



**PROTOCOL
ON
MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS
ISSUED BY ACCREDITED LABORATORIES FOR FOOD AND FEED
BETWEEN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
AND
FOOD AND VETERINARY AGENCY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on behalf of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia (hereafter: "the Parties");

In order to enable transportation of food and feed (hereafter; "food") in a manner that will not limit trade between the Parties while maintaining the required level of protection of life and health of human beings, animals and plants;

Bearing in mind the obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Macedonia under bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements, as well as the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Accreditation between the Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia, Protocol on Implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Accreditation between the Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia, Conclusions on Cooperation in the Field of Accreditation between the Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia, Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA 2006) and the appropriate rules of the World Trade Organization;

Recognizing that mutual recognition of documents issued by the accredited laboratories is an important instrument of improved access to markets of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Macedonia;

Desiring to facilitate bilateral trade between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Macedonia;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
(Import and Transit)

Import and transit of food shipments may be conducted if the conditions stipulated under the food regulations of the importing country have been met.

Article 2
(Lists of Accredited Laboratories)

1. The Parties agree that their respective competent authorities will recognize and accept proof that the legally prescribed conditions for food have been met based on the reports of accredited laboratories from the list of accredited laboratories of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Macedonia.
2. Lists of accredited laboratories together with accredited methods are placed at the web sites: www.bata.gov.ba for the Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and www.iarm.gov.mk for the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia.
3. Lists of accredited laboratories together with accredited methods shall be compiled by Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia.
4. Each Party may visit the accredited laboratories of the other party, in order to get acquainted on the spot with the functioning of the examination system.
5. These visits will take place with a prior announcement and approval of the Party on whose territory the accredited laboratory referred to in paragraph 2 of this article is situated.
6. If it is established during the visit that there is a reason to remove the accredited laboratory, the request will be communicated to the other Party.

Article 3
(Required Documents)

1. Shipments of food and feed which are accompanied not only by the mandatory prescribed documentation but also by the Examination Report issued by an accredited body of the exporting country, will be released to be traded freely on the market of the importing country in accordance with the above mentioned document and the applicable procedures of the border inspection services, if they meet conditions for imports in accordance with other regulations.
2. This Protocol shall not apply to food shipments that are not accompanied by the Examination Report issued by an accredited laboratory of the exporting country.

Article 4
(Notifications)

1. If it is established during import that a food shipment does not fulfill the stipulated requirements for food of the importing country, the competent authorities of the importing Party will immediately notify the competent authorities of the exporting Party and undertake measures in accordance with their national regulations.
2. Competent authorities of the Parties will inform each other on measures limiting or forbidding import of food, in accordance with the previous paragraph.

Article 5
(Competent Authorities)

This Protocol will be implemented by the competent food safety agencies of the Parties in accordance with their respective national regulations.

Article 6
(Implementation of the Protocol)

1. Authorized representatives of the Parties will meet whenever necessary and at least once a year in order to consider the implementation of this Protocol and any other question that may arise from its implementation.
2. Each Party may request a meeting in accordance with Article 7 of this Protocol.
3. Meetings will be held alternately in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Macedonia. Time and place of each meeting will be determined by mutual agreement.
4. Each Party will cover the costs of its delegation.

Article 7
(Initiating a Meeting)

1. It is the right of each Party to initiate the holding of a meeting, which can be done according to a regular procedure or an emergency procedure.
2. The holding of a meeting may be initiated as follows:
 - a) According to the regular procedure, announced at the latest a month before the date of the meeting, with a list of questions and areas to be discussed.
 - b) According to the emergency procedure, announced at the latest a week before the meeting, with a detailed written explanation of reasons for its initiation and determination of the necessary participants.

3. Notwithstanding the meetings, the Parties will continuously exchange all other information that influence directly or indirectly the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 8
(Obligations under other International Treaties)

This Protocol shall not apply to rights and obligations of the Parties originating from other international treaties to which they are parties.

Article 9
(Amendments to the Protocol)

1. Provisions of this Protocol may be amended if there is agreement of both Parties.
2. Amendments will enter into force in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of this Protocol.

Article 10
(Entry into Force)

This Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth (30th) day from the date of its signing.

Article 11
(Transitional and Final Provisions)

This Protocol is concluded for a period of five (5) years and will be automatically extended for further one-year periods until one Party cancels it at the latest 30 days before its expiry and notifies the other Party about it through diplomatic channels.

Done at SKOPJE on 21. 11. 2014. in two originals in 3 official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian), Macedonian and English, whereby all texts are equally authentic. In case of different interpretations, the English text will prevail.

**For the Ministry of Foreign Trade and
Economic Relations
of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

MSc Boris Tučić
Minister

**For the Food and Veterinary Agency
of the Republic of Macedonia**

Zoran Popovski
Director