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Lithuania

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Country Report

2003

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Report Highlights:

This report provides exporters with detailed information regarding Lithuania's import procedures including food laws, labeling requirements, packaging and container regulations and other regulations pertinent to the food export industry. Lithuania will formally become a member of the EU in May 2004 and has adopted regulations consistent with those in place in the EU.

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Food Laws

In recent years Lithuania has significantly improved its legislation and procedures related to food sales and safety. The law that regulates how food is marketed and handled is the 'Law on Food of the Republic of Lithuania', adopted on April 4, 2000 (State News /Official Gazette/, 2000, No. 32-893; 2002 No. 64-2574). This key piece of legislation also delineates the responsibilities and competencies of State institutions, and outlines the duties and liabilities of food producers, food service operators, food traders as well as protects food consumer rights.

In Lithuania, laws are issued by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (Seimas). Orders and regulations are issued by the Government, Ministries and various State Administration Institutions. Ministers and directors of Administrative Institutions issue orders according to their power as identified in relevant legislation. In the food sector, enabling legislation is authorized by the Law on Food.

In 2000 the Lithuanian Government reorganized its institutions involved in food safety control. According to the Government's decision of May 4, 2000, No. 505 'On reorganization of Market Supervision Institutions', the State Veterinary Service and subordinate veterinary institutions, the State Hygiene Inspection of the Ministry of Health, and the State Quality Inspection Service of the State Service for Competition and Protection of Consumer Rights were reorganized into the State Food and Veterinary Service.

Administrative institutions implement the functions of state administration in the areas assigned to them by the Law on Food and other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania and seek to ensure that only food meeting safety requirements are placed on the market. They implement the requirements of the European Union, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), documents of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international legal instruments.

The Law on Food gives the following powers to State Institutions:

The Lithuanian Government:

- Takes responsibility for the design and approval of strategies for promoting the safety and quality of food and for improving general nutrition among the population;
- Performs other functions related to food safety and control.

The Ministry of Health:

- Mandates food requirements, taking into account the assessment of risk to human health based on scientific research, which include:
 - maximum permitted concentrations of contaminants in food,
 - requirements for the safety of food additives and nutritious matter,
 - the safety of foodstuffs for particular nutritional purposes,
 - irradiated, genetically or otherwise modified food,
 - novel foods or food prepared using unconventional methods,
 - safety requirements for articles which have had contact with food,
 - requirements for food hygiene,
 - the procedure for introducing hazard analysis and critical control points system at food handling entities,
 - requirements for health of persons handling food, their health examination procedures and obligatory hygiene training;
- Develops and approves programs for food safety and improvement of nutrition for Lithuanians;
- Monitors the nutrition of Lithuanians;

- Oversees food safety and food-borne diseases;
- Promotes habits of wholesome nutrition;
- Discharges other functions mandated by the Law on Food and other relevant legal acts.

The Ministry of Agriculture:

- Implements policy on:
 - improving the quality of food products and raw materials,
 - the production of ecological agricultural products,
 - enhancing the competitiveness of Lithuanian products on the international market;
- Develops and approves programs for:
 - improving food quality,
 - the production and marketing of wholesome, ecological food,
 - establishing the mandatory requirements for the assessment of quality and composition of food,
 - assessing the quality of raw materials,
 - growing plants for food,
 - placing foods on the market,
 - use and control of plant protection means.

The Ministry of Economy:

- Implements food trade policy;
- Establishes the mandatory requirements for labeling and trade in foodstuffs sold on the Lithuanian market.

State Food and Veterinary Service:

- Implements policy for monitoring the safety of raw materials and food of animal origin;
- Establishes mandatory requirements for safety, hygiene, handling and the sale of raw materials used as food which is of animal origin;
- Performs hazard analysis and establishes critical control points systems at food handling entities;
- Monitors animals and raw materials used as food which is of animal origin that were contaminated by harmful substances.

Public organizations for the Protection of Consumer Rights:

- Protect consumer rights and interests in food safety, quality and information dissemination by:
 - conducting consumer opinion polls about food safety and quality and providing an overview of survey results to the media,
 - filing court proceedings for violations of consumer rights or lawful interests,
 - obtaining information from producers and traders about food safety and quality,
 - notifying the National Council for the Protection of Consumer Rights and the food control authority about violations of legal acts regulating food safety and quality,
 - creating proposals that provide more effective consumer rights protection.

Some food-related laws, such as mandatory requirements for labeling foodstuffs are regulated by different institutions and are developed jointly by several ministries.

The Law on Food sets the following basic requirements for the Safety, Quality and Handling of Food:

- Food to be placed on the market shall conform to safety requirements established by the Law on Food and other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania;
- Food and substances which come into contact with food must conform to the following basic requirements:

