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Report Highlights:

This report provides information on Serbia's regulations and standards pertaining to food, agriculture, and trade. It covers topics such as labeling, packaging, food additives, and import procedures. In 2025, Serbia adopted seven new laws and introduced numerous by-laws encompassing various rules and ordinances related to food, feed and agriculture.

DISCLAIMER:

This report was prepared by the FAS Office in Belgrade for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 PRODUCTS 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:

In 2025, Serbia adopted seven laws and amendments to the existing food laws and introduced 64 by-laws which provided updates on topics such as organic plant and animal products, official controls, quantitative limitations on agricultural products, and programs for monitoring the safety of plant, animal and mixed-origin foods.

According to the 2025 European Commission (EC) Annual Progress Report for Serbia (https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/serbia-report-2025_en), Serbia has yet to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The process is stalled primarily due to the lack of progress on the adoption of a modified law on trade in genetically modified organisms, and on the completion of market access negotiations with a small number of WTO members. Furthermore, Serbia has yet to achieve full alignment with the EU *acquis* in line with its action plan on remaining preparations for EU accession under Chapter 30.

Section I: Food Laws:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM)

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management (MAFWM) represents the specialized body of the central public administration with governmental jurisdiction in the fields of agriculture, including international and domestic agricultural trade, food processing, food safety, seed registration, fish quotas, rural development, environment, forestry, and water management.

Ministry of Environmental Protection

The Ministry of Environmental Protection performs state administration tasks related to the basics of environmental protection, a system of protection and improvement of the environment, national parks, and field inspections.

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Public Health oversees the production and registration of drugs, food additives, and medical equipment and is responsible for public health as it relates to food and contaminants.

Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade

Within the Serbian Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade, its Market Inspection division is responsible for inspecting food quality at the retail level.

Serbian Agriculture and Food Laws:

As part of Serbia's EU integration process, it has adopted many new laws in agriculture and food, mainly in accordance with the *EU Acquis Communautaire*. Over the last eight years, Serbia has adopted 40 new laws relating to agriculture and food.

The following laws were adopted in 2009 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" 41/09)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

- Law on Food Safety
- Law on Public Warehouses for Agriculture Products
- Law on Plant Health
- Law on Pesticides
- Law on Fertilizers
- Law on Agriculture and Rural Development
- Law on Livestock
- Law on Animal Welfare
- Law on Ethanol
- Law on Wine
- Law on Reproductive Material of Forest Trees
- Law on Genetically Modified Organisms
- Amendments to the Agriculture Law
- Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights/UPOV

The following laws were adopted in 2010 ("Official Gazette R.S." 30/10)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

- Law on Forests
- Law on Waters
- Law on Beer
- Law on Registration of Crop Varieties
- Law on Organic Production
- Amendments to the Veterinary Law
- Law on Agriculture Extension and Expert Service
- Law on Plant Seeds

The following law was adopted in 2011 ("Official Gazette R.S." 88/11)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights

The following laws were adopted in 2012 ("Official Gazette R.S." 93/12)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

- Amendments on Changes to the Law on Waters
- Amendments on Changes Law on Livestock
- Amendments on Changes Law on Wine

The following law was adopted in 2013 ("Official Gazette R.S." 10/13)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Law on Incentives for Agriculture Production and Rural Development

The following laws were adopted in 2014 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Law on Pre-Harvest Financing of Agricultural Production ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 128/14, became effective June 1, 2015)

Law on Protection and Sustainable Use of the Fishery Fund ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 128/14)

The following laws were adopted in 2015 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Law on Forests ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 89/15)

Law on Strong Alcoholic Beverages ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 92/15)

Law on Wine ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 41/15)

Amendments to Changes Law on Agricultural Land ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 112/15)

The following laws were adopted in 2016 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Livestock ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 14/16)

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development/defining functioning of the IPARD Program in Serbia ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 101/16)

The following law was adopted in 2017 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Agriculture Land ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 80/17)

The following laws were adopted in 2018 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Law on Waters and baseline for this law ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 47/18)

Amendments on Changes of the Law on Public Warehouses for Agriculture Products ("Official Gazette R.S." No.44/18)

The following laws were adopted in 2019 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):

Amendments to the Law on Food Safety ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 17/19)

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Plant Health ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 17/19)

Amendments on Changes to the Law on Pesticides ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 17/19)

Amendments on Changes to the Law on *Plant Nutrition Products and Soil Enhancers* (fertilizers) ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 17/19)

In 2020, Serbia did not adopt any new law or amendments to the existing laws.

The following law was adopted in 2021 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian):
Law on the Regulation on Agriculture Products ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 67/21).

In 2024, Serbia adopted one amendment to the existing law:

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian)

Amendment on Changes to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development Incentives ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 94/24)

In 2025, Serbia adopted seven new and amended laws: <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/>
(in Serbian)

Law on Official Controls

("Official Gazette R.S." No. 109/25)

Law on Organic Production

("Official Gazette R.S." No.109/25);

Law on the Placing of Timber and Timber Products on the Market

Law on Seed and Planting Material of Agricultural and Ornamental Plants

("Official Gazette R.S." No. 91/25);

Amendment to Changes to the Law on the Registration of Crop Varieties

("Official Gazette R.S." No. 19/25);

Amendment on Changes to the Law on Forest Reproductive Material ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 19/25);

Amendment on Changes to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development Incentives ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 19/25);

In 2025, Serbia adopted 64 new rulebooks and ordinances.

