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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 that are not yet harmonized.

DISCLAIMER: 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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hungary as a member of the European Union 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 U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. Alternatively, the [FAS GAIN Report Database](#) is also available.

Hungary maintains an open economy, and its infrastructure and central location are features that make it an attractive destination for investment and exports. Hungary's strategic location in Europe and easy access to both EU and non-EU markets have led global companies to locate distribution facilities in the country. Improvements in technological readiness and financial markets also provide positive business incentives. Fiscal loosening, credit programs, tax relief, cuts in VATs, corporate income taxes, and social security contributions intensify market opportunities. A broad range of consumers are open to American foodstuffs. An increasing number of buyers are seeking quality products or gourmet specialties from the United States, helped in part by stories, traditions, and positive feelings for America.

SECTION I: FOOD LAWS

Hungarian food legislation generally conforms to European Union (EU) regulations. Relevant national regulations are valid for imported food and products produced in Hungary. In addition to the principle of free movement of goods among EU member states, there is a strong emphasis on ensuring that the final consumer receives safe food in Hungary. The path of raw materials must be traced “from farm to fork,” which was the reason for the establishment of a unified monitoring system in Hungary. [Government Resolution No. 2243/2006](#) (in Hungarian) decreed the establishment of a unified food safety organization to control the whole food chain, build consumer confidence, and achieve a more efficient food safety authority. The control of the food chain is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture’s [National Food Chain Safety Office](#) (Nemzeti Élelmiszerlánc-biztonsági Hivatal in Hungarian).

[Act No. XLVI of 2008](#) (in Hungarian) regulates food chain control. It is supplemented by several other implementing regulations. The act aims to protect consumer health and interests, provides guarantees of safe and quality food production and trade, and reduces risks of food origin by enhancing traceability and transparency in the sector. Relevant articles contain rules on the organization and governance of state duties and define the duties of controlling bodies, public laboratories, scientific institutes, and the responsible authority. Special rules for public administration procedures are laid down regarding measures to be taken in case of epidemics or pest infestation. Sanctions, penalties, obligatory rules, and professional guidelines are also set forth in the act. The implementation of measures, provisions, and recommendations of the food chain act are detailed and specified at lower levels of legislation, in decrees and guidance documents.

Hungarian Food Codex

- [Decree No. 152/2009](#) (in Hungarian) contains binding provisions on subjects comprised in the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus with the aim of adopting rules in conformity with EU regulations. These rules must be applied to foodstuffs produced and marketed within the territory of Hungary.
- [Government Decree No. 220/2008](#) (in Hungarian) concerns rules on the publication of mandatory regulations and recommended technical guidelines in the field of food chain safety. It provides rules regarding the publication of standard collections of regulations and guidelines as well as the appointment and establishment of technical bodies and committees in charge of the 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.

Several EU regulations do not require implementation into national law. Those regulations are applied directly and enforced at the EU member state level. In the case of Hungary, the National Food Chain Safety Office and County Government Offices enforce these regulations.

SECTION II: LABELING REQUIREMENTS

The EU law on food information to consumers ([Regulation No. 1169/2011](#)) entered into force 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 labeling legislation, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the European Commission's (EC) [website on labelling](#).

Food packaging for products sold in the market must be labeled in Hungarian, in an easily legible, understandable, and clear manner. Imported packaged food may have a foreign language label, but a stick-on label in Hungarian must be put on the top of the original one to meet Hungary's labeling requirements. The additional labeling must be made by the producer, exporter, importer, or the distributor prior to retail sale. The labeling and the presentation of food must not mislead the consumer. These rules and the relevant provisions must be applied to all kinds of foodstuffs destined for 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.
- Clearly indicated lists of allergens.
- Net weight or quantity in metric units.
- Nutritional and health claims.
- Date of minimum durability.
- Recommended conditions of storage.
- Instructions for use.
- Name and address of manufacturer or distributor.
- Country or place of origin.
- Genetically engineered (GE) product content (above 0.9%).

Other specific labeling requirement(s)

Labeling for organic products

According to [Decree No. 34/2013](#) (in Hungarian) concerning the procedure of certification, production, marketing, labeling, and control of agricultural products and foodstuffs deriving from organic farming, the label must contain the name and the references of the certifying organization (e.g., identification number).

