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#### **Report Highlights:**

This report provides an update of the food and agricultural laws and regulations currently in force in Vietnam. Updated sections include: Section II - Food Additives; Section III - Pesticides and Other Contaminants, and Section V - Labeling. Minor updates are added to Section VIII - Other Certification and Testing, Section IX - Import Procedure, and Section X - Copyrights and Trademark Laws.

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### Abbreviated terms for easy reference:

- MOH (Ministry of Health, Vietnam)
- VFA (Vietnam Food Administration, MOH)
- MARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam)
- DAH (Department of Animal Health, MARD)
- PPD (Plant Protection Department, MARD)
- DLP (Department of Livestock Production, MARD)
- NAFIQAD (National Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality Assurance Department, MARD)
- NOIP (National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam, MOST)
- CFS (Certificate of Free Sale)
- FBOs (Food Business Operators)
- GDC (General Department of Customs)
- MOST (Ministry of Science and Technology)
- MOIT (Ministry of Industry and Trade)
- DFISH (Directorate of Fisheries, MARD)
- FSL (Law on Food Safety)
- GVN (Government of Vietnam)
- WTO (World Trade Organization)

#### **Section I: General Food Laws**

Vietnam's National Assembly promulgated the Law on Food Safety 55/2010/QH12 on June 17, 2010, which entered into force on July 1, 2011. The Law on Food Safety (FSL) provides organizations and individuals with rights and responsibilities to ensure food safety; conditions for food safety; food production and trading; food import and export; food advertisement and labeling; food testing; food risk analysis; prevention and dealing with food safety incidents; information, education, and communication on food safety; and state management of food safety.

According to the FSL, all imported food, food additives, substances used in food processing, and tools and materials used for packing and containing imported food shall be subject to import inspection for food safety, except in cases where the import inspection is exempt. Imported food is only granted customs clearance once inspection results show that the products in question meet import requirements. The Food Safety Law outlines three categories of food inspection: 1) Strict Inspection; 2) Ordinary Inspection, and 3) Simplified Inspection. The FSL assigns three ministries, the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) responsibility for the inspection of imported foods.

To improve the enforcement of the FSL, the Government of Vietnam (GVN) issued Decree 15/2018 on February 2, 2018, which took effect immediately and replaced Decree 38/2012 detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the FSL (GAIN Report <u>VM8016</u>). This Decree makes fundamental changes to the registration and inspection for both domestic and imported food and the assignment of food safety management among MOH, MARD, and MOIT. Decree 15 also repeals Chapter II of the MOH, MARD, and MOIT Joint Circular 13/2014/TTLT-BYT-BNNPTNT-BCT dated April 9, 2014, regarding guidelines for assignments and coordination of state management of food safety.

Under Decree 15, the GVN applies a new simplified registration procedure for pre-packaged processed foods, food additives, and food processing aids and authorizes food enterprises to produce, import, and sell these products immediately after the enterprises have published product self-declaration documentation. The GVN also set a new import inspection regime to streamline and synchronize the import inspection methods applied by MOH, MARD, and MOIT. The new inspection regime maintains three inspection methods for all imports - reduced inspection, tightened inspection, and normal inspection, but reduces the sampling frequency, and switches to post-clearance inspection.

The GVN issued Decree 115/2018/ND-CP dated September 4, 2018 to replace Decree 178/2013/ND-CP on handling administrative violations in food production and trade, food import and export. Decree 115/2018 imposes more severe penalties and additional sanctions for violations in food production and trade. Under this new Decree, organizations or individuals found using expired materials or products, those of unclear origin, or those from animals and plants not yet quarantined, for food production will be given fines double the value of the infringing goods. Decree 115/2018 also increases

fines for food safety violations up to VND 200 million or seven times higher than the value of the infringing goods. Additional penalties, such as revocation of certificates of food safety and registration of products and confiscation of materials or suspension of business operation can also be enforced. Violating businesses are required to destroy their infringing food products and pay all expenses for handling any resulting food poisoning cases. Decree 115 took effect on October 20, 2018.

Under Article 317 of the Penal Code 100/2015/QH13 which took effect from January 1, 2018, a certain number of violations, such as using banned substances in the manufacture, preparation, processing, preservation of food, or processing, providing, or selling food with the knowledge that it does not comply with technical or food safety regulations, are considered criminal offenses.

#### **Section II: Food Additives Regulations**

On August 30, 2019, MOH issued Circular 24/2019/TT-BYT to renew regulations on food additives in Vietnam (GAIN report <u>VM2019-0066</u>). Circular 24/2019 took effect on October 16, 2019 and replaced MOH's Circular 27/2012 and Circular 8/2015 on food additives.

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

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

In addition, Circular 24/2019 permits the use of additional additives for wine, dairy products, spices, cereal, processed meat, sauces, and fish, which are currently not adopted in Codex standards. The list of additives and MLs that are not prescribed in GSFA, is provided in Appendix 2B of this Circular.

#### Flavorings

Vietnam allows the use of flavorings that are evaluated and determined as safe at estimated intakes or acceptable daily intake (ADI) by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). These flavorings must meet technical requirements on identity and purity prescribed in National Standard TCVN 6417:2010 guiding the use of flavorings.

#### **Section III: Pesticides and Other Contaminants**

#### 3.1. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides

MOH issued Circular 50/2016/TT-BYT on December 30, 2016 providing MRLs for pesticides in food (GAIN report VM7026). This Circular took effect from July 1, 2017. Circular 50/2016 provides MRLs for 205 compounds for a wide range of foods, including: fruits, vegetables, cereals, nuts, coffee, tea, meat, fat, skin, offal, eggs, milk & dairy products, dried food, vegetable oils, and spices. MRLs for a number of compounds, currently banned from use in Vietnam (e.g., endosulfan, endrin, lindane) are maintained in accordance with Codex standards.

### 3.2. Maximum Limits for mycotoxin and other contaminants

MOH has promulgated the following National Technical Regulations (NTR) regulating the tolerance of contaminants in food:

• QCVN 8-1:2011, promulgating the tolerance of mycotoxin contamination in food. This regulation sets up the maximum limits of aflatoxin, ochratoxin A, and other mycotoxins in many types of food, including, nuts, corn, rice, raw milk, milk powder, spices, food formula for babies, etc.

• QCVN 8-2:2011, promulgating the tolerance of heavy metal contamination in food. This regulation establishes the safety limits for levels of contamination of arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, methyl mercury and zinc allowed in food.

