directly applicable EU legislation. The date of application of the new decree is foreseen to be July 1, 2025.
- 248/2018 (concerning non-alcoholic beverages and concentrates for the preparation of non-alcoholic beverages, fruit wines, other wines and mead, beer, potable alcohol, spirit drinks and other alcoholic beverages, brewed vinegar, and yeast). An amendment of the decree is in preparation. The decree amendment will transpose EU Directive of May 14, 2024, amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption. It will also adapt the requirements for beverages to directly applicable European Union legislation, scientific knowledge and technological developments in the food sector. The date of application of the amended decree is foreseen to be July 1, 2025.
- 13/2024 (concerning packaged water). The decree specifies labelling of packed water. It also regulates the limits of pesticide substances and the microbiological quality requirements, in particular the requirements for bacterial colonies.
- 366/2005 (concerning certain frozen foods) amended by 312/2023.
- 58/2018 (concerning requirements for food supplements and food enrichment) This [decree](#)⁵ (in Czech language, includes a table of Latin plant names) provides conditions and limits for the use of certain plants and substances, as well as lists of plants and substances, which are prohibited for use in food and food supplements.
- 261/2016 (concerning tobacco products) amended by 311/2023, 82/2019 (concerning labeling tobacco) amended by 347/2023.
- 417/2016 (concerning some types of food labeling).
- 231/2016 (concerning collection, preparation, and test methods for control samples of foodstuffs and tobacco products) amended by 78/2018 and 56/2022 that applies as of April 1, 2022.

⁵ <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2018-58>.

Veterinary Act

Primary veterinary laws and decrees connected to the Food Act by regulating conditions for veterinary control, animal diseases, and foodstuff safety include:

- Act no. 166/1999 (veterinary Act) amended by 29/2000, 154/2000, 102/2001, 120/2002, 76/2002, 320/2002, 131/2003, 316/2004, 444/2005, 48/2006, 186/2006, 124/2008, 182/2008, 298/2009, 291/2009, 223/2009, 227/2009, 281/2009, 308/2011, 18/2012, 359/2012, 279/2013, 64/2014, 139/2014, 264/2014, 250/2014, 126/2016, 243/2016, 183/2017, 58/2018, 302/2017, 368/2019, 238/2020, 543/2020, 36/2021 (comes into effect on January 1, 2022), 261/2021 (comes into effect on February 1, 2022), 284/2021 (comes into effect on January 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023), and 246/2022 that applies as of October 1, 2022
- Decree no. 291/2003 (regulations on feedstuffs for animals and their products intended for human consumption) amended by 232/2005, 375/2006, 129/2009, 51/2012, and 22/2020. An amendment of the Decree 291/2003 is in preparation. Changes concern the monitoring of the use of pharmacological substances in veterinary care, including the control of their residues in animal products.
- Decree no. 94/2010 amended by 291/2012 (concerning animal processing).
- Decree no. 289/2007 (veterinary and hygienic requirements for animal products) amended by 61/2009, 11/2015, 65/2019, 181/2020, and 145/2023.
- Decree no. 128/2009 (veterinary and hygienic requirements for food companies) amended by 191/2013, 445/2017, and 334/2022 that came into force as of January 1, 2023.
- Act no. 78/2004 (GMO) amended by 346/2005, 124/2008, 227/2009, 281/2009, 18/2012 (Chapter 34), 279/2013, 243/2016, 371/2016, 183/2017, 261/2021, and 132/2022 that entered into force on June 11, 2022.
- Decree no. 209/2004 (concerning GMOs) amended by 86/2006, 29/2010, 372/2016, and 341/2019. Please note that the following products sourced in the United States and imported into the EU must originate from an EU-approved U.S. establishment: red meat, meat products, farmed and wild game meat, ratites, milk and milk products, seafood, bovine embryos and semen, porcine and equine semen, gelatin, and animal casings.

