

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 1/20/2016

**GAIN Report Number:** HU15005

## **Hungary**

### **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative**

### **FAIRS Country Report**

**Approved By:**

Kelly Stange

**Prepared By:**

Dr. Gellert Golya

**Report Highlights:**

Hungary is a member of the European Union (EU) and follows EU directives and regulations, including those relating to the importation of food products. This report provides an overview of food laws in force in Hungary that cover areas which are not yet harmonized. Food laws currently in force in the EU-28 are summarized in the EU 28 FAIRS report

## Section I. Food Laws:

Hungarian food legislation generally conforms to EU regulations. The relevant national regulations are valid for both the imported foods and the products produced in Hungary.

Besides the principle of the free movement of goods among the EU member states, there is a strong emphasis on ensuring that the final consumer receives safe food in Hungary. The path of raw materials has to be traced „from farm to fork” in the whole food-chain. That was the reason for the establishment of a unified monitoring system in Hungary, which controls the whole food-chain and was expected to build consumer confidence, improve their safety, and to achieve a more efficient activity of the food-safety authority. Government Resolution No. 2243/2006 decreed the establishment of a unified food-safety organization. The principles put the control of the food-chain under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and its background institute the National Food Chain Safety Office.

With the forming of the unified food-safety authority, there were growing needs for the revision of the national laws regulating food-chain safety and control. Therefore, the [Act XLVI of 2008 on food-chain and its control](#) (Food Chain Act; available only in Hungarian) and several implementing regulations have been put into force. The Act aims to protect consumer health and interests, assure the necessary guarantees of safe and quality food production and trade, and reduce food origin risks by enhancing both the traceability and the transparency in food sector. The Food Chain Act contains basic rules on labelling and marketing of foodstuffs and on liabilities, rights and obligations of food chain actors, obligations of producers and users of phytosanitary products; obligations of food and feedstuffs produced by enterprises, and on rights and obligation of animal breeders and veterinarians.

The system of governance of public functions of food-chain control is also set forth in the Act. The relevant articles contain rules regarding the organization and governance of state duties, the duties of the responsible minister, controlling bodies, public laboratories and scientific institutes. Special rules of public administration procedures are laid down in regarding measures to be taken in case of epidemics or infestation by pests. Sanctions (penalties), collections of obligatory rules and professional guidelines and references, such as the Codex Alimentarius, the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus, the Codex Pabularis Hungaricus, the Hungarian Code of Animal Health and Animal Welfare, the Collection of Plant Protection Methods are also set forth in the Act.

It is important to note that a number of EC (European Community) and EEC (European Economic Community) regulations do not require harmonization into national laws. Those food regulations are directly applied in the EU member states, as is done in Hungary.

The implementations of measures, provisions and recommendations of the Food Chain Act are detailed and specified in national rules (decrees and guidance documents) at lower level of legislation.

(Please note that the Hungarian food legislation is only available in Hungarian language.)

### *Hungarian Food Codex*

- [Government Decree No. 220 of 2008 \(VIII. 30.\)](#) concerning rules of publication of collections of mandatory regulations and recommended technical guidelines in the field of food-chain safety. This Decree provides rules regarding the appointment and establishment of technical bodies and committees in charge of FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius, the Hungarian Codex Alimentarius, the Hungarian Animal Health and Animal Welfare Codex, the Hungarian Feedstuff Codex (Codex Pabularis Hungaricus) and the Collection of Plant Protection Methodology, as well as rules regarding the publication of these collections of standards.
- [Decree No. 152 of 2009 \(XI. 12.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus. The Annexes to this Decree provides binding rules on subjects comprised in the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus with the aim to adopt

rules in conformity with EU regulations. These rules must be applied to foodstuffs produced and marketed within the territory of Hungary.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements:**

The EU law on food information to consumers ([Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011](#)) entered into application on December 13, 2014. The regulation mandates the declaration of certain product information for all pre-packaged food and drinks marketed in the EU.

For detailed information on EU-harmonized labelling legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website on labelling](#).