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian). Below is a list of some of the most important by-laws:

- Rulebook on the Establishment of the Monitoring Program for the Safety of Food of Animal Origin for the year 2025 ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).", No. 51/25)
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Performing Agriculture Extension Service in 2025 ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).", No. 90/25)
- Rulebook on Establishing Program Measures for Animal Health Protection for 2025 ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).", No. 24/25)
- Rulebook on the Conditions, Methods and Forms of the Application for Reimbursement for Certified Seed ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).", No. 44/25)
- Rulebook on the Establishment of a Long-Term Program for the Implementation of the Breeding Program for the period 2025-2029 ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).", No. 49/25)
- Rulebook on the List of Approved Substances for Plant Protection (Official Gazette of the R.S. No. 37/25)

- Rulebook on the Amendment of the Regulation on the Quality of Agriculture Seed (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 08/25)
- Rulebook on Establishing the Program for Monitoring Safety of Food of Animal Origin and Feeds Imported in 2025 (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 51/25);
- Rulebook on the Establishment of the Program for Monitoring the Safety of Food and Animal Origin for 2025 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 51/25)
- Rulebook on the List of Authorized Control Organizations for Performing Control and Certification in Organic Production for year 2025 (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 08/25)
- Rulebook on the Adoption of the Annual Working Program for the Agriculture Advisory Service for year 2025 (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 07/25)
- Rulebook on Amendment to the Rulebook on the Emergency Intervention Measure of Support for Producers of Confectionery Products for the Purchase of Milk Powder (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 12/25)
- Rulebook on Amendments to the Rulebook on Additional Requirements for Placing on the Market Products Containing Palm Oil, Palm Fat and Other Vegetable Oils and Fats (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 66/25)
- Rulebook on the Amendment of the Rulebook on the Quality of Agriculture Plant Seeds (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 08/25)
- Ordinance on Amendments to the Decree on the Distribution of Incentives for Agricultural Production and Rural Development for 2025 (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 17/25)
- Ordinance on Regulation on Amendments to the Regulation on the Allocation of Incentives in Agriculture and Rural Developments in 2025
- Ordinance on Amendments and Supplements to the Order on Measures to Prevent the Introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease into Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 71/25)
- Ordinance on Establishing the Annual Program for the Development of Extension Services in Agriculture for 2024 (“Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S).”, No. 08/24)

The Law on Food Safety ("Official Gazette R.S." No.41/09 and 17/2019)

https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_bezbednosti_hrane.html and

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> is the main agricultural law in Serbia. It governs all aspects of production, circulation, control, and consumption of food, general conditions for ensuring food and feed safety, rights, and responsibilities of persons performing food and feed business. The law outlines early warning systems, hygiene, and quality of food and feed. The purpose of the law is to ensure consumer protection while facilitating efficiency in food trade. The law's adoption was necessary to harmonize Serbian regulations with EU regulations, Directive 178/2002/EC and other amended EU

regulations on food safety. Also, it aims to comply with the World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The Law on Food Safety ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 17/19) includes an Expert Council for Food Safety that is composed of scientists, representatives of consumer associations, representatives of academia, and MAFWM and functions as a special adviser to the MAFWM on food safety issues. This regulation establishes a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), like the EU and outlines several rules related to food production hygiene, multi-annual food and feed monitoring; changes in the system for performing official food safety control in accordance to EU regulations and terminology in the "Hygiene Package" (set of general provisions regulating food safety in the EU).

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade (through its veterinary, phytosanitary, agricultural, and market inspection) is responsible for food safety and wholesomeness throughout each stage of production, processing, transportation, and import/export. The Ministry of Agriculture issues import approvals for foods of animal origin, veterinary drugs, seeds, planting materials, and pesticides. For other products, permits are not required. Sanitary inspection, under the Ministry of Health, covers the safety of novel foods, dietetic products, baby food, diet supplements, additives, and drinking water.

MAFWM inspects food quality prior to retail distribution through visual checks and laboratory testing on essential ingredients. Visual inspection involves product identification (origin, type, quantity) and compliance with labeling and packaging requirements such as the importer's name and address, the product's general appearance, taste, flavor, presence of residues, color, structure, and checking if the transportation guidelines have been met.

Quality control of imported products is carried out after the import clearance process has been completed and before or during retail distribution. <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/pravilnici/> (in Serbian). Quality control of individual products may be subject to specific rulebooks such as:

- Rulebook on the Establishment of the Monitoring Program for the Safety of Food of Animal Origin for the year 2025 ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", No. 51/25);
- Rulebook on Amendments to the Rulebook on Additional Requirements for Placing on the Market Products Containing Palm Oil, Palm Fat and Other Vegetable Oils and Fats ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", No. 66/25);
- Rulebook on Amendments of the Rulebook on Maximum Concentrations of Certain Contaminants in Food ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", No. 90/24);
- Rulebook on General and Special Food Hygiene Conditions and Microbiological Food Criteria ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", No. 30/24);
- Rulebook on Amendments of the Rulebook on Cocoa and Chocolate Products for Human Consumption ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", No. 18/24);

- Rulebook on the quality of minced meat, semi-processed and processed meat products ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 50/19 and 34/23);
- Rulebook on the quality of milk products and starter cultures ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.33/10, No.69/10, No. 43/13 and No. 34/14);
- Rulebook on the quality of raw milk ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.21/09 and 106/17);
- Rulebook on the quality of honey, honey products and other bee products ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.101/15);
- Rulebook on the quality and other requirements for beer "(Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 145/14);
- Rulebook on the quality of animal feed ("Official Gazette R.S." No.27/14, 25/15, 39/16, and 54/17);
- Rulebook on the quality of natural mineral water, spring water, and table water ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 43/13);
- Rulebook on the quality of raw coffee, coffee products, coffee substitutes, and similar products ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 159/20);
- Rulebook on the quality of fish, crabs and shellfish ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 51/21);
- Rulebook on the quality of fruits and vegetables ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.128/20 and 130/21);
- Rulebook on the quality of sugar ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 88/17);
- Rulebook on wine production, wine quality and wine with geographical indicator ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 87/11 and 84/18);
- Rulebook on the quality of strong alcoholic drinks ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 74/10 and 107/21);
- Rulebook on the quality of fruit juices, fruit concentrates, powder fruit juices, fruit nectars, and other related products ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 103/18 and 84/20);
- Rulebook on the quality of non-alcoholic drinks ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" 88/17 and 124/20);

The Amended Law on Plant Health ("Official Gazette R.S." No.141/09 and 17/19)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) harmonizes with EU regulations. The new law governs protection and improvement of plant health; measures for protection, detection, prevention of spreading, control, and eradication of harmful organisms; phytosanitary controls and requirements for production, processing, imports, storage, and trade in plants, plant products; requirements for prescribed facilities, as well as conditions to perform activities in protection of plant health. This law allows the inspection of consignments intended for export to be carried out by phytosanitary inspectors as well as an authorized legal entity according to the relevant international standards.