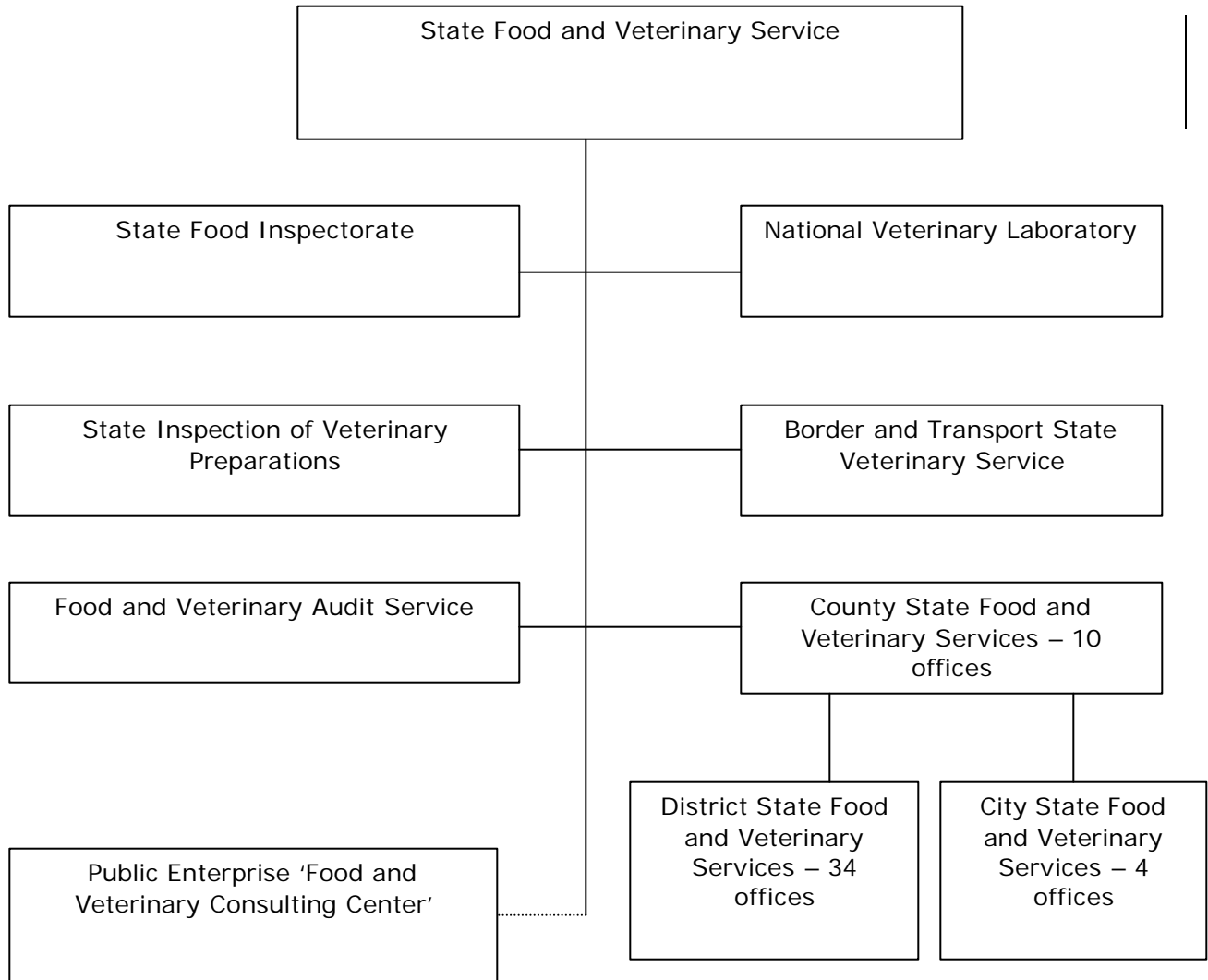
- all food must be fit for human consumption; it must not be contaminated with chemicals, physical, microbial or other contaminants in excess of that which is permitted by law; it must also conform with mandatory safety and quality requirements;
- only food additives and substances prescribed by legal acts that conform to established requirements for quantity, purity and use as well as other requirements may be added to food;
- the competent authority may impose requirements applicable to a specific food group with regard to its composition or quality that do not contravene international provisions when it is necessary for reasons of public health or nutrition;
- only materials and products not hazardous to human health and prescribed by legal acts may be used for packaging food or come into contact with it;
- food and materials coming into contact with food must conform with the marking requirements prescribed by legal acts;
- At all stages of preparation and sale to the consumer, the handling of food is allowed only if it meets food hygiene, public health, veterinary and environmental protection requirements established by the Law on Food and other legal acts and if there is appropriate equipment in conformance with hygiene and technology requirements;
- Hazard analysis and critical control points must be present at food handling establishments and appropriate laboratory tests must be carried out in order to ensure self-control of food safety and handling;
- Persons handling food must meet the health requirements established by legal acts and undergo obligatory hygiene training in the manner prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

The Law on Food requires that consumers be provided accurate and factual information about food and cannot be misled by the description of a particular food product, its brand, properties, composition, expiration date, consumption and storage conditions. It is prohibited to make reference to non-existent properties of a food product; its curative or preventive features if there is no registration certificate issued by the Ministry of Health. It is prohibited to indicate that some foodstuffs have specific features when these features can be actually found in all other similar products, or to mislead consumers in any other manner. Food cannot be placed on the market if its packaging contains materials other than food (with exceptions if the non-food items are necessary for food handling or consuming), or if they could endanger the health or life of consumers, in particular children.

The Law on Food does not apply to foodstuffs in transit through Lithuania, or when food is produced for personal or household use only.

The State Food and Veterinary Service is the governmental control arm for Lithuanian food production, food processing and marketing. The State Food and Veterinary Service consists of its headquarters and several subordinate institutions: the National Veterinary Laboratory, the State Food Inspectorate, the Border and Transport State Veterinary Service, the State Inspection on Veterinary Preparations, the Food and Veterinary Audit Service, the Food and Veterinary Continuing Training Center of Kaunas and a variety of regional services including: ten county State Food and Veterinary Services, four city State Food and Veterinary Services, and thirty four district State Food and Veterinary Services.

The organizational structure of State Food and Veterinary Service.



The main functions of the Service are as follows:

- to protect the interests of the consumer and to ensure that both food products on the internal market and those intended for export comply with the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania which establishes safety requirements and other mandatory provisions;
- to encourage the integration of Lithuania into the European Union in food and veterinary sectors;
- to implement mandatory requirements for handling food products of animal origin (including both imported and exported);
- to control, within its authority - export, import and transit consignments;
- to control the composition of food, residues of hazardous substances in live animals and animal products, quality of raw materials;
- to investigate complaints from individual consumers, consumer associations and other related institutions concerning food that does not meet the requirements for safety and quality;
- to destroy unsafe food products;
- to ensure the conformity of alcohol products to the requirements of the normative acts;
- to assess the safety of food products, foodstuffs and their additives;
- to carry out control and supervision of food handling establishments;
- to issue permission for the importation of animals, animal products and raw materials, foodstuffs and additives from abroad;
- to inform the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the National Council of Consumer Rights, on the safety of food and trading restrictions imposed on unsafe food products;
- to inform the public when banned food produced in the Republic of Lithuania or imported from other countries is in commerce.