On the packaging of a food to be placed on the market, the labelling necessary for information intended for the consumer shall appear in Hungarian, in an easily legible, understandable and clear manner. Imported packaged food may contain the original, foreign language label but a stick-on label in Hungarian, and meeting with the Hungarian labelling requirements, must be put on the top of the original. The additional labelling must be made (by the foreign producer, exporter, importer or the distributor) before the product gets to buyers. The presentation of food and the labelling providing information for the consumer shall not mislead the consumer. These rules and the relevant provisions must be applied to all kind of foods destined to the final consumer.

### **The following information must be on the label:**

- Name under which the product is sold,
- List of ingredients (including food additives),
- Quantity or volume (percentage) of certain ingredients or categories,
- Alcohol content by volume (above 1.2 percent of alcohol),
- Clearly indicated lists of allergens,
- Net weight or quantity in metric units,
- Date of minimum durability,
- Recommended conditions of storage,
- Instructions for use,
- Name and address of the manufacturer or distributor,
- Country or place of origin,
- Genetically-engineered (GE) product content (above 0.9%).

### **Labelling for organic products**

The label of organic products must contain the name and references (e.g. name and identification number) of the certifying organization. Labelling must be in Hungarian.

### **Labelling for food containing or deriving from genetically-engineered (GE) organisms**

Hungary follows the EU labelling standards. A number of GE soy and corn varieties are approved for industrial food use and as feed in the European Union and in Hungary as well. If GE content above 0.9 percent it must be indicated on the labels.

In Hungary, there is a legislation work to introduce a “GMO-free” label. Being discussed is that meat, milk and eggs labelled as non-GE products must not derive from such animals that were fed with any kinds of GE feed. It is believed that products bearing the “GMO-free” label will be easier to sell in Hungary because of their expected and better market position.

### **Nutrition/Medical/Health/ Claims**

Currently, nutrition value labelling is not mandatory in Hungary but it will be an obligation of all pre-packaged food and drink products marketed in the EU after December 13, 2016.

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized labelling legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website on nutrition and health claims](#).

The relevant Hungarian legislation on labelling requirements is as follows:

- [Joint Decree No. 19 of 2004 \(II. 26.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Transport concerning the labelling of food. This Decree must be applied to food intended for final consumption as defined in Act No. XLVI of 2008 on food-chain control. It contains general rules for labelling of prepacked food, as well as rules concerning the method and content of labelling, the name, ingredients of the food, the quantity of certain ingredients or categories of ingredients, the net quantity of the food, the date of minimum durability, the “use by date”, and any special storage and use conditions. The Decree provides rules for non-prepacked food too.
- [Joint Decree No. 33 of 2010 \(V. 13.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on certain rules related to nutrition and health claims on foods.
- [Decree No. 36 of 2014 \(XII. 17.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture concerning information related to food.
- [Decree No. 74 of 2012 \(VII. 25.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on the use of certain voluntary distinctive signs on food.
- [Joint Decree No. 83 of 2005 \(IX. 17.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Transport on marking eggs sold at local public markets.
- [Act XI of 1997](#) on the Protection of Trademarks and Geographical Indications
- [Government Decree No. 158 of 2009 \(VII. 30.\)](#) regarding the application for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs and spirit drinks, and the control of these products.
- [Decree No. 16 of 2004 \(IV.27.\)](#) of the Ministry of Justice (IM) on the detailed formal requirements of trademark applications & applications for the protection of geographical indications.
- [Decree No. 34 of 2013 \(V. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the procedure of certification, production, marketing, labelling and control of agricultural products and food deriving from organic agriculture.

### **Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:**

Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation to packaging and containers. For detailed information on the harmonized legislation on packaging and container regulations, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#).

The relevant Hungarian legislation on packaging and container requirements is as follows:

- [Act CLXXXV of 2012](#) on waste. The purpose of this Act is the protection of the environment and human health, the mitigation of environmental impact, the efficient management of natural resources, the improvement of efficiency of the use of resources, the prevention of waste and its

harmful effects, the reduction of its quantity and hazardousness, the re-use of materials, as well as higher rates of waste recycling and environmentally sound disposal of non-reusable and non-recyclable waste.