The law outlines the establishment of the national reference phytosanitary laboratory and introduces controls based on risk assessment. The adoption of the law was necessary to harmonize with EU regulations, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the WTO.

The Amended Law on Plant Protection Products (pesticides) ("Official Gazette" No. 41/2009 and No.17/19) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian): Harmonizes with EU regulations related to plant protection products and governs the control, circulation, imports, and application of plant protection products in agriculture and forestry. The law also established a national reference laboratory for residue testing. The laboratory must have technical and professional capacity to perform tests in accordance with the accreditation of SRPS ISO/IEC 17025:2006, the standards of good laboratory practice (GLP), or in accordance with the guidelines of good experimental practice. The Directorate for National Reference Laboratories is responsible for registering and controlling pesticides (see Appendix I #16 for contact information). Pesticide users must be educated in the use of pesticides. Farmers must receive adequate training for the safe use of pesticides. Those conducting training must teach farmers about the safe application, handling, disposal, and transportation of plant protection products and the development of awareness of the potential threats to human health and the environment.

The Amended Law on Plant Nutrition Products and Soil Enhancers (fertilizers) ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 41/09 and 17/19) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) regulates classification, quality, and labeling, phytosanitary control, sampling in circulation, imports, application, and testing of plant nutrition products and soil enhancers. With the amended law Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) wanted to remove most of the defects of the previous law, which includes duplication in making decisions on eligibility for wholesale and retail trade facilities, as well as import and registration decisions in registration of the distributors and importers. It also provides a more precise definition of the conditions for accreditation that the official laboratories must fulfill for testing fertilizers. The new law facilitates exports of Serbian plant nutrition products, introduces labeling in accordance with EU requirements (label E.C. fertilizer), and helps harmonize Serbian requirements with EU regulations and the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement of the WTO.

The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) ("Official Gazette R.S." No.41/09) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) governs the production, trade, and commercial growing of GMO crops in Serbia. The law also regulates the basic conditions for using GMOs in closed systems and the deliberate release into the environment. The law prohibits all commercial use of GMO crops.

("Official Gazette R.S." No.109/25) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) governs the production, trade, and further harmonizes Serbian legislation with EU ordinances governing organic

production and labeling. The law covers production, processing, labeling, storing, transporting, and trading internally and internally of organic products (vegetable and animal products). Furthermore, it regulates production methods and organic farming practices and sets a system of controlling and certifying the organic production process. A “Register of Organic Producers” is under development along with a requirement for producers to report certain activities to the competent authority. Implementation of this law is planned for June 1, 2026.

Veterinary Law ("Official Gazette R.S. No. 91/05, 30/10, 93/12, and 17/19)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) sets conditions for establishing centers for storing and distributing semen for artificial insemination, defines responsibilities for the National Reference Laboratory, establishes a system of alert and actions in the case of contagious diseases, identifies a system of identification and registration of animals and introduces other changes to harmonize requirements with EU rules. The Veterinary Law ("Official Gazette R.S." 91/05) from 2005, which defines animal health and welfare protections remains valid. It identifies animal diseases subject to preventative measures, detection, containment, and eradication. The law covers diseases transmitted to humans, the veterinary sanitary control and the requirements for production and circulation of animals and their products, edible animal products and animal feed, and the requirements for engagement in the practice of veterinary medicine.

The Law on Livestock ("Official Gazette R.S." No.41/09, 93/12, and 14/16)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) regulates this important agribusiness sector. The Law on Livestock brought substantial changes in organization and production methods in the industry through enabling the formation of breeders' associations and organizations with special authorizations, thus ensuring the direct influence of producers on the livestock breeding selection criteria and subsequently increased productivity of farm animals. MAFWM controls the activities of these associations and organizations through the Registration Body and provides information on membership conditions to interested breeders.

The Law on Animal Welfare ("Official Gazette R.S." No. 41/09)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) regulates animal welfare, as well as the treatment of animals during the killing, keeping, raising, circulating, transporting, slaughtering, and experimenting. The law facilitates exports of Serbian animals and products of animal origin by helping Serbia harmonize its requirements with those of the EU. The adoption of the law harmonizes Serbian requirements with the World Organization for Animal Health, EU Commission decisions, and EU Council recommendations.

Law on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Fishery Fund ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 128/14) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian) regulates the catch, protection, and trade in fish and the fishery fund that defines this sector as a renewable natural resource. The law sets out a system for issuing special permits for recreational fishing within the boundaries of

protected areas and improves the management of fishery resources, including the protection and sustainable use of fish stocks.

Law on Regulation of the Agriculture Products Market ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 67/21) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> (in Serbian). In July 2021, to harmonize Serbian agriculture policy with EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), the National Parliament adopted the new Law on Regulation of the Agriculture Products Market. The law defines a set of requirements related to the sale of agricultural products on the domestic market, including special requirements for some sectors.

Law on Official Controls: On December 3, 2025, the National Assembly adopted the Law on Official Controls <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni/> 9in Serbian) introducing a system of checks throughout the food production chain in the country, based on the farm-to-fork principle, as well as a system of controls for imported food. Controls will be conducted without prior notice, except in cases where necessary and justified for the purposes of carrying out the control itself. This rule aims to increase the effectiveness of monitoring food safety and quality. Implementation of this law is planned from June 1, 2026.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

General requirements:

In 2024, Serbia adopted an amendment to the "Rulebook on Declaring, Labeling and Advertising of Food" ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", No. 118/20, 17/22, 3/22 and, 64/24) <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/pravilnik-o-deklarisanju-oznacavanju-i-reklamiranju-hrane.html> (in Serbian) and <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/pravilnici/>. The rulebook allows Serbia to fully harmonize food-labeling rules with European standards (EU Regulation No. 1169/2011) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/1169/oj/eng> . It contains specifics on declaring, labeling, and marketing packed and unpacked food and defines general conditions on the responsibilities of food businesses. Also, the rulebook includes a list of substances that can cause allergies and/or intolerance; shows additional food information that must be presented at restaurants and food shops; mandates the size of letters on declarations and the general rules for declarations made related to unpacked food. Additionally, it regulates the labeling requirements for packed and unpacked foods designated for consumer or public food consumption in Serbia. A label must be present on retail and bulk packaged foods and indicate the following:

- expiration date,
- type and content of food additives,
- type and content of added vitamins, minerals, and
- other ingredients added to enrich the product's nutritional value.

