

# Importing organic products from third countries

## Guidelines and decision-making aids for importing from states outside the European Union

### Basic information about importing

Organic products imported from countries outside the European Union (EU) (known as third countries) can also be labelled with a reference to the organic farming and the “EU organic logo” in the EU. For this, they must satisfy the legal requirements of the EU legislation on organic farming and be certified locally at all levels of production, processing, storage and marketing. It is also possible to label them with the organic seal.

The EU regulations for organic farming are

- Regulation (EU) 2018/848
- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2325

Importers based in Germany that import organic products from third countries must be certified by a private control body licensed in Germany for the control category “Imports C”.

You can find a current list of the control bodies online at:

<https://www.ble.de/DE/Themen/Landwirtschaft/Oekologischer-Landbau/Zulassung-Kontrollstellen/zulassung-kontrollstellen>

Organic products can be imported in three procedures:

Procedure 1 – Importing from recognised third countries

Procedure 2 – Importing according to a list of third country control bodies

Procedure 3 – Importing with trade agreements

The accompanying decision matrix is designed to help you to choose the right procedure for importing your organically produced products.

### Importing procedures for organic products

There are currently three different importing procedures for organic products:

- 1 Importing from recognised third countries**  
*Regulation (EU) 2018/848 Article 48 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2325 Annex I*

There are currently 11 countries named in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/2325. These are Argentina, Australia\*, Canada, Costa Rica\*, India\*, Japan\*, New Zealand, Tunisia\*, the USA and the Republic of Korea\*.

(\* The recognition as equivalent does not apply to animal products)

The EU has recognised the national organic regulations of these countries, in some cases with restrictions, as equivalent. A certificate of inspection is required for each consignment to be imported.

## **2 Importing products that are certified by recognised control bodies**

*Regulation (EU) 2018/848 Article 57 in conjunction with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2325 Annex II*

All the control bodies whose inspection and certification procedures are recognised as equivalent by the EU Commission are listed in Annex II to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2325. In this procedure too, a certificate of inspection is required for each consignment for the purpose of clearing customs.

## **3 Importing from countries with trade agreements**

There are currently 3 countries that have concluded a trade agreement with the EU: Chile, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The list can be extended by the EU Commission.

[https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/trade/agreements-trade-organic-products\\_en](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/trade/agreements-trade-organic-products_en)

The code numbers assigned to third countries or the control bodies operating there vary depending on the importing procedure and can be found in Annexes I and II to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2325.

## **Sources of information on the internet**

You can find updated unofficial versions of all the EU regulations on importing organic products on the website of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture at:

<https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/landwirtschaft/oekologischer-landbau/aenderungen-oekoverordnung.html>

You can find further helpful information about importing on the website of the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food at:

[https://www.ble.de/DE/Themen/Landwirtschaft/Oekologischer-Landbau/Importverfahren/importverfahren\\_node.html](https://www.ble.de/DE/Themen/Landwirtschaft/Oekologischer-Landbau/Importverfahren/importverfahren_node.html)

<https://www.oekolandbau.de/handel/import/>

## **Contact**

### **Federal Office for Agriculture and Food**

Division 522

D-53168 Bonn

Fax: +49 (0) 30 1810 6845 3344

Email: [traces-bioproducte@ble.de](mailto:traces-bioproducte@ble.de)