The Laboratory of Food Control, part of National Veterinary Laboratory, reports to the State Food and Veterinary Service. It has accreditation according to the EN 45001 standard that is recognized in many countries, including the European Union, New Zealand, and the USA. This laboratory conducts physical-chemical, chemical and microbiological tests of food of animal origin, and also tests some food products of non-animal origin.

State food control inspection is performed regularly, without prior warning, according to its own schedules and whenever there is information that food safety requirements have been violated. Food control inspections executed by the State Food and Veterinary Service include all stages of food handling - from manufacturing, import, to the placing of the food on the market.

Food Control procedures operate on two levels:

- Central (collecting information about import, manufacturing and trade of unsafe products, analysis of risk factors, legal regulation of food control, assurance of the implementation of programs for monitoring hazardous materials in food, etc.)
- Regional and local: County, district and city level food safety control is performed by relevant Food and Veterinary Services. They include: checking the conformity of food products to safety requirements, product labeling, hygienic and sanitary norms, assuring food safety procedures at the company level, etc.

Labeling Requirements

Rules for labeling products sold in Lithuania are regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture according to the Order 'Regarding Rules on Labeling and Providing Information on Prices of Goods Sold in the Republic of Lithuania' (State News, 2002, No 50-1927).

The main points of this order concerning foodstuffs are:

- These rules are mandatory to all physical and economic entities (manufacturers, importers, representatives of manufacturers, distributors, sellers) that supply products to the Lithuanian market;
- All labels must be in Lithuanian. Lithuanian must match the manufacturer's match the foreign language information. Adhesive labels in Lithuanian are allowed;
- Product labels must be either on the product itself or on its packaging. If food products are packaged in very small containers, are sold by weight, or are not packed and sold in units, then labels may appear solely on the main packaging. However, in all cases the product name, the name of the manufacturer, the date of manufacturing, the expiration date and the price of a product unit must be provided;
- Labels must be visible, easily readable, non-erasable, clear, and not misleading to consumers. Information describing product safety requirements, product purpose, and product use can be in graphical form, but pictures cannot be used instead of the name of the product.

Mandatory information must be shown on the label as follows:

- Name of the product;
- Name of the manufacturer or trademark;
- For imported goods – name of the country of residence of the manufacturer;
- Country of product origin, if it is different from the country of manufacturer's residence;
- Name of the importer or trademark and address;
- Date of expiration of the product. Depending on the product, terms 'Suitable for use until...', 'Best until...' can be used;
- Date of manufacturing of the product; storage conditions;
- Purpose of product, if it is not clear from its name; instructions for use, if needed for the safe and proper use of product;
- Sale price and price of one standard unit of product;
- Composition (ingredients) of the product, in descending order by mass of the ingredient. These are special labeling requirements detailed later in this section.

A list of nutritional and energy information is mandatory for special purpose foodstuffs or in cases when the manufacturer declares the information on the original label. Acoholic beverages alcohol content by volume must be provided if it is higher than 1.2%. There is no requirement to translate some terms provided on the original label in Latin letters, such as the company's name, address and country of origin, and words that are in the name of product. Also it is not necessary to translate units of measure if they are given in International Unit System SI (metric system), like 'Weight 100 g net'.

Other laws that regulate food and foodstuffs labeling are: Lithuanian Standard LST (CODEX STAN1, LST bulletin 1993-10) 'Marking packaged food. General requirements', Resolution of Lithuanian Standardization Service 'On labeling preserved and canned products' (State News 1994, No 74-1408); Document of Lithuanian Standardization Service 'Codex recommendations on claiming foodstuffs nutritional information of labels' (LST bulletin 1994-01).

Starting July 1, 2003, a new Hygienic Norm HN 119:2002 specific to labeling foodstuffs, entitled 'Labeling of Foodstuffs' will become law. This norm incorporates EU legislation for the labeling foodstuffs, namely European Parliament and EU Council directives 2000/13/EB (labeling, presentation and advertising foodstuffs), 79/112/EEB (labeling foodstuffs), 90/496/EEB (nutrition labeling for foodstuffs), 89/396/EEB (identifying the batch of foodstuff).

This norm, in addition to identifying requirements established by the 'Law on Food' and the 'Rules of Labeling provide information on the prices of goods sold in the Republic of Lithuania', will also impose the following requirements:

- trademark or registered trade name is not allowed to be used instead of the real name of the foodstuff;
- it is necessary to provide information about the form of the product, such as 'powder', 'frozen', 'smoked', etc. in cases where it may not be clear for the consumer;
- foodstuffs treated by radiation must have relevant marking.

This Hygienic Norm identifies products for which providing information on foodstuff composition is not necessary (such as fresh fruits and vegetables; cheese, butter, cream if they do not contain other ingredients, some other food products).

Nutritional labeling remains non- obligatory. However, if a nutritional statement is provided on the original label, or during the advertisement of foodstuffs (with exception of general advertisements) nutritional marking is mandatory.

The provision of nutritional labeling is divided into two groups:

- Group 1: Information on energy value, quantities of protein, carbohydrate and fat content.
- Group 2: Information on energy value, quantities of protein, carbohydrate, sugar, fat, saturated fatty acids, fiber materials and sodium content.

Quantities of the following substances may be provided: Starch, Mono-non-fatty Acids, Poly-non-fatty Acids, and Cholesterol. Quantities of Minerals and Vitamins should be provided if their percentage of the foodstuff is higher than 15% of the 'Recommended Daily Intake' norm given in Table 1. In this case the Daily Intake Norm of these Minerals and Vitamins must be provided (in percent).

Energy value should be given in kilojoules and kilocalories, Protein, Carbohydrate and Fat – in grams, vitamins – in units used in Table 1.

Such information should be provided for 100 grams or 100 milliliters of product, or for a single serving of product, but in these cases information on how many servings are in the packaging must be provided as well. The average nutritional value of food products must be given; a number identifying the foodstuff batch must be provided as well (with some exceptions, such as bulk (not packed)) products, agricultural products to be delivered for processing, if the largest side of food package is less than 10 cm², etc.).

