Imports of organic products – amended requirements for control bodies

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Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/1686

What is changing and why?

The EU has updated its process for evaluating control authorities/ control bodies, which are organisations responsible for certifying that organic products meet EU standards. These control bodies need to be officially approved by the European Commission and regularly reviewed. This new Regulation makes some changes to the process, addressing delays caused by the Covid pandemic.

The key changes are:

- Witness audits, which are checks to make sure control authorities/ bodies are doing their job correctly, can now be from the past 3 years instead of the previous 2 years if the request for recognition is made before 31 December 2024.
- Once a control authority/ body is recognised by the Commission, or if they extend approval to cover new product categories, they need to provide a new witness audit within 2 years.
- Control authorities/ bodies must keep providing witness audits regularly, and the time between two audits should not be more than 4 years. This 4-year period starts from the date of the first witness audit after they are recognised, or after the initial extension of their approval to cover new product categories.

Timeline

The new requirements apply from **8 September 2023**.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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