• QCVN 8-3:2012/BYT, promulgating the tolerance of microbiological contamination in food. This regulation prescribes the limits of microbiological contamination in food for milk and dairy, eggs, and products from eggs, meat and products from meat, aquaculture products, nutrition products for children aged 0 to 36 months old, bottled natural water, bottled water and instant-use ice, cream, vegetables and fruits, and products from vegetables and fruits.

### 3.3. Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs

On September 7, 2016, MOH announced the amendment of Circular 24/2013/TT-BYT, dated August 14, 2013 regulating MRLs for veterinary drugs in food. The amendment proposed zero tolerances for a number of compounds in food, including ractopamine, trenbolone acetate, and zeranol.

In response, the USG and other countries requested Vietnam not deviate from its past practice of following Codex standards and urged MOH to maintain its current MRLs for ractopamine and other veterinary drugs. On May 31, 2017, the United States and Vietnam announced a resolution of the veterinary drug MRLs issue in a Joint Statement issued by the U.S. President and the Vietnamese Prime Minister. On November 9, 2018, MOH confirmed they reached an agreement with MARD to temporarily suspend the amendment of Circular 24/2013 and maintain the current MRLs for veterinary drugs in food.

On November 28, 2019, MARD issued Circular 21/2019 Guiding a Number of Articles of the Animal Husbandry Law on Animal Feed. The Circular removes ractopamine, trenbolone acetate, and zeranol from the list of chemicals banned for domestic use in Vietnam (GAIN Report <u>VM2019-0065</u>).

### **Section IV: Packaging and Container Regulations**

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

- QCVN 12-1:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for synthetic resin packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food,

- QCVN 12-2:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for rubber packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food, and

- QCVN 12-3:2011/BYT on food safety and hygiene for metallic packages, containers, and equipment in direct contact with food.

#### **Section V: Labeling Requirements**

#### 5.1. General requirements

#### Government's Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling

Vietnamese law imposes strict requirements on the labeling of goods. On April 14, 2017, the GVN issued Decree 43/2017/ND-CP replacing Decree 89/2009 on goods labeling. Decree 43/2017 provided labeling requirements for all categories of food, beverages, and agricultural inputs circulated in Vietnam, both domestically produced and imported. This Decree went into effect from June 1, 2017 (GAIN report VM7031).

Previously, the FSL provided specific requirements on the labeling timeline for the use of prepacked food and special provisions for functional food, food additives, irradiated food, and genetically engineered food.

Along with these legal documents, Joint Circular 34/2014/TTLT-BYT-BNNPTNT-BCT issued by MOH, MOIT, and MARD on October 27, 2014 for Guiding the Goods Label for Various Foods, Food Additives, and Aids for Processing Packaged Foods remains in effect (GAIN report VM5005).

Accordingly, labels must be in Vietnamese and cover all mandatory contents. Depending on the requirements of each type of food, the contents can be included in a foreign language but must match the Vietnamese description, with their font size no larger than the relevant language in Vietnamese.

The mandatory labeling contents for food include: i) name of goods, ii) name and address of the enterprise responsible for the goods; iii) origin of goods, and iv) additional details in conformity with the nature of the goods prescribed in Appendix I of Decree 43/2017 and other relevant legal documents. This Decree provides flexible choices for the presentation of expiration dates that may be represented either as a "use by" date or "best before" date. However, the manufacture and expiration dates must be written in the "date-month-year" format (according to the western calendar) and must also be noted in this order if those dates are presented in another order on the product.

Food imported for consumption and circulation in the Vietnamese market must be labelled in either of the following ways: 1) labeling in Vietnamese, including the full mandatory labeling contents; or 2)

being attached to secondary labels which contain the Vietnamese translation from the mandatory information of the original label and to supplement other mandatory information according to the nature of the commodity as prescribed in Decree 43/2017. Secondary labels are exempted for food ingredients, food additives, and food processing aids imported for internal production only and not for resale in the market.

### Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) Circular 5/2019 guiding Decree 43/2017

On June 26, 2019, MOST issued Circular 5/2019 to detail the implementation of a number of articles of Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling. This Circular shall take effect on January 1, 2021. Article 8 of Circular 5/2019 requires the quantity of an ingredient must be shown on a goods label if its name is shown on the label in order to draw attention to the product.

Circular 5/2019 allows for labeling "no presence" or "not containing" or "no addition" of an ingredient" only if: *i*) the ingredient does not exist in the product and in the materials used to produce the product; or *ii*) the product does not contain ingredients of the same group with similar properties or uses, unless the nature of the substitution is clearly stated. However, Circular 5/2019 accepts labeling per Codex's guidance in certain cases, for example, goods are labelled "No sugar" if the sugar content is less than or equal to 0.5g/100g (solid) or 0.5g/100ml (liquid). Post notes some industries in Vietnam claim the "no presence" and "no addition" provisions are not in line with international practices and are requesting MOST and MOH to make revisions.

### 5.2. Other Specific Labeling Requirements

### 5.2.1. Labeling food additives

In addition to general Labeling requirements stipulated in Joint Circular 34, food additives should be labeled as follows:

- Class name and international code (if any) must be enclosed with the name of the food additive.

- If two or more food additives are present in packaging, their names must be listed in the order of proportion by weight.

- The phrase "Use for food" (*Dùng cho thực phẩm* in Vietnamese) must be clearly written below the name of food additive using bold letters with a minimum height of 2 millimeters.

### 5.2.2. Labeling irradiated food

In the case of food manufactured, processed, or preserved using irradiation, in addition to the mandatory labeling contents, the phrase "irradiated food", or an international-recognized irradiation food symbol accepted by Vietnam must be printed on the label.

### 5.2.3. Labeling Functional Food

The key legislation regarding the labeling of functional food is the FSL and MOH's Circular 43/2014/TT-BYT, dated November 24, 2014, regulating the management of functional foods ("Circular 43"). Circular 43 entered into force on January 15, 2015.

Under Circular 43, functional foods are categorized into four sub-groups: i) supplementary food (*Thực phẩm bổ sung* in Vietnamese); ii) health supplement, food supplement, and dietary supplement (collectively "*thực phẩm bảo vệ sức khỏe*"); iii) food for special medical purposes or medical food (*thực phẩm dinh dưỡng dùng cho mục đích y tế đặc biệt* or *thực phẩm dinh dưỡng y học*); and, iv) food for special dietary use (*thực phẩm dùng cho chế độ ăn đặc biệt*).