All food products must have labels in the Serbian language. Stickers are permitted.

The "Rulebook on Declaring, Labeling and Advertising of Food" stipulates a label must contain the following information:

- 1) Product name
- 2) List of ingredients
- 3) List of additional ingredients used during production process
- 4) Quantities of ingredients
- 5) Product net weight
- 6) Expiration date
- 7) Storage conditions and mode of usage if necessary
- 8) Importers or dealer's name and complete address in Serbia
- 9) Country and place of origin for shipped food
- 10) Instructions for correct use of food
- 11) Amount of alcohol for beverages that contain more than 1.2% volume per volume
- 12) Nutrition declaration
- 13) Lot or series number
- 14) Class or category of food

If the original label is in English (e.g., standard U.S. label) or any other language, the seller must prepare stick-on labels with a translation to accompany the imported products. The importer must place translated labels on the product before retail distribution. Translated labels can be placed on the product in Serbia.

Bulk packaged foods designated for bulk sale or in the public facilities for food consumption must contain the declaration with the following information: product's name and brand name, if any, product net-weight (mass or volume), and expiration date. The declaration needs to have the importer's name and complete address, country of origin, and the country from which the food was shipped for imported food products. The label must be noticeable, visible, clear, and legible. Information on the label must be printed in letters not smaller than 1.2 mm, and for products up to 80cm², letters must be 0.9 mm or larger.

If vitamins are added, the label must indicate "enriched with vitamins." If the manufacturing and packaging companies are not the same, the label must indicate the company that performed the packaging.

Specific Labeling Requirements:

Section No.4 of the rulebook specifies what can be added as voluntary information on food (how the voluntary information must be specified, how it will be printed on the declaration). Suppose products were artificially colored and conserved by preservatives. In that case, this must be indicated right below the product's name, e.g., "artificially colored" or "conserved by preservative", and which chemicals were used must also be indicated. Claims such as "light" and "reduced" are permitted. However, generally, labels must not contain words, pictures and drawings, and health-related information that could mislead consumers regarding the product's origin, quantity, and quality.

Additives must be marked on the declaration by category and name or the additive's "E" number (Preservative-Sodium Benzoate or preservative E 211), except for the category of "modified starch," which has no additive denotation or "E" number. When modified starch may contain gluten, the origin of the starch must be indicated on the declaration (wheat, barley, rye, and oat). For additives belonging to the acid category and those containing the word "acid" within the actual name, it is enough to denote the additive without the category. The description of the nutritional values may contain data about the following components: starch, monounsaturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, cholesterol, minerals, and vitamins.

Food samples shipped to Serbia do not need to be labeled. However, all packaging of the sample shipped should be clearly marked as: "Samples - not for sale." For food containing or derived from genetically modified substances, see the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", 41/09) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni> and https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_geneticki_modifikovanim_organizmima.html (in Serbian).

Within the "Rulebook on Declaring, Labeling and Advertising of Food" ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)", No. 118/20, 17/22, 3/22 and, 64/24) <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/pravilnik-o-deklarisanju-oznacavanju-i-reklamiranju-hrane.html> (in Serbian) labeling requirement for plant-based meat/dairy alternatives information on food is voluntarily, and must be presented 1) in a manner that does not deceive the final consumer, in accordance with Article 4 of the Rulebook; 2) accurate, clear and easy to understand; and 3) based on relevant scientific data, when necessary.

Amendments adopted in the new "Rulebook on Declaration, Labeling, and Marketing of Food" determine the conditions and terms for the use of the label "fasting" on food products and more precisely determine the use of the label related to gluten-free food. "Fasting" may be stated only on food that is not derived from warm-blooded animal origin, In Serbia, where many consumers are of the Orthodox Church, "fasting" indicates the food is dairy, egg, milk, fat and meat free. Also, "gluten-free" may only be used if the gluten content of the finished product is less than 20 milligrams per kilogram.

Also, amendments of this rulebook adopted in 2022 regulate that the food ingredient or ingredients must make up more than 50 percent of the food so that consumers can associate the name of the food with the

ingredient. These amendments are also stating that on the declaration of the product it must be specified what is the country of the origin and if this does not correspond to the country of the origin of the main food ingredient, it is necessary to 1) specify the country of origin of the main ingredient, or 2) state that the country of the origin of the main ingredient is different than the country of the final food product.

Nutritional declarations allow nutritional statements and conditions are regulated by Appendix 7 of the Rulebook for the "Declaration, Labeling and Marketing of Food" ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 19/17). Nutritional declarations are mandatory when a declaration contains a nutritional statement such as low calorie, low fat, high caffeine (>150 mg/l), low sugar, enriched with vitamins. Otherwise, they are voluntary. The rulebook does not regulate the appearance of the nutritional declaration but rather the content. Thus, the format of the U.S. "nutritional facts" label is acceptable. Part of the text of the food product name may contain the following statements: "with sweetener" (if a product contains one or more sweeteners); "with sugar and sweetener addition" (if one or more different sugars and sweeteners were added to the product); "contains phenylalanine" (if the product contains aspartame-E591); "excessive usage may cause laxative effect" (if the product contain more than 10 percent additional polyols). These statements must be highlighted. The rulebook also contains a list of the daily reference intake of vitamins and minerals (for adults), reference daily intake of energy, selected food ingredients that are not vitamins and minerals (for adults), and the conversion factors for energy values.

Further details regarding the labeling of food and certain specific food products (e.g., beef, wine, fruit juice, etc.) can be obtained from the FAS office in Belgrade (for contact information, see Appendix II).

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

The Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste Management was adopted in 2009 ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.36/09), with an amendment adopted in 2018 ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 95/18)

https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_ambalazi_i_ambalaznom_otpadu.html (in Serbian) and <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/zakoni>. The law brings Serbian requirements into compliance with the EU directive on packaging and waste material. The law regulates the use of secondary materials, manages their collection and processing and storage conditions. It does not regulate materials that come into contact with food.