Table 1. Vitamins and mineral substances for which daily intake norms must be provided:

Name	Recommended daily intake norm
1. Vitamin A	800 µg
2. Vitamin D	5 µg
3. Vitamin C	60 mg
4. Tiamin	1,4 mg
5. Riboflavin	1,6 mg
6. Niacin	18 mg
7. Vitamin B ₆	2 mg
8. Folacin	200 µg
9. Vitamin B ₁₂	1 µg
10. Biotin	0,15 mg
11. Pantoten acid	6 mg

Name	Recommended daily intake norm
12. Calcium	800 mg
13. Phosphorus	800 mg
14. Iron	14 mg
15. Magnesium	300 mg
16. Zinc	15 mg
17. Iodine	150 µg

Health claims on the labels of food products or health prophylaxis features are not permitted. Foodstuffs are not required to have labels in Lithuanian upon entry into Lithuania. Usually Lithuanian labels are affixed at the wholesale and retail levels; however, it is mandatory that each product have a label in Lithuanian prior to being sold.

On May 1, 2004 new Hygienic Norm HN 119:2002 will replace Order of Minister of Agriculture 'Regarding Rules on Labeling and Providing Information on Prices of Goods Sold in the Republic of Lithuania', to the extent to which this Order concerns foodstuffs.
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Packaging and Container Regulations

Foodstuffs packaging requirements are determined by Hygienic Norm HN 16:2001, 'Materials and products that are in contact with foodstuffs'. This norm describes procedures for assuring the safety of materials used as packaging for foodstuffs, general requirements for manufacturing packaging materials, chemicals that must not be present in such packaging that could possibly harm consumers' health. Packaging materials must be marked with the label 'Suitable for food packaging', a product-specific mark like 'bottle for wine' or a special graphical symbol.

Norm HN 16:2001 describes the methodology for measuring the diffusion of chemical substances from packaging materials (including ceramics, polymers, cellulose film, paper and cardboard, vinylchloride, etc.) to food products and determines the maximum allowable levels of such diffusion. Also it provides a list of raw materials that are allowed to be used in the manufacture of food packaging materials. This Hygienic Norm is based on EU directives and recommendations; a list of these documents is provided in this Hygienic Norm.

There are no special foodstuffs packaging or container size requirements (with some exceptions, such as bottle sizes for alcoholic beverages, sugar packages, and others), however, the labels must be Lithuanian, measures must be given in units recognized in the Republic of Lithuania (kilograms, grams, liters, etc).

Recycling Regulations

The Law on the Management of Packaging and Packaging Waste (State News, 2001, No. 85-2968) imposed some obligations on importers and manufacturers of packaged products. Specifically, producers and importers who do not meet specified objectives related to collection, recycling and reusing packaging and packaging waste, must pay an ecology tax. The most recent waste disposal law that recognized a European experience (EU directive 94/62/EB) became effective mid-2002. The law is the Order of Minister of Environment 'Confirmation of Rules on Packaging and Packaging Waste Disposal' (State News, 2002, No. 81-3503). Based on this law, a new company, 'Zaliasis taskas' (The Green Dot), was founded by 35 Lithuanian and foreign economic businesspersons at the end of 2002. The purpose of Zaliasis taskas is to develop a system for collecting household packaging waste to treat and package waste recovery in an environmentally and socially acceptable way using

economically efficient means. 'Zalasis taskas' is the first waste recovery organization in Lithuania founded to unify the efforts of industries concerned with environmental protection and to assume the responsibility for packaging waste management for fillers and importers. Their operation model is similar to Germany's 'Der Gruener Punkt' (The Green Dot), and in 2-3 years the company plans to become a member of the European Packaging Recovery Organization and obtain the right to use 'The Green Dot' logo.

Food Additive Regulations

The Law on Food describes food additives as any substances usually not considered food or any part of it, are added to a food for technological purposes during food handling or additives or their components that eventually become an integral part of the food. Only food additives and food substances prescribed by legal acts conforming to the established requirements for quantity, purity, use and other requirements may be added to food.

The Register of Food Additives is administered by the Ministry of Health and confirmed by Order of the Minister of Health Hygienic Norm HN 53:1998 – Food Additives Allowed for Use' (State News, 2001, No 22-739). This hygienic norm is valid from July 1, 1998 and incorporated the requirements of EU directives 89/107/EEB, 94/34/EB, 94/35/EB, 94/36/EB, 95/2/EB, 78/663d/EEB, 81/712/EEB, 95/31/EB, 95/45/EB, 96/77/EB, 88/344/EEB, 92/115/EEB, 94/52/EB. Later in 2001 this Hygienic Norm was amended to include the requirements of EU directives and decisions 96/85/EEB, 67/427/EEC, 97/292/EB, 88/388/EEB, 88/389/EEB, 91/71/EEB, 97/60/EB, 1599/75/EB, 92/4/EEB, 90/612/EEB, 2232/96/EB, 1999/217/EB, 1999/75/EEB. As with other hygienic norms, it was created and continuously amended and improved, consistent with directives of the European Union to meet requirements of the ACQUIS program (the program for preparing Lithuania for membership in the European Union).

This hygienic norm specifies which additives can be used for various groups of food and in what concentrations. If an additive is allowed for use in the EU, it has the demarcation E followed by a relevant number. If a food additive is registered in the European Union, it necessarily allowed in Lithuania. This rule will be valid until May 1, 2004. Use of any new additive requires permission from the National Nutrition Center and the Ministry of Health. Use of any new additive requires permission from the National Nutrition Center and the Ministry of Health (State News, 1998, No. 57-1610). It is necessary to have a representative in Lithuania who is authorized to import foodstuffs and has obtained special permission from the National Nutrition Center to import a food additive or a special food product. These specimens are examined at the laboratory of the National Nutrition Center and are granted permission or rejected within 30 days. The registration certificate is valid for 3 years.

All food additives are required to be listed on the product label. Food additives shall be marked with the letter E followed by the three-digit or four-digit code, which indicates their registration number in the European Union.