The labeling of these products must comply with the requirements applicable to foodstuffs. Along with complying with standard regulations, the labeling for functional food must meet the following requirements:

- The specific phrase for the relevant sub-group name must be recorded on the product label (supplemented food, health supplement, food for special medical purposes, and food for special dietary use). The nutrient contents (e.g., the quantity of vitamins, minerals, enzymes, fatty acids, amino acids, or biological substances) must be displayed on the label.

- For supplementary food, the label must include the following contents: the objective of use, product utility, dosage, and special precautions or side effects of the product (if any);
- For food for special medical purposes and/or for special dietary uses, the label contents must include: directions for use and special precautions (if any);

- For health supplements, food supplements, and dietary supplements, the statement "This product is not a medicine, nor effective to replace medicine" must be listed directly after the product's effects or with other recommendations (if any). This phrase must have a contrasting color to the background color of the label and the letters must be at least 1.2 millimeters in height (or at least 0.9 millimeters if one side of the package is smaller than 80 square centimeters). In cases where the product name is the same as one of the main active ingredients, the quantity of such ingredients must be displayed on the label.

### 5.2.4. Labeling Genetically Engineered Food (GE food)

In addition to requiring mandatory labeling for most GE food, the FSL also requires the phrase "*thực phẩm biến đổi gen*" ("genetically engineered food") to be displayed on the product.

MARD and MOST issued Joint Circular 45/2015/TTLB-BNNPTNT-BKHCN (Circular 45) dated November 23, 2015 guiding the Labeling of Prepacked Genetically Engineered Foods, which details the labeling requirements applicable to food products containing GE organisms and products of GE organisms for sale in Vietnam. This Circular entered into force on January 8, 2016 (GAIN report <u>VM5088</u>). This Circular applies to pre-packed foods containing at least one GE ingredient that is at least five percent of

the total ingredients of the product. In instances where Circular 45 is applicable, the Vietnamese phrase "*biến đổi gen*" (aka: "genetically engineered") must be printed next to the GE component on the ingredient listing of the Vietnamese-language secondary label that is affixed on a product.

The labeling of GE food products as stipulated in Joint Circular 45/2015 does not apply in the following cases: a) food carried by people on entry for personal use within the duty free limit; food in diplomatic bags; food temporarily imported for re-export; food in bonded warehouses; food used as samples for testing and research; and food used during exhibitions or trade shows; and b) materials/food additives/food processing aids, and food packaging material imported for internal production that are not for sale in the market or for internal transportation among warehouses of an enterprise.

Joint Circular 45/2015 also required the supplemental printing of the phrase "biến đổi gen" on the label of GE food products which were circulated in the market before this Circular took effect. Prepacked GE food products lacking labels compliant with Circular 45/2015 are not allowed to be produced, traded, or imported into Vietnam.

Decree 15/2018/ND-CP dated February 2, 2018 continues to maintain the requirements for the Labeling of foods containing at least one GE ingredient that exceeds five percent of the product's total ingredients and labeling exemptions for GE food in the following cases:

- Pre-packaged food containing GE ingredients without the detection of the modified genes or products of the modified genes in the food;
- Fresh GE foods and unpackaged processed GE foods sold directly to consumers; and
- GE foods used in emergencies, such as natural disasters or epidemics.

#### Section VI: Other Specific Standards

#### 6.1. National Technical Regulations on Food Quality and Safety

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

- NTRs for nutritious cereal products for children ages 6 to 36 months,
- NTRs on supplemental formula products for children ages 6 to 36 months,
- NTRs on special medical-treatment products for children ages 0 to 12 months,
- NTRs on micronutrient fortified food,
- NTRs on natural mineral water and bottled water, and

- NTRs on food additives including: acidity regulators, firming agents, artificial sweeteners, antifoaming agents, antioxidant agents, and others.

The NTRs are available at: <u>http://www.vfa.gov.vn/van-ban.html</u>

### 6.2. Micronutrients and Fortified Food

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

- Edible salt and salt used for food processing must be fortified with iodine;

- Wheat flour used for food processing must be fortified with iron and zinc and;

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

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

### Section VII: Facility and Product Registration

### 7.1. Facility Registration

Vietnam requires exporters to be registered on the list of establishments eligible for export of foodstuffs of animal origin and seafood. Starting from July 18, 2017, DAH assumed responsibility for the registration of establishments.(GAIN report <u>VM7036</u>).

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

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

- Exporters of food derived from aquatic animals and terrestrial animals, except for processed and prepackaged products, are required to register on the list of facilities approved by Vietnam competent authorities. DAH continues to approve export facilities' application packages on a case-by-case basis. Post notes that, as of December 2019, DAH has yet to provide a clear and comprehensive definition of processed products.

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

The list of establishments eligible for exporting seafood to Vietnam is available at: <a href="http://cucthuy.gov.vn/Pages/danh-sach-thuy-san.aspx">http://cucthuy.gov.vn/Pages/danh-sach-thuy-san.aspx</a>

Should U.S. exporters have any questions or need clarification concerning the registration process for meat and meat products please contact: <u>aghanoi@fas.usda.gov</u> or <u>usda4circ25@gmail.com</u>.

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

### 7.2. Product Registration

#### 7.2.1. Foodstuffs of animal origin and seafood:

Vietnam requires foodstuffs of animal origin and seafood to be registered for import quarantine and food safety inspection prior to importation to Vietnam. The procedures are detailed in Section VIII, 8.2.2.

#### 7.2.2. Live aquatic animals for consumption:

Vietnam allows imports of live aquatic animals for human consumption if they are listed in the Appendix VIII of Government's Decree 26/2019 guiding the implementation of the Law on Fishery - the list of aquatic animals eligible for trade in Vietnam.

#### Risk assessment of live aquatic animals

For the initial import of live aquatic animals that are not included in the list of aquatic animals eligible for trade, the live aquatic animal's environmental impacts must be evaluated by the Directorate of Fisheries (DFISH). According to MARD's Circular 25/2018 regulating risk assessment and granting import permit for live aquatic animals, importers must submit applications to DFISH for their evaluation. The application consists of:

- An application for import permit.

- A description of the biological characteristics of imported live aquatic animals;

- A plan for the management and observation of imported live aquatic animals (using the form issued together with Circular 25/2018).

#### Import of live lobster to Vietnam

DFISH issued Decision 540/QD-TCTS-TTKN, dated September 7, 2015, recognizing American lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) as approved under a risk assessment. The Decision is available at: <a href="https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Thuong-mai/Quyet-dinh-540-QD-TCTS-TTKN-tom-hum-nhap-khau-thuy-san-song-da-duoc-danh-gia-rui-ro-289629.aspx">https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Thuong-mai/Quyet-dinh-540-QD-TCTS-TTKN-tom-hum-nhap-khau-thuy-san-song-da-duoc-danh-gia-rui-ro-289629.aspx</a>. This decision permits the importation of

American lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) into Vietnam for food use, but importers are required to obtain an import permit for each shipment from DFISH (Article 6 of Circular 25/2018). Post notes that DAH no longer requires U.S. exporters of live aquatic animals to register for export to Vietnam.