Packaging requirements are subject to specific ordinances for each type of food. For example, the packaging material for raw coffee packed in ½ kg units must weigh less than 50g per square meter. The packaging requirements for different foods are comprehensive and are regulated by the rulebook on quality control of these products (meat, dairy products, fruit juices, fish, etc.).

Packaging Sustainability Measures:

The Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste Management regulates the collection and recycling of already used packaging materials on Waste Material Handling and by the Rulebook on Secondary Material Collection, Transport, Storage Conditions, and Handling Communal waste management, including food and beverage packaging materials, is enforced by local and municipal authorities. ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.98/10)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/pravilnici/>. and

https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/pravilnik_o_klasifikaciji_pakovanju_i_obelezavanju_i_reklamiranju_hemikalije_i_odredjenog_proizvoda.html .

The law outlines the following basic principles of packaging and packaging waste management:

- 1) division of responsibilities of all economic entities in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle during the product life cycle.
- 2) prevention, i.e., reducing packaging and packaging waste, as well as their harmfulness to the environment.
- 3) reuse of packaging, recycling and other forms of reuse and reduction of final disposal of packaging waste and
- 4) voluntary agreement between parties on packaging waste management.

Packaging must be designed and manufactured so that when it becomes packaging waste, it enables the cycling of materials used in the production of that packaging in a certain mass percentage. The values of mass percentages depend on the packaging material. The basic criteria for sustainable packaging for recycling are determined by the Serbian standard and refer to:

- 1) control of design, the composition of packaging and process of its production.
- 2) existence of available recycling technology and
- 3) release into the environment, because of the recycling process.

National targets for packaging and packaging waste management are determined by the Packaging Waste Reduction Plan. The plan contains national targets related to collecting packaging and packaging waste, reuse and recycling of packaging waste.

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

Serbia's regulations on food additives were changed in 2015 by adopting the new Rulebook on Use of Food Additives ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.53/18)

<https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/pravilnik-o-prehranbenim-aditivima-republike-srbije.html> and

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/pravilnici/>. Only approved additives included in the "List of approved additives" provided in this ordinance (approximately 500 additives in total) can be used in the

food processing process. The rulebook defines additives as substances that are not foods (regardless of their nutritional value) but are added to foods during processing because of their effect on the food's organoleptic characteristics. Substances added to enrich nutritive value and salt are not considered additives. The quantity used must be in accordance with specific regulations for each group of products. Additives must not affect/decrease a food product's nutritional value or significantly change the taste and flavor of products unless this is the intent. They must not create toxins in products during processing, storage, or use. They must be identifiable, meaning their type and quantity can be tested unless removed or destroyed during processing. Approved additives are listed in Section B and are divided into three groups: colors, sweeteners, and other additives.

Within the Rulebook on the "Declaration, Labeling and Marketing of Food ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.118/20, 17/22, 3/22 and, 64/24), additives must be specified on the food label, mentioning the category and name of the additive or its E number. The label must clearly indicate the following:

- The additive's name aligns to the group of additives or mixture name, including its usage and brand name, if any.
- The manufacturer's name and complete address.
- The date of manufacturing (day/month/year) and "best before" date.
- The product's net weight (mass or volume) in metric units.
- For additives, the category and name of the additive or its E number (preservative – sodium-benzoate or preservative E 211) must be included.
- Additive carriers (e.g., ethanol) must be declared.
- For additive mixtures: List additive names in order of their predominance compared to product's net weight. If certain additives can be used only in limited quantity, the quantity must be declared.
- Name of the country of origin if imported.

The product's name and the manufacturer's name must be printed in larger fonts. Labels must indicate the company that did the packaging (name and address) if different from the manufacturer. Sodium nitrite, potassium, and saltpeter mixtures used for pickling may be sold but only in original packaging and must be marked as "warning – poison" and "keep in dry place."

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

All imported food products into Serbia must comply with domestic rules on pesticides and other contaminants. Serbia is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) and is following Codex maximum residue limits (MRLs) that are generally recognized for imported foodstuffs. In 2018, Serbia adopted a new rulebook on "Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides" ("Official Gazette Republic

of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 22/18 and 90/18), <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/pravilnici/> describing residue limits for pesticides and other contaminants (e.g., hormones, antibiotics, and mycotoxins) which can be found in food.

The Rulebook on the "Maximum Allowed Quantities of Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed." ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 91/22 and 26/24) <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/pravilnici/> and <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/pravilnik-o-maksimalnim-kolicinama-ostataka-za-zastitu-bilja-u-hrani-i-hrani-za-zivotinje.html> (in Serbian), defines the maximum permitted levels of pesticide residues in food and feed as substances used for the protection of agricultural products against diseases and pests. Lists of food and feed, maximum allowed residue limits, and active substances per mg/kg are listed in the attachments to this rulebook. These lists include the different pesticides, their commercial names, chemical names, and maximum tolerances in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) by food and type of food.

U.S. exporters can get information on MRLs through the Rulebook on Maximum Residue Limits on Pesticides. Since none of these are available in English, U.S. exporters must check through their local importer or agent or through FAS Belgrade Office for more information.

Food contaminants are listed as lead, cadmium, mercury, zinc, tin, copper, arsenic, iron, and other metals, and nonmetals. The ordinance provides a table with maximum residue limits for 43 different foods (expressed in mg/kg). Hormones and antibiotic residues are generally not allowed in food products. Maximum residue limits of mycotoxins are also regulated for grains, flour, legumes, beans, nuts, coffee, roasted cocoa, and peanuts. These lists are available from the FAS office in Belgrade (see Appendix II).

Serbia has a list of approved pesticides and fertilizers that can be imported and traded. This information can be obtained from the Phytosanitary Department/Import and Registration of Pesticides at the Ministry of Agriculture (see Appendix II). The Rulebook on the "Request Forms and Content for Registering Distributors and Importers of Plant Protection Products and the Content of this Register" ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.5/10) regulates how distributors and importers of fertilizers can be added to the official register. Serbia also adopted the new rulebook on "Packaging Conditions of Fertilizers" ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.13/10), outlining how fertilizers should be packaged.

Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures:

Importers of live animals and products of animal origin must request import approval from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture (see Appendix I for contact). Serbian import requirements align with the World Organization for Animal Health, of which Serbia has been a member since May 2003.