For veterinary certificates and information related to trade with commodities subject to veterinary controls, please see the FAIRS Export Certificate Report for the Czech Republic and the [EU-27 FAIRS Certificate Report](#).⁶

⁶https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42024-0034

Section II. Labeling Requirements

EU labeling requirements and instructions on how to comply with the EU system are provided on our USEU website at <https://usda-eu.org/food-drinks/eu-labeling-requirements/>.

In the Czech Republic, decree no. 417/2016 provides general rules for some types of food labeling. Complete guidance, available only in the Czech language, can be found on the [food safety website](#),⁷ provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. The key principles and requirements are the following:

- Consumer labels on food packages must be understandable, easily visible, permanent (i.e., not erasable), and not covered by other information or easily removable.
- All labels on products intended for a Czech consumer must be in the Czech language. The standard U.S. label is not sufficient for being placed on the Czech market. Stick-on labels in Czech are widely used on imported products. The text on the original and Czech translation must be identical.

The Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA) and the State Veterinary Administration (SVA) are the authorities for enforcing labeling requirements. CAFIA considers the general appearance of the label and confirms that it is not in any way misleading. A Czech label must be on the product to pass customs clearance, in other words before it enters the market. The label does not have to be adhered to the product before shipping.

Food samples do not have to be labeled. Products for the food sector must be labeled like products for the end consumer. Their packaging, however, must only include the name of the product, expiration date, quality category, and irradiation information. Other information from the label on products inside this package must be in the documentation.

Information that must appear on the label includes the following:

- Name of the product with the information about the product category and its preparation.
- Producer and importer information with addresses.
- Quantity – liquid products should be in milliliters, centiliters, or liters and solid products in grams or kilograms.
- Expiration date. The form of the expiration date information varies according to the product. Some products (such as fresh fruit and vegetables) do not require an expiration date.
- Storage instructions (such as temperature, exposure to daylight, etc.).
- Usage instructions.

⁷ <https://bezpecnostpotravin.cz/kategorie/oznacovani-potravin/>.

- List of ingredients listed in the order of their amount in the product.
- Lot number for identification tracking.
- Information on allergens, food additives, enzymes, flavors, fragrances, and/or ionization.

If the product is packaged at a different location than where it is processed, it must be labeled with the name of the packaging company and address, the name of the product, its quantity, additives, country of origin, and other requirements mentioned in specific laws.

Decree no. 54/2004 (amended by decrees 402/2006, 473/2006, 157/2008, 35/2012, 46/2014, 39/2018, and 80/2021) gives regulations on labeling of special foods (diets, baby food, food for sportsmen etc.). These foods must follow the same regulations as other foods regarding labeling and include some additional information mentioned in 54/2004.

Tobacco products' labeling is specified under decree 82/2019, which defines requirements for size, placement, and custom look of information and requirements.

Decree no. 58/2018 (repealing decree no. 225/2008 amended by decree 352/2009) defines food supplements - such as vitamins and minerals. They must be labeled with the words "*doplňěk stravy*" (food supplement) visibly on the packaging. The label must also carry information on the character, origin, amount of content, the recommended daily intake, and warnings against overdose.

Alcoholic Beverages

Products must comply with food safety and traceability requirements as set by Czech and EU legislation (Regulation (EC) no. 178/2002 and Czech Decree no. 248/2018 and the Food Act no. 110/1997 with later amendments listed in Section I.

For alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.2 percent alcohol by volume, the alcohol content must be indicated by a figure with no more than one decimal place. It will be followed by the symbol '% vol.' and may be preceded by the word 'alcohol' or the abbreviation 'alc.' Tolerances vary by beverage type.

Net quantity, allergens, name or business name and address of the food business operator, country of origin or place of provenance, instructions for use where necessary, and date of minimum durability or the 'use by' date (for beverages less than 10% vol. of alcohol) are required.

National Decree no. 248/2018 introduced new categories and definitions of beverages, and further specifies mead labeling requirements.

Health warnings are not required.