### 7.2.3. Genetically Engineered (GE) Food and Feed

### **Pre-shipment certification**

GE products are required to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility for Food and/or Feed Use (herein referred as Food and Feed Certificate) prior to importation, production, and trade in Vietnam.

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

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

Quarantine and quality inspection: see Section VIII, Point 8.2.1.

### 7.2.4. Processed and pre-packaged food

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

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

### 7.2.5. Health Supplements and Dietary Products

Decree 15/2018 requires a Product Declaration for the following products:

- Health supplements, medical foods, food for special dietary uses.
- Dietary products for children up to 36 months.

- Mixed food additives with new usages, food additives that are not on the permitted list, or food additives not intended for use for the food categories as prescribed by MOH.

Importers are required to submit applications for product declaration to either VFA or provincial competent authorities. Within seven working days (for unregistered food additives, medical foods, food for special dietary uses, and dietary products for children up to 36 months) or 21 working days (for health supplements) from the day the competent authorities receive adequate documents, the authorities shall verify the application and issue a Certificate of Registered Product Declaration. An application for product declaration consists of:

- Certificate of Free Sale, Certificate of Exportation, or Health Certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of origin/exporting country, which has a safety assurance statement for users or permits the free sale of the products in the country of origin/exporting country (the certificate must be consular-notarized);

- Original copy or certified true copy of the testing results issued by recognized laboratories or ISO 17025 accredited laboratories within 12 months up to the date of document submission. The testing results must specify safety indicators prescribed by MOH according to risk management principles under international regulations or standards applied by the supplier if relevant MOH regulations are not available.

- Documents about the scientific evidence of the effects of the product or ingredients: original or authenticated copy.

- Authenticated copy of Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) or an equivalent certificate for health supplements are required from July 1, 2019.

### Section VIII: Other Certification and Testing Requirements

#### 8.1. Food Safety Import Inspection

#### **Exemption of import inspection**

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

- The product has a Certificate of Registered Product Declaration.

- Food in hand luggage of inbound passengers that is sent before or after arrival to serve the passengers' personal needs or travel purpose; gifts within duty-free allowances.

- Imports for personal use of people eligible for diplomatic immunity.

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

### Inspection methods

Decree 15/2018 set a new import inspection regime to streamline and synchronize inspection methods conducted by MOH, MARD, and MOIT. The new inspection regime includes three inspection methods: reduced inspection, tightened inspection, and normal inspection, which reduce the amount of required sampling, mainly through document examinations (GAIN report <u>VM8016</u>). Also of importance, customs authorities will now implement reduced inspections, while the inspection bodies under MOH, MARD, and MOIT shall continue to oversee tightened and normal inspections.

### 8.2. Quarantine and Food Safety Inspections Regulated by MARD

MARD is responsible for the import inspection of cereals, meat and meat products, aquaculture and aquatic products, vegetables, bulbs, fruits, eggs and egg products, fresh milk used as an input, bee's honey and honey products, genetically engineered foods, salt, and agricultural foods in accordance with the provisions of the Government.

### 8.2.1. Quarantine and Food Safety Inspections for Imported Goods of Plant Origin

### 8.2.1.1. Plant quarantine

Plant quarantine is governed by the Law 41/2013/QH13 on Plant Protection and Quarantine. This law entered into force on January 1, 2015.

Under the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine, MARD released Circular 30/2014/TT-BNNPTNT (dated September 5, 2014), Circular 33/2014 (dated October 10, 2014), and Circular 35/2014/TT-BNNPTNT (dated October 31, 2014). Circular 30/2014 published the list of articles subject to plant quarantine and the list of articles subject to pest risk analysis before importation into Vietnam. This Circular outlines that articles subject to plant quarantine must be quarantined at the Vietnamese port of entry in order to be granted customs clearance (GAIN report VM4057). Circular 33/2014 provides guidance on quarantine procedures for import, export, and in-transit for consignments of plant origin.

Circular 35/2014 circulated the list of quarantine pests (GAIN report <u>VM4067</u>). All of these Circulars have been in force since January 1, 2015.

- List of food and agricultural products subject to plant quarantine includes:
- Tubers, fruits, seeds, flowers, leaves, trunks, branches, stumps, roots, skins of all kinds;
- Broken grains, bran, oil-cake, raw natural fibers, plant fiber;
- Flour, starch of plant origin (except knead dough and denatured starch);
- Tobacco stems, fibred tobacco, livestock feed, yeast, cotton, cotton waste, rice straw and stem, aquatic plants;
- Livestock feed of plant origin and;
- Mushrooms of all kinds (except salted, frozen, canned, and fermented mushrooms).
- List of food and agricultural products subject to pest risk analysis includes:
- Living plants and living part(s) of plants;
- Fresh fruits, roots;
- Grass, and grass seeds;
- Beneficial organisms to be used in plant protection and;
- Products of plant origin imported into Vietnam carrying regulated pests.

MARD has released a list of Harmonized Schedule (HS) codes for the list of regulated articles subject to plant quarantine in Section 11- Appendix I of Circular 15/2018 dated October 29, 2018 promulgating HS Codes for the list of goods subject to its jurisdiction (GAIN Report <u>VM9002</u>).

MARD/PPD is currently the agency responsible for import-export quarantine of products of plant origin. The list of its inspection bodies is specified in Appendix II of this report.

### 8.2.1.2. Food Safety Inspection

MARD has renewed the list of HS codes for plant products subject to food safety import inspection in Section 12 - Appendix 1 of Circular 15/2018 dated October 29, 2018 promulgating HS Codes for the list of goods subject to its jurisdiction (GAIN Report <u>VM9002</u>). The food safety inspection scheme for foods of plant origin is applied in accordance with Decree 15/2018.

### 8.2.2. Quarantine and Food Safety Inspection for Imported Goods of Animal Origin

### 8.2.2.1. Quarantine of terrestrial animal and products thereof

### Legal background

On June 19, 2015, the Vietnam National Assembly ratified the Law on Animal Health that provided several new provisions on the quarantine and hygiene inspection for food of animal origin. According to the law, MARD has promulgated the list of terrestrial animals and food of animal origin subject to quarantine and exempted from quarantine. This law entered into force on July 1, 2016.