Labeling for wine

For wine, please note that the [EU's wine labeling regulation](#) (EU 2021/2117) requires a nutrition declaration and a list of ingredients for products produced after December 8, 2023. In practice, this means that 2023 vintage wines are exempt from the requirement along with non-vintage wines produced before this date. Sparkling wines that undergo their secondary fermentation after December 8, 2023, will have to comply with the new labeling regulation. For more information, please refer to the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#).

Labeling for food containing or derived from genetically engineered organisms

A number of GE plant varieties are approved for industrial food use and as feed in the EU, and – consequently – in Hungary. The country follows the EU’s labeling standards. If GE content is above 0.9 percent, it must be indicated on the label. If products derive from animals fed on GE feed, labeling is not required.

Since there are no uniform rules and regulations on the labeling of GE-free food and feed within the EU, Hungary developed its own system. [Decree No. 61/2016](#) (in Hungarian) on the labeling of GE-free products provides special labeling of GE-free food and feed, and processed products as well as meat, fish, eggs, and milk from livestock fed on certified GE-free feed. Application of GE-free labeling is voluntary. Producers and traders of food labeled as being from GE-free production are obliged to ensure the traceability of raw materials used to make the product.

GE-free labeling cannot give the impression to customers that the product has special sensory and nutritional features and its effect on the environment or health is better than that of similar items. Additionally, products that have no licensed GE version in the market cannot be labelled GE-free.

Labeling for products marketed in the catering industry.

According to [Decree No. 62/2011](#) (in Hungarian) on food safety rules for the production and marketing of catering products, prepacked food must be labeled per portion in accordance with the mandatory labeling requirements for prepacked goods. In addition to other mandatory elements, the label must include the name and the address of the manufacturer.

Nutrition/Medical/Health Claims

Nutrition value labeling is mandatory for all pre-packaged food and drink products marketed in the EU. For detailed information on the EU-harmonized labeling legislation, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [EC websites on nutrition and health claims](#).

The relevant Hungarian legislation on labeling requirements is as follows:

- [Act No. XI of 1997](#) (in Hungarian) on the protection of trademarks and geographical indications.
- [Government Decree No. 158/2009](#) (in Hungarian) regarding the procedure for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs, and spirits as well as the inspection of these products.
- [Decree No. 36/2014](#) (in Hungarian) concerning information related to food products. The decree applies to packaged food intended for final consumption. Special provisions address labeling of food containing allergens and intolerance substances. Lot identification is also covered by this decree.
- [Decree No. 74/2012](#) (in Hungarian) on the use of certain voluntary distinctive signs on food. This decree sets out rules regarding the use of voluntary distinctive information by food producers on labels and images, and during the advertisement of food to consumers. It must be applied to food distributed in Hungary of whose label, presentation, and advertisement refer to its origin, higher quality, or non-industrial production. The decree contains the requisites for the use of specific distinctive information, like “Hungarian product”, or “national product.” Information regarding higher quality or non-industrial production may

be used if the quality and the method of production of a given product are in conformity with the principles and requisites of the Hungarian Food Codex.

- [Decree No. 33/2010](#) (in Hungarian) on certain rules related to nutrition and health claims on foods.
- [Decree No. 83/2005](#) (in Hungarian) on marketing eggs sold at local public markets.
- [Decree No. 16/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on detailed formal requirements of trademark applications, and applications for the protection of geographical indications.

SECTION III: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation on packaging and food containers. In January 2025, the EU published its [Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation \(Regulation 2025/40\)](#). The Regulation introduces waste reduction targets and requires that all packaging placed on the EU market is recyclable and carries recycling labeling. The Regulation also introduces new requirements for packaging minimization, minimum recycled content in plastic packaging, and re-use targets for packaging. The Regulation bans certain packaging formats such as single-use plastic grouped packaging, single use plastic packaging for unprocessed fresh fruit and vegetables, and single use plastic packaging for condiments, preserves, sauces, coffee creamer, sugar, and seasoning in the hotel and restaurant sector. For more information, please see GAIN Report: [European Union: European Union Finalizes New Rules for Packaging and Packaging Waste Reduction](#) and consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#). The Regulation will enter into force on August 12, 2026.

