



Circular No. 5/2021

7 December 2021

To: All Organic Operators and Organic Control Bodies (OCBs)

1. Imports of Organic Products

Further to Circular 01/2021 (20th May) and Circular 02/2021 (20th July), DAFM wishes to advise of the following updates as regards organic imports;

a. EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) & UK OCBs

The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) includes an agreement between the EU and the UK to establish equivalence for organic products up to 31 December 2023. This allows for processed and unprocessed products that have been processed in the UK with ingredients that have been grown in the UK, or that have been imported into the UK in accordance with UK laws and regulations. It does not allow equivalence to be extended to the re-labelling or re-packaging of organic products imported to the UK.

The TCA specifically states that organic products recognised for equivalence with the EU Organic Regulations shall be;

- Unprocessed plant products;
- Live animals or unprocessed animal products;
- Aquaculture products and seaweeds
- Processed agricultural products for use as food;
- Processed agricultural products for use as feed;
- Seeds and propagated material

The organic products listed shall be unprocessed agricultural or aquaculture products produced in the United Kingdom or processed agricultural products for use as food or feed that have been processed in the United Kingdom with ingredients that have been grown in the United Kingdom or that have been imported into the United Kingdom in accordance with United Kingdom laws and regulations.

From 1st January 2022 as a result of legislation changes, the UK based OCBs will no longer be in a position to certify products for export to the EU which are imported to the UK (from other Third Countries or from the EU) and only re-packaged or re-labelled in the UK.

Irish operators who heretofore source such product from the UK are advised to re-evaluate their supply channels to ensure compliance with the new import regime.

b. Customs Declaration for Organic Imports

Revenue is making some changes to its Automated Import System (AIS) which goes live during the week commencing 6th December 2021. As regards imported organic products from Third Countries, importers / first consignees are obliged to declare whether or not such imports are organic. This is done by declaring the code C644 for organic products or the code Y929 for non-organic products. It is important to note that only one of these codes can be declared in a single customs declaration. If both codes are declared on an item, the declaration will be rejected with CD0197. If an operator declares C644 on the customs declaration for a consignment that consignment must have a corresponding Certificate of Inspection (COI).

2. Exports OF Organic Products to GB

Organic exports to GB will require a GB Certificate of Inspection (COI) from 1st July 2022. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has advised that;

- The COI can be completed by the third country exporter, their agent or the importer.
- The COI must be approved by the third country control body before the goods leave the third country. This should be completed electronically and the COI sent (emailed) to the GB Port as a PDF document.
- Notification of the organic import should be completed by email or phone to the Port the goods will arrive at.

DEFRA has advised that it will be providing training sessions for EU businesses/ stakeholders in the spring and DAFM will provide more information when it is available.

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3. New Organic Regulations

The current organic regulations, Council Regulation 834/2007 and Commission Regulation 889/2008, will be repealed on 1st January 2022. New organic regulations come into effect on 1st January 2022 comprising of the basic act Commission Regulation 848/2018 and associated secondary legislation.

The new organic legislation will be made available on the DAFM website in January 2022.

New organic standards will be made available on the OCB and DAFM websites later this month.

Any queries please contact:

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