

Organic products: Recognition of control bodies

Published by AGRINFO on 23 Jun 2024; Revised 24 Dec 2024

EU approves six additional organic control authorities/bodies

Fourth amendment: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/3121](#)

Third, second, and first amendments: Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) [2024/2794](#) of 31 October 2024 [and] [2024/2140](#) of 6 August 2024 [and] [2024/1748](#) of 21 June 2024 amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1378 as regards the recognition of certain control bodies in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as competent to carry out controls and issue organic certificates in third countries for the purpose of imports of organic products into the Union

Update

Under the new EU organic regime, from 1 January 2025 control authorities and control bodies must be listed under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1378 as being officially approved (recognised) to conduct controls and certification of organic products in non-EU countries.

The EU has published a fourth list of approved control authorities/control bodies under Regulation [2024/3121](#). This follows the publication of three earlier lists: in August 2024 (Regulation [2024/2140](#)); June 2024 (Regulation [2024/1748](#)); and October 2024 ([2024/2794](#)).

In total, 50 control authorities/control bodies have been listed.

Impacted products

Organic products

What is changing?

The new EU Organic Regulation (EU) [2018/848](#) brought in a fundamental change from an equivalence regime to a compliance regime, with a 3-year transition period after it was applied on 1 January 2022 (see [New EU Organic Regulation explained](#)).

The EU currently imports organic products certified by control authorities and control bodies whose standards have been recognised as equivalent under the old equivalence regime. This recognition will expire by 31 December 2024. Before this date, control authorities and control

bodies must be officially approved (recognised) to certify operators and groups of operators in non-EU countries under the new compliance regime. This process is ongoing.

The recognised bodies are listed under Implementing Regulation (EU) [2021/1378](#). Amendments to this Regulation will be introduced over the coming months with additional lists of the control authorities and control bodies that have been recognised.

First amendment

Regulation [2024/1748](#), published in June 2024, listed the following 17 control authorities or control bodies:

- bio.inspecta AG
- Caucascert LLC
- CCPB Srl
- CERES Certification of Environmental Standards GmbH
- CERTIMEX, Certificadora Mexicana de Productos y Procesos Ecologicos S.C.
- Control Union Certifications B.V.
- Ecocert SAS
- ECOGLOBE LLC
- FOOD SAFETY S.A.
- IMO Control Private Limited
- Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH
- Mayacert S.A.
- Organic Control System LLC Subotica
- Organic Standard LLC
- Servicio de Certificación CAAE S.L.U.
- Southern Cross Certified Australia Pty Ltd
- Tse-Xin Organic Certification Corporation

Second amendment

In August 2024, an additional 15 control authorities or control bodies were listed under Regulation (EU) [2024/2140](#):

- A CERT European Organization for Certification S.A.
- ACT Organic Company Limited
- Agricert – Certificação de Produtos Alimentares Lda
- Balkan Biocert Macedonia DOOEL Skopje
- Beijing Continental Hengtong Certification Co. Ltd

- CERTIFICADORA BIOTROPICO S.A.S.
- COMPANY OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN PALESTINE
- Ecovivendi d.o.o. Belgrade
- ETKO EKOLOJİK TARIM KONTROL ORGANİZASYONU LİMİTED ŞİRKETİ
- IBD Certificações Ltda
- LACON QUALITY CERTIFICATION PRIVATE LIMITED
- Metrocert S.C.
- Oregon Tilth Inc
- Organización Internacional Agropecuaria S.A.
- Organska Kontrola d.o.o. Sarajevo

Third amendment

In November 2024, an additional 12 control authorities and control bodies were listed under Regulation [2024/2794](#):

- ACO CERTIFICATION LIMITED
- CTR ULUSLARARASI BELGELENDİRME VE DENETİM LTD. ŞİTİ.
- DQS POLSKA SPÓŁKA Z OGRANICZONĄ ODPOWIEDZIALNOŚCIĄ
- Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc. (FOG), DBA as Quality Certification Services (QCS)
- IMOCERT Latinoamérica Ltda.
- INDOCERT
- ONECERT INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED
- Organic Crop Improvement Association International Inc
- Organic Food Development and Certification Center of China
- Organización Internacional Agropecuaria S.A
- ORSER KONTROL VE SERTİFİKASYON ANONİM ŞİRKETİ
- SRS Certification GmbH

The Regulation also amends the categories of products and specific non-EU countries that the listed control body Ecocert SAS may control.