Annexed to Hygienic Norm 53:1998 is Hygienic Norm HN 53-1:2001, Food Additives allowed for use. Allowed Flavoring Substances and Raw Materials for Production of Flavoring Substances which lists flavoring substances and raw materials in the production of flavoring substances for use in or on foodstuffs. This Hygienic Norm is harmonized with these EU documents:

- Council Directive 88/388/EEC of June 22, 1988, on the approximation of laws of the Member States relating to flavorings for use in foodstuffs and to source materials for their production,

- Council Decision 88/389/EEC of June 22, 1988, on the establishment, by the Commission, of an inventory of source materials and substances used in the preparation of flavorings,
- Commission Directive 91/71/EEC of January 16, 1991, completing Council Directive 88/388/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to flavorings for use in foodstuffs and to source materials for their production (SEE NOTE ABOVE),
- Regulation (EC) No. 2232/96 dated October 28, 1996, of the European Parliament and of the Council established a Community procedure for flavoring substances used or intended for use in or on foodstuffs,
- Commission Decision 1999/217/EC of February 23, 1999, adopting a register of flavoring substances used in or on foodstuffs drawn up in the application of Regulation (EC) No. 2232/96 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 28, 1996.

Hygienic Norms are obligatory to all physical and economical entities of Lithuania, importing, transporting or packaging foodstuffs. They are available at the National Nutrition Center, but only in Lithuanian.

Pesticide and other Contaminants

The allowable concentrations of pesticides and other contaminants are regulated by Hygienic Norm HN 54:2001, 'Foodstuffs. The Maximum Allowable Residual Concentrations of Contaminants and Pesticides', issued by the Ministry of Health (State News, 2002, No 34(1)-1269). This norm regulates the safety of food products in commerce and determines the maximum concentrations of contaminants and pesticides in food products. Maximum concentrations are set in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission of the European Union. If only one contaminant in the product exceeds the maximum contamination norm, it is not allowable to use the product for consumption or for production of other foodstuffs. If there are no local legal acts or confirmed methods of analysis of some contaminants or pesticides, methods by these organizations are permitted: International (ISO), European (EN), Northern Countries (NMKL), and Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC).

If Lithuania has international agreements with other countries that contain different stated contamination levels, these agreements will prevail against this Hygienic Norm. Hygienic Norm 54:2001 is harmonized with the requirements of EU directives. It provides a list of pesticides to which maximum residue limits are applied. It sets maximum allowed concentrations of contaminants such as nitrates, micotoxins, mercury, plumbum, cadmium and others and lists food products for which these limits are applied.

The State Plant Protection Service (SPPS) registers pesticides and maintains a list of approved pesticides. This list and the registration requirements are available at the SPPS. The address and Internet site of the State Plant Protection Service is given in Appendix 1 of this Report.

Other Regulations and Requirements

In general, there are no requirements to register and test food products prior to importing them to Lithuania, but for some special food products, especially those of animal origin, it could be required. Thus, products like meat, milk, and marine products are under stricter controls and must come from an exporter that, along with other mandatory documents, has confirmation that the product originated with an exporter who is included in the EU veterinary register.

Forms for Import Certificates for some food products, animal products for human consumption and animals are available at the Internet site of the State Food and Veterinary Service. A sample of such an Import Certificate is given in Appendix 2 of this report. The State Food and Veterinary Service also does necessary food laboratory tests.

Each consignment of foodstuffs entering the Republic of Lithuania is subject to the customs procedures for release into free circulation, processing under customs control and inward processing. The consignment must contain the supplier's declaration of conformity, veterinary or phytosanitary certificate in Lithuanian (or English, German, Russian). Apart from general requirements established for the supplier's declaration of conformity, it must include safety and quality indicators provided by the supplier, as well as the following information:

- The 'best before' date or 'use-by' date for foodstuffs (if this information is provided only on the packages of foodstuffs, it must be recorded in the supplier's declaration of conformity, a veterinary or phytosanitary certificate by the officer of a food control authority who has inspected the consignment); if such date is not indicated in the supplier's declaration of conformity, or a veterinary or phytosanitary certificate or on the packages of foodstuffs, but a production date is marked, the 'best before' date or 'use-by' date for an appropriate foodstuff, established by legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania, shall be recorded;
- Food additives contained in foodstuffs. This information may be provided only on the packages of imported foodstuffs.
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Other Specific Standards

Some other Laws and Hygienic Norms relevant to foodstuffs in force:

- Law on Product Safety (State News 1999, No. 52-1673).
This Law establishes general requirements for product safety, states principles of state and public control of product safety, and specifies the procedure for providing and communicating information about dangerous products, etc. The purpose of this Law is to ensure that only safe products are placed on the market. The producer, seller and supplier of a service, when placing manufactured goods and services in the market, must comply with the product safety requirements set forth in legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.
- Law on Alcohol Control (State News 1995, No. 44-1073).
The objective of this law is to reduce alcohol consumption, alcohol abuse, and the damage it causes to public health and the economy. It also determines the legal principles granting the rights to produce, sell and import alcoholic products. It also regulates relations in connection with the manufacture of alcohol and food products with alcohol additives and other products containing ethyl alcohol, their manufacture, internal trade, storage, transportation, import and export. The law establishes the basis of state control of alcohol in the Republic of Lithuania.
- Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (State News 2001, No. 56-1976).
This law establishes the spheres of activities involving genetically modified organisms and genetically modified products, their state management and regulation, and also the rights, duties and responsibility of the users of genetically modified products. The State Food and Veterinary Service establishes mandatory safety requirements for food that contains genetically modified organisms or is manufactured from genetically modified organisms.
- Law on Sugar (State News, 1995, No. 41-990).

Imposes sugar market regulations and protection measures on the sugar market in Lithuania.

- Law on Veterinary Activities (State News, 1992, No. 2-15).