- [Government Decree No. 442 of 2012 \(XII. 29.\)](#) on packaging and on waste management activities related to packaging waste. This Decree applies to packaging and packaging waste of goods distributed in Hungary and to their taking back and collection. Requisites of production, labelling and distribution of packaging materials are provided in it. The Decree contains rules regarding the obligations of producers and distributors of taking back, the collection and reuse packaging materials, and the obligation of keeping a register and report on their related activities.
- [Joint decree No. 13 of 2008 \(VIII. 8.\)](#) of the Ministry of National Development and Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development establishing rules for nominal quantity of pre-packaged products and on the methods of their control.
- [Decree No. 72 of 2013 \(VIII. 27.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the list of wastes.
- [Provision No. 1-2-78/142](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles which contain vinyl chloride monomer and are intended to come into contact with foodstuff. (published in the Annex 23 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.)
- [Provision No. 1-2-84/500](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff (published in the Annex 24 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.)
- [Provision No. 1-2-2007/42](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuff (published in the Annex 25 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.)
- [Provision No. 1-2-82/71](#) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to the basic rules necessary for testing migration of constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff (published in the Annex 26 of the Decree No. 152 of 2009 /XI. 12./ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.)

#### **Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:**

Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation regarding food additives. For detailed information on EU-harmonized legislation on food additive regulations, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU website](#).

National legislation is applied to food additives that are not harmonized at Community level, for example: [Decree No. 71 of 2013 \(XI. 20\)](#) of the Ministry of Human Resources on the highest permitted amount of trans fats in food products, the conditions of, and inspections by the authorities on the distribution of food products containing trans fats and on the rules for tracking the population's trans fat consumption.

## **Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:**

### **Pesticides**

Maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides in food with plant or animal origin are determined at EU level and the relevant national ordinance is harmonized under the Community rules. An EU database on pesticides MRLs is available at the [EC website](#). For more detailed information on EU-harmonized legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU website on pesticides](#).

For application of an import tolerance for a not yet regulated substance in Hungary, please contact the National Food Chain Safety Office:

National Food Chain Safety Office

Directorate of Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment,

H-1118 Budapest, Budaörsi út 141-145., Hungary

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: [ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu](mailto:ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu)

Website: [https://www.nebih.gov.hu/en/specialities/directori\\_p\\_p\\_and\\_s\\_c](https://www.nebih.gov.hu/en/specialities/directori_p_p_and_s_c)

### *Regulations on pesticide residues*

- [Decree No. 66 of 2010 \(V. 12.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and related to their official control.

### **Mycotoxins and heavy metals**

Maximum levels of mycotoxins and heavy metals as contaminants are established in the [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1881/2006](#).

### **Microbiological contamination**

- [Decree No. 4 of 1998 \(XI. 11\)](#) of the Ministry of Health on the permissible level of microbiological contamination in food.
- [Decree No. 81 of 2002 \(IX. 4.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the prevention of zoonosis.
- [Decree No. 66 of 2006 \(IX. 15.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on certain hygienic rules applicable to food of animal origin.

### **Other undesirable substances of content**

- [Decree No. 49 of 2014 \(IV. 29.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development concerning limit values of contaminants and harmful substances of natural origin in food, and regarding requirements for food contact substances and objects.
- [Decree No. 10 of 2002 \(I. 23.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on monitoring investigation for control of harmful to health residues in foodstuff of animal origin.
- [Decree No. 24 of 2004 \(III. 2.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on prohibition for using of hormones, thyreostatical agents and beta-agonists in animal husbandry.

### **Ionizing Irradiation**

- [Decree No. 67 of 2011 \(VII. 13.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the rules of treatment of foodstuff with ionizing radiation.

## Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation in the course of facility or product registration. In compliance with the EU regulations, product registration is only required for novel foods in Hungary. There is no national registration requirement for imported food but the importer is responsible for the safety of the commodity. Food inspection authorities control and enforce food importers and imported products by the same routine as they do with domestic food manufacturers and distributors.