For wine, please note that the EU's new wine labeling regulation requires a nutrition declaration and a list of ingredients for products produced after December 8, 2023. In practice, this means that 2023

vintage are exempt from the requirement along with non-vintage wines produced before this date. Sparkling wines that undergo their secondary fermentation after December 8, 2023, will have to comply with the new labeling regulation. Please refer to the EU FAIRS Country Report for more information.

Other Specific Labeling Requirements

Health and Nutrition Claims

Regarding health and nutrition claims, the Czech Republic follows EU regulations. They can be found, along with a list of permitted nutrition claims and their conditions of use at the [Food and Feed Information Portal Database](#)⁸ of the European Commission.

Genetically Modified Foods

Genetically modified foods (i.e., “GMOs”, genetically engineered (GE) products) must follow EU regulations. Foods containing GE ingredients must be labeled with the words, “*Tento produkt/výrobek obsahuje geneticky modifikovaný/ou/é* (name of the organism),” and include the name of the product, name of the GE organism(s), conditions of managing the GE product, and information on safe use. Only GE traits listed and approved in the EU GMO register are allowed to enter the market. The following is an example in English (note: the label must be in Czech language): “*Product contains soybean oil from genetically modified soybeans.*”

For more information on the treatment of biotech foods in the Czech Republic as well as the GMO free/non GMO labeling scheme, please see our report [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Prague Czech Republic EZ2024-0004](#).⁹

Organic Products

For regulations and details regarding organic products please see the [Czech Republic Organic Product Brief](#).¹⁰ Please note that in Czech, the term “product of ecological agriculture” is used. Products are marked with “Bio.” For additional information you may also refer to the following reports: [New EU](#)

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/food-feed-portal/screen/home?event=register.home>.

⁹ <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Agricultural%20Biotechnology%20Annual%20Prague%20Czech%20Republic%20EZ2024-0004>.

¹⁰ <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Organic%20Product%20Brief%20Prague%20Czech%20Republic%2012-15-2016>.

[Organic Regulation Entering Into Force in 2021](#)¹¹ and [Continuing Good Prospects for U.S. Organic Exports to the EU](#).¹²

Plant-based Meat/Dairy Alternatives

The Czech Republic follows the EU regulatory framework. There are no country specific labeling requirements. For more specific guidance you can refer to the [Statement of the Ministry of Agriculture \(CAFIA and SVA\) on the labelling of plant foods with the names of animal products](#)¹³ (in Czech language).

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations

All foods entering the market must be packed appropriately. The packaging must protect the product from damage and contamination and prevent replacement or substitution of the product without changing or penetrating the original packaging. The packaging itself must not affect the content in any way. Containers and packages must suit not only the content but also any other materials and objects that come into direct contact with the food. Packaging is regulated via Decree no. 38/2001 (amended by 186/2003, 207/2006, 551/2006, 271/2008, 386/2008, 127/2009, 111/2011).

Foods that are not packed must be labeled on transportation/manipulation containers with the above-mentioned information and this information must also be visibly placed when the product is being offered to the final consumer.

Packaging Sustainability Measures

The rules for packaging waste management are determined by the EU Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, which is transposed into Czech legislation by Act no. 477/2001 coll. on Packaging (amended by 274/2003, 94/2004, 237/2004, 257/2004, 444/2005, 66/2006, 296/2007, 25/2008, 126/2008, 227/2009, 281/2009, 77/2011, 167/2012, 18/2012, 62/2014, 64/2014, 243/2016, 298/2016, 149/2017, 183/2017, 149/2017, 277/2019, 541/2020, 545/2020, 609/2020, 261/2021, 244/2022, and 87/2023). This Act applies to the management of all packaging which is placed on the market or into circulation in the Czech Republic, except for containers used in road, railway, or air transport or in sea or inland waterway transportation pursuant to international conventions which are binding for the Czech Republic.

¹¹https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=New%20EU%20Organic%20Regulation%20Entering%20Into%20Force%20in%202021%20Regulatory%20Update%20%20_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_08-23-2020.

