

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Poland

Post: Warsaw

Russia Tightens Restrictions on Polish Exports of Food Products

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

On February 20, 2015, Russian food safety authorities temporarily banned imports of cheese products and cheese-like products from Poland justifying their decision by protection of consumers. According to the announcement the results of tests of one of the products indicated a discrepancy with technical requirements of the regulations of the Custom Union regarding labeling of milk and dairy products.

General Information:

On February 23, 2015, the Russian Federal Agency for Protection of Consumers and Human Well-being responsible for inspection of quality and safety of food products announced on its webpage that tests of cheese products and cheese-like products imported from Poland showed a failure of normative requirements.

According to the announcement the results of tests of one of the products indicated a discrepancy with technical requirements of the regulations of the Custom Union regarding labeling of milk and dairy products. As of February 20, 2015, Russian authorities temporarily banned imports of cheese products and cheese-like products from Poland justifying their decision by protection of consumers.

Until February 24, 2015, Polish veterinary authorities which are responsible for certification and inspection of dairy products, did not receive official notification from the Russian authorities about the problem and learned about the ban from the webpage of the Russian food safety authority.

Comment: Russian ban on imports of agricultural products from the European Union introduced on August 7, 2014 covered dairy products but did not include food preparations (HS code 2106) which include also cheese products and cheese-like products, a blend of cheese with vegetable oil.

In the first 11 months of 2014 Poland exported to Russia 11,211 MT of food preparations under HS code 2106, 38 percent more than in the same period of 2013. The value of Polish exports to Russia within first 11 months of 2014 under the HS code 2106 amounted to US\$ 55 million.

According to the press information the cheese-like products called “Wesola krowka” (“A joyful cow”) was manufactured by the dairy plant “Ostrowia” located in Ostrowia Mazowiecka in Eastern Poland. The product apparently had slightly higher than declared on a label fat content which did not pose any threat on the safety of the product but changed its nutritive value.

The Polish veterinary authorities already requested the county veterinary service responsible for monitoring food safety in the Ostrowia dairy plant to start the investigation of the case.

