

Import of food and raw materials from EU

Czech agriculture and food inspection authority is the state body that controls food on the Czech market (not a carnal food). Unfortunately Authority does not provide to producers and distributors relevant information in English language.

See basic information for distributors we provide for our clients:

General information on import of food imported to the Czech Republic from another EU country. Foods that arrive on the Czech market from another EU country are not considered as imported. The so-called free movement of goods is applied within the EU member states. You do not need any special licenses or certificates to trade. Food must be of course safe, properly labeled and must comply with the relevant generally applicable legislation.

General requirements

All foods marketed within the EU must meet the general labeling requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 (labeling requirements have been incorporated in our country into Act No. 110/1997 Coll., as amended and Decree No 113 / 2005 Coll., On the method of labeling of food and tobacco products, as amended - the decree will be replaced in the first half of 2015 by a new decree). An important regulation is Regulation 178/2002 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, as amended.

Commodity requirements (harmonized and non-harmonized sphere, the principle of mutual recognition)

Food can fall into either a harmonized sphere (for food there is a European legal regulation) or non-harmonized (for food there is no European regulation). In the case of a harmonized sphere, the food must comply with the requirements laid down in the relevant European legislation. In the case of a non-harmonized sphere, the requirements of the national law of the Member State where the food was first manufactured or first placed by the importer within the EU must be met (e.g. If Czech bread meets the requirements set by our commodity decree, it can not be refused in another EU member state, if it is safe - **the principle of mutual recognition**). The principle of mutual recognition is regulated in Section 11(a) of the Food Act and is the basic principle for the placing of food from other EU Member States on the Czech market.

Free movement of goods and control

A prerequisite for the free movement of goods is the harmonization of the national regulations of individual countries with European ones. The free movement of goods is also possible because all Member States have similar practices in the field of food safety.

See: <http://www.szpi.gov.cz>

For more information contact our attorney at law office. We provide also information related to advertisement of the food products, food supplements, food for particular nutritional uses and others. <http://www.ondrejova.cz/en/contact>