The Rulebook on "General and Specific Conditions for Hygiene of Food at any Phase of Production, Processing and Trade" ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 72/10, 62/18)

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/dokumenti/pravilnici/> (in Serbian) regulates hygiene in all phases of food production processing and trade. Appendix I of this rulebook includes a list of microbiological criteria for different kinds of food products.

Certification and documentation: live animals, meat, and dairy products require veterinary certification, while seeds, fruits, and vegetables require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country's relevant authorities (e.g., USDA/FSIS or USDA/APHIS). Special certification is needed for veterinary drugs, demonstrating the drugs have been approved and used in the country of origin. Information can be obtained from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture (Appendix I).

Foods that are subject to veterinary and phytosanitary inspections can enter through all border crossings where veterinary and phytosanitary border inspection posts exist. Importers should always inform relevant border inspection posts at the point of entry for every shipment that must be accompanied by the import approvals issued by the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture. The inspection services are charged to the importers as per an official price list. Inspections will cost more if performed after regular working hours.

Serbia has specific guidance on the procedure for "Official Mixed Origin at Import" ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No, 44/18). Sampling is directed for products imported for the first time into Serbia, products that have changed labels, have not been tested in the country of origin for more than six months, or coming from countries that have been identified as high-risk. Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, grain and milling products, raw coffee and teas are sampled every three months regardless of origin. The importer must provide the following required import documents: an invoice, the specifications of the imported products, a customs declaration, information on the destination of the goods until the customs procedure is completed, any prior official reports regarding the same type of product and any official results from prior sampling of the same type of product.

Foreign Trade and Customs Policies

The Law on Foreign Trade ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.36/09, 36/11, 88/11 and 89/15) https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_spoljnotrgovinskom_poslovanju.html (in Serbian) regulates foreign trade in accordance with the EU and WTO rules. The Law is in principle designed to promote free trade of goods and services. Per this law, restrictions and import bans may be applied only when they are needed to protect public health or guard the domestic market against subsidized or dumped products.

The Law on Customs Tariff ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 144/20, 118/21 and 138/22) and Decree on "Harmonization of Customs Tariff Nomenclature" is updated every year <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/carinski-zakon.html> (in Serbian). This decree was adopted for the first time in November 2012 as part of implementing the [Stabilization and Association Agreement \(SAA\)](#) between Serbia and the EU.

Serbia applies the Harmonized System (H.S.) to its tariff schedule. Customs tariffs for agricultural products from third countries range from zero to 30 percent of import value, with additional levies and seasonal taxes based on the unit weight being applied to some agricultural products (e.g. some fresh fruits and vegetables). The harmonization of Serbian customs tariffs was necessary to facilitate customs clearance with EU countries among Serbia's trading partners and assist with World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. The Decree on the "Harmonization of the Customs Tariff Nomenclature" established 9,706 tariff lines which are now harmonized with the EU's customs tariff nomenclature. Tariff lines for agricultural commodities are in Chapters 1-24.

Serbia's tariff rates fall into six groups:

- 1) the standard tariff rates that applies to U.S. imports.
- 2) the tariff rates for EU countries (Stabilization and Association Agreement signed in 2008).
- 3) tariff rates for signatory countries of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) signed in 2006, which include Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldavia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina and UMNİK-Kosovo.
- 4) tariff rates for signatory countries of the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) signed in 2009 which include Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein.
- 5) tariff rates as per Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, and
- 6) tariff rates for products from Turkey (as per a Free Trade Agreement signed in 2009).

Serbia is not yet a member of the WTO but attempts to harmonize its legislation with WTO requirements, including food safety and phytosanitary regulations to advance the accession process. However, Serbia's legislation regarding genetically modified organisms does not align with WTO and EU requirements. Serbia is a member of the CODEX Alimentarius, the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Union of Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Cooperative Program for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR); and is a signatory of the Aarhus Convention and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Customs and Taxation

Within the amended Customs Law and the Law on Customs tariffs, Serbia passed several implementing legislative acts. The legislation has been amended to align with the EU *Acquis*, and some simplified procedures have been established (i.e., summary declaration procedures and a simplified declaration). Serbia has adopted a new law on free trade zones, offering tax breaks and simplified procedures while enabling foreign-owned companies to establish and manage free trade zones in Serbia.

Overall, Serbia has reached a relatively good level of alignment with the EU customs *Acquis*. Significant improvements have been noted in controlling and managing preferential trade measures (by origin). This is the result of the existence of computerized customs procedures and intensified training of customs officers. Concerning taxation, taxes are applied at the same rates for locally produced and imported goods. Serbia's value-added tax (VAT) for non-essential products is 20 percent. In contrast, the VAT on essential agricultural and food products (e.g., bread, flour, milk and dairy products, sugar, edible oil from sunflower, corn, soy, rapeseed, olives, animal or plant origin fat, honey, frozen, processed, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and meat products, fish, eggs, grains, oilseeds, sugar beet, seeds, planting material, cattle feed, pesticides, and fertilizers) is 10 percent.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

Alcoholic beverages, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products are subject to specific taxation rules issued by the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance issues excise stamps, which must be included on the packaging before import into Serbia (please see Appendix I, # 6 for contact information). Import of alcoholic beverages, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages does not require an import permit, but they must meet the quality controls before they can be imported. In 2009, Serbia adopted a new Law on Ethanol <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-etanolu.html> (in Serbian), in 2010 adopted a new Law on Beer <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-pivu.html> (in Serbian), and in 2015 a new Law on Wine http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/t2012_10/t10_0017.htm (in Serbian) and a Law on Strong Alcoholic Beverages. <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-jakim-alkoholnim-picima.html> (in Serbian). From 2011 to 2015, several rulebooks were adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture to implement the following laws:

The Law on Brandy and Other Alcohol Drinks ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.41/09) is superseded by the new *Law on Strong Alcoholic Beverages* ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 92/15). This new law regulates the production, trade, geographical designation, quality, description, labeling, and transport of strong alcoholic drinks. It envisages simpler and cheaper production of strong alcoholic beverages (mostly fruit brandy called "rakija"). Strong alcoholic spirits are beverages intended for human consumption with specific organoleptic characteristics and a minimum alcoholic volume of 15 percent. Individual producers can legally sell alcoholic beverages in two ways:

- 1) by selling it in bulk to registered legal entities that process, bottle, and trade the product or;

- 2) by registering themselves with the Ministry of Agriculture to trade domestically produced strong alcoholic beverages.

