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This table summarises the general requirements and standards for food and agricultural imports into Czech Republic.

Certification/ Requirements	Remarks
Food Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member of the European Union (EU)• The Czech food legislation reflects EU Parliament and Council Regulation 178/2002• All EU Regulations and Decisions (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm) apply directly and overrule Czech legislation• All acts in Czech language can be found on the Ministry of Interior web page: www.mvcr.cz• Imported food products have the same status as domestically produced products according to Food Act 110/1997 and amendments and decrees.
Enforcement Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to Food Act 110/1997 four government bodies are responsible for control and enforcement of laws connected to food:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Under the Ministry of Health:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Offices of Public Health Protection, Act 258/2000 on protection of public health- Under the Ministry of Agriculture (www.mze.cz):<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ State Veterinary Administration (www.svscr.cz) with 14 regional offices, Veterinary act 166/1999▪ The Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA - www.szpi.gov.cz), Act 146/2002 on CAFIA▪ Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (CISTA - www.ukzuz.cz), Act 147/2002▪ Food Authority - responsible for the entire food related area (production, trade, legislation, food safety and quality)• Basic EU legal regulation for official controls on foodstuffs and feedstuffs, animal health and animal welfare is Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.
Phytosanitary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required for some plants• State Phytosanitary Administration (www.svs.cz) is the competent authority for plant health and pesticides• Please refer to the Act on State Phytosanitary Administration 326/2004, available at https://www.ippc.int/file_uploaded/1207210844593_CZ_Act_on_plant_health_326_2004_AJ.doc
Product Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to the Food Act 110/97, all food processors and importers have to be registered by the Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA - www.szpi.gov.cz)• Products of animal origin also have to be registered by the State Veterinary

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	Administration (www.svscr.cz).
GMO free certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most retailers require a certificate from an importer that states the product is "GMO free" (less than 0.9%, without a label). • The importers must take a sample of each product to the Research Institute for Plant Production and consult with specialists regarding which ingredients could contain biotech content. • If a product contains less than 0.9% biotech content it will be granted a certificate that states it does not contain "GMOs", if the content is over 0.9% biotech content and if the biotech product is approved, the product must be labeled.
CAFIA Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for fresh fruit and vegetables, dried fruit and nuts, and mushrooms
Import Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU's import regulations apply for import to the Czech Republic. • EU's requirements for import of products of veterinary origin may be found in English on the web page of the State Veterinary Administration: http://www.svscr.cz/dokumenty/eu/dovoz/dovoz_en.html • Tariff schedule of the EU applies for products imported to the Czech Republic. The rates are on this web page: http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/dds/cgi-bin/tarchap?Lang=EN
Labelling	Remarks
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food law 110/1997 (paragraphs 6, 7 and 8) including all its amendments and directive 113/2005 provide general rules for food labeling • Labelling regulations are enforced by The Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA) and the State Veterinary Administration • No special shelf life or country-of-origin requirements
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech language • Stick-on labels in Czech are widely used on imported products; the text on the original and Czech translation has to be identical.
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the product and category (e.g. dried, frozen, concentrated, smoked, etc.) • Name and address of producer or importer • Country of origin • Net weight • Expiration date: day/month/year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if it is less than three months a year does not have to be listed, if it is over three months a day does not have to be listed