¹²https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Continuing%20Good%20Prospects%20for%20US%20Organic%20Exports%20to%20the%20EU_Vienna_European%20Union_02-08-2021.

¹³ <https://mze.gov.cz/public/portal/-a46516---fOpkXv0D/stanovisko-mze-szpi-a-svs-ve-veci-oznacovani-rostlinnych-potravin-nazvy-zivocisnych-produktu-ke-dni-1.-2.-2023-aktualizovano-k-1.6.2024? linka=a578530>.

The basic obligations of this law are the fulfillment of the concentration limits regarding hazardous substances contained in packaging, ensuring collection of packaging waste and its recovery in accordance with the objectives of the directive. These targets are expressed as the percentage amount of packaging waste which must be recycled or recovered. The other provision of this Act is the definition of the basic rules for returnable and reusable packaging management.

Czech legislation related to packaging is accessible on the website of the Czech Ministry of Environment in English at https://www.mzp.cz/en/packaging_legislation. Key laws and measures include:

- [Act No. 477/2001 Coll. on Packaging.](#)¹⁴
- [Decree No. 116/2002 Coll. on marking returnable packaging.](#)¹⁵
- [Government order No. 111/2002 Coll.](#)¹⁶ specifying the amount of the deposit on selected types of returnable packaging.
- [Annexes - Decree No. 641/2004 Coll.](#)¹⁷

Section IV. Food Additive Regulations

EU regulations 1332/2008, 1333/2008 and 1334/2008 regulate the usage of food enzymes, food additives, and flavorings. A list of approved food additives and conditions of their usage is mentioned in Regulation (EC) 1333/2008. For more details, please refer to the [EU FAIRS Country Report](#).¹⁸

Section V. Pesticides and Contaminants

Several contaminants such as lead, mercury, and arsenic are regulated via EU regulation 2023/915. Pesticides are regulated via EU regulation 396/2005. The European Commission offers a useful online tool on its website called the [EU Pesticide Database](#)¹⁹ for searching information on active substances used in plant protection products, maximum residue levels (MRLs) in food products, and emergency authorizations of plant protection products in Member States.

At the national level, the Ministry of Health is the competent authority overseeing the impact of pesticide residues on human health. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for plant protection products, including the transposition and implementation of related legislation and its supervision. The assessment of a plant protection product, including its use for the protection of public health, is

¹⁴ [https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/\\$FILE/OODP-Act_on_Packaging_No_477_2001-20110111.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/$FILE/OODP-Act_on_Packaging_No_477_2001-20110111.pdf).

¹⁵ [https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/\\$FILE/OODP-Decree_No_116_2002-20080820.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/$FILE/OODP-Decree_No_116_2002-20080820.pdf).

¹⁶ [https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/\\$FILE/OODP-Decree_No_641_2004-20080820.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/$FILE/OODP-Decree_No_641_2004-20080820.pdf).

¹⁷ [https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/\\$FILE/OODP-Annexes_Decree_No_641_2004-20080820.xls](https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/packaging_legislation/$FILE/OODP-Annexes_Decree_No_641_2004-20080820.xls).

¹⁸ https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42024-0031

¹⁹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database_en.

performed by the Ministry of Health based on an expert opinion prepared by the National Institute of Public Health.

In 2024, the Ministry of Health prepared the “Multi-Annual Control Plan for Pesticide Residues 2025 – 2027,” accessible in English at:

<https://bezpecnostpotravin.cz/files/2024/10/Multiannual-control-plan-for-pesticide-residues-2025-2027-CZ.pdf>.

The above-mentioned document includes the following information:

1. Introduction
 2. Legal basis
 - 2.1 Community level
 - 2.2 National level
 3. Definitions and Terminology
 4. Competent state administration authorities
 - 4.1 Central government authorities
 - 4.2 State supervisory bodies
 5. Control program
 - 5.1 Scope of the program
 - 5.2 Criteria used for program processing
 - 5.2.1 Selection of commodities, statistics
 - 5.2.2 Number of samples taken
 - 5.2.3 Analyzed pesticide residues
 6. Official laboratories
 7. Conclusion
- Annex 1 – Requirements on analysis of pesticide residues in products of plant origin
Annex 2 – Requirements on analysis of pesticide residues in products of animal origin

A list of approved pesticides may be found on the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture’s [website](#)²⁰ (Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture – contact information is provided in the list of contacts in Appendix I of this report).

Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

In the Czech Republic, food business operators are required to inform relevant supervisory authorities on the reception of certain foodstuffs originating from another EU member state or a third country. The foodstuffs include:

- Early consumable potatoes and late consumable potatoes.
- Apples.

²⁰ <https://ukzuz.gov.cz/public/portal/ukzuz/en>.

- Poppy seeds.
- Food supplements.
- Certain foodstuffs of animal origin.

The process of registration and notification for the importation of foodstuffs of plant origin is described in English at this [website](#)²¹ of the Czech Agricultural and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA) in English and its [update](#)²² (in Czech).

No special permission or certificates for imports from third countries are needed, provided that the imported food products are safe and that there are no special requirements applicable to these food products. The importer is responsible for the safety of imported foodstuffs. The method of ensuring safety is up to the importer. They can, for example, ask the supplier abroad for laboratory analysis, or have it done in any of the Czech [accredited laboratories](#)²³ for food testing. There is not, however, any need to announce anything or to apply for approval.

CAFIA carries out inspection of imports only as regards to foodstuffs of non-animal origin. Import of foodstuffs of animal origin falls fully under responsibility of the State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic (SVA). For more details, please refer to the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report Prague Czech Republic available at [Search | Global Agricultural Information Network](#).²⁴

Facility registrations are required for the importation of certain commodities. [TRACES](#)²⁵ is the European Commission's online platform for sanitary and phytosanitary certification required for the importation of animals, animal products, food and feed of non-animal origin and plants into the European Union, and the intra-EU trade and EU exports of animals and certain animal products. For more details, please refer to the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).²⁶ The implementation of official controls (product monitoring) in the entire food chain, from primary production to the sale of food to consumers, is harmonized at the level of the European Union. For more details, please refer to the [EU FAIRS Country Report](#).²⁷

²¹ <http://www.szpi.gov.cz/en/article/notification-of-selected-foodstuffs-pursuant-to-decree-no-172-2015-coll.aspx>.

²² <https://www.szpi.gov.cz/clanek/nahlasovani-vybranych-potravin-dle-narizeni-vlady-c-211-2014-sb.aspx>.

²³ <https://www.szpi.gov.cz/en/docDetail.aspx?docid=1004242&docType=ART&nid=11445&chnum=4>.

²⁴ <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>.

²⁵ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/traces_en.

²⁶ https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42024-0034.

²⁷ https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42024-0031.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards

Novel Foods

Novel foods are regulated at the EU level. EU Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council defines novel foods as, “food not used for human consumption to a significant degree before 15 May 1997 and falling under at least one of the following categories,”

- food with a new or intentionally modified molecular structure, where that structure was not used as, or in, a food within the Union before May 15, 1997;
- food used exclusively in food supplements within the Union before 15 May 1997, where it is intended to be used in foods other than food supplements as defined in point (a) of Article 2 of EU Directive 2002/46/EC.

The authorization process is described at the [website](#)²⁸ of the European Commission on Novel Food.

In the Czech Republic, novel foods fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and controls are conducted by the Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority. The Ministry of Agriculture’s Food Safety Department has a dedicated e-mail address for inquiries related to the novel foods: novelfoods@mze.gov.cz.

Special Use Foods

Importers of all special diet foods from third countries that are not mentioned in a specific law or regulation are required to contact the Ministry of Health. The product label must be in Czech language before the product can be introduced on the market. If the product has been introduced elsewhere in the EU previously, then the approving EU member state office must be mentioned as well. The Ministry may request expert review and confirmation on the efficiency and safety of the product. The Ministry also retains the right to ban any product from the market that does not meet regulatory requirements. Food products must be protected from damage and depreciation whilst being transported and only appropriate transportation should be used.

Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

Trademarks and brand names are protected by the following acts:

- 14/1993 on protection of industrial property (amended by 417/2004, 250/2014).

²⁸ https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/novel-food_en.

- 441/2003 on trademarks (amended by 501/2004, 221/2006, 296/2007, 303/2013, 183/2017, 196/2017, 286/2018, and 261/2021 that comes into effect on February 1, 2022).
- 452/2001 on protection of geographical location indication (amended by 131/2003, 501/2004, 221/2006, 375/2007, 256/2011, 196/2017, 277/2019 coming into effect on January 1, 2024, 261/2021, and 215/2022 that applies as of August 6, 2022).
- 206/2000 on protection of biotechnology inventions.
- 408/2000 on protection of rights to plant varieties (amended by 147/2002, 149/2002, 219/2003, 377/2005, 554/2005, 444/2005, 184/2008, 227/2009, 281/2009, 279/2013, 183/2017, 334/2020, and 277/2023).

In general, Czech agricultural associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) support the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants ([UPOV](http://www.upov.int/))²⁹ plant certificate system rather than the patent system.

Trademarks can be registered at the Industrial Property Institute (contact information is provided in the list of contacts in Appendix I of this report).

Section IX. Import Procedures

Products can be cleared through customs on entry directly into the Czech Republic or indirectly through another EU member state (e.g., countries with seaports like Germany or the Netherlands).

Notification duty for importers of selected foodstuffs

Decree No. 172/2015 Coll. is an implementing regulation to the Food Act (Act No. 110/1997 Coll.), which in § 3d, paragraph 3, establishes the obligation of the food business operator (FBO) to inform the relevant supervisory authorities about the receipt of selected types of food from another EU member state or a third country. From September 1, 2024, an amendment to Decree No. 172/2015 Coll. is valid. It narrows the original list of types of plant-based foods that are subject to the obligation to report the arrival of the shipment to:

- apples,
- early and late consumable potatoes,
- poppy seeds,
- and dietary supplements.

The decree applies only to foods whose destination is a place in the territory of the Czech Republic where the first receipt, handling, or manipulation of the food occurs. This means it concerns all those who first receive, handle, or manipulate food of plant origin, including entities that import and directly sell plant-based foods, including various types of mobile shops.

²⁹ <http://www.upov.int/>.

The food must be reported by the food business operator. Information about the arrival of the shipment at the destination to the CAFIA can only be submitted using the web reporting form, at least 24 hours before the food arrives at the destination. Procedure for registering the food reporter and for reporting food is described at a dedicated CAFIA [website](#)³⁰ (in Czech).

The **Registration** form is accessible at: <http://www.szpi.gov.cz/registrace-dovozce.aspx>. All fields in the form are mandatory. After submitting the form by clicking "Register," a registration form will be sent to the provided contact email. Confirming it completes the registration.

Food reporting is done at: <http://www.szpi.gov.cz/dovozy-prihlaseni.aspx>.

Mandatory information that the FBO at the destination must provide to the supervisory authority according to the decree:

- Type of food arriving at the destination
- Quantity of food arriving at the destination
- EU member state or third country, name, and address of the food business operator supplying the food to the destination
- Name, address, and identification number of the destination and recipient of the food at the destination
- Date of arrival of the food at the destination
- Procedure for informing:

GMOs

Only GMOs listed in the EU approved register may be imported through a “Designated Point of Entry” (DPE) in the Czech Republic – Vaclav Havel Airport Prague, CU Praha Ruzyne, Aviaticka 12/1048, 160 08 Praha. Importers must inform the Customs Administration and CAFIA or the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (CISTA).

Requirements for the import of products of veterinary origin may be found in English on the web page of the State Veterinary Administration (SVA): <https://en.svscr.cz/trade-with-vet-commodities/general-information/>. It is highly recommended by SVA officers to contact them prior importing any veterinary commodities for current requirements, as they are often subject to change. SVA’s contact information is listed in Appendix I.

