

Regulatory Updates on Food Traceability and
Fiscal Stamps Application

Newsletter



New Rules on Food's Traceability

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development issued the instruction no. 15, dated 10.04.2025 *"On indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs"* (the **"Instruction"**), which is partly harmonized with Directive 2011/91/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011. The Instruction was published with the Official Gazette no. 69, dated 18.04.2025.

The Instruction aims to strengthen the traceability system of foodstuff through placement in various marketing stages of food of the lot, composed with identification indicators of letters or numbers, making possible to responsible authorities and business operators to effectively monitor and administer the foodstuff.

For purpose of the Instruction 'lot' means a batch of sales units of a foodstuff delivered at the same time and produced, manufactured or packaged under practically the same conditions.

A foodstuff may not be marketed (sold in the market) unless it is accompanied by an indication as referred to in the Instruction. This does not apply:

- a) to agricultural products which, on leaving the holding, are:
 - i. sold or delivered to temporary storage, preparation or packaging stations.
 - ii. transported to producers' organizations; or
 - iii. collected for immediate integration into an operational preparation or processing system.
- b) when, at the point of sale to the ultimate consumer, the foodstuffs are not

prepackaged, are packaged at the request of the purchaser or are prepackaged for immediate sale.

- c) to packaging or containers the largest side of which has an area of less than 10 cm².
- d) to individual portions of ice cream. The indication enabling the lot to be identified shall appear on the combined package.

The lot shall be determined in each case by the producer, the manufacturer or packager of the foodstuff in question, or the first seller established in the Republic of Albania.

The indication referred to in the Instruction shall be determined and affixed under the responsibility of the operators who perform processes in the food chain. It shall be preceded by the letter 'L' except in cases where it is clearly distinguishable from the other indications on the label.

When the foodstuffs are prepackaged, the indication referred to in the Instruction and, where appropriate, the letter 'L' shall appear on the prepackaging or on a label attached thereto. When the foodstuffs are not prepackaged, the indication and, where appropriate, the letter 'L' shall appear on the packaging or on the container or, failing that, on the relevant commercial documents.



It shall in all cases appear in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and indelible.

When the date of minimum durability or 'use by' date appears on the label, the indication referred to in the Instruction does not need to appear on the foodstuff, provided that the date consists at least of the uncoded indication of the day and the month in that order.

The National Food Authority is in charge to monitor the stock of these products until their complete sale. The Instruction enters into force on the **1st of January 2026**. Foodstuff labeled before the date of entry into force of Instruction shall continue to be marketed.

Updated Rules on Fiscal Labeling for Excise Products in Albania

The Minister of Finance has issued the instruction no. 9, dated 27.03.2025, *"On the modalities of application of fiscal stamps in tobacco products, beer and alcohol"* (the **"Instruction"**), repealing the instruction of the Minister of Finance no. 19, dated 01.09.2011 *"On the modalities of application of fiscal stamps in tobacco products, beer and alcohol"*, as amended. The Instruction was published with the Official Gazette no. 62, dated 27.03.2025 and has entered into force with its publication.

According to the new Instruction, the application of fiscal stamps in products has double purpose. It makes the counting of products possible by facilitating the collection of taxes and improving the safety and authenticity of the products to the benefit of the consumer. Also, it allows the tracking of products within the territory of Albania in such a manner to identify the origin and legality of those products and to eliminate illegal products, such as manufacture and sale of counterfeit products.

Manufacturers and importers place and mark all excise products in conformity with the Instruction by using excise stamps and security codes (together "fiscal stamps").

The Instruction provides for information on the placement of fiscal stamps for these products:

- Wine, distilled alcohol, brandy and pure alcohol.
- Beer.
- Cider.
- Tobacco.

According to the Instruction, the "supplier" of fiscal stamps is the public legal entity authorized for the production, distribution and establishment of the system for tracking and control of stamps, as defined by the Council of Ministers. Currently, the supplier is the company ALBTrace Co SHA that has replaced the former concessionary (SICPA Security Solutions Albania).

The rules for ordering fiscal stamps are similar to the old ones.

Regarding orders from importers, it is provided that the GCD approves at the same time the order of stamps and their delivery to the recipient. The stamps should re-enter Albanian territory (as part of the product) within one year from their delivery to the foreign producer. This term may be extended by the GCD upon a reasonable request of the importer.

The placement of excise stamps in the product has not changed.

Under the transitory provisions of the Instruction, fiscal stamps that were ordered and approved by customs authorities by 31.12.2024, and that were sent to the manufacturer or trader by 31.03.2025 will be allowed to be used within 1 (one) year from the date of delivery but no later than 30.3.2026. Unused stamps must be returned in Albania to be destroyed.

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If you wish to know more on issues highlighted in this edition, you may approach your usual contact at our firm or the following:

Tirana Office

Green Park Buildings
Ibrahim Rugova Str. 40/3
1019 Tirana, Albania
PO Box 8264, Tirana
Tel: +355 4 2251 050

Pristina Office

Dukagjini Center
Xhevdet Doda Str. 21
Entry B/4, Suites B1, B2
10000 Pristina, Kosovo
Tel: +383 38 725025

Email: boga@bogalaw.com

Web: www.bogalaw.com

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