

Terms of Reference

National Consultant on Trade Facilitation and Quality
related Obstacles to Trade

Hiring request form

Selected Candidate	
Hiring manager	Bonthonneau Pierre
Hiring Section	DMD/TFPB
Type of Consultant	National Consultant
Title of Assignment	National expert on trade facilitation and quality related obstacles to import of Dairy products from Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan
Justification for selection	
Other candidates considered	
Duty station	Home based
Contract type	Delivery
Proposed daily fee (USD)	
Contract to be issued in:	USD
Total Amount of the contract:	
Tentative start date	01.01.2022
Tentative end date	15.03.2022
Travel	

Ready for Trade Central Asia (R4TCA) is an EU-funded Project geared towards supporting the development of intra-regional and international trade in five Central Asian (CA) countries. This four-year initiative [2020 to 2023] is implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in close collaboration with national partners.

The first component of the R4TCA project referred to as “Addressing obstacles to trade” aims at removing regulatory, technical, and procedural barriers faced by businesses engaged in international trade for selected product-groups. This endeavor will be structured in two phases: (ER 1.2) identifying key obstacles reported by businesses involved in trade operations for selected product groups and (ER 1.3) designing concrete recommendations and reforms to remove them.

As part of this component, ITC has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the structure of trade tied to 8 selected product groups to identify key bottlenecks encountered by stakeholders on both sides of the border. This activity narrowed down the spectrum of trade obstacles that when removed will have high trade facilitation impact for the respective trade flows.

One of the main group of barriers designated for further interventions relates to the national and regional quality infrastructure and conformity assessment mechanisms.

In this context, ITC will conduct a deep dive study on mandatory technical requirements, standards and conformity assessment mechanisms applicable to the targeted trade flows on both sides of the border. The objective of this study is to map concrete steps that could be removed or addressed with the view to:

- streamline conformity assessment procedures
- avoid duplication of testing and certification

- facilitate acceptance and recognition of certificates across borders
- boost capacity of national testing and inspection facilities to comply with the existing mandatory regulations
- optimize and harmonize the regulatory framework, etc.

In Kazakhstan, ITC is recruiting a national expert to provide technical assistance towards identification and mapping of obstacles stemming from the quality infrastructure along the trade flow of Dairy products from Kyrgyzstan.

Description of Duties/Responsibilities

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Trade Facilitation Adviser and under the overall guidance of the Senior Trade Facilitation Adviser (TFPB). He/She will also work in close collaboration with ITC field office in Kazakhstan as well as with other national and/or international consultants involved in this initiative.

The consultant will undertake the following duties:

1. Conduct research on mandatory SPS requirements applicable to Dairy products from Kyrgyzstan

Provide an exhaustive list of **domestic sanitary and phytosanitary measures** applicable to Dairy products. The list should cover all SPS related requirements stemming from laws and regulations in relation with food safety, plant health, animal health, public health, etc... The consultant will ensure to link each measure / requirement to its prescription in a regulation, national law, regional or international agreement. List of SPS measure may include, among other:

- Tolerance limits for residues and restricted use of substances (i.e. indicate substance, authorized levels and, wherever applicable, sampling and testing methods).
- Labelling, marking and packaging requirements
- Hygienic requirements related to veterinary and sanitary conditions
- Treatment for elimination of plant and animal pests and disease-causing organisms in the final products or prohibition of treatment
- Requirements relating to production or postproduction processes, such as , hygiene/sanitary procedures, storage, and transport conditions

2. Conduct research on mandatory TBT requirements applicable to Dairy products in Kazakhstan

Provide an exhaustive list of Kazakhstan's technical barriers to trade related to Dairy products. List of TBT measures may include, among other:

Labeling, marking and packaging requirements

- Production or post-production requirements
- Regulations on transport and storage
- Product identity requirements
- Product quality, safety of performance requirements

