

Organic products: Recognition of control bodies

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EU publishes first list of organic control bodies recognised under new compliance regime

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [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

[Draft](#) Commission Implementing Regulation 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

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Update

Under the new EU organic regime, which is based on compliance, control authorities and control bodies must be listed under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1378 as being officially approved (recognised) to conduct organic controls and certification in non-EU countries. The EU has published a first list of 17 control bodies, and has proposed the recognition of another two control bodies.

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. The recognised bodies are listed under Implementing Regulation (EU) [2021/1378](#).

Regulation [2024/1748](#) (amending Regulation 2021/1378) lists the following 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

The Commission also proposes to recognise the following control bodies:

- A CERT European Organization for Certification S.A.
- Organska Kontrola.

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 bodies must submit a request for recognition under Art. 46 of Regulation [2018/848](#), and must meet the required conditions.

Timeline

Recognition of the approved control bodies applies from 27 June 2024.

Adoption of a Regulation on the additional two control bodies is planned for the third quarter of 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 follow the recognition process over the coming months, and to liaise closely with their 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

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/1748](#) 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

[Draft](#) Commission Implementing Regulation 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

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