Hungarian legislation on packaging *including sustainability measures*, and container requirements are as follows:

- [Act No. CLXXXV of 2012](#) (in Hungarian) on waste. The purpose of this act is the protection of the environment and human health; mitigation of environmental impact; efficient management of natural resources; improvement of resource use efficiency; prevention of waste and its harmful effects; reduction of waste quantity and hazardousness; higher rates of waste recycling; and environmentally sound disposal of non-reusable and non-recyclable materials.
- [Government Decree No. 442/2012](#) (in Hungarian) on packaging and packaging waste management activities. This decree applies to packaging and packaging waste of goods distributed in Hungary and to their collection. Requisites of production, labeling, and distribution of packaging materials are provided in it. The decree contains rules regarding obligations for producers and distributors, the collection and reuse of packaging materials as well as the obligation of record keeping and reporting on related activities.
- [Government Decree No. 301/2021](#) (in Hungarian) on restricting the marketing of certain single-use and other plastic products. As of July 1, 2021, products made from oxo-degradable plastic and certain single-use plastic products such as cutlery, plates, straws, beverage stirrers, food and beverage containers, and cups (made of expanded polystyrene) are prohibited to be placed on the market.
- [Government Decree No. 349/2021](#) (in Hungarian) on reducing the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. Provisions of [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904](#) are implemented through this decree.

- [Decree No. 72/2013](#) (in Hungarian) defines which materials and substances are considered waste.
- [Decree No. 13/2008](#) (in Hungarian) on establishing rules for nominal quantity of pre-packaged products and on methods for their control.
- [Provision No. 1–2–84/500](#) (in Hungarian) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in Annex 24 of Decree No. 152/2009 on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.
- [Provision No. 1–2–78/142](#) (in Hungarian) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles that contain vinyl chloride monomer and are intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in Annex 23 of Decree No. 152/2009 on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.
- [Provision No. 1–2–2007/42](#) (in Hungarian) of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, published in Annex 25 of Decree No. 152/2009 on binding provisions of the Codex Alimentarius Hungaricus.

SECTION IV: FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

Regarding food additives, Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation, including a positive list of allowed substances. For detailed information, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the EC's [database](#), which provides detailed information on the different food additives allowed in the EU. More information can be obtained from the EC's [website on food additives](#).

In the case of trans-fats, which are not harmonized at EU level, [Decree No. 71/2013](#) (in Hungarian) set the permitted amount in food products; the conditions of inspection and distribution of trans-fat containing foodstuffs; and rules for tracking the population's trans-fat consumption.

SECTION V: PESTICIDES AND CONTAMINANTS

Pesticides

Maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides in food of plant or animal origin are determined at the EU level. The relevant national ordinance is harmonized under EU rules. An EU database on pesticide MRLs is available on the [EU Pesticides Database website](#). For more detailed information on EU-harmonized legislation, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#).

For the 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](#) (in Hungarian)

Directorate for Plant Protection

Dayka Gábor út 3, Budapest 1118, Hungary

Tel.: +36 30 216 6303; E-mail: ni@nebih.gov.hu

Legislation on pesticide residues:

- [Decree No. 66/2010](#) (in Hungarian) on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and relating to their official control.

Mycotoxins and heavy metals

Maximum levels of mycotoxins and heavy metals as contaminants are established in the [Commission Regulation No. 2023/915](#).

Microbiological contamination and other undesirable substances of content

The relevant Hungarian legislation on microbiological contamination and on other undesirable substances of content is as follows:

- [Decree No. 66/2006](#) (in Hungarian) on certain hygienic rules applicable to foodstuffs of animal origin.
- [Decree No. 81/2002](#) (in Hungarian) on the prevention of zoonosis.
- [Decree No. 4/1998](#) (in Hungarian) on the permissible level of microbiological contamination in food. Inspection of microbiological food safety is binding on foodstuffs, food additives, treated food, raw food and food ingredients, on equipment and any surface and packaging material being in direct contact with food (technological agents), and on persons dealing with, handling, or processing foodstuffs. Procedures of microbiological analysis and judgement of foodstuffs are set out in Annex 1 of the decree. It contains rules of sampling, the list of compulsory analyses and limit values, and instructions for the evaluation of results. Distribution, utilization for human consumption, and – temporarily – the production of food must be prohibited when the contamination exceeds the limit values of microorganisms or pathogens; when any kind of toxin is traceable in infant and dietary food; and/or if the food is likely contaminated by a pathogenic microorganism based on the epidemiological inspection. Foodstuffs which are not up to standard may not be used for human consumption without transformation. The mandatory inspection of equipment and technological agents, and the cleanliness of personnel are covered by Annex 3. Annex 4 proposes analyses and limit values for facultative internal quality control, which do not substitute the official inspection.
- [Decree No. 49/2014](#) (in Hungarian) concerning limit values of contaminants and harmful substances of natural origin in food, and regarding requirements for food contact substances and objects. This decree lays down limit values of certain contaminants of technological and environmental origin and of harmful substances of natural origin. It also provides requirements relative to certain food contact substances and objects. Annex 1 contains limit values of technological contaminants and requirements regarding food contact substances and objects. Annex 2 shows limit values for environmental contaminants and Annex 3 shows those for harmful substances of natural origin.
- [Decree No. 24/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on the prohibition of hormone use, thyreostatika agents, and beta-agonists in livestock production.
- [Decree No. 10/2002](#) (in Hungarian) on monitoring investigation for control of harmful to health residues in foodstuffs of animal origin. This decree applies to breeders, traders, and processing plants of animals for food production. A national residue monitoring system must be operated, and an annual inspection plan must be released by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry coordinates the activities of institutions responsible for the implementation of this decree and collects data necessary for the evaluation of implementation. Oversight of breeders and producers is carried out by official veterinarians and the National Food Chain Safety Office according to the provisions laid down in the decree. Sanctions for offenders include quarantine measures, forced slaughtering, and seizure.

SECTION VI: OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES

Besides the relevant EU legislation, there are no specific standards for imported products in Hungary. There is no regular and mandated product testing of imports beyond those established to detect animal and plant health issues, buyers' quality control, and the annual food safety monitoring program at wholesale and retail locations.

Imported products must meet member state requirements and must be accompanied by proper certification at the port of entry. Health certificates are required for all imported products of animal origin. Phytosanitary certificates are needed for all plant products that could introduce pests into the EU. Certificates must be in Hungarian.

Food safety is a key responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture's National Food Chain Safety Office.

Enforcement and control regulations for food products are as follows:

- [Act No. XI of 1991](#) (in Hungarian) on statutory health and administrative activity.
- [Government Decree No. 578/2020](#) (in Hungarian) on the operation of the food chain control information system.
- [Government Decree No. 354/2013](#) (in Hungarian) on domestic operation of the Internal Market Information System and on the rules of participation in it.
- [Government Decree No. 186/2009](#) (in Hungarian) on fines in the case of failure to report notifiable services and on general appointment of authorities overseeing services.
- [Government Decree No. 158/2009](#) (in Hungarian) on procedures for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs, and spirits, and on the inspection of such products.
- [Decree No. 28/2017](#) (in Hungarian) on requirements for self-monitoring systems to be operated by food businesses.
- [Decree No. 66/2010](#) (in Hungarian) on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and relating to their official control.
- [Decree No. 3/2010](#) (in Hungarian) on data reporting and traceability relating to food production and sale.

Hungary applies EU-harmonized legislation to facility or product registration. In compliance with EU regulations, product registration is required only for novel foods. Food business operators can place a novel food on the market only after the EC has processed an application for the authorization and has updated the [Union list](#). Therefore, the applicant must first submit an [online application](#) for authorization to the EC before placing a novel food on the market. There is no national registration requirement for imported products. Food inspection authorities control food importers and imported products in the same way as they do domestic manufacturers and distributors.

A wide range of U.S. foodstuffs (including meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, fish and fishery products, eggs and egg products, and animal by-products, etc.) can only enter the EU market from EU approved establishments in the United States. The [non-EU country establishments database](#) can be found on the EC's food safety website.

