

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, 12 countries are listed in Annex III of EC Regulation No. 1235/2008, namely: Argentina, Australia*, Costa Rica*, India*, Israel*, Japan*, Canada, New Zealand, South Korea, 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

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 and Agriculture:

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

The BLE Guidance Notes for Importers and further helpful information is available on the BLE website:

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

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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.

