

## **Brief on new requirements for import of food and feed products, as well as food contact materials in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

New Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Food Safety has entered into force effective 1 January 2023. This law envisages amendments to requirements for import of food and feed products, as well as food contact materials in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In accordance with this Law:

1. Food facilities producing and processing food and feed products of animal and plant origin, list of which is defined by the Article 24.5, to be imported to the customs territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be approved by the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (*hereinafter – the Agency*). If there is a relevant official information on the approval of food facilities by the authorized body of the country, where the equivalence of the approval system is recognized, re-approval of such food facilities is not required, according to Article 20.4 of the Law.
2. New type of food products, feed products containing genetically modified organisms or products derived from genetically modified organisms, natural mineral waters (*requirement for such products will enter into force on May 5, 2023*), food and feed additives and biologically active food supplements are permitted to be imported to Azerbaijan upon their proper registration, in accordance with Article 25 of the Law.
3. If labels, names, composition, shelf life and explanatory notes about the rules of usage of the products imported to the Republic of Azerbaijan are in foreign language their translation into the Azerbaijani shall be ensured, in accordance with Article 17 of the Law.
4. Taking into account the risk level, import to the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan of food and feed products, list of which is defined by Article 20.6 of the Law, shall be accompanied by appropriate documents confirming safety of those products.
5. The importer intending to import food and feed products, as well as food contact materials into the customs territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan or his/her authorized representative shall send electronic notification to the Agency before imported products are brought to the customs territory, in accordance with Article 20.8 of the Law. If food and feed products, as well as the food contact materials imported to the customs territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan meet food safety requirements, the Agency draws up an act on the sanitary condition of product and submits it to importer for further proceeding, in accordance with Article 31.7 of the Law.

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