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

- [Act No. LXXVI of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) on general rules of starting and conducting a service activity.
- [Act No. XCV of 2009](#) (in Hungarian) on the prohibition of unfair distribution practices against the suppliers of agricultural and food products.
- [Act No. CLXIV of 2005](#) on trade (in Hungarian).
- [Government Decree No. 210/2009](#) (in Hungarian) on conditions for trading activities.
- [Government Decree No. 55/2009](#) (in Hungarian) on fairs, markets, and shopping centers.

SECTION VII: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Ordinances that provide other specific standards are as follows:

Food safety measures

- [Decree No. 67/2011](#) (in Hungarian) concerning the rules of foodstuff treatment with ionizing radiation. It must be applied to the treatment of foodstuffs and food ingredients with ionizing radiation. Products permitted to be radiated with ionizing energy are dried aromatic plants, herbs, and spices. The National Food Chain Safety Office can authorize the irradiation of other foodstuffs. Note: Irradiated food from the United States is not permitted.
- [Decree No. 56/1997](#) (in Hungarian) on the conditions and the method of foodstuff destruction. Deteriorated raw or processed food, ingredients, and additives must be destroyed according to the provisions of this decree by incineration, disposal at waste disposal sites, or by treating at wastewater treatment plants. Special provisions must be applied to harmful wastes. Destruction must be carried out or commissioned to a third party by the producer, distributor, or the owner of the product. All costs of storage, transportation, guarding, and destruction are owed by the owner of seized goods.
- [Government Decree No. 5/2023](#) (in Hungarian) on the quality requirements of drinking water and its inspection procedure. The scope of this decree covers water quality control, the quality requirements of water intended for human consumption, and improvement of access to drinking water. Limit and parametric values for the quality of drinking water are contained in Annex 1.

Dietetic foods

- [Decree No. 55/2011](#) (in Hungarian) on certain aspects of the addition of vitamins, minerals, and certain other substances to foodstuffs.
- [Decree No. 20/2008](#) (in Hungarian) on infant milk and follow-on formulas.
- [Decree No. 37/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on food supplements.
- [Decree No. 36/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on food for special nutritional uses.
- [Decree No. 35/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on processed cereal-based infant and baby foods.
- [Decree No. 24/2003](#) (in Hungarian) on nutritional formulas for specific medical purposes.

Drinking water

- [Government Decree No. 5/2023](#) (in Hungarian) on the quality requirements of drinking water and its inspection procedure. As noted above, the scope of this decree covers water quality control, quality requirements of water intended for human consumption, and improvement of access to drinking water. Limit and parametric values for the quality of drinking water are contained in Annex 1.

- [Decree No. 45/2006](#) (in Hungarian) on safety regulations of production and bottling of soda water and on its storage and transportation in bottles and balloons.
- [Decree No. 65/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on the rules of bottling and marketing natural mineral water, spring water, drinking water, flavored water, and drinking water enriched with mineral substances.

Wine

If there are no other rules based on international treaties, the national wine authority must qualify wine imports:

[National Food Chain Safety Office](#) (in Hungarian)

Directorate for Wine and Alcoholic Beverages

Dayka Gábor út 3, Budapest 1118, Hungary

Tel.: +36 30 216 6303; E-mail: bor@nebih.gov.hu

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

National legislation related to wine production and trade:

- [Act No. CCXIX of 2012](#) (in Hungarian) on wine growers' associations. The purpose of the act is to protect the interests of national viticulture, improve wine quality and marketability, develop quality and origin protection, and establish self-governing wine organizations. 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, territorial and national councils, their duties, operation, and membership.
- [Act No. CLXIII of 2020](#) (in Hungarian) on Viticulture and the Wine Industry. This act regulates the planting, cultivation, and felling of grapevine; the production, distribution, and inventory of wine products as well as administrative duties and competencies related to viticulture and wine making. The act lays down rules of vine growing with special regard to vineyard cadaster and registration, allowed vine species, vineyard planting, and felling. It provides rules for wine industry products and regulates certain enological practices (e.g., sugar content, storage, registration, and treatment). The act also deals with the distribution of wine products. It contains detailed rules regarding the certification of grape and wine origin. It determines the competent authorities for viticulture and the wine industry, their duties, and competences (e.g., inspection of plantations, origin and quality control, control of production process, compliance with laws, and sanctions).
- [Government Decree No. 435/2021](#) on official procedures and reporting obligations in the grape and wine sector.