3. Conduct research on conformity assessment requirements related to both SPS and TBT measures

Map and describe all conformity assessment requirements related to SPS and TBT measures applicable to Dairy products in Kazakhstan. The consultant will ensure to link each measure / requirement to its prescription in a regulation, national law, regional or international agreement. For each conformity assessment requirement, please indicate the specific mandatory requirements it relates to (e.g. microbiological contaminant, fumigation report) and collect "specimens" of the conformity assessment certificate, inspection report, testing report. List of Conformity Assessment requirements may include, among other:

- Product registration and approval requirement
- Testing requirements

- Certification requirements
- Inspection requirements
- Traceability requirements

4. Conduct analysis of existing provisions and agreements in Kazakhstan for the recognition of conformity assessment results issued by conformity assessment bodies outside of the Eurasian Economic Union

List all provisions in national laws/regulation or bilateral/regional agreement pertaining to the recognition of conformity assessment results.

5. Conduct research on conformity assessment infrastructure in Kazakhstan

Identify main conformity assessment bodies in Kazakhstan that are involved in the process of importing dairy from Kyrgyzstan and describe the scope of their involvement (type of tests they can conduct, indicators, analytical methods, level of accreditation etc).

Conformity assessment bodies should include all:

- Certification bodies
- Inspection bodies
- Testing facilities (i.e laboratories)

6. Analyze quality-related environment root-causes to the non-recognition of certificates, inspections or testing results across borders

In close coordination with ITC's international consultant and national consultant working in Kyrgyzstan, identify the main possible reasons for non-recognition of conformity assessment results: e.g., non-alignment of mandatory requirements, lack of capacity of conformity assessment bodies to demonstrate compliance (i.e., need to specify the exact method, parameters that cannot be assessed), inadequate templates or template completion.... The consultant shall conduct interviews with the private sector to collect additional information on the challenges faced with recognition of certificates from an operational perspective at border crossings.

7. Formulate concrete recommendations to resolve current barrier to trade

Referring to the concrete quality infrastructure related bottlenecks identified above, recommend specific activities / reforms that would contribute to facilitate the recognition of certificates across the border.

Expected Outputs and Timelines

Output 1: An exhaustive list of mandatory SPS requirements applicable to the sector of Dairy products in Kazakhstan is identified (by mid-January 2022);

Output 2: An exhaustive list of mandatory TBT requirements applicable to the sector of Dairy products in Kazakhstan is identified (by mid-January 2022);

Output 3: An exhaustive list of conformity assessment requirements applicable to the sector of Dairy products in Kazakhstan is identified (by end of January 2022);

Output 4: An analysis of legal / regulatory framework for the recognition of conformity assessment results is developed and submitted to ITC (by end of January 2022);

Output 5: A preliminary report synthesizing the main possible root-causes to the non-recognition of conformity assessment results is submitted to ITC (by mid-February 2022);

Output 6: A final report compiling the research findings and concrete recommendations is prepared and submitted to ITC (by mid-March 2022)

Payment schedule

- First payment upon ITC's receipt of countersigned contract and delivery of Output 1, 2 and 3

- Second payment upon delivery of Output 4 and 5
- Third and final payment upon satisfactory completion of Output 6

Skills

- In-depth knowledge of trade, quality infrastructure, food safety, animal health, technical regulations and product quality requirements
- Experience in conducting research and delivering analytical and advisory activities such as drafting technical reports
- Excellent comprehension, analytic and problem-solving skills with ability to guide and provide practical advice
- Capacity to manage multi-task and meet tight deadlines;

Education

- Undergraduate degree (BA/BSC or other)
- Degree in business management, economics, engineering, law or any other related fields
- Extensive relevant experience may be accepted in lieu of the university degree.

Experience

Required Experience:

In-depth knowledge and at least 10 years of practical technical experience within national quality infrastructure institutions dealing with standardization and conformity assessment, handling technical regulatory matters.

Other Experience:

The Consultant is expected to have a minimum of 15 years of relevant experience in the matters which are the object of this consultancy. Proven experience in conducting research and analysis in the area of trade and transport facilitation. Experience in working with CIS countries is desirable. Work experience in the development organizations, preferably working on trade facilitation issues.

Language

Excellent communication and drafting capacities in Russian. English language is desirable