MARD issued Circular 25, dated June 30, 2016, providing for the quarantine of terrestrial animals and terrestrial animal products (GAIN report <u>VM6065</u>).

### List of animals and animal products subject to quarantine

### ANIMALS

1. Livestock: Buffalos, cows, donkeys, horses, mules, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, dogs, cats and other domestic cattle species;

2. Birds: chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, ostriches, pigeons, quails, ornamental bird species and other bird species;

3. Laboratory animals: guinea pigs, white mice, rabbits and other laboratory animal species;

4. Wild animals: elephants, tigers, leopards, bears, deer, gibbons, orangutans, monkeys, lorises, squirrels, raccoons, monitor lizards, geckos, pythons, snakes, jungle fowls, pheasants, peacocks and other wild animal species;

5. Other animal species: bees, silkworms, and other insects.

### ANIMAL PRODUCTS

1. Meat, viscera, by-products and products [made] from meat, viscera, animal by-products stipulated in Section I of this list in the forms of fresh, smoked, dried, salted or frozen, and canned.

2. Sausage, pate, ham, fat and other animal products in the form of simply-prepared or processed.

3. Fresh milk, yogurt, butter, cheese, canned milk, powdered milk, bread milk and dairy products.

4. Fresh eggs, salted eggs, egg powder, and egg products.

5. Breeding poultry eggs, silkworm eggs; embryos, and animal sperm.

6. Meat meal, bone meal, blood meal, feather meal and other animal products in the forms of raw materials; animal and poultry feed, aquatic animal feed that contain ingredients derived from animals.

7. Fish meal, fish oil, fish fat, shrimp powder, oyster powder and other aquatic animal products used as raw materials for processing cattle, poultry and aquaculture feed.

8. Pharmaceutical materials originating from animals: snake venom, bee venom, bear gall, animal extract, digestive enzymes, and other pharmaceutical materials originating from animals.

9. Animal skins in the forms: fresh, dried, and salted.

10. Fur, skin, stuffed animals of animal species: tigers, leopards, civets, rabbits, otters, and from other animal species.

11. Cilia: hairs of horse tails, hairs of cow tails, pig hair, fleece, and hairs of other animal species.

12. Feathers: chicken feathers, duck feathers, goose feathers, peacock feathers, and feathers of other bird species.

13. Teeth, horns, nails, tusks, and animal bone.

- 14. Edible bird nests and products thereof.
- 15. Honey, royal jelly, beeswax.
- 16. Silkworm cocoons.
- 17. Pathological materials.

18. Other objects subject to quarantine of animals and animal products as required by the importing country or the provisions of the international treaties to which Vietnam has signed or acceded to.

The list of HS Codes for animal and animal products subject to quarantine requirements is prescribed in Section 1 Appendix I of Circular 15/2018 dated October 29, 2018 promulgating HS Codes for the list of goods subject to MARD's jurisdiction.

### Registration and declaration for the quarantine of terrestrial animals and terrestrial animal products

Circular 25/2016 provides a two-step procedure for the import quarantine of terrestrial animals and products thereof as follows:

Application for Import Permit: Prior to importation, the importer is required to send DAH a registration dossier for animal quarantine which shall include: 1) an application for Animal Quarantine and 2) additional documents if imported animals or animal products are subject to the management of other ministries. The registration dossier can be sent by mail or submitted directly to DAH. Within 5 working days after receiving the completed registration dossier, DAH will issue an import permit guiding the

importer and the relevant veterinary agency at the border gate conducting the animal quarantine. In cases where DAH does not accept a quarantine registration, Vietnam shall provide the consignment owner a written response indicating the reasons for rejection.

Application for Quarantine Certificate: After receiving the import permit, the importer is required to send a declaration for animal quarantine to the Regional Animal Health Office (RAHO) at the border gate for inspection as regulated under the Law on Animal Health (GAIN report <u>VM6065</u>). A list of RAHOs is provided in Appendix II of the report.

On December 25, 2018, MARD issued Circular 35/2018 amending and supplementing Circular 25/2016, which revised the sampling frequency for imported products based on definitions of high risk and low risk products. Circular 35/2018 also detailed the inspection procedure for products imported as materials for export processing (GAIN report <u>VM9038</u>).

### 8.2.2.2. Quarantine of aquatic animal and products thereof

#### Legal background

In accordance with the Law on Animal Health, MARD issued Circular 26/2016 dated June 30, 2016, providing for the quarantine of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. This Circular details provisions for Clause 3, Article 53 of the Law on Animal Health regarding the list of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products subject to and exempted from quarantine; the list of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products subject to risk analysis before being imported into Vietnam; and the list of objects subject to quarantine of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. This Circular also provides instructions for application dossiers and the contents of the quarantine of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products being imported, temporarily imported for re-export, temporarily exported for re-import, transferred from one border-gate to another border-gate, taken in and out of bonded warehouses, and transited through the territory of Vietnam (GAIN report <u>VM6053</u>).

On December 25, 2018, MARD issued Circular 36/2018 amending and supplementing Circular 26/2016, which provides definitions of high-risk and low-risk products. As a result, this Circular revised the frequency of sampling for imported products based on risk assessment (GAIN report <u>VM9020</u>).

#### List of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products subject to quarantine

#### **Aquatic animals**

1. Fish: species of scaled fish, catfish, and other fish species.

2. Crustaceans: shrimp, crab and snow crab, and other species of crustacean living in water.

3. Mollusks: squid, octopus, snails, mussels, clams, ark clams, oyster and other mollusk species living in water.

4. Amphibians: frogs, hylidae, and other species of amphibians.

5. Reptiles: turtles, trionychidae, hawksbill sea turtles, crocodiles, aquatic species of reptiles, and other species of amphibian reptiles.

6. Coelenterata: jellyfish, hydra, and coral.

7. Echinoderm: sea cucumbers and sea urchins.

8. Sponges.

9. Mammals living in water: whales, seals, otters, and other species of mammals that live in water.

10. Other aquatic animals.

11. Other aquatic animals subject to quarantine as required by the importing country or the provisions of the international treaties to which Vietnam has signed or acceded to.

### Aquatic animal products

1. Embryos, eggs, sperm, and larvae of aquatic animal species.

2. Aquatic animal products in the forms of fresh, simply-prepared, frozen, chilled (including aquatic animals died in the form of entire carcass).