The Law on Wine ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.41/09) and the Law on Amendments on Changes to the Law on Wine ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" 41/09 and 93/12) regulate various aspects of production and sales of wine. The regulations cover winemaking practices, classification and labeling, wine-production potential, documentation of wine industry activities and the duties of the enforcement agencies/inspections.

The Law on Ethanol ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.41/09) regulates ethanol production, marketing, export, and import. The law introduced the EU's standards and regulatory framework to facilitate ethanol exports to the EU and the regional market. The regulation governs quality control and was intended to facilitate usage of Serbian ethanol across various industries (food processing, alcohol beverages production, medical, pharmaceutical cosmetics etc.), as well as attract new investment in ethanol production and trade. The law prescribes methods of registering production, packaging, marketing, quality controls, and the responsibilities of controlling agencies/inspections. Several by-laws are still needed to more precisely regulate the technical aspects of ethanol production and trade and market conditions.

The Law on Beer ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" 30/10) is a legal framework for regulating beer production and sales and is intended to make Serbia's beer industry more export competitive. The law allows only registered breweries to produce beer. Serbia's MAFWM maintains a public register of breweries and data on annual production, consumption of raw materials, and production of final products.

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

Serbia is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and signatory to several conventions such as the Paris Convention Treaty on Patent Cooperation and the Madrid Agreement on International Registration of Marks. In 2018, Serbia adopted a new Amended Law on Geographical Indications of Origin ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.18/10 and 44/18). This law regulates the registration and legal protection of geographical indications of origin (GIs). GIs in the Republic of Serbia are registered based on the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration ([The Lisbon Agreement](#)). GI's can be used to mark natural, agricultural, food, and industrial products, traditional handicrafts, and some services.

Trade or service marks receive protection for a 10-year term from the filing date, with the opportunity for the time to be extended. Serbia applies the Law on Trademarks ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 104/09, 99/11, 119/12, 29/16, 66/19 and 123/21) governing the manner of acquisition and

the protection of rights concerning marks used in the trade of goods and/or services. The Law on Patents ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 99/11, 113/17, 95/18, and 66/19) legally protects and regulates the patents and rights of the inventors. In contrast, the Law on Copyrights ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.104/09, 99/11, 119/12, and 29/16) regulates copyright matters. Domestic and foreign applications must be submitted to the Intellectual Property Office (see Appendix II).

As a part of its EU and WTO harmonization efforts, Serbia adopted the *Law on Protection of Plant Breeder's Rights/UPOV* ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.41/09) <https://minpolj.gov.rs/zakoni/> (in Serbian) and the Law on Amendments on Changes of Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights/UPOV ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No. 88/11) <https://minpolj.gov.rs/zakoni/> (in Serbian). Both laws regulate the protection of intellectual property rights of plant variety breeders, conditions for domestic breeders to register new plant varieties, and conditions for the safe circulation of foreign protected varieties in the domestic market. Adopting the law was necessary to harmonize Serbia's legal environment with the Convention of the Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and represented a precondition for membership of Serbia in UPOV. Serbia became a full member of UPOV in 2013 and adopted all the required legislation. This law is also important for harmonizing with the EU and with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the WTO.

Section IX. Import Procedures:

Foreign suppliers can export food products to Serbia using a locally registered office or a local company, shipping agent, or forwarding agent registered for import activities. It is common for agents to help with food import regulations. Import approvals for agricultural commodities should be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management (MAFWM). Import approvals are required for live animals, products of animal origin with more than 2 percent of an animal component, genetics, veterinary drugs, seeds, and planting materials or pesticides. Prior approval is not required for other food products.

Standard documents such as a customs declaration, commercial invoice, bill of lading, and import approval (for the products mentioned above) must accompany all shipments as well as the relevant health certificates issued by the competent authority in the country of origin (e.g., a veterinary certificate for meat and meat products, a phytosanitary certificate for fruits, vegetables, seeds, planting material). Import documents can be in English and customs clearance usually requires 3-7 days. Veterinary and phytosanitary inspections are conducted at select border crossing points. Foods of animal origin and veterinary drugs must have prior import approvals from the Veterinary Department of the Serbian MAFWM. Forms for import notification are available online at the Ministry of Agriculture's website or obtained from the Ministry's Veterinary Department or the Department for International Trade and Collaboration (please see Appendix I).

The Law regulates imports of seeds and planting materials into Serbia on Seeds ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" 45/05 and 30/10), the Law on Planting Material of Fruits, Wine and Hops ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.18/05 and 30/10), and the Law on Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights ("Official Gazette Republic of Serbia (R.S.)" No.41/09 and No. 88/11). Seed imports currently must be accompanied by a bill of lading, phytosanitary certificate, a seed certificate from the OECD may be required, depending on the variety of seed, and a seed quality certificate (ISTA). Imported seeds must have a declaration issued by the relevant institution in the country of origin when they enter the Serbian market. For the import of seeds, the U.S. exporter must check with the local importer on the requirements prior to shipment. Seeds are subject to field trials as part of the registration process and done prior to circulating on the market, they must be included in the national register of MAFWM (see Appendix I. 8).

Section X. Trade Facilitation:

Provided all certificate documents are in order, and no tests are pending, customs clearance for food products can be completed in a day. Inspection fees are charged by the state veterinary and phytosanitary inspectors. For the list of fees, please contact FAS Office Belgrade or check at the official web pages of the [Veterinary Directorate](#) and the [Phytosanitary Directorate](#).

Serbia, as an EU accession country, is a member of [Trade Control and Expert System](#) (TRACES), the European Commission's multilingual 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, TRACES. Also, Serbia exchanges certificates through the [International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\) ePhyto Solutions](#).

Relevant U.S. government agencies must issue electronic certificates for goods entering Serbia. In the absence of electronic documents, paper certificates must satisfy the regulations for an original certificate with an ink signature. Preclearance programs are allowed for some food products and only from certain countries. The United States is not included in these programs.