Establishes the requirements for veterinary sanitation and the principles of veterinary control. Further, this law establishes the requirements consistent with those of the UN, EU, the Codex of Zoo sanitation and the World Trade Organization ensuring that contagious animal diseases or harmful products of animal origin are not introduced into Lithuania. The State Food and Veterinary Service is authorized to conduct veterinary checks on imported animals and products made from raw materials and foodstuffs of animal origin. This act mandates that animals can be imported only upon receiving a license from the State Food and Veterinary Service, and determines the duration of animal quarantine (usually 24 days). It further requires that the importation of products and raw materials of animal origin shall only be permitted in accordance with the procedure established by the State Food and Veterinary Service.

There are other foodstuff related hygienic norms such as:

- HN 15:2001 'Food Hygiene'.

This norm implements requirements of directive 93/43/EEB of the European Council 'On Foodstuffs Hygiene' and determines the mandatory requirements for food hygiene. If special legal acts define different requirements for some special food products, these laws prevail against this Hygienic Norm. It requires maintaining Good Hygienic Practice' and rules for the implementation of a 'System of Potential Risk Elements Analysis and Management of Important Operating Points'.

- HN 107:2001 'Foodstuffs of Special Purposes'.

Establishes general requirements for special purpose foodstuffs, obligatory hygienic expertise procedures to be followed when such products are imported into Lithuania for the first time, and lists nutritive materials that are allowed in the production of special purpose foodstuffs. A list of registered special purpose foodstuffs is published in the Official Gazette 'State News'.

- HN 106:2001 'New food products and new ingredients'.

Requires mandatory state safety and hygienic analysis for new food products and new ingredients; this examination must be conducted by the National Nutrition Center. It imposes requirements for these products, special labeling requirements (including products containing genetically modified organisms) and procedures for the sale these products should be put to market. It also classifies new food products and new ingredients into categories.

- HN 26:1998 'Food raw materials and foodstuff. Maximal allowed microbial contamination level'.

- HN 16:2001 'Materials and products that are in contact with foodstuffs' (already described in Section III).

- HN 24:1998 'Drinking Water. Quality Requirements and Supervision'.

- HN 28:2001 'Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Mineralized Drinking Water. Quality Requirements and Supervision'.

Other HN's apply to more specific situations.

In addition to the laws and Hygienic Norms, there are various Standards on nutrition requirements and food hygiene that require information about nutritious characteristics of foodstuffs and methods of testing at the food laboratories. Orders regulate mandatory quality characteristics for various specific foodstuffs (for instance, mandatory requirements for fat mixtures, eggs, ice-cream, yogurt, flour, milk, fruits and vegetables, etc.).

Hygienic norms are available at the Ministry of Health. Orders regulating quality requirements of specific foodstuffs are available at the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Food and Veterinary Service. Unfortunately, Hygienic Norms, Standards, Mandatory Requirements for Foodstuffs, and many other documents, including the Order on Labeling the Goods, are in most cases not available in English.

Recommendations of daily nutrition and energy norms (both for children and mature persons, including vitamins and minerals) are determined by Order of the Minister of Health (State News, 1999, No. 102-2936). These norms were developed according to recommendations of the World Health Organization, the experience of Northern Countries, UK, USA, Poland, and statistical information about Lithuania collected at the initiative of the WHO.

Product samples and mail order shipments

If a postal parcel contains more than three kilograms of any foodstuffs classified in one subposition of the combined nomenclature and permitted to be sent by post to the Republic of Lithuania, the supplier's declaration of conformity, veterinary or phytosanitary certificate and a certificate must be presented to the state institutions that carry out a check on postal parcels, and the receiver of a postal parcel must be registered as an importer of foodstuffs.

Trademark Laws

Trademarks and brand names are protected in accordance with the Law on Trademarks of Republic of Lithuania (State News, 2000, No. 92-2844) This law establishes legal protection for trademarks, provides procedures for registration and use in the Republic of Lithuania, and covers the administration of the Register of Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania. The Law on Trademarks also lists limitations on trademark registration and gives reasons for possible refusal of registration or invalidation of a mark.

Applications to register a trademark must be submitted to the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania. The address of this organization is given in Appendix 1 of this Report.

The State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for protection of industrial property (inventions, designs, trademarks and service marks, firm names, etc.). The State Patent Bureau maintains information about Industrial Property in the Republic of Lithuania and administers the Database of the Register of Trademarks data on international registrations extended to the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Madrid Protocol and other information.

Import Procedures

Border and Transport State Veterinary Service control the flow of food entering Lithuania is performed by the. Currently, there are 18 border veterinary posts and 30 checkpoints, and new ones are to be opened on borders with Byelorussia and Russia, and at the Klaipeda seaport.

Food import procedures are administered in accordance with the Government Resolution 'Procedure for the Importation of Foodstuffs into the Republic of Lithuania and the Control of

Safety of such Foodstuffs' (State News, 1999, No. 85-2547; 2001, No. 61-2190). This resolution regulates the importation of foodstuffs (including foodstuffs intended for charity) into the Republic of Lithuania, their carriage in transit through its territory, and the activities of regulatory institutions. The stated goal of the procedure is to ensure that no foodstuffs that might be harmful to human health or spread diseases and plant pests be brought into the Republic of Lithuania.

This resolution determines 'Foodstuffs' as any substances or products - processed, semi-processed or raw materials (unprocessed products) intended for human nutrition or similar consumption (foodstuffs also include drinking water, alcoholic beverages, chewing gum, food additives and other substances and products intended for human swallowing, chewing or consumption, except medical and tobacco products, narcotic and psychotropic substances). The list of imported foodstuffs inspected by food control authorities shall, in accordance with the combined nomenclature, be approved by the Ministry of Health upon consultation with the State Food and Veterinary Service, State Plant Protection Service and the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance.

This procedure does not apply to foodstuffs that are imported for exhibitions or for representation purposes, or to foodstuffs intended to satisfy the needs of diplomatic missions of foreign states, nor to foodstuffs intended to secure registration in the Republic of Lithuania or for the purpose of carrying out of an expert examination (for this purpose it is allowable to import no more than 50 grams of each food additive and not more than one pack intended for retail trade of each foodstuff for particular nutritional purposes).