3. Aquatic animal products which are salted or processed (dried, smoked).

4. Products in the forms of processed, canned; fish oil.

5. Fresh eggs, salted eggs, and products from aquatic animal eggs.

6. Aquatic animal skin, fur, fins, scales, shells in the forms of fresh, dried, salted.

7. Other aquatic animal products subject to quarantine as required by the importing country or the provisions of the international treaties to which Vietnam has signed or acceded to.

A detailed list of HS 8-digit codes for aquatic animals and aquatic animal products subject to quarantine is currently prescribed in Section 6 – Appendix I of MARD's Circular 15/2018 promulgating HS Codes for the list of goods subject to its jurisdiction.

### Registration and declaration for quarantine of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products

### Application for Import quarantine

Circular 26/2016 provides a two-step application procedure for import quarantine of aquatic animals and products thereof as follows:

- Application for Import Permit: Before importation, the importer must send DAH a registration dossier for quarantine, which shall include (1) Application for DAH's instruction of quarantine; (2) Copy of quarantine certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country (for aquatic animals and aquatic animal products originating from countries and territories that do not have agreements on quarantine certificates with Vietnam); (3) Copy of CITES permit (if applicable); (4) Copy of Import Permit issued by the Directorate of Fisheries (for breeding aquatic animals not included in the list of breeding aquatic animals permitted for trade and production; and aquatic animals for fooduse not included in the list of live aquatic animals for food- use permitted for import). Within 5 working days after receiving the completed registration dossier, DAH will issue an import permit guiding the importer and the relevant veterinary agency at the border gate conducting the animal quarantine. In cases where DAH does not accept a quarantine registration, they shall provide the consignment owner a written response indicating the reasons for rejection.

- Application for Quarantine Certification: After receiving an import permit, the importer is required to send a declaration for animal quarantine to the veterinary agency at the border gate. This application shall include: (1) Quarantine declaration application; (2) Copy bearing the certification by the enterprise or the original of quarantine certificate of the exporting country. In cases where a copy is enclosed with the dossier or the original quarantine certificate is not enclosed with the dossier, the original certificate of the exporting country must be submitted at the time of the commodity's inspection.

At the time of inspection, the border gate animal quarantine agency shall take samples of imported aquatic animal products for testing microorganisms, physical and chemical indicators, and monitoring toxic residues (such as antibiotics, heavy metals, veterinary drugs, and pesticides) in accordance with the provisions of Appendix IV promulgated in conjunction with Circular 26/2016. The border gate animal quarantine agency shall issue a Quarantine Certificate for imported aquatic animal products meeting requirements within 5 working days from the commencement of quarantine.

#### 8.2.2.3. Food Safety Inspection

DAH is currently the agency in charge of both quarantine and food safety inspections for imported food of animal origin. In regards to inspection procedures on the quarantine of terrestrial animals and aquatic animal products DAH stated that they must follow the GVN's Decree 15/2018 on food safety as well as Circular 25/2016 (GAIN report VM6065) and Circular 26/2016 (GAIN report VM6053).

The inspection bodies responsible for quarantine and food safety inspection for imported food of animal origin are the Regional Offices of Animal Health (RAHO under DAH. These inspection bodies are listed in Appendix II of this report.

### 8.3. Food safety monitoring

MARD issued Circular 8/2016, dated June 1, 2016, stipulating food safety monitoring for agricultural and fisheries products circulated and consumed in the domestic market. This Circular applies to food under MARD's jurisdiction. This includes cereal, meat and meat products, fish and fish products, fruits and vegetables, eggs and egg products, raw milk and other prescribed products. Sampling will be conducted at wholesale markets and distribution establishments (e.g. importers' warehouses) by the Sub-Departments of Agro-Forestry and Fisheries Quality Assurance (monitoring authorities) at the provincial level. This Circular entered into force on July 15, 2016.

#### **Section IX: Import Procedures**

#### 9.1. Law on Customs

Vietnam's National Assembly promulgated the new Law on Customs 54/2014/QH13, which entered into force on January 1, 2015. Accordingly, live animals, plants, goods difficult to preserve, or deemed as other special goods shall be prioritized for customs inspection. Importers will conduct the customs declaration before the date that the commodities arrive at the border checkpoint or within 30 days from the date on which the commodities arrive at the border checkpoint. Post notes that this change signified a regulatory easing, compared with previous regulations, which only allowed declarers (importers or customs brokers) to make changes to the declaration form before the physical examination of goods.

According to the Law on Customs, the customs declaration shall be made electronically. A paper declaration may be made for the following exceptions:

- Imported and exported goods of border residents;
- Imported and exported goods in excess of the limit of tax exemption applied to incoming and outgoing persons;
- Cargo for the purpose of emergency assistance and humanitarian aid;
- Cargo that is personal gifts, presents, properties;
- Cargo that is equipment containing goods according to the temporary importation/re-exportation, temporary exportation/re-importation rotation method.
- Cargo to be temporarily imported and re-exported or exported and re-imported and carried by incoming and outgoing persons for working in the pre-determined time.
- If the customs electronic data processing system or electronic customs declaration system fail to carry out transactions which may be caused by the operational failure of one or both systems or caused by other reasons. In cases where the electronic data processing system fails to carry out the

customs procedures, customs authorities shall be responsible for making an announcement at least 1 hour from the time when such failures take place.

- Other cargo, as stipulated by the Minister of Finance.

The Customs electronic data processing system shall receive, examine, register, and handle electronic customs declarations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### 9.2. Decree and Circulars Guiding the Law on Customs

The GVN issued Decree 08/2015/ND-CP, dated January 21, 2015, promulgating the implementation of the Law on Customs in detail regarding customs procedures, customs supervision, and inspection. Decree 08/2015 entered into force on March 15, 2015.

On April 20, 2018, the GVN issued Decree 59/2018/ND-CP that revises and supplements a number of articles of Decree 08/2015/ND-CP on the regulations and enforcement rules for customs procedures, audits, and inspections. Decree 59/2018/ND-CP amends and supplements contents on customs declaration; valuation methods for import goods; customs inspection authority; customs procedures for temporary import and export goods, in-transit goods, etc. Decree 59/2018 took effect from June 5, 2018. The Vietnamese version of this Decree is available at: <a href="http://vbpl.vn/botaichinh/Pages/vbpg-van-ban-goc.aspx?ltemID=128827">http://vbpl.vn/botaichinh/Pages/vbpg-van-ban-goc.aspx?ltemID=128827</a>

Regarding the calculation of value for import goods under the previous regulation (Decree 08/2015/ND-CP), if importers did not agree with the customs authorities' adjusted value as compared to the importers' declared value, the customs authorities would release the goods and transfer the case to the post-clearance inspection. Clause 9 of Decree 59/2018 requests that importers adjust their declarations within 5 working days if their declared customs value has been rejected. If importers do not adjust the relevant declarations within this time, the customs authorities will adjust the customs value at their own discretion and impose a tax and duty assessment. This process will also apply in cases where the customs authorities have doubts on the importer's declared customs value and where, following a consultation with customs, an importer fails to adjust the declared customs value as requested within 5 working days from the date of the consultation with the customs authorities.

