



ORGANICS STAKEHOLDER UPDATE Q&A



Date: January 2021

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This document was compiled by the Organics and Environmentally Friendly Farming team within the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs based on questions received in the Organics Stakeholder Update sessions in November and December of 2020, and questions received via correspondence.

This document is split into subsections on different topics. Where relevant these sections begin with a brief “Latest Information” section noting any changes, before going on to the questions. Questions are numbered for ease of reference.

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EQUIVALENCE

Latest information

The EU has recognised the UK as equivalent for organic standards until 31 December 2023. And vice versa.

This means that goods certified as organic in one will be able to be exported to, and sold in, the other as organic until at least 31 December 2023.

As the EU has recognised the UK government and UK control bodies, you may continue to use the EU organic logo on GB organic food or feed until 31 December 2023. The EU organic logo will be optional. If used, it must meet the EU organic labelling requirements and statement of agricultural origin.

1. As the EU has recognised the UK as equivalent, and the UK has recognised the EU as equivalent, do we still require a Certificate of Inspection (Col) for exports?

And why?

Yes. Exports from GB to EU will require an EU Col on the TRACES NT system.

The UK is now classed as a Third Country (TC) to the EU, and vice versa. Cols are required for all third country imports where a control body is recognised by the EU under Annex IV of Regulation (EC) 1235/2008.

Goods moving from GB to NI will now need an EU Col on TRACES NT, with the exception of goods covered under the 3 month grace period from certification for authorised traders such as supermarkets and their trusted suppliers moving goods from GB-NI. These goods will require Cols from 1 April 2021. For those traders who are now authorised, the NI DAERA have issued guidance on the requirements for goods movements.

Organic goods will need to follow the regulations set out for other goods of their type under this easement, please see the guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for further details.

2. Do we still need to set up as a Food Business Operator (FBO) in the EU to be able to export to the EU?

Yes. General labelling requirements apply to organic products exported from GB to the EU. All pre-packaged food and caseins must now have an EU or NI address for the FBO, or an address of the EU or NI importer on the packaging or food label.

Third Country Equivalence

3. Can organic goods still be shipped into third countries we have equivalence with such as the US?

Yes, the UK and US have an arrangement in place to facilitate continued trade. All third country arrangements have been rolled over to ensure continued trade.

4. The EU has equivalence arrangements with 13 countries, what countries does the UK have equivalence with?

All third country arrangements have been rolled over so that they apply in the UK. The countries we have equivalence arrangements with are: Australia, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Israel, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Switzerland, Tunisia and the USA. These countries are recognised as equivalent for certain product categories.

5. What is the situation with organic equivalence in markets such as China and the Middle East?

The EU and the UK do not have equivalency agreements with China or the Middle East. Control bodies who operate in third countries to an equivalent EU standard and are listed in Annex 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 will continue to be recognised for imports into the UK.

6. Will the UK accept organic goods from e.g. Paraguay certified according to EU equivalence by Control Bodies on the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 list?

Control bodies who operate in third countries to an equivalent EU standard and listed in Annex IV of retained Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 will continue to be recognised for imports into the GB.

7. For the countries the UK now has organic equivalency with (such as the US), can we expect a transition period for non-compliant artwork in those countries?

We will not be requiring any changes to labelling from third countries. Exports must meet the country of destination's labelling rules.

8. Can we now supply non-EU countries with organic product e.g. USA, Colombia or Canada?

Yes, if we have an arrangement or agreement with that country. If we do not, we recommend contacting that country to ensure that any export requirements are met before products leave the UK. Some countries may require additional documentation for example.

EXPORTS

9. What is a consignment?

A consignment for the purposes of organics are defined as:

- i. one or more product types covered by individual Combined Nomenclatures Codes* (CN);
- ii. coming from a single operator;
- iii. being received by a single operator;
- iv. included in a single mode of transport; and
- v. if being imported or exported covered by a single Col.

Examples:

- vi. One ship/vessel - Multiple products meeting the rules above would require one Col.
- vii. 2 or more lorries meeting the rules above - each lorry requires a separate Col as it could chose to take a different route/be separated from the other lorries and traceability is required for each lorry.
- viii. 2 or more wagons connected to a train – As long as the train remains intact from the start to the end of the journey, then multiple products meeting the rules above would require one Col.

*CN codes are the product codes for the commodity; however, these codes are not specific to organic products.

10. How many importers and exporters can be listed on a Certificate of Inspection (Col?)

Only one importer and one exporter can be listed on a Col.

