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](www.bmel.de)

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](www.ble.de)

Contact

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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 third country 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. 31 Par. 3

Procedure 2

Import of organic products according to the list of third country control bodies

EU Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, Art. 31 Par. 3

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

Procedure 1

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

Procedure 2

Contact the third country exporter.

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.

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

Procedure 1

Do all ingredients of your product come from the same recognised third country?

Procedure 2

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.

No Import

as an organic product.