Inspections on imported foods are conducted at Serbian borders. Once goods have passed inspection and customs duties are paid, they can move freely through the country. However, official controls remain possible at any stage of distribution within the country.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts:

1. Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (in Serbian only)

Phone : + 381 11 260 7960

E-mail: office@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: [Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, šumarstva i vodoprivrede](#)

2. Ministry of Environmental Protection (in Serbian only)

Phone : + 381 11 311 0271

E-mail : eko.kabinet@eko.gov.rs

Web page : <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/>

3. Serbian Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade (in Serbian only)

Phone : +381 11 3633 721

E-mail : kabinet@must.gov.rs

Web page: [Ministarstvo unutrašnje i spoljne trgovine](#)

4. Serbian Ministry of Health

Phone: + 381 11 3616 596

E-mail : kabinet@zdravlje.gov.rs

Web page: zdravlje.gov.rs

5. Serbian Ministry of Economy

Phone : + 381 11 36 42 700

E-mail : kabinet@privreda.gov.rs

Web page: [Министарство привреде Републике Србије](#)

6. Serbian Ministry of Finance

Phone: + 381 11 361 32 45

E-mail : kabinet@mfin.gov.rs

Web page: [Ministry of Finance](#)

7. Import of live animals and products of animal origin, veterinary drugs

Veterinary Department/International Trade and Certification

Phone : + 381 11 311 7734

E-mail: vetuprava@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page : [Управа за ветерину – МИНИСТАРСТВО ПОЉОПРИВРЕДЕ, ШУМАРСТВА И ВОДОПРИВРЕДЕ](#)

8. Import of seeds and planting material

Phytosanitary Department

Phone: + 381 11 311 7371

E-mail: upravailje@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: [Home - Управа за заштиту биља](#)

9. Import of pesticides and fertilizers

Phytosanitary Department/Import and registration of pesticides

Phone : + 381 11 260 2329

E-mail : upravailje@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page : [Home - Управа за заштиту биља](#)

10. GMO approvals and registrations

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Phone : + 381 11 311 7591

E-mail : upravailje@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page : [Home - Управа за заштиту биља](#)

11. Approvals of plant varieties

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Phone : + 381 11 311 7317

E-mail : upravailje@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page : [Home - Управа за заштиту биља](#)

12. Inspection of sanitary conformity

Serbian Ministry of Health

Department for Sanitary Inspection

Phone: + 381 11 2607 874

E-mail : <https://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/#>

Web page: zdravlje.gov.rs

13. Market inspection (in Serbian only)

Serbian Ministry of Trade, Telecommunication, and Tourism

Department for Market Inspection

Phone: + 381 11 361 4334

E-mail : trzisnainspekcija@must.gov.rs

Web page: [Sektor tržišne inspekcije](#)

14. Imports of Wine (in Serbian only)

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Phone : + 381 11 3617 595

E-mail : jkuzmanovic@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: [Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, šumarstva i vodoprivrede](#)

15. Imports of brandy, alcohol, and nonalcoholic beverages (in Serbian only)

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Phone : + 381 11 3617 701

E-mail : kolinda@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: [Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, šumarstva i vodoprivrede](#)

16. Directorate for National Reference Laboratories

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Phone : + 381 11 377 2070

E-mail : vanja.petric@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: [Directorate for national reference laboratories](#)

17. Customs clearance:

Serbian Custom Administration

Phone: + 381 11 2690 822

E-mail: pr@carina.rs

Web page: [Customs Administration :: Home](#)

18. Institute for trademarks, patents, and intellectual property

Intellectual Property Office

Phone: + 381 11 2025 800

E-mail: zis@zis.gov.rs

Web page: [Home - The Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia : The Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia](#)

19. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

Phone : +381 11 2412 922

E-mail : stat@stat.gov.rs

Web page: [Home | Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia](#)

20. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

Phone : +381 11 3300-900

E-mail : bis@pks.rs

Web page: en.pks.rs

21. Serbian European Integration Office

Phone: + 38111 3061-100

E-mail: office@mei.gov.rs

Web page: [MEI - About us](#)

22. Serbian Government Official

Web page: [The Government of the Republic of Serbia](#)

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

1. Office of Agricultural Affairs (Foreign Agricultural Service)

U.S. Embassy Belgrade

Bulevar kneza Aleksandra Karadjordjevica 92,

11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Phone : ++381 11 706 4158

E-mail : AgBelgrade@usda.gov

Web page : <https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/serbia>

2. University of Belgrade, Veterinary Faculty

Phone: ++ 381 11 361 5436

Web page: [Faculty of Veterinary Medicine | Site](#)

3. Institute of Meat Hygiene and Meat Technology

Phone : ++ 381 11 2650 655

E-mail : institut@inmes.rs

Web page: [Institut INMES](#)

4. National Laboratory for Seed Testing

Phone : ++ 381 21 4898 100

E-mail : institut@nsseme.com

Web page: [NS SEME – RECOGNIZED. REASONABLE. RELIABLE.](#)

5. Institute for Public Health "Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut"

Phone : + 381 11 2684 566

E-mail : kabinet@batut.org.rs

Web page: [IOPHOS - Batut :: Home](#)

6. Institute for Science Application in Agriculture (in Serbian only)

Phone : ++ 381 11 275 1622

E-mail : admin@psss.rs

Web page : [Naslovna | Poljoprivredna Savetodavna i Stručna Služba Srbije](#)

7. Agriculture Faculty Belgrade

Phone: ++ 381 11 2615 315

Web page: [University of Belgrade - Faculty of Agriculture](#)

8. Agriculture Faculty Novi Sad

Phone: ++ 381 21 450 355

Web page: [FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE ! | Poljoprivredni fakultet - Novi Sad](#)

9. Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering

Phone: ++ 381 11 3975 744

Web page: [IMGGE | Home](#)

10. Accreditation Body of Serbia

Phone: + 381 11 301 47 44

Web page: [Accreditation body of Serbia | ATS](#)

11. BioSens Institut Novi Sad

Phone: <https://biosens.rs/en/contact>

Web page: [BioSense Institute](#)

Attachments:

No Attachments