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- exceptions that do not require expiration date: fresh fruit/vegetables, spirits, wine, bakery products with usual shelf life of 24 hours, salt, natural sweeteners besides powder sugar, chewing gum, and vinegar• Storage conditions, where necessary<ul style="list-style-type: none">- whether they can influence duration of the food (e.g. frozen fish keep in -6C a week, -12C a month, -18C 12 months)- if conditions change after opening a special expiration date for after opening has to on the label (e.g. use by 5/05, after opening keep refrigerated for 1 month)• Instructions for use• List of ingredients by the amount in food<ul style="list-style-type: none">- if some ingredient consists of others that has over 25% share on total product weight, a detailed list of ingredients with percentage has to be in brackets following the general category (e.g. dried soup: dehydrated meat 30%, pasta 20%, vegetables 30% (carrots 10%, parsley 10%, onion 10%), salt 5% etc.), if salt's share on total product weight exceeds 2.5% its content has to be in percent.• Information on irradiation of food• If the products is for special diet it has to be on the label• Quality category <p>Exemption: Food samples</p>
Nutritional Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory for all foods• Decree 450/2004 on labeling of nutritional information includes labeling of nutritional value such as content of protein, carbohydrates, fat, fibers, minerals and vitamins. It contains a list of recommended daily intake (RDI) of vitamins and minerals, requirements on health statements such as "could cause allergic reaction" etc., methods for setting nutritional value, information on calculation of total dietary fiber etc.• Czech recommended daily (RDI) intake is treated in directive 54/2004 product for special diet• Decree 113/2005 amended by decrees 368/2005, 497/2005 and 4/2007 on labeling of food also covers requirements regarding nutritional labeling.• Claims that are forbidden to appear on the label:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- this product is a source of all necessary nutrients unless it concerns food for special diet- regular foodstuffs do not contain necessary quantities of nutrients, which is present in

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	<p>this product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- this product has a higher or special nutritional value as a result of use of additives without a regular nutritional testing- this products has special characteristics because similar food has the same characteristics- this food is appropriate for prevention or cure of some health problem unless it is a product for special diet- words containing "eco", "bio" unless the products comes from organic farming- words "home made", "fresh", "live", "natural", "real", "rational" unless this word is part of the name of a product category according to special regulation- food for special diet unless it was approved by the Ministry of Health for this purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implied claims such as "you would not believe that something so light could taste so good" are not strictly forbidden but are not recommended since they are misleading.
Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three decrees regulate use of food additives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 54/2002, amended by 318/2003, 270/2005 and 514/2006 on identity and purity of additives- 304/2004 on kinds and conditions for use of additives in food- 447/2004 on kinds and conditions for use of aroma essences in food• Authorities keep both positive lists with allowed additives and a negative list with products that are not additives (e.g. vitamins, minerals, pesticides, etc.). Both lists are in the above-mentioned decrees in Czech only.• Exceptions must be granted by The Ministry of Health after testing the product by the State Health Institute.• EU's additives page: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/additives/index_en.htm
Special Diet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decree 54/2004 lists foods for special diet (baby food, low sodium diet, low calories diet, low protein content, supplements for sportsmen, etc.) and conditions for labeling.• Labeling on food for special diet may not contain health claims, words "diet" or "dia" unless it in connection with a special diet.
Novel Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Novel foods are foods and food ingredients that have not been used for human consumption to a significant degree within the Community before 15 May 1997.• Labeling of novel foods must be in compliance with EU regulations: Regulation of the European Parliament and Council 258/1997, Commission Regulation 49/2000, Commission Regulation 50/2000, and Commission Regulation 1830/2003 on traceability

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Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	<p>and labeling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Czech act 78/2004 and decree 209/2004 on handling GMOs sets the conditions for contained use, field tests, placing on the market, and requirements for applications for registration, risk assessment, labeling requirements, and a plan for handling accidents.• EU regulation No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed lay down Community procedures for the authorization and supervision of genetically modified (GM) food and feed and also lay down provisions for the labeling of GM food and feed.• EU regulation No 1830/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the traceability and labeling of genetically modified organisms and traceability of food and feed products produced from GMOs and amending Directive 2001/18/EC.• Even products with no detectable protein (e.g. oil) must be labeled if they are produced from GMOs.• The threshold for labeling is > 0.9% of particular GMO.• Labeling must contain words "genetically modified" or "produced from genetically modified soy/corn etc." as part of the ingredient list concerned with label/tag.• Unique identifiers of particular GMOs should be included on the label/tag.
Organic Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control and certification of Organic (Bio) Products is by Certification Department of KEZ (Control of Ecological Farming): www.kez.cz• Products of plant and animal origin certified by a control body have on the label word "bio", identification code of the control body and if possible a graphic symbol.• Products that are not certified may not use word "bio" on the label.• In case of transitional period (lasting at least 12 months), product of plant origin has on the label "product from transitional period into organic farming" in letters smaller than in words "ecological farming".• Foods containing at least 95% of bio products and bio additives and that are certified by a control body have on the label word "bio", identification number of a control body, and a graphic symbol if possible.• Labels of bio products may not contain any claim that the product has higher nutritional value or any other health claim.
Other Information	