On April 20, 2018, MOF also issued the following Circulars on customs procedures:

- Circular 39/2018/TT-BTC amending and supplementing a number of articles of Circular 38/2015/TT-BTC, dated March 25, 2015, on customs procedures, customs supervision, inspection, export tax, import tax, and tax administration applied to exported and imported goods.

- Circular 38/2018/TT-BTC regulating the identification of origin of imported and exported goods.

For goods subject to food safety inspection, Clause 21 of Circular 39/2018 requests imported goods to be held at checkpoints, in-land ports, or warehouses for inspection, except in the event that the

specialized inspection body allows the goods to be inspected at the designated places; or in the event that the import goods are brought to the storage places at the request of the customs declarant.

For animal products in HS Chapters 2, 15, and 16, due to Circular 38/2018/TT-BTC, a Certificate of Origin (C/O) is required for meat and livestock and poultry products from June 5, 2018 (GAIN Report <u>VM8062</u>). This C/O must contain the following required information including: i) Name of exporter; ii) Name of importer; iii) Means of transport; iv) Goods description, HS codes; v) Quantity, weight or volume of goods; vi) Countries, groups of countries or territories of origin; vii) Date of issuance; and viii) Signature of the person in charge of issuing C/O.

On August 30, 2019, MOF issued Circular 60/2019 to revise a number of articles of Circular 38/2018 on the determination of customs value for imported and exported goods. Accordingly, the Customs authorities shall determine the customs value of imported goods by using either: a) the transaction value of imported goods (actual price paid by the buyer); b) the transaction value of identical imported goods; c) the transaction value of similar imported goods; d) the method of deduction value; d) the method of calculation value or e) the method of inference. The Directorate of Customs shall elaborate the list of exported and imported goods with risk of the value being declared at a price lower than the actual transaction price, which is the basis for customs authorities to compare and check the declared value of the customs declarant.

### Section X: Copyright and/or Trademark Law

Copyright and trademarks are protected under the Intellectual Property Law and related legislation. MOST's National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP), is the relevant Vietnam trademark authority.

On November 12, 2018, Vietnam became the seventh member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to ratify the agreement, which includes greater protection of intellectual property rights. On June 30, 2019, Vietnam and the European Union signed the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), which provides safeguards for protected designation of origin products like cheese, cognac, and wine. Should Vietnam enact new laws and regulations on trademark or geographical indicators (GIs), Post will issue new GAIN Reports notifying these revisions.

### 10.1. Laws on Intellectual Property (IPL)

- Law 50/2005/QH11 of November 29, 2005, on Intellectual Property (the English translation is available at <a href="http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5005">http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5005</a>). This law stipulates copyright, copyright-related rights; industrial property rights; rights in plant varieties and for the protection of these rights. This law entered into force on July 1, 2006.

 Law 36/2009/QH12 of June 19, 2009, amending and supplementing a Number of Articles of the Law on Intellectual Property (the English translation is available at <u>http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=6566</u>). This law entered into force on January 1, 2010.

### 10.2. Related Regulations on Trademark Registration

- Decree 103/2006/ND-CP of September 22, 2006, detailing and guiding the Implementation of a Number of Articles of the Law on Intellectual Property regarding Industrial Property. The Decree details provisions and guidelines for implementing certain articles of the 2005 Intellectual Property Law concerning industrial property rights, including rights to trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, and patents. The Decree entered into force on October 21, 2006 (see details at: <a href="http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5011">http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5011</a>).

Circular 1/2007/TT-BKHCN issued on February 14, 2007, guiding the Implementation of the Government's Decree 103/2006/ND-CP from September 22, 2006 detailing and guiding the Implementation of a Number of Articles of the Law on Intellectual Property Regarding Industrial Property, details provisions on the procedures for the registration of industrial property rights. The Circular entered into force on May 6, 2007 (available at: <a href="http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5013">http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=5013</a>).

- MOST's Circular 18/2011/TT-BKHCN of July 22, 2011, amending and supplementing several provisions of Circular 1/2007/TTBKHCN of February 14, 2007 on procedures for the registration of industrial property rights (available at: <u>http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=14703</u>).

- Decree 99/2013/ND-CP from August 29, 2013, the Government on Sanctioning of Administrative Violations in Industrial Property, specifies administrative violations in industrial property, sanctioning forms and levels, remedies; procedures for filing written requests for handling of violations; competence and procedures for settling written requests for handling of violations; sanctioning competence and procedures and enforcement of decisions to sanction administrative violations in industrial property. The Decree entered into force on October 15, 2013 (available at:<u>http://www.noip.gov.vn/vi\_VN/web/guest/van-ban-phap-luat-quy-che</u>).

### 10.3. Procedures for Registration of Trademarks

Procedures for registration of trademarks are stipulated in detail in Circular 1/2007/TT-BKHCN. Registration applicants must submit the following to NOIP:

- Declaration for registration;

- Documents, specimen, and information disclosing the industrial property object sought to be registered; for a trademark registration application, the trademark specimen and list of goods and services bearing the trademark;

- Fee and charge receipts.

Each application may request registration of a trademark used for one or more goods or services. In cases where any of the above documents are absent, NOIP may refuse to accept the application.

For an application for registration of a collective trademark or certification mark, in addition to the above documents, the application must also contain the following documents:

- Rules on the use of the collective/certification mark;

- Explanation of particular characteristics and quality of the product bearing the trademark (if the tobe registered trademark is a collective mark used for a product with unique characteristics or a mark for certification of the quality of a product or a mark for certification of geographical origin).

If there are doubts about the validity of information supplied in an application, NOIP may request the applicant to submit the following documents within one month in order to certify such information:

- Documents proving the status of the applicant:
- Business registration certificate, contract, or another document certifying the applicant's goods production or service provision activities;
- Agreement or written certification that a manufacturer does not use the trademark and does not oppose the mark's registration by a person conducting commercial activities for the manufacturer's product;

- Establishment decision or license, or organization charter certifying the function and competence to manage a collective trademark or a mark of certification of the quality or geographical origin of goods or services;

- Agreement, business registration certificate or documents related to the trademark registration by co-proprietors;

• Documents certifying that the applicant enjoys the right of trademark registration from another person as prescribed;

- Written agreement or consent of the trademark proprietor certifying the right of mark registration in the name of a representative or agent.

