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RUSSIAN FOOD EMBARGO

In response to the sanctions related to the Crimea crisis, the Russian president signed on 6 August 2014 a decree "On the application of certain special economic measures to ensure the security of the Russian Federation".

The decree prohibits import into the territory of the Russian Federation of certain agricultural products, raw materials and foodstuffs originating from certain countries. All the member-states of the EU are under the embargo.

The list of banned products was modified by the Russian government several times.

In 2016, a modification decree provided for possibility to import certain products under the embargo if destined for the production of [baby food](#).

In 2017, the Russian Government extended the scope of the embargo to live pigs (except if purebred and destined for breeding) and to fat and offal of certain animals (except if intended for the production of pharmaceuticals).

The list of the banned products can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/russian-import-ban/pdf/banned-products_en.pdf

The embargo **was extended until 31 December 2020**.

What products are covered by the Russian sanctions?

The Russian measures cover meat, dairy, fruit and vegetables and certain process products bans the following products from the EU, United States, Canada, Australia and Norway:

- Live swine (except for pure-bred breeding animals)
- Meat of bovine animals, fresh, chilled or frozen
- Edible offal of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats, horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen (except for products for the production of pharmaceutical products)
- Pork, fresh, chilled or frozen
- Meat and edible offal, of the poultry, fresh, chilled or frozen
- Meat salted, in brine, dried or smoked

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- Pig fat, free of lean meat, and poultry fat, not rendered or otherwise extracted, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
- Fats of bovine animals, sheep or goats
- Lard stearin, lard oil, oleostearin, oleo-oil and tallow oil, not emulsified or mixed or otherwise prepared”
- Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates
- Milk and dairy products
- Vegetables, edible roots and tubers
- Fruit and nuts
- Sausages and similar products of meat, meat offal or blood; food preparations based thereon
- Several products of processed food, including malt extract and preparations of flour and starch content
- Salt and pure sodium chloride

These were subsequently adjusted to **exclude** certain niche products such as:

- lactose-free milk and lactose-free milk products
- seed potatoes, seed onion, sugar maize hybrid for planting, peas for planting
- hatchlings of salmon (*Salmo salar*) and trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- biologically active supplements; vitamin-mineral complexes; flavour additives; protein concentrates and their mixtures; food fibres; food additives
- products intended for the production of pharmaceutical products

What products still can be imported?

A wide range of products which are **not** covered by the ban (Harmonized System Codes):

Group 17	SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY
Group 18	COCOA AND COCOA PREPARATIONS
Group 20	PREPARATIONS OF VEGETABLES, FRUIT, NUTS OR OTHER PARTS OF PLANTS
Group 22	BEVERAGES, SPIRITS AND VINEGAR
Group 23	FOOD INDUSTRIES, RESIDUES AND WASTES THEREOF; PREPARED ANIMAL FODDER
Group 24	TOBACCO AND MANUFACTURED TOBACCO SUBSTITUTES

As for the banned groups of products, some exceptions remain.

Independently of the HS code, the products destined to babies are free from the ban.

You can always check the situation for every product in accordance with its HS code.

Here below some examples of exempted products:

MEAT :

- 0204** Meat of sheep or goats; fresh, chilled or frozen
- 0205 00** Meat of horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen
- 0208** Meat and edible meat offal, n.e.c. in chapter 2; fresh, chilled or frozen

PREPARATIONS OF CEREALS, FLOUR, STARCH OR MILK; PASTRYCOOKS' PRODUCTS

- 1901** Malt extract; flour/groats/meal/starch/malt extract products, no cocoa (or less than 40% by weight) and food preparations of goods of headings 04.01 to 04.04, no cocoa (or less than 5% by weight), weights calculated on a totally defatted basis, n.e.c.
- 1902** Pasta; whether or not cooked or stuffed with meat or other substance, or otherwise prepared, egg spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, lasagne, gnocchi, ravioli, cannelloni; couscous, whether or not prepared
- 1903** Tapioca and substitutes therefor prepared from starch; in the form of flakes, grains, pearls, siftings or similar forms
- 1904** Prepared foods obtained by swelling or roasting cereals or cereal products (e.g. corn flakes); cereals (other than maize (corn)) in grain form or in the form of flakes or other worked grains (not flour and meal), pre-cooked or otherwise prepared, n.e.c.
- 1905** Bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits, other bakers' wares, whether or not containing cocoa; communion wafers, empty cachets suitable for pharmaceutical use, sealing wafers, rice paper and similar products

MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PREPARATIONS

- 2101** Extracts, essences, concentrates of coffee, tea or mate; preparations with a basis of these products or with a basis of coffee, tea or mate; roasted chicory and other roasted coffee substitutes and extracts, essences and concentrates thereof
- 2102** Yeasts (active or inactive); other single-cell micro-organisms, dead (but not including vaccines of heading no. 3002); prepared baking powders
- 2103** Sauces and preparations therefor; mixed condiments and mixed seasonings, mustard flour and meal and prepared mustard
- 2104** Soups and broths and preparations therefor; homogenised composite food preparations
- 2105** Ice cream and other edible ice; whether or not containing cocoa
- 2106** Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included

September 17, 2019

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