Only those foodstuffs meeting the requirements established in legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania may enter the Republic of Lithuania with the exception of the cases provided for in international agreements with the Republic of Lithuania. Importers of foodstuffs brought into the Republic of Lithuania are liable under law for safety and quality of the foodstuffs.

Control procedures for imported foodstuffs are normally carried out in two stages:

- The first point of contact is typically with a post of the State Food and Veterinary Service and State Plant Protection Service that operate at a border crossing point of the Republic of Lithuania.
- The next layer of control is the Ministry of Health posts that operate at the customs offices located within the customs territory.

Additional control of certain foodstuffs, in cases where the quality of the foodstuff can not be examined at a border post of the State Food and Veterinary Service, can be carried out where the food is unloaded, after the foodstuff clears customs.

The foodstuffs subject to control of the State Food and Veterinary Service and the State Plant Protection Service can enter Lithuania only through those state border crossing points of the Republic of Lithuania at which the posts of these institutions are located. Other foodstuffs may be entered through any state border crossing point at which a customs office operates.

The foodstuffs imported into the Republic of Lithuania subject to be checked by food control authorities is defined by a list published by the relevant authority, along with the listing of documents necessary to present to customs and food control authorities.

Imports of meat and meat products are permitted for retail trade if the product is in packages of no more than three kilograms each, and bulk meat or meat products - only for industrial processing. Economic entities are allowed to admit imported foodstuffs intended for processing only when they have permission from the food control authority to sell a consignment. Importers of foodstuffs must be registered and have certificates. Certificates

are issued and their validity is terminated in compliance with the procedure established by the Ministry of Health and the State Food and Veterinary Service.

After passing both stages of control, conformity declarations of the supplier, veterinary or phytosanitary certificates are marked with 'Goods released' or 'Goods held for inspection'. The mark 'Goods released' is applied when conformity declarations of the supplier, veterinary or phytosanitary certificates and imported foodstuffs satisfy the requirements.

Conformity declarations of the supplier, veterinary or phytosanitary certificates are marked with 'Goods held for inspection' in cases when importing food additives or their mixtures without the authorization of the National Nutrition Center to sell these products or use them in foodstuff production; or when carrying out of periodic control is necessary.

The food control authority is authorized to check the condition of imported foodstuffs and their conformity to the documents, hold goods for inspection and select samples to be sent for examination.

Importing foodstuffs for special nutritional purposes, officers of food control authorities verify whether these products have been registered with the National Nutrition Center of the Ministry of Health.

When foodstuffs arrive for customs warehousing, food control authorities only verify consistency between the documents and the goods. However, only after foodstuffs are inspected for safety and the conformity to declarations of the supplier, the veterinary or phytosanitary certificates are marked with 'Goods released' and foodstuffs can be released into commerce.

Each consignment of foodstuffs imported into the Republic of Lithuania must be accompanied by legally valid primary accounting documents which should, next to the name of each product, contain consignment identification requisites (the number of the supplier's declaration of conformity, veterinary or phytosanitary certificate and the 'best before' date), the code of the institution that granted permission to sell foodstuffs in the Republic of Lithuania and the registration number of the supplier's declaration of conformity, and a veterinary or phytosanitary certificate. Each consignment of alcoholic beverages must additionally have the supplier's declaration of conformity or its copy confirmed with the supplier's stamp.

Decisions to prohibit the sale of imported foodstuffs may be appealed in accordance with the procedures established by law. If necessary, the safety and quality of foodstuffs imported into the Republic of Lithuania may be repeatedly checked in the domestic market.

Imported foodstuffs are subject to taxes including: VAT tax, Autonomous, Conventional or Preferential tax, depending on whether the Lithuanian Republic has an international agreement with the exporter's country, and the Excise tax. Information on tax tariffs is available at the Ministry of Economy.

Import Duty, VAT, Excise tax:

All such information is available on the Government of Lithuania website (<http://www.cust.lt/en/>) for a fee.

Appendix 1

Organizations that were referred to in this Report and other useful addresses.

The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (Seimas)

Address: Gedimino av. 53, Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 239 64 03; fax: +(370-5) 239 63 69
Email: bendrasis@lrs.lt
Internet site: <http://www.lrs.lt>

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: Gedimino av. 11, LT-2039 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 266 38 49; fax: +(370-5) 266 38 77
Email: mp.sekretore@lrvk.lt
Internet site: <http://www.lrv.lt>

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: Gedimino av. 19 (Lelevelio str. 6), LT-2025, Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 239 10 32; fax: +(370-5) 239 12 12
Email: zum@zum.lt
Internet site: <http://terra.zum.lt>

Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: Gedimino av. 38/2, LT- 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 262 24 16; fax: +(370-5) 262 39 74
Email: kanc@ukmin.lt
Internet site: <http://www.ekm.lt>

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: A. Jaksto str. 4/9, LT-2600 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 266 36 61, fax: +(370-5) 266 36 63
Email: info@am.lt
Internet site: <http://www.am.lt>

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: Vilniaus str. 33, LT-2001 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 266 14 00; fax: +(370-5) 266 14 02
Email: regina.zilinskiene@sam.lt
Internet site: <http://www.sam.lt>

State Food and Veterinary Service

Address: Siesiku str. 19, LT 2010 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel: +(370-5) 240 43 61, fax: +(370-5) 240 43 62
Email: vvt@vet.lt
Internet site: <http://www.vet.lt>

National Veterinary Laboratory

Address: J.Kairiukscio str. 10, LT-2021 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: + (370-5) 278 04 70, fax: + (370-5) 278 04 71.