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Wine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act on Viticulture and Wine Growing 321/2004 (Wine Act) defines wine appellations, conditions for opening new vineyards, wine production, sets requirements for production, stocks registration, labeling, and defines wine varieties. There are three decrees connected to the wine act:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 323/2004 amended by 437/2005 specification of the wine act- 324/2004 on wine appellations- 97/2006 on support of wine sales and development of the tourism in the area of the viticulture• Conditions for wine import are in the European Council Regulation 883/2001
Foodstuffs of Animal Origins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinary act 166/199 (with some amendments) deals with animal health issues, transportation of animals, slaughter house conditions, conditions for meat processors, animal diseases, veterinary control, and safety of foodstuffs of animal origin
Organic Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act on organic production 242/2000 sets conditions for registration, requirements on production, labeling, import, and control system.• Importers of bio products (products from organic farming) must deliver a certificate of organic origin of the product to the control body and to the person who places product on the market (e.g. retailer).• Control and Certification of Organic (Bio) Products is by Certification Department of KEZ (Control of Ecological Farming), www.kez.cz• Commission Regulation 1788/2001 from September 2001 set conditions for import certificates from third countries based on Article 11 of Council Regulation 2092/91 on organic products.
Products for the Food Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have to labeled like products for the end consumer, but not their packaging, which only has to carry name of the product, expiration date, quality category, irradiation information.• Other information from the label on products inside this package has to be in the documentation.
Packaging & Container Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act 477/2001 on packaging (with some amendments) specifies requirements on packaging materials:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 116/2002 on labeling of refundable packaging materials- 641/2004 on methods of registration and evidence of packaging• Government regulation 111/2002 sets refund levels for various refundable materials.• There are no special packaging requirements or container size requirements.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Companies that put food in packages are obligated to collect used packaging according to Act 477/2001. The Act sets criteria for "authorized packaging material companies" that are responsible for collection and use of used materials. Attachment two of Act 477/2001 specifies conditions for recyclable materials and then system of collection.Decree 38/2001 amended by 186/2003, 207/2006 and 551/2006 on conditions for hygiene of products that come into contact with food sets detailed requirements for packaging materials for food products and specifies act 258/2000 on public health protection. The decree lists maximum limits of chemical substances that may be used in the packaging material, so that it does not contaminate food.
Pesticide & Other Contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The maximum content of toxins, myco-toxins, metals, histamines and similar substances, which can be found in food products and other conditions connected to health standards of food products are regulated by decree 305/2004.Permitted pesticides and their limits are stated in decree 158/2004 on maximum residue limits for pesticides in foodstuffs.According to Act 326/2004 on State Phytosanitary Administration (SPA) (amended by 626/2004, 444/2005 and 131/2006) and decree 329/2004 on plant protection products (pesticides) (amended by 371/2006) all allowed pesticides must be in the central register of the State Phytosanitary Administration.Act 326/2004 also sets requirements for plant protection with regard to food production.A list of approved pesticides can be found on the web page of SPA: www.srs.cz (on the left side "register").Decree 273/2000 amended by 106/2002 and 44/2004 lists maximum limits of veterinary medications and biologically active substances used in the animal production in foodstuffs.

Reference: USDA FAS GAIN Report

EC Directives (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>)Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA) (www.szpi.gov.cz)**DISCLAIMER:**

This document has been prepared by SPRING Singapore with the intention of assisting Singapore based exporters of food products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this document, the information may not be completely accurate as policies may have changed or clear and consistent information on these policies were not available. They cannot be taken as the official interpretation of the regulations. It is highly recommended that Singapore based exporters verify the full set of certification and import requirements with the relevant authorities in importing country. **Please note that final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by custom officials at the point of entry.**