It's important to note that a wide range of food (including meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, fishery products, egg and egg product and animal by-products etc.) can enter the EU market only from EU approved U.S. establishments. Their lists can be found at the [FAS/USEU website](#).

National legislation related to the facility and product registration requirements are as follows:

- [Act CLXIV of 2005](#) on trade.
- [Government Decree No. 210 of 2009 \(IX. 29.\)](#) on conditions for trading activities.
- [Act XCV of 2009](#) on the prohibition of unfair distribution practices against suppliers of agricultural and food products.
- [Government Decree No. 55 of 2009 \(III. 13.\)](#) on fairs, markets and shopping centers.
- [Act No. LXXVI of 2009](#) on general rules of starting and conducting service activity.
- [Decree No. 57 of 2010 \(V. 7.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the placing on the market of food and the authorization and notification of food production.

Beside the relevant EU legislation, there are no specific standards for import products in Hungary. Beyond the animal and plant health issues, the product tests of the annual food safety monitoring program at wholesalers and retailers and the buyer's quality control, there is no regular and mandated product testing of imports.

Animal Health and Plant Health Certificates are specific documentation. For detailed information on certification, please see the following websites:

- Certificates for plant products: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/plant-health-certification/>
- Certificates for products covered by veterinary certification: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/products-exempt-from-veterinary-certification/>

Imported products must meet Member State requirements and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at the port of arrival. In general, health certificates are required for all imported products of animal origin and phytosanitary certificates are needed for all plant products that could introduce pests into the EU.

In Hungary, food safety also has a priority, and it is highlighted responsibility of the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) and its background institute, [the National Food Chain Safety Office](#).

Export certificates must be in Hungarian. Certified translations of the certificates into Hungarian may be used.

Enforcement and control regulations for food products:

- [Act XI of 1991](#) on statutory health and administrative activity.
- [Government Decree No. 323 of 2010. \(XII. 27.\)](#) on the National Public Health and Medical Officer's Service, the fulfilment of administrative responsibilities related to public health and the appointment of the state administration agency for pharmacology.
- [Government Decree No. 186 of 2009. \(IX. 10.\)](#) on the fines payable in the event of non-reporting

in the case of services subject to reporting and on the general appointment of the authorities overseeing services.

- [Government Decree No. 354 of 2013 \(X. 7.\)](#) on domestic operation of the Internal Market Information System and on rules of participation in it.
- [Government Decree No. 201 of 2001 \(X. 25.\)](#) on quality standards for potable water and on rules of quality control.
- [Decree No. 3 of 2010 \(\(VII. 5.\)\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on data reporting and traceability relative to food production and marketing.
- [Decree No. 66 of 2010 \(V. 12.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and on their official control.
- [Decree No. 141 of 2011 \(XII. 23.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin.
- [Government Decree No. 158 of 2009. \(VII. 30.\)](#) on the procedure for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs and spirit drinks as well as the inspection of these products.

## **Section VII. Other Specific Standards:**

### **Regulations concerning food safety measures**

- [Decree No. 67 of 2011 \(VII. 13.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the rules of treatment of foodstuff with ionizing radiation. This Decree must be applied to the treatment and marketing of foodstuff and food ingredients treated with ionizing radiation. The allowed foodstuff (dried aromatic plants, herbs, spices) can be treated with ionizing radiation and absorbed doses of ionizing energy. The treatment of foodstuff not presented in the above mention list can be authorized by the Food Chain Safety Office.
- [Decree No. 141 of 2011 \(XII. 23.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin. The purpose of this Decree is to implements EU norms regulating imports of certain food and feed. According to its measures, official controls are performed by competent county level governmental offices.
- [Joint Decree No. 56 of 1997. \(VIII. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Social Welfare on the conditions and method of foodstuff destruction. Deteriorated raw or processed food, ingredients and additives shall be destroyed, according to the provisions of this Decree by incineration, disposal in waste disposal sites or by treating it in a waste water treatment plant. Special provisions shall be applied to harmful wastes. Destruction shall be carried out or commissioned to a third person by the producer, distributor or the owner of the product. All costs of storage, transport, guarding and destruction are owed by the owner of the seized good.