Border and Transport State Veterinary Service

Address: Siesiku str. 17, LT-2010 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 240 43 40; tel./fax: +(370-5) 240 43 41
Email: ptvvt@vet.lt
Internet site: <http://vetlt1.vet.lt/pt/>

State Inspection of Veterinary Preparations

Address: Savanoriu str. 287, LT-3009 Kaunas, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-37) 311 558; fax: +(370 -37) 312 531

Public Enterprise 'Food and Veterinary Consulting Center'

Address: Siesiku str. 21-10, Vilnius 2034
Tel.: +(370-5) 246 04 65; fax: +370-5) 246 04 64
Email: konsultavimoc@vet.lt

Vilnius Public Health Centre

Address: Vilniaus str. 16, 2001 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 212 40 98, fax: +(370-5) 261 27 07
Email: vvsc@vilniausvsc.lt
Internet site: <http://www.vilniausvsc.lt>

State Plant Protection Service

Address: Kalvariju str. 62 LT-2005 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel: +(370-5) 275 27 50; fax: +(370 -5) 275 21 28
Email: vaat@vaat.lt
<http://www.vaat.lt>

National Nutrition Center

Address Kalvariju str. 153, 2042 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 277 89 19; +(370-5) 270 01 07
Internet site: <http://www.rmc.lt/> (under construction)

The State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: Kalvariju str. 3, LT-2600 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: (+370-5) 278 02 50; fax.: (+370 -5) 275 07 23
Email: spb@vpb.lt
Internet site: <http://www.vpb.lt>

Lithuanian Customs

Address: A.Jakšto str. 1/25, LT-2600 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +(370-5) 212 64 15; fax: (+370-5) 212 49 48

E-mail: info@cust.lt

Internet site: <http://www.cust.lt/en/>

Appendix 2

Sample of Import Certificate for fishery products from establishments approved by EU.

(Šalies eksportuotojod kompetentinga institucija
Competent institution of the exporting country)

VETERINARIJOS SERTIFIKATAS
VETERINARY CERTIFICATE
ŽUVININKYSTES PRODUKTAMS, IMPORTUOJAMIEMS I LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA IŠ
EUROPOS SAJUNGOS PATVIRTINTU IMONIŲ
FOR FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA FROM ESTABLISHMENTS APPROVED BY EU

_____ Nr./No. _____
(Data/Date)

(Išdavimo vieta/Issued at)

Šalis siunteja:

Exporting country:.....

Atsakinga tarnyba:

Competent authority:.....

I. Produktu tapatumo nustatymas

Identification of the fishery products

Žuvu/vandens gyvunu produktu aprašymas (1):

Description of fishery/aquaculture products (1):.....

Rušis (mokslinis pavadinimas):

Species (scientific name):.....

Produkto pateikimas ir apdorojimas (2):

Presentation of product and type of treatment (2):.....

Kodas (jei yra):

Code number (where available):.....

Pakuote:

Type of packages:.....

Pakuociu skaičius:

Number of packages:.....

Svoris neto:

Net weight:

Sandeliavimo ir transportavimo temperatūra:

Requisite storage and transport temperature:.....

II. Produktu kilme

Origin of products

Imones, transporto ar šaldytuvo pavadinimas ir ES patvirtintas numeris:

Name and EU approval number of establishments, factory vessel:.....

Produktu paskirtis**Destination of products**

Produktai siunčiami iš:

The products are dispatched from:.....
(Išsiuntimo vieta/**place of dispatch**)

i:/to:.....

(Paskirties šalis ir vieta/**country and place of destination**)

transporto priemone:

by the following means of transport:.....

Siuntejo pavadinimas ir adresas:

Name and address of consignor:.....

Gavejo pavadinimas ir adresas:

Name and address of consignee:.....

III. Sveikumo patvirtinimas

Health attestation

Valstybinis veterinarijos gydytojas patvirtina, kad žuvininkystes produktai:

The official veterinarian hereby certifies that the fishery or aquaculture products specified above:

1. Sugauti ir laikyti laivuose pagal ES Tarybos direktyvos 92/48/EEB reikalavimus.

Have been caught and handled on board vessels in accordance with the health rules laid down by Directive 92/48/EEC.

2. Žuvininkystes produktai turi būti iškrauti, laikomi, jei reikia- ipakuoti, paruošti, apdoroti, šaldyti, atitirpinti ir sandeliuoti, laikantis higienos reikalavimu, nurodytu ES Tarybos direktyvos 91/493/EEB priedo II, III ir VI skyriuose.

Were landed, handled and where appropriate packaged, prepared, processed, frozen, thawed and stored hygienically in compliance with the requirements laid down in Chapters II, III and IV of the Annex to Directive 91/493/EEC.

3. Iširti, kaip nurodyta ES Tarybos direktyvos 91/493/EEB priedo V skyriuje.

Have undergone health controls in accordance with Chapter V of the Annex to Directive 91/493/EEC.

4. Supakuoti, paženklinėti, sandeliuoti ir transportuoti pagal ES Tarybos direktyvos 91/493/EEB priedo VI, VII ir VIII skyriu reikalavimus.

Are packaged, marked, stored and transported in accordance with Chapters IV, VII and VIII of the Annex to the directive 91/493/EEC

5. Nera iš nuodingu ar turinciu biotoksinu rušiu žuvu.

Do not come from toxic species or species containing biotoxins.

6. Buvo ivertinti organoleptiškai, atlikti parazitologiniai, cheminiai ir mikrobiologiniai tyrimai, nustatyti žuvu kategorijoms, pagal ES Tarybos direktyva 91/493/EEB ir ja idiegiančius sprendimus.

Have satisfactory undergone the organoleptic, parasitological, chemical and microbiological checks laid down for certain categories of fishery products by Directive 91/493/EEC and in the implementing decisions thereto.

7. Žemiau pasirašes valstybinis veterinarijos gydytojas patvirtina, kad yra susipažines su ES Tarybos direktyvomis 91/493/EEB, 92/48/EEB.

The undersigned official veterinarian hereby declares that he is aware of the provisions of Directive 91/493/EEC, Directive 92/48/EEC.

(Pildžiusio asmens pareigos
Position)

(Parašas/**Signature** (3))

(Vardas, pavarde/**Full name**)

Antspaudas/Stamp (3)

(1) išbraukti, kas netinka/**delete where applicable**

(2) gyvi, atšaldyti, sušaldyti, sudyti, rukyti, konservuoti ir kt./**live, refrigerated, frozen, salted, smoked, preserved, etc.**

(3) antspaudas ir parašas spalva turi skirtis nuo teksto spalvos/ **the stamp and signature must be in colour different from that of the printing.**