Catering

- [Decree No. 37/2014](#) (in Hungarian) on nutrition and health regulations for public catering.
- [Decree No. 62/2011](#) (in Hungarian) on food safety rules for the production and marketing of catering products. It applies to commercial and public catering including free tastings and catering linked to promotional activities. The decree regulates food storage, hygiene, and labeling, and lays down rules for freezing and ice cream production.

Gene technology activities:

- [Basic Law](#) (in Hungarian).
Hungary's Constitution bans the cultivation of GE crops:
"Constitution, Chapter 'Freedom and Responsibility' Article XX
(1) All have the right to physical and spiritual health.
(2) Hungary promotes the realization of the rights as stated in paragraph (1) by operating an agriculture free of genetically modified organisms, by providing access to healthy food and drinking water, by organizing labor safety and health care, by subsidizing sports and regular physical training and by ensuring protection of the environment."
- [Act No. XXVII of 1998](#) (in Hungarian) on biotechnology activities. The legislative goal was to prevent the unregulated entry of GE plant varieties into production in Hungary. The act gave expanded powers to environmental, agricultural, and industrial biotechnology authorities and mandated GE variety owners to cooperate with them.
- [Act No. LIII of 1996](#) (in Hungarian) on nature conservation. It was the first law in Hungary to include provisions on GE organisms. The law declared that the creation of such organisms; conducting experiments with them; their cultivation, imports, or exports may only occur according to certain conditions.
- [Government Decree No. 132/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on the authorization procedure of gene technology activity and on coordination with the European Commission in the course of that.
- [Decree No. 86/2006](#) (in Hungarian) on coexistence measures on the cultivation of genetically modified, conventional, and organic plants.
- [Decree No. 31/2006](#) (in Hungarian) on the import and distribution of certain genetically modified feeds.
- [Decree No. 142/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on certain rules of gene technology activity in the field of agriculture and industry.
- [Decree No. 48/2004](#) (in Hungarian) concerning the production and marketing of seeds of arable crop species.
- [Decree No. 128/2003](#) (in Hungarian) on the organization and the activity of the Gene Technology Advisory Committee.
- [Decree No. 111/2003](#) (in Hungarian) on activities that shall be considered as gene technology activity, and on authorities that are entitled to control such activities.
- [Decree No. 82/2003](#) (in Hungarian) on rules of registration and reporting of gene technology activity, and on the documentation that shall be enclosed in the notification (application for authorization) of such activities.

SECTION VIII. GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

In the EU's system, intellectual property rights and names of products registered as geographical indications (GIs) are legally protected against imitation and misuse within the EU and in non-EU countries where a specific protection agreement has been signed. On May 13, 2024, a new regulation ([EU 2024/1143](#)) on “geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks, and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialties guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products” entered into force. The regulation improves the protection of GI materials used as ingredients in processed products and of GI goods sold online. The measure also strengthens the protection of GI names in the domain name system. For detailed information, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [EC websites](#) on GIs.

The relevant Hungarian legislation on the protection of trademarks and GIs is as follows:

- [Act No. XI of 1997](#) (in Hungarian) on the protection of trademarks and geographical indications.
- [Government Decree No. 158/2009](#) (in Hungarian) regarding the procedure for the protection of geographical indications of agricultural products, foodstuffs, and spirits as well as the inspection of these products.
- [Decree No. 16/2004](#) (in Hungarian) on detailed formal requirements of trademark applications, and applications for the protection of geographical indications.

Hungary has a complete codification covering the protection of industrial property, copyright, and authors' rights ([Act No. XXXIII of 1995](#) on invention protection by patents, in Hungarian). Regarding industrial properties, the law regulates patents, trademarks, utility models, and industrial designs, and deals with trade secrets and good commercial practices. Trademarks and brand names are legally protected in Hungary. The country is an active member of the [World Intellectual Property Organization](#).

Companies interested in the registration of trademarks or brand names must apply to the [Hungarian Intellectual Property Office](#), where information folders and application forms are available.