11. Can a UK based distributor place a product on the EU market if the traded products are manufactured and warehoused in the EU (so they do not touch UK soil), based on the 1235/2008 scope recognition of their UK control body, or do they need to set up a separate business in the EU to be able to trade within EU?

The warehouse/business will need to be certified in the EU in order to manufacture and sell organic products in the EU. UK control bodies are unable to certify products if the control body is not approved for the territory in question.

12. Can we buy organic products from the EU to trade in the EU (not GB or NI)?

Northern Ireland traders can buy organic products from the EU to trade within the EU. GB traders wishing to trade within the EU would need to be certified by an EU control body.

13. Is there any help registering for TRACES NT?

You need to register using this [link](#) and your request will be approved by your control body. There is also a link to [FAQs](#).

For issues regarding TRACES NT please contact SANTE-TRACES@ec.europa.eu

14. Will all customers have to amend their licences in the EU to become importers or is it sufficient for us to be exporters?

All operators need to be certified for the correct scope that they carry: for example, if you import from the EU you will need to be certified to do so and have this covered by your licence. The same will apply in the EU.

15. Will I need to register as an 'exporter' on TRACES NT?

Yes. You will need to register and be approved by your control body as an 'exporter' on TRACES NT.

16. Can a single Col be used for one truck where we have multiple customers on the same load?

No. You will need a separate Col from each business you are importing from and to. For example, if you are exporting goods to be received by different importers in GB they will each need a separate Col.

17. If we are importing a very short shelf life product into the EU is it acceptable for the Col to be stamped at the BCP where the product is being inspected in the EU?

Please contact the EU port directly. As we are no longer a member state we cannot state with certainty what their policies will be.

18. What documentation is required for imports from Switzerland imported into the UK, and then exported from the UK to Ireland?

Organic products from Switzerland do not require a GB Col until 1 July 2021. Exports from GB to The Republic of Ireland or any other EU country, will now require an EU Col on TRACES NT.

Goods in transit from the EU to NI/ROI will not require a Col if the consignment is not opened or split in GB.

If the consignment of goods is opened or split in GB they will require a Col to be imported into ROI or another EU member state.

Goods moving from an EU country to Northern Ireland via GB will require a Col if they are opened or split, with the exception of goods covered under the 3 month grace period from certification for authorised traders such as supermarkets and their trusted suppliers moving goods from GB-NI. These goods will require Cols from 1 April 2021. For those traders who are now authorised, the NI DAERA have issued [guidance on the requirements for goods movements](#).

19. How long does it take to get an EU Col?

This will be dependent on the information and documentation that is available to complete the Col. Please contact your individual Control Body. Your CB should be able to confirm when they are able to review and check Cols for export.

20. Can we use the same TRACES NT account we already held (before 1 January 2021) for importing to register Cols for export to the EU, or do we need to create a new account as an exporter?

As we are no longer a member of the EU we can't comment on their policies. We would recommend contacting the Commission to ask whether your current account could

continue to be used. There is a 'Request new role' function in TRACES NT so it could be that you can update your details using your current account. For issues regarding TRACES NT please contact SANTE-TRACES@ec.europa.eu.

21. Can we move EU organic certified and labelled products (packed/labelled in EU), which come into GB (with no further processing/repacking in GB), onwards to ROI, so that they travel EU – UK – EU? Will an EU Col be needed to move the goods from EU – UK – EU?

If the goods are cleared in the GB, they will need an EU Col for export. If they are just transiting and the seal is not broken, they do not.

22. If we establish an EU Entity to allow export from a UK Entity to the EU, does the EU entity have to be certified to import organic goods?

If you establish an organics entity in the EU, you will need to be certified by an EU control body.

23. Can we ship direct from an EU manufacturing site to another EU Member State? Can we use the EU logo, and do we have to add an EU address as well?

We can only comment on operations within the UK. You would need to be certified by an EU control body. You can contact the Organics Unit at the EU Commission at AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu for further information.

IMPORTS

Latest information

As a temporary measure, organic products imported into GB from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland will not require a certificate of inspection (Col) until 30 June 2021.

From 1 July 2021, organic products imported into GB from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland will require a Col. You'll use the interim manual GB organic import system.

To request the forms for the manual GB organic import system, contact your organic control body.

The Col will need to be endorsed when the organic goods arrive either at a GB border control post (BCP) or by local trading standards. If the consignment needs a physical check or testing, this will need to go to a port that is able to carry out these checks. Further information can be accessed via the Defra step by step guidance.

