



Moldova: Customs and Sanitary Restrictions on Importing Herbal Supplements

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MOLDOVA

CUSTOMS AND SANITARY RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTING HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS

Executive Summary

Import of herbal supplements, as well as all food items and other agriculture related products is a heavily regulated area in Moldova. Customs clearance upon payment of tariffs is required, as well as the production of required licenses and certificates, unless the items are imported by an individual for personal consumption and their value does not exceed Euros 200 (approximately US \$ 270.00).

I. Introduction and Background

Import of food, food products, plants, and related items in Moldova is regulated by a number of laws and government regulations, which stipulate the procedures for customs control, evaluation of the products' conformity to similar products and suitability for intended uses, and phyto-sanitary requirements. These regulations vary depending on the manner in which the products are brought into the country. Resident and non-resident individuals are allowed to transport across Moldova's border goods, including food, for personal consumption if the customs value of the imported items does not exceed Euros 200 (approximately US \$ 270.00).¹ In all other cases, agro-food trade is subject to strict government regulation.

II. Certification Procedure

The Law on State Regulation of Foreign Commercial Activity² and the Customs Code of Moldova make the import of food and food-related substances subject to a mandatory customs declaration and payment of a customs tariff in the amount of approximately ten to twenty percent of the customs value of the imported goods, depending on the import term. Additionally, submission of the following certificates issued by different government inspections upon providing product samples is required to verify that the imported materials will not threaten human lives, health, and environment:

- certificate of origin;³
- quality certificate issued by the pre-shipment inspection;⁴
- conformity certificate, issued by the national authority in charge to verify the conformity of the submitted samples to the established national standards;⁵

¹ Law on Import and Export of Goods by Individuals, Sec. 5, MONITORUL OFICIAL [official gazette, MO] 185-189/1416, Dec. 31, 2002.

² MO 64-66/531, June 28, 2000.

³ *Id.*

⁴ MO 141-145/572, July 11, 2003.

⁵ MO 141-145/566, July 11, 2003.

- minutes of testing of product samples, issued together with the conformity certificate;⁶
and
- phyto-sanitary certificate issued by the Moldova's State Phyto-Sanitary Control Body.⁷

III. Licensing Requirements

Manufacturing and/or wholesale sales of seeds and seedling reproduction materials, as well as import and/or sale of plant protection chemicals, biological substances, plant growth stimulants, and all items containing above-mentioned components or byproducts of the above-mentioned elements are subject to import licensing.

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⁶ *Id.*

⁷ MO 13/506, June 22, 1995. Phyto-sanitary quarantine control is extended to seeds, decorative agricultural items, plants, their byproducts, packaging materials, agricultural machines, related equipment, lands, and warehouses used for storing, selling, or manufacturing items subject to phyto-sanitary quarantine control.