### **Regulations on organic foods**

- [Decree No. 34 of 2013 \(V. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the procedure of certification, production, marketing, labelling and control of agricultural products and food deriving from organic agriculture. This Decree applies to the internal organic production, preparation, distribution and labelling and to the recognition, control and operation of certification bodies.



### **Regulations on dietetic foods**

- [Decree No. 27 of 2004 \(IV. 24\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on food of reduced nutritive value for decreasing body weight.
- [Decree No. 36 of 2004 \(IV. 26\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on food of special nutrition value.
- [Decree No. 37 of 2004. \(IV. 26.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on food supplements.
- [Decree No. 20 of 2008 \(V. 14.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health on infant milk and follow-on formulae.
- [Decree No. 35 of 2004 \(IV. 26.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on processed cereal based infant and baby foods.
- [Decree No. 24 of 2003 \(V. 9.\)](#) of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on nutritional formulas for specific medical purposes
- [Decree No. 55 of 2011 \(IX. 20.\)](#) of the Ministry of Human Resources on certain aspects of the addition of vitamins, minerals and certain other substances to foods.

### **Regulations on drinking water**

- [Governmental Decree No. 201 of 2001 \(X.25.\)](#) on quality standards for potable water and on rules of quality control. This Decree shall be applied to quality standards of water destined for human consumption (potable water) and to quality control. The manager of the potable water supply plant or the food producing enterprise must provide for the control of water quality to be carried out by an authorized laboratory, according to the rules contained in Annex 2 of the Decree and in conformity with the control plan agreed with the competent authority. In case of exceedance of one of the limit values or of any extraordinary event, the competent authority ([National Public Health and Medical Officer Service](#)) shall examine the reasons and order the necessary measures for quality improvement. Data regarding the quality of supplied potable water is public, according to the rules.
- [Joint Decree No. 65 of 2004 \(IV. 27.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Transport on the rules of bottling and marketing natural mineral water, spring water, drinking water, drinking water enriched with mineral substances and flavored water.
- [Decree No. 45 of 2006 \(VI. 15\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on safety regulations of the production and bottling of soda water and of the storage and transport of its bottles and balloons.

### **Wine regulations**

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

National Food Chain Safety Office

Directorate of Wine products and Alcoholic Beverages

H-1118 Budapest, Budaörsi út 141-145.

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: [bor@nebih.gov.hu](mailto:bor@nebih.gov.hu)

Website: <https://www.nebih.gov.hu/szakteruletek/szakteruletek/obi>

Sampling place: H-1118 Budapest, Higany u. 2

The importer has to apply for qualification for each shipment and pass the qualification report (certification) to the distributor or retailer of the wine. The qualification may be substituted by qualification from accredited certifiers of the region of production, if the lists of accredited quality certifiers were mutually recognized and published by the parties of a relevant international treaty. A copy of the (foreign) qualification report must be sent to the wine authority by the importer, within eight days after the shipment entered Hungary. Quality and volume report of import wines may substitute the Certificate of Origin. Bottled wines of foreign origin must be sold in their original container and with the original label.

- [Act No XVIII of 2004](#) on Viticulture and Wine. This Act regulates the planting, cultivation and felling of vine, the production, distribution and inventory of wine industry products, and the administrative duties and competencies related to viticulture and wine production. The Act regards wine growing with special regard to vineyard cadaster and registration, allowed vine species, vineyard planting and felling. It rules wine industry products, and in particular regulates certain oenological practices (sugar content, storage, registration, brandy production and treatment). The Act deals with the distribution of wine industry products too. It contains detailed rules regarding the certificate of origin of grapes and wine, and the external trade. It determines the competent authorities for viticulture and the wine industry, and their duties, competences (inspection of plantations and premises, control of origin and quality, control of the production process in general, compliance with laws, sanctions and penalties). The Act regards food hygiene and sanitary rules and provides for data reporting as well.
- [Act No. CCXIX of 2012](#) on wine growers' associations. The purpose of this Act is to protect the interests of national viticulture, to improve wine quality and marketability of wine products, to develop quality and product origin protection and to establish self-governing organs. Wine growers' associations are public bodies and can be established for the promotion of common interests of wine growers and buyers, working in one or more villages of the same wine production area, and for the protection of wine origin and quality. The Act regulates the constitution of wine growers' associations, their duties and operation, membership, territorial and national councils (wine-production area councils, wine region councils and the National Council).
- [Decree No. 30 of 2014 \(XII. 5.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture on the extension of market measures concerning the controlling activity of the National Council of Wine Growers' Associations in connection with the improvement of traceability of winery products without a geographical indication and the related control fees.