Importers must ensure that all organic imports from third countries meet the requirements laid out in retained Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

Consignments that arrive in GB without an endorsed Col will not be able to be cleared as organic. The organic goods would have to be either re-labelled (removing all reference to organics), re-exported as non-organic or destroyed.

24. Does recognition of EU include EU approved Third Countries/approved CBs in TCs?

The UK has retained the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 and will recognise the countries [listed in Annex III](#) for the duration listed (except Chile which will be recognised for 3 years), and the approved control bodies operating in third countries listed in Annex IV certifying to an equivalent EU standard until 31 December 2022.

This is outlined in The Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, Part 3, (4), (f), (v) which amends The Organic Production (Control of Imports) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

25. What is the situation on acceptance of organic products from outside the EU, but which are covered by Annex III (from approved Third Countries) or Annex IV?

The UK has retained the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 and will recognise the countries listed in Annex III for the duration listed (except Chile who will be recognised for 3 years) and the approved control bodies operating in third countries listed in Annex IV certifying to an equivalent EU standard until 31 December 2022.

This is outlined in The Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, Part 3, (4), (f), (v) which

amends The Organic Production (Control of Imports) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

26. Is a Col from the EU needed for every lorry that arrives or is it needed for each exporter, farmer or by crop?

We will not require Cols from the EU, EEA and Switzerland until 1 July 2021. After that every lorry will require a separate Col, for example if the same product is loaded onto 5 different lorries, each lorry will require its own Col.

27. How will Roll On Roll Off (RoRo) ports and checks work?

We will not require Cols from the EU, EEA and Switzerland until 1 July 2021. Checks will be done at the first point of entry where possible. Local Authorities or Local Trading Standards should be able to carry out RoRo organic import checks. Please contact the destination port for specific details of their arrangements.

28. What about imports arriving in the UK from EU via RoRo (Roll On Roll Off) which are not stopping on arrival in the UK? Can they be endorsed by a Trading Standards Officer (TSO) rather than Port Health?

Yes, Local Trading Standards and Local Authorities can check Cols. Goods in-transit, for example to the Republic of Ireland, will not require COIs. GB is not requiring a Col for EU, EEA and Swiss organic products until 1 July 2021.

29. Will third countries which do not have equivalency arrangements with the UK be able to export organic products - for example, Dominican Republic organic bananas?

The UK has retained the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 and will continue to recognise the approved control bodies operating in third countries listed in Annex IV certifying to an equivalent EU standard until 1 January 2023. Organic bananas from the Dominican Republic are certified by a control body listed in Annex IV so will continue to be recognised for exports to GB. They will require a GB Col.

30. Is there a standard charge for Cols or can each certifying body charge their own rate?

It is a commercial decision for each control body as to how much they charge. Please

contact your individual control body directly for information about their charges and policies.

31. What happens if the importer is based in the EU and is sending product into the UK?

The importer needs to be registered in the UK and must be certified in the UK as an importer after 30 June 2021.

32. We currently send EU organic stock from the EU directly to the customer in GB, can we still do this?

Yes - a Col is not required if the product is going directly to the end consumer. i.e. is not for onward sale. If it is for onward sale, then a GB Col will be required after 1 July 2021.

33. What is the procedure for importing organic products from the EU i.e. not from a third country?

Organic imports from the EU, EEA and Switzerland will not require Cols until 1 July 2021. They will then follow the same process as other third countries.

34. What will be the procedure for importing organic products from a third country into the EU and GB? For example, importing organic produce grown in Africa, which lands in Dutch ports and is intended for sale in both the Netherlands and GB?

Imports destined for Netherlands will require an EU Col and products destined for GB require a GB Col. Even if they are cleared in the Netherlands, they will need a new Col for export to GB.

35. Does the import IT system have the capability to flag consignments as organic e.g. via IPAFFS?

No. Other information may be recorded on IPAFFS, but the Organics Certificate of Inspection will need to use the new GB manual system.

36. How will Port Health Authorities/ Local Authorities deal with organics checks?

Port Health Authorities and Local Authorities will carry out checks as they do now, however this will be manually using the new GB paper based Col system. The documentation will also be emailed across rather than uploaded onto a system. Defra will

continue to provide training for Port Health Authorities, Local Authorities and Local Trading Standards to help them with these changes.

37. If we import manufactured goods from the EU, do we need to register on TRACES NT or can we use the paper-based system?

TRACES NT cannot be used to import goods into GB. We now use the interim manual paper-based GB Import system to produce the Col.

However, we will not require Cols for organic products from the EU, EEA and Switzerland until 1 July 2021.