Fourth amendment

In December 2024, an additional six control authorities and control bodies were listed under Regulation [2024/3121](#):

- Bak Ekolojik Ürünler Kontrol ve Sertifikasyon Hizmetleri Ticaret Limited Şirketi
- Bioagricert s.r.l. Unipersonale

- DQS POLSKA SPÓŁKA Z OGRANICZONĄ ODPOWIEDZIALNOŚCIĄ
- GCL International Ltd
- Japan Organic and Natural Foods Association
- Sertifikācijas un testēšanas centrs

Details on the category of products that each control authority or control body may control, and the non-EU countries in which they may carry out controls, are given in the Annexes of the draft Regulations.

Why?

From 1 January 2025, only control authorities and control bodies that are officially recognised to conduct compliance audits will be able to issue organic certificates in non-EU countries.

To be recognised by the EU, control authorities and control bodies must submit a request for recognition under Art. 46 of Regulation [2018/848](#), and must meet the required conditions.

Timeline

Control authorities and control bodies approved under these Regulations will be recognised from the following dates:

- Regulation 2024/1748 (first amendment): from 27 June 2024
- Regulation 2024/2140 (second amendment): from 10 August 2024
- Regulation 2024/2794 (third amendment): from 7 November 2024.
- Regulation 2024/3121 (fourth amendment): from 20 December 2024

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Control authorities and control bodies must be recognised under the compliance regime from 1 January 2025. Commercial contracts between operators and control bodies are generally conducted some months in advance, and both parties will need enough time to plan and prepare for audits in 2025. It will be particularly important for operators in non-EU countries to know well in advance if their current control body will not be recognised under the new regime.

Recommended Actions

It is critically important for organic operators in non-EU countries to monitor the recognition process, and to liaise closely with their control authorities and control bodies.

Background

The Organic Regulation (EU) [2018/848](#) is the basic act that lays down the EU rules on organic production and labelling of organic products. It revises and strengthens the controls system, trade regime, and production rules that had been in place since 2007. It brought in a fundamental change to the regulatory approach, moving from the principle of equivalence to the principle of compliance. The earlier Regulation (EC) [834/2007](#) recognised that organic goods could be produced in ways that were different, but equivalent in terms of their outcome and alignment with organic principles. Under the new Organic Regulation, this changes to a system of compliance: producers in non-EU countries will have to conform with exactly the same set of rules as those in the EU, with no possibility to recognise equivalence. For further information see [New EU Organic Regulation explained](#).

Resources

Commission Regulation [2018/848](#) on organic production and labelling of organic products

Commission Regulation [2021/1378](#) laying down certain rules concerning the certificate issued to operators, groups of operators and exporters in third countries involved in the imports of organic and in-conversion products into the Union and establishing the list of recognised control authorities and control bodies

Commission Regulation [2021/1698](#) with procedural requirements for the recognition of control authorities and control bodies that are competent to carry out controls on operators and groups of operators certified organic and on organic products in third countries

Sources

Fourth amendment: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/3121](#)

Third, second, and first amendments: Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) [2024/2794](#) of 31 October 2024 [and] [2024/2140](#) of 6 August 2024 [and] [2024/1748](#) of 21 June 2024 as regards the recognition of certain control bodies as competent to carry out controls and issue organic certificates in third countries for the purpose of imports of organic products into the Union

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*