Section X. Trade Facilitation

Goods from the third countries typically enter the Czech Republic through larger EU member states that have access to ports. For more information, please refer to the [EU FAIRS Country Report](#).³¹

³⁰ <https://www.szpi.gov.cz/clanek/nahlasovani-vybranych-potravin-dle-narizeni-vlady-c-211-2014-sb.aspx>.

³¹ https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42024-0031.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Ministry of Agriculture

Karolina Bartosova (Head of Foreign Trade Cooperation Unit)

Tesnov 65/17, 117 05 Prague, Czech Republic

Tel: [00420] 221-812-452

E-mail: karolina.bartosova@mze.gov.cz

URL: <https://mze.gov.cz>

Jitka Gotzova (Director of Food Safety Department)

Tel: [00420] 221-812-254

E-mail: jitka.gotzova@mze.gov.cz

Martin Stepanek (Director of Food Production Department)

Tel: [00420] 221-812-838

E-mail: martin.stepanek@mze.gov.cz

Hana Routova (Head of Wine Unit)

Tel: [00420] 221-812-497

E-mail: hana.routova@mze.gov.cz

Customs Administration

Jiri Trousil (Director of International Relations and Public Relations Division)

Budejovicka 7, 140 96 Prague, Czech Republic

Tel: [00420] 261-331-919

E-mail: informace@cs.mfcr.cz

URL: <https://www.celnisprava.cz/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Current contact information for helpdesks dedicated to specific topics can be found here:

<https://www.celnisprava.cz/en/about-us/contacts/Pages/helpdesk-contacts.aspx>

State Veterinary Administration

Amer Mustafa Ali (Director of Department of External Affairs and Import and Export Control)

Slezska 7, 120 00 Prague, Czech Republic

Tel: [00420] 227-010-189

E-mail: a.mustafa@svsscr.cz, int@svsscr.cz

URL: <https://en.svsscr.cz/>

Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority

Petr Cejka (Director of Law and Foreign Affairs Department)

Kvetna 15, 603 00 Brno, Czech Republic

Tel: [00420] 543-540-204

E-mail: petr.cejka@szpi.gov.cz, sekret.opz@szpi.gov.cz

URL: www.szpi.gov.cz

Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture

Vladislav Rasovsky (Director of Import and Export Dept.)

Zemedelská 1752/1a, 613 00 Brno, Czech Republic

Tel: [00420] 545-110-490, [00420] 724-247-362

E-mail: vladislav.rasovsky@ukzuz.gov.cz URL: www.ukzuz.cz,
<https://eagri.cz/public/web/en/ukzuz/portal/>

Ministry of Health

Palackeho nam. 4, 128 01 Prague 2, Czech Republic
Tel: [00420] 224-971-111 Fax: [00420] 224-972-111
E-mail: mzcr@mzcr.cz URL: www.mzcr.cz

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Na Frantisku 32, 110 15 Prague, Czech Republic
Tel: [00420] 224-851-111 Fax: [00420] 224-811-089
E-mail: posta@mpo.cz URL: <https://www.mpo.gov.cz/en/>

Organic Agriculture Control

Jan Dehner (Director)
Podebradova 909, 537 01 Chrudim
Tel: [00420] 469-625-026 ext. 37
E-mail: jan.dehner@kez.cz URL: www.kez.cz

Industrial Property Office

Lucie Zamykalova (Head of the Intl' Unit) Antonina Cermaka 2a, 160 68 Prague 6, Czech Republic
Tel: [00420] 220-383-327
E-mail: skopeccka@upv.cz URL: www.upv.cz/en

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts

All contacts listed in Appendix I.

For additional information on the information provided in this report, please contact the Foreign Agricultural Service:

Czech Republic, American Embassy, Office of Agricultural Affairs, Prague
Telephone: (011-420) 257-022-000

Email: agberlin@usda.gov Website: <https://fas.usda.gov/regions/europe-and-eurasia>

Attachments:

No Attachments