38. If we are importing 3rd country certified organic products into the UK then on to the EU, is this allowed, and do we need an EU Col?

If the product is imported and cleared in GB, it will need a GB Col, and then an EU Col for import into the EU. If it just transits through GB and the seals are not broken, it will only need an EU Col.

39. Why has the UK opted for a paper GB Col and not an electronic system like the EU?

The paper GB Col is a temporary measure until an electronic replacement system is available. We are committed to developing a new electronic system which meets users' needs. The digital Col will be part of a larger overhaul for imports into GB, not exclusively organics. This system is currently under development, with extensive user research and consultation ongoing. As such we do not have a definitive timeline for rollout at present.

40. If the same type of goods are imported multiple times, i.e. tomatoes, a week apart from the same exporter to the same importer in UK, can we use the same Col or will we need new Col?

No, you will need a separate Col for each shipment.

41. If we are importing multiple products on one pallet will we have to complete section 13 on the Col? How does this work if the consignment has for example 40 products per consignment - does each individual product need to be listed in section 13?

Yes, each individual product should be listed in section 13.

42. We import goods manufactured in the EU into the UK. Should we use the GB Col template in order to import the goods into the UK?

Currently, organic products from the EU will not require a Col until 1 July 2021. After that, they will then require a GB Col. Templates for the GB Col and other details can be obtained from your control body.

43. What is the timing for a digital GB Col?

We do not have a timeframe currently. The digital Col will be part of a larger overhaul for imports into GB, not exclusively organics. This system is currently under development, with extensive user research and consultation ongoing. As such we do not have a definitive timeline for rollout at present.

44. Can you confirm that a paper GB Col (signed before departure of the goods) will be accepted in GB even when incomplete regarding transport data (box 14,15,17)?

Yes, the Col will be accepted with the transport information omitted where it is not available at the point the Col is endorsed. Transport documentation must be sent to the port within 10 days and must be prior to clearance of product for circulation in GB.

45. Some goods do not need to be checked at a BCP for the first 6 months of 2021, e.g. plant imports - would organic status override this and mean they do need to enter via a BCP for the Col to be endorsed?

Organic goods should enter where the organic checks can be completed and if they cannot be done at a BCP Local Authorities should be able to complete these checks. If goods are certified organic they must follow the regulations for organics as well as, not instead of, the rules relating to that category of product.

If the goods in question are being imported from the EU or EEA, they are covered under the delay in implementation of the new rules on Cols mentioned previously, so will not need a Col until 1 July 2021.

46. How will the paper-based Col be issued for imports from third countries (e.g. for India / Sri Lanka)? Will this continue to be done via TRACES NT until further notice?

We now use the manual paper-based GB Col and these documents are available from all UK control bodies.

FUTURE CB APPLICATIONS

47. From 2021 onwards will it be possible for non-UK CBs to be recognised in UK?

Any control body can apply to be recognised in the UK. Defra would review these applications.

FUTURE UK REGULATIONS

48. Do you expect much divergence from the new EU Organic Regulation in 2022?

The Agriculture Act 2020 includes powers to ensure we can update our organic legislation after the transition period ends and to create new legislation. We are unable to comment on any specific changes at this moment. Any future regulatory changes will involve lengthy and in-depth consultations with the organic sector, industry bodies, organic control bodies and the devolved administrations.

49. How will we be updated on changes to the UK organic regulations?

Any future regulatory changes will involve lengthy and in-depth consultations with the organic sector, industry bodies, organic control bodies and the devolved administrations.

50. Will the GB Organic Regulation be compliant with Regulation (EU) 2018/848?

We are not seeking to comply with future EU organic regulations. Our future relationship with the EU will be based on recognition as equivalent of each other's standards.

Equivalence is defined as "the capability of different laws, regulations and requirements, as well as inspection and certification systems, to meet the same objectives". This does not require us to have identical standards. We will seek to develop our regulations in a way that best fits the needs to the UK sector.

51. Is the decision to not adopt the new EU Organic Regulation 2018/848 final or might it change in the future?

As Regulation (EU) 2018/848 comes into force on 1 January 2022' which is after the end

of the Implementation Period, also known as the “transition period”, this regulation will not be retained into UK law.

LABELLING

Latest information

If you produce, process, label or trade in organic food and feed in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), you must follow GB rules.

The 21 month transition period for labelling enforcement in GB applies to organics as it does to other products of those categories. This is to allow businesses to use up existing labelling and make the necessary changes by 30 September 2022.