#### **Regulations on catering businesses**

- [Decree No. 62 of 2011 \(VI. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on the rules of food safety during the production and marketing of products used in catering business.

This Decree applies to catering and public catering, including free tasting and catering linked to promotional activities. It contains rules on food storage, food hygiene and labelling and lays down rules regarding ice cream and freezing.

- [Decree No. 37 of 2014. \(IV. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Human Capacities on nutrition and health regulations for public catering.

#### **Regulations on gene technology activity in the field of agriculture and industry**

- [Decree No. 142 of 2004 \(IX. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of

Economy and Transport on certain rules of the gene technology activity in the field of agriculture and industry.

- [Parliamentary Resolution No. 53 of 2006 \(XI. 29\)](#) on various issues relating to gene technology activities, their use in agriculture and food production and on the relating Hungarian strategy.

### **Regulations on mushrooms**

- [Decree No. 107 of 2011 \(XI. 10.\)](#) of the Ministry of Rural Development on collection, processing and marketing of wild edible mushrooms.
- [Decree No. 24 of 2012 \(III. 9.\)](#) VM of the Ministry of Rural Development concerning the harvesting of subterranean mushrooms.

### **Regulations on herbal drugs**

- [Decree No. 81 of 2003 \(XII. 23.\)](#) Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs on traditional herbal drugs for direct household consumption and on their usual sales units in retail.
- [Decree No. 52 of 2010 \(IV. 30.\)](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the conditions of food production, processing and marketing by small-scale producers.

### **Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws:**

Hungary has a complete codification ([Act No. XXXIII of 1995](#) on the protection of inventions by patents) covering the protection of industrial property and copyright/author's right.

In the field of industrial property, laws regulate questions concerning patents, trademarks, utility models, industrial designs, and deals with the right commercial practice and trade secrets as well. Thus, trademarks and brand names are legally protected in Hungary, and the country is an active a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Companies interested in the registration of trademarks or brand names have to apply to the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office where information folders and application forms are available:

Hungarian Intellectual Property Office

H-1054 Budapest, Garibaldi utca 2.

Tel.: +36 1 312 4400

E-mail: [sztnh@hipo.gov.hu](mailto:sztnh@hipo.gov.hu)

Website: <http://www.sztnh.gov.hu/en>

Companies which also export to other EU member states may want to consider obtaining European Community Trademarks. For detailed information please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#).

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

Hungary is a landlocked country. Import volumes of U.S. processed food are frequently small. The great part of import shipments is through middlemen in Germany, the Netherlands or other EU receiving ports. For detailed information on the EU import legislation, please consult the [EU 28 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [FAS/USEU](#) and the [EC website](#) on import conditions.

EU administration requires the member countries to designate certain border checkpoints for imports (customs, animal and plant health) where shipments of specific products coming from non-EU countries

can be handled. In the course of these procedures, export certificates must be in the official language of Hungary, which is Hungarian. Certified translations of the certificates into Hungarian may also be used. [The Hungarian Trade Licensing Office](#) is to issue import licenses of agricultural products in Hungary, in accordance with the EU legislation. Usually an exporter (or possibly the importer) applies to the authority with all relevant details and the [prescribed form](#) for this kind of application.

