Import Procedures

At present, there are two different import procedures for organic products:

1. **Import from recognised third countries**
   - **EC Regulation (EC) No. 882/2007, Art. 33 Par. 2**
   
   Currently, 13 countries are listed in Annex III of EC Regulation No. 1235/2008, namely: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, Tunisia, the USA, South Korea* and Chile. The EU has recognized the national organic regulations of these countries as being equivalent – partly with restrictions. A Certificate of Inspection is required for every shipment.

2. **Import of products certified by recognised control bodies**
   - **EC Regulation (EC) No. 882/2007, Art. 33 Par. 3**
   
   All control bodies recognised by the EU-Commission are listed in Annex IV of EC Regulation (EC) No. 1235/2008. Here, too, a Certificate of Inspection is required for every shipment.

Codenumbers assigned for third countries or rather control bodies acting in those countries, vary according to the import procedure and can be found in annex III or annex IV of EC Regulation (EC) No. 1235/2008.

Information on the Internet

Consolidated versions of all EU regulations for the import of organic products are available on the website of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture:

[www.bmel.de](http://www.bmel.de) > Starke Landwirtschaft > Nachhaltigkeit, Ökolandbau > Ökologischer Landbau > EU-Rechtsvorschriften für den ökologischen Landbau

Further helpful information is available on the BLE website:

[www.ble.de](http://www.ble.de) > Kontrolle > Ökologischer Landbau > Importverfahren

Contact

**Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung**

Referat 522

D-53168 Bonn

Fax: +49 (0) 30 1810 6845 3344

E-Mail: Oekoverordnung@ble.de

During service hours we are available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:00 to 16:00, and from 09:00 to 14:00 on Fridays.
Basic details for importing

Organic products imported from countries outside the European Union (EU) – so-called third countries – may be labelled with an indication on organic farming and the EU organic farming label. These products have to meet the EU requirements. Compliance has to be controlled on-site, and at all stages of production, processing, storage as well as marketing and products have to be certified.

The essential EU regulations on organic farming are:
- Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008

Importers established in Germany and importing organic products from third countries must be certified by a private control body accredited in Germany for import controls.

For a current list of control bodies, please refer to www.oekolandbau.de > Service > Adressen > Öko-Kontrollstellen

Presently, there are two different import procedures for organic products:
- Procedure 1 – Import from recognised third countries
- Procedure 2 – Import according to the list of control bodies

The adjacent matrix will help you with the choice of the proper import procedure for your organic products. You will find detailed instructions for these procedures on page 5 of this flyer.

Procedure 1
Import of organic products from recognised third countries
EU Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, Art. 33 Par. 2

- Do all ingredients of your product comply with the requirements of origin from the recognised third country?
- Does the product fall in a product category listed in Annex III of EU Regulation 1235/2008 for the recognised third country?
- Are the control bodies of the exporter, processors, retailers and producers listed in Annex III of EU Regulation 1235/2008 for the recognised third country?

- Obtain three essential details:
- third country from where products are imported,
- products to be imported,
- responsible control body/bodies of the exporter, processors, retailers and producers

Import
via TRACES NT, with a Certificate of Inspection issued by the exporter’s control body.

Procedure 2
Import of organic products according to the list of third country control bodies
EU Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, Art. 33 Par. 3

- Are the control bodies of all establishments involved listed for the third country in Annex IV of EU Regulation 1235/2008?
- Are all control bodies for the product category in which the respective product falls approved in Annex IV of EU Regulation 1235/2008?

- Obtain three essential details:
- third country from where products are imported,
- products to be imported,
- responsible control body/bodies of the exporter, processors, retailers and producers

Import
via TRACES NT, with a Certificate of Inspection issued by the exporter’s control body.

No Import
as an organic product.