• Documents certifying the status of the application owner's representative: the applicant's original power of attorney; documents certifying that the application owner's representative is the legal representative of the organization registering the mark or his/her mandated person; papers certifying that the applicant's mandated person satisfies the requirements for acting as the application owner's representative.

• Documents evidencing the right to use/register a trademark containing special symbols, for:

- Names, emblems, flags or armorial bearings of domestic or international agencies and organizations or certification, control or warranty hallmarks of international organizations;

- Names of characters or figures in publicly known works under copyright protection or trade names, trade indications, origin indications, prizes, medals or particular signs of a type of product, which may cause confusion;

- Signs covered by the protection of industrial property rights of other persons;
- Documents proving the right of priority;

• Information necessary for verification or affirmation of contents specified in the regulation on use of a collective mark or a certification mark or in other documents of the application.

#### **APPENDICES**

#### **Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT International Cooperation Department (ICD) (MARD) 2 Ngoc Ha Street, Hanoi, Tel: 84.24.38459670; Fax: 84.24.37330752 Contact: Ms. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan, Director General, Email: htgt@mard.gov.vn

Plant Protection Department (PPD) 149 Ho Dac Di, Hanoi Tel: 84.24.38519451 Fax: 84.24.35330043 Website: www.ppd.gov.vn Contact: Mr. Hoang Trung, Director General, Email: htqt.bvtv@mard.gov.vn

#### **Department of Animal Health (DAH)**

15/78 Phuong Mai-Dong Da Hanoi Tel: 84.24.38696788; Fax: 84.24.38691311 Website: <u>www.cucthuy.gov.vn</u> Contact: Mr. Pham Van Dong, Director General Email: <u>TY@mard.gov.vn</u>;

#### **DAH/Animal Quarantine Division**

Tel: 84.24.38687151; Fax: 84.24.38686339 Contact: Nguyen Hoang Tung, Deputy Head of Animal Inspection Division

#### Directorate of Fisheries (DFISH)

10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Hanoi Tel: 84.24.37245371 ; Fax : 84.24.37245120 Email : <u>tcts@mard.gov.vn</u>

#### **Department of Livestock Production (DLP)**

16 Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Ha Noi Tel: 84.24.37345443; Fax: 84.24.37345444 Email: <u>cn@mard.gov.vn</u>

#### National Agro-Forestry and Fishery Quality Assurance Department (NAFIQAD)

10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Hanoi; Tel: 84.24.8354 966; Fax: 84.24.8317221 Contact: Mr. Nguyen Nhu Tiep, Director General Email: <u>nafiqad@mard.gov.vn</u>;

#### MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH)

Vietnam Food Administration (VFA) 138A Giang Vo, Hanoi Tel: 84.24. 38464489-38463702; Fax: 84.24.38463739 Email: <u>vfa@vfa.gov.vn</u>; Website: <u>www.vfa.gov.vn</u>; Contact: Mr. Nguyen Thanh Phong, Director General; Ms. Tran Viet Nga, Deputy General Director.

#### **MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MOIT)**

Department of Science and Technology 54 Hai Ba Trung, Hoan Kiem, Ha Noi Tel: 84.24. 22 202 222 Fax: 84.24.22 202525 Website: <u>www.moit.gov.vn</u> Email: <u>VKHCN@moit.gov.vn</u>

### MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP)

386 Nguyen Trai, Thanh Xuan, Hanoi; Tel: 84.24.3858 3069, 84.24.3858 3425; Fax: 84.24.3858 8449, 84.24.3858 4002 Website: <u>www.noip.gov.vn</u>

#### **MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

#### **General Department of Vietnam Customs**

Block E3 - Duong Dinh Nghe street, Yen Hoa, Cau Giay, Hanoi Website: <u>https://www.customs.gov.vn/home.aspx?language=en-US</u>

#### Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts

### PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region I

2 Tran Quang Khai, Hai Phong Tel: 84.225.3821839; Fax: 84.225.3842593 Email: <u>kdtv1hp@yahoo.com</u> Management area: Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Hung Yen, Hai Duong, Quang Ninh

### PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region II

28 Mac Dinh Chi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: 84.28.38.251.401; Fax: 84.28.38.293.266 Email: <u>kdtvv2hcm@vnn.vn</u> Management area: Ho Chi Minh City, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai, Long An, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Dong Thap, Ba Ria Vung Tau

## PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region III

146 Hoang Dieu, Da Nang Tel: 84.511.3821622; Fax: 84.511.3873099 Email: <u>kdtv3@vnn.vn</u> Management area: Da Nang, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai

### PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region IV

66 Le Hong Phong, Quy Nhơn, Binh Đinh Tel: 84.256.3822964; Fax: 84.256.3822964 Management area: Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Daklak, Dak Nong

# PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region V

149 Ho Dac Di, Dong Da, Hanoi Tel: 84.24.35.331302; Fax: 84.24.35332118 Email: <u>cckdtv5@fpt.vn</u> Management area: Ha Noi, Bac Ninh, Bac Giang, Vinh Phuc, Phu Tho, Ha Tay, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Ha Nam, Hoa Binh, Son La

### PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region VI

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# PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region VII

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#### PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region VIII

7 Nguyen Hue, TP Lao Cai Tel: 84.214.3830503 Management area: Lao Cai, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Yen Bai, Lai Chau, Dien Bien

#### PPD/Plant Quarantine Sub-Department of Region IX

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#### DAH/Regional Animal Health Office I

Phuong Mai, Dong Da, Ha Noi Tel: 84.24.38686971; Fax: 84.24.38685390

#### DAH/Regional Animal Health Office II

23 Da Nang, Ngo Quyen District, Hai Phong Tel: 84.225.3836304; Fax: 84.225.3551698

#### DAH/Regional Animal Health Office III

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#### **DAH/Regional Animal Health Office IV**

12 Tran Quy Cap, Hai Chau district, Da Nang Tel: 84.236.3887714

#### DAH/Regional Animal Health Office V

Buon Ma Thuat, Dak Lak Tel: 84. 262.3877795

#### **DAH/Regional Animal Health Office VI**

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#### DAH/Regional Animal Health Office VII

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Post also notes that this report may not cover the regulations released after December 2019 by MARD, should U.S. exporters have any questions, please contact <u>aghanoi@fas.usda.gov</u>.

#### Attachments:

No Attachments