For non-harmonized exports of live animals and animal products to Hungary, the prescribed [application form](#) has to be submitted to the [Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate](#) of the National Food Chain Safety Office:

National Food Chain Safety Office

Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate

Address: H-1024 Budapest, Keleti K. utca 24., Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 336 9000

E-mail: [ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu](mailto:ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu)

E-mail: [aai@nebih.gov.hu](mailto:aai@nebih.gov.hu)

Website: <https://www.nebih.gov.hu/szakteruletek/szakteruletek/aai>

It is worth noting that import goods are subject to Value Added Tax (VAT) that is handled by the importer or the distributor. Certain imports of commodities subject to excise tax (e.g. alcoholic beverages) and require special license and financial procedure too.

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

### **Ministry of Agriculture**

#### ***Department of International Relations***

Address: H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos ter 11., Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 7951126

E-mail: [zsolt.belanszky@fm.gov.hu](mailto:zsolt.belanszky@fm.gov.hu)

Website: <http://www.kormany.hu/hu/foldmuvelesugyi-miniszterium>

### **Ministry of Agriculture**

#### ***Department of Food Chain Control***

Address: H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos ter 11., Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 795 3762

E-mail: [effo@fm.gov.hu](mailto:effo@fm.gov.hu)

Website: <http://www.kormany.hu/hu/foldmuvelesugyi-miniszterium>

**National Food Chain Safety Office*****Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate***

Address: H-1024 Budapest, Keleti K. utca 24., Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 336 9000

E-mail: [ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu](mailto:ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu)

E-mail: [aai@nebih.gov.hu](mailto:aai@nebih.gov.hu)

Website: <https://www.nebih.gov.hu/szakteruletek/szakteruletek/aai>

**National Food Chain Safety Office (NEBIH)*****Directorate of Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment,***

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

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: [ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu](mailto:ugyfelszolgalat@mgszh.gov.hu)

Website: [https://www.nebih.gov.hu/en/specialities/directori\\_p\\_p\\_and\\_s\\_c](https://www.nebih.gov.hu/en/specialities/directori_p_p_and_s_c)

**Hungarian Trade Licensing Office**

Address: H-1124 Budapest, Németvölgyi road 37-39., Hungary

Tel: +36 (1) 4585-800

E-mail: [mkeh@mkeh.gov.hu](mailto:mkeh@mkeh.gov.hu)

Website: <http://mkeh.gov.hu>

**National Public Health and Medical Officer Service**

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

Tel.: +36 1 476 1100

E-mail: [okk@okk.antsz.hu](mailto:okk@okk.antsz.hu)

Website: <https://www.antsz.hu/>

**Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:****Hungarian Intellectual Property Office**

Address: H-1054 Budapest, Garibaldi utca 2., Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 312 4400

E-mail: [sztnh@hipo.gov.hu](mailto:sztnh@hipo.gov.hu)

Website: <http://www.sztnh.gov.hu/en>

**National Food Chain Safety Office (NEBIH)*****Directorate of Wine Products and Alcoholic Beverages***

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

Tel.: +36 (1) 309-1000

E-mail: [bor@nebih.gov.hu](mailto:bor@nebih.gov.hu)

Website: <https://www.nebih.gov.hu/szakteruletek/szakteruletek/obi>

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

Address: H-1112 Budapest Oroszvég lejtő 16., Hungary

Tel: +36 1 336 11 66; +36 1 336 11 22; +36 1 336 11 23

Email: [-info@biokontroll.hu](mailto:-info@biokontroll.hu)

Website: <http://www.biokontroll.hu/cms/>

**Hungária Öko Garancia Ltd.** (approved certifier of organic products)

Address: H-1033 Budapest, Miklós tér 1., Hungary

Tel: +36 1 336 0533

E-mail: [info@okogarancia.hu](mailto:info@okogarancia.hu)

Website: <http://www.okogarancia.hu/cegunkrol/index.htm#>

**Author Defined:**

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Budapest (Hungary) for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Hungary as part of the European Community has implemented and follows EU directives and regulations. This report focuses on specific requirements for food and agricultural product imports into Hungary but it should be read in conjunction with the [EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) report](#) produced by the US Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. Alternatively, the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) is also available.