

## Alcohol and Drug Policy Changes - 2020

### *Alcohol*

This year, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, The Federal Law of 27.12.2019 No. 468-FZ " About wine growing and winemaking in the Russian Federation " entered into force.

The document contains 80 basic concepts for the field of wine growing and winemaking. Among them are "wine," "fortified wine," "sparkling wine," "grape plantation," etc. The law also defines that products designated as "wine of Russia" should be produced exclusively from grapes grown in the country.

05.05.2020 The Federal Law of April 24, 2020 N 145-FZ "On Amending Article 16 of the Federal law "About state regulation of production and turnover of ethyl alcohol, alcoholic and alcohol-containing products and about restriction of consumption (drinking) of alcoholic products" prohibiting the sale of alcohol in premises with an area of less than 20 square meters entered into force.

04.10.2019 The Federal Law of November 4, 2019 N 357-FZ "On Amending the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offenses" entered into force. It provides fines for the production and turnover of powdered alcohol in the amount of up to 20 thousand rubles for citizens and up to 500 thousand rubles for legal entities.

According to the Federal Service for Alcohol Market Regulation, for the seven months of 2020, the volume of vodka production in Russia amounted to 96.4% compared to the same period last year, for wine this amount accounted for 95.3%, and for beer it was 103.3%. At the same time, according to the Federal State Statistics Service, in the first half of the year, alcohol imports also decreased seriously - it was imported into the country by 92.2% compared to the same period in 2019. Most of all, wine imports decreased - 80.8% were imported into Russia by the first half of last year. Imports of strong spirits (including vodka) amounted to 89.4%. However, beer imports increased by 12%.

Meanwhile, according to the Federal State Statistics Service, sales of alcoholic beverages to the population in Russia during the period from January to July not only did not decrease, but, on the contrary, increased slightly. Compared to the same period

last year, vodka was sold 1.7% more, wine - 3.1%, sparkling and champagne wines - 1.4%, beer and beer drinks - 2.9%.

21.09.2020 The Ministry of Economic Development proposed to postpone for a year - until January 1, 2022, the entry into force of the technical regulation "On the safety of alcoholic beverages".

Technical regulation in its existing form will lead to a decrease in the quality and safety of beer produced in the EAEU member countries, and the technical regulation is contrary to the recently entered into force law on wine growing and winemaking.

11.09.2020 The Ministry of Finance expects to extend the Unified State Automated Information System (EGAIS) to retail sales of brewing products from next year.

08.10.2020 The Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia announced that there are no plans in the near future to legalize the sale of alcohol online.

In April 2020, in a number of regions of the Russian Federation, in particular in Tuva, Karelia, and Bashkortostan, restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages for the period of self-isolation in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic were introduced.

### *Drugs*

On 26.06.2020 The State Anti-Drug Committee presented a report on the drug situation in 2019.

The drug situation in the Russian Federation in 2019 has not undergone significant changes and is generally assessed as "difficult."

Sociological studies conducted by the Anti-Drug Commissions in order to identify the level of drug dependence of society and to determine the attitude of the population to the problems of the spread of illicit drug trafficking and use in 2019, show that the number of respondents using drugs both regularly and occasionally remained at the same level and amounted to 1.3% or 1.9 million people.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education of Russia monitored the conduct of socio-psychological testing in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The coverage of testing of educational organizations in the 2018/19 academic year amounted to 95.3%. The number of students who underwent testing has increased by 19.1% compared to the previous academic year (5,462,560 people (69.59%), in 2017/2018 year - 4,197,650 (50.47%). At the same time, 4.3% students (338,053 people) issued refusals to participate in the testing. The proportion of students classified by the testing results as a "risk group" in the 2018/19 school year amounted to 12.2% (663,271 people) of the total number of people tested.

In 2019, the total number of patients using drugs who sought drug treatment and were registered by medical organizations of the state and municipal health systems continued to decline.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus and the subsequent imposition by the authorities of most States of stringent quarantine measures involving partial or complete closure of borders, restrictions on the movement of people, goods, etc., also have an impact on the situation of drug trafficking. Against this background, drug traffickers have actually lost the possibility of supplying drugs to mastered markets through spent channels. Under these conditions, retail prices of prohibited substances are expected to rise in the near future, which on the one hand will lead to a slight decrease in demand for them from drug users, and on the other, it may cause an increase in the number of ordinary crimes of a violent nature committed in order to extract money by drug users on an ongoing basis.

In all territorial bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the departments to combat the spread of drugs on the Internet have been created. In December, a bill was drafted that provides for up to two years in prison for drug propaganda on the Network and the cultivation of drug-containing plants.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia is working on the "Strategy of the State Anti-Drug Policy until 2030." Currently, public discussions are being held on the text of the draft normative legal act and an independent anti-corruption examination.

On 22.09.2020, The State Anti-Narcotics Committee has established an interdepartmental working group for the comprehensive study of problematic issues related to trafficking in synthetic drugs and substances used for their production. The

Committee also proposed to make conceptual changes to the Methodology and procedure for monitoring the drug situation in Russia.

On 01.03.2020 the amendments to the law "About Drug Circulation" regulating import of the unregistered medicines containing narcotic or psychotropic substances to the territory of Russia came into force. According to the order of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the list of drugs included the drugs Diazepam, Midazolam, Klobazam, Lorazepam and Phenobarbital.

On June 26, experts from the Sober Russia federal project presented a rating of the regions of the Russian Federation in terms of the degree of effectiveness of anti-drug work.

The rating included indicators such as the number of deaths from drug poisoning, the number of patients being treated, and the number of crimes related to drug trafficking. Khakassia, as well as Chelyabinsk, Moscow, Amur regions and St. Petersburg, is recognized as the most unfavorable region.

The most favorable regions: Chukotka, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Chechnya, Arkhangelsk and Oryol regions.

From September 1, schoolchildren will be tested for drugs in a new way. From this year, samples will be tested for nine types of drugs: opiates, cannabinoids, phenylalkylamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine), synthetic cationes, cocaine, methadone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates and fencyclidine, their derivatives and analogues.

Since December 1, the list of banned potent drugs has expanded in Russia. Pregabalin, tapentadol and tropicamide were equated with drugs.

In 2019, the Ministry of Internal Affairs blocked 21 thousand sites promoting drugs.

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