Hungarian Intellectual Property Office
II. János Pál pápa tér 7, Budapest 1081, Hungary
Tel.: +36 1 312 4400; E-mail: hipo@hipo.gov.hu

Those companies which also export to other EU member states may want to consider obtaining European Community Trademarks. For detailed information please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#).

SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES

Hungary is a landlocked country. Direct import volumes of U.S. processed foods are typically low. Most imports are transshipped to Hungary by middlemen in Germany, the Netherlands, or other receiving ports in the EU. For detailed information on the EU's import legislation, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#) as well as the [EC websites](#) on import conditions.

The EU requires its member states to designate certain border checkpoints for imports where shipments of specific products coming from non-EU countries can be handled. During these

procedures, export certificates must be submitted in the official language of Hungary, which is Hungarian.

The [Department of Trade, Defense Industry, Export Control and Precious Metal Assay](#) of the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest issues import licenses for agricultural products, in accordance with the EU legislation. Usually the importer applies to the authority filling out the [prescribed form](#) (in Hungarian) with all relevant details. Depending on the business agreement, in some cases the exporter does this instead.

For non-harmonized exports of live animals and animal products to Hungary, applications must be submitted to the Directorate for Animal Health, Animal Welfare, and Veterinary Products of the National Food Chain Safety Office:

[National Food Chain Safety Office](#) (in Hungarian)
Directorate for Animal Health, Animal Welfare, and Veterinary Products
Keleti Károly utca 24, Budapest 1024, Hungary
Tel: +36 1 336 9302; E-mail: aaati@nebih.gov.hu

Imported goods are subject to a Value Added Tax, which is managed by the importer or the distributor. Certain imports of commodities (e.g., alcoholic beverages) may require special licensing and procedures, and may also be subject to an excise tax.

SECTION X. TRADE FACILITATION

Regarding border inspections, trade facilitation, advance rulings, pre-clearance programs, and the acceptance of electronic certificates, Hungary directly applies the related EU regulations. For detailed information, please consult the [EU 27 FAIRS Report](#).

Consignments of plant or animal origin from third countries, or those arriving from EU member states through the territory of a third country to the Hungarian border are subject to sanitary (clinical, identity, and animal welfare) or phytosanitary inspections. As stipulated by [Act No. CL of 2016](#) (in Hungarian), the timeframe for carrying out inspections and related administrative steps is 24 hours in the case of “automatic” decisions, eight days in accelerated and simplified procedures, and 60 days if a full administrative process is needed.

Administrative service fees of the National Food Chain Safety Office and agricultural administrative units of county government offices, and detailed rules for the payment of these fees are laid down in [Decree No. 63/2012](#) (in Hungarian).

APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

Ministry of Agriculture (in Hungarian)

Address: Apáczai Csere János u. 9, Budapest 1052, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 795 2000; E-mail: info@am.gov.hu

Ministry of Agriculture

Department of Food Chain Control

Address: Apáczai Csere János u. 9, Budapest 1052, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 795 3762; E-mail: effo@am.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office (in Hungarian)

Directorate for Animal Health, Animal Welfare, and Veterinary Products

Address: Keleti Károly utca 24, Budapest 1024, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 336 9302; E-mail: aaati@nebih.gov.hu

National Food Chain Safety Office (in Hungarian)

Directorate for Plant Protection

Dayka Gábor út 3, Budapest 1118, Hungary

Tel.: +36 30 216 6303; E-mail: ni@nebih.gov.hu

Government Office of the Capital City Budapest

Department of Trade and Export Control (in Hungarian)

Address: Németvölgyi út 37-39, 1124 Budapest, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 458 5564; E-mail: keo@bfkh.gov.hu

National Center of Public Health and Pharmacy (in Hungarian)

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

Tel.: +36 1 476 1100; E-mail: info@egeszsegvonat.gov.hu; tisztifoorvos@nnk.gov.hu

APPENDIX II. OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

Hungarian Intellectual Property Office

Address: II. János Pál pápa tér 7, Budapest 1081, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 312 4400; E-mail: hipo@hipo.gov.hu

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

Address: Oroszvég lejtő 16, Budapest 1112, Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 336 1166; Email: info@biokontroll.hu

Attachments:

No Attachments