

Import Procedures

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

1 Import from recognised third countries

EC Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, Art. 33 Par. 2

Currently, 11 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* and the USA. 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. 834/2007, Art. 33 Par. 3

This procedure is based on EC Regulation (EC) No. 508/2012. 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 and annex IV of EC Regulation (EC) No. 1235/2008.

* Animal products are not recognised as equivalent.

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, Agriculture and Consumer Protection:

www.bmel.de > *Starke Landwirtschaft* > *Nachhaltigkeit, Ökolandbau* > *Ökologischer Landbau* > *EU-Rechtsvorschriften für den ökologischen Landbau*

Application forms for marketing authorisations, the BLE Guidance Notes for Importers and further helpful information is available on the BLE website:

www.ble.de > *Kontrolle* > *Ökologischer Landbau* > *Importverfahren*

Contact

Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung

Referat 521

D-53168 Bonn

Telefon: +49 (0)228 6845-2915

E-Mail: referat521@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.

Imprint: Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Deichmanns Aue 29, 53179 Bonn



Federal Office for
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Import of Organic Products from Third Countries

Guidelines and decision support tools to import
from countries outside the European Union



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. 834/2007
- » Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008 and
- » Regulation (EC) No. 1235/2008.

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.



Before importing



Register your import company with the competent authority and have it certified by a control body accredited in Germany



Contact the third country exporter



Obtain three essential details:

- 1 third country from where products are imported,
- 2 products to be imported,
- 3 responsible control body/bodies of the exporter, processors, retailers and producers

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 come from the same 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?



Import

with a Certificate of Inspection issued by the exporter's control body.

For a sample certificate, please refer to Annex V of EU Regulation No. 1235/2008.

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?



Import

with a Certificate of Inspection issued by the exporter's control body.

For a sample certificate, please refer to Annex V of EU Regulation No. 1235/2008.

No Import

as an organic product.