GB will recognise the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland as equivalent for the purpose of trade in organics until 31 December 2023. Food and feed certified as organic in the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland will continue to be accepted as organic in GB until 31 December 2023.

The EU has recognised the UK as equivalent until 31 December 2023. Food and feed certified as organic in GB will continue to be accepted as organic in the EU until 31 December 2023.

If you are: certified to GB standards and sell your products in GB, NI, the EU or third countries you must continue to include your UK allocated control body code ‘GB-ORG-XX’.

As the EU has recognised the UK as equivalent you may continue to use the EU organic logo on GB organic food or feed. The EU organic logo will be optional. If used, it must meet the EU organic labelling requirements and statement of agricultural origin. You can continue to use your UK organic control body logo as well.

If you use the EU organic logo for goods sold in both the GB and EU you’ll need to include **both** the GB statement of agriculture (‘UK Agriculture, non-UK Agriculture’ or ‘UK/Non-UK Agriculture’) and the EU statement of agriculture (‘EU Agriculture, non-EU Agriculture’ or ‘EU/Non-EU agriculture’).

If the product contains at least 98% of ingredients from the UK, it may be labelled “UK Agriculture” for the EU statement of agriculture, and therefore only require one statement.

Similarly, if the product contains at least 98% of ingredients from one of the constituent nations of the UK, it may be labelled as that nation's agriculture (e.g. if from Wales, Welsh Agriculture) for both the EU statement of agriculture and the UK statement of agriculture, and therefore only require one statement.

The following statements of agriculture will become mandatory on products produced in GB:

- If the product is using the EU organics logo, even if it is to be sold in GB, it should continue to use the EU/Non-EU statement of agriculture. These are the same rules on the use of the EU logo as previously.
- Whether or not products are using the EU organics logo they should use the UK/non-UK statement of agriculture:
 - 'UK Agriculture' – where at least 98% of the ingredients are produced in the UK
 - 'UK or non-UK Agriculture' – where the product is produced with ingredients grown in and outside the UK
 - 'Non-UK Agriculture' – where at least 98% of the ingredients are produced outside the UK

For both EU and UK statement of agriculture if ingredients are 98% or more from a particular country, or one of the constituent nations of the UK that more specific statement of agriculture can be used. This will fulfil the requirements of both EU and UK statement of agriculture.

For example, if over 98% of ingredients come from the UK, it may be labelled UK agriculture. If more than 98% of ingredients come from Scotland it can be labelled Scottish Agriculture.

Note that rules on “statements of agriculture” for organics are separate from “rules of origin”. Organic goods follow the same rules of origin as other goods. Please consult the guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for details.

Statement of Agriculture

52. Can you confirm when the statements of agriculture are required to change from EU/non-EU Agriculture to UK Agriculture, UK/ non-UK Agriculture or non-UK Agriculture?

You should use the UK/non-UK statement and if using the optional EU organics logo, you must continue to use the EU statement of agriculture as well. However, GB has a 21-month transition period until 30 September 2022 to allow for this labelling change to take place and existing labels to be used up for goods in GB.

53. What statement of agriculture is required for export to the EU?

The statement of agriculture is set out in Article 24 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and is mandatory where the EU organic logo is present. The EU organics logo is now optional for GB organic products.

If you use the EU organic logo for exports to the EU, you need to include both the GB statement of agriculture ('UK or non-UK Agriculture') and the EU statement of agriculture ('EU or non-EU Agriculture').

If the product contains 98% ingredients grown in a particular constituent nation of the UK, it can be labelled either as that specific country or UK Agriculture. For example, lamb grown in Wales could be labelled either as Welsh Agriculture or UK Agriculture. If you use this, it complies with both the UK and EU requirements.

54. Is the UK/non-UK statement of agriculture mandatory for GB products placed on the GB market?

Yes. However, GB has a 21-month transition period until 30 September 2022 to allow for this labelling change to take place and existing labels to be used up.

55. Do we still need to use the EU/non-EU Agriculture statement of Agriculture?

This statement of agriculture is only required when the EU organic logo is present. The EU logo is now optional for GB products. Whether or not you are using the logo you must use the UK/non-UK statement of agriculture. If the product contains 98% ingredients grown in a particular constituent nation of the UK, it can be labelled either as that specific country or UK Agriculture. For example, lamb grown in Wales could be labelled either as Welsh

Agriculture or UK Agriculture. If you use this, it complies with both the UK and EU requirements.

Certification codes

56. What certification codes will be required to reference our UK certifier from 1 January 2021?

Each control body has its own unique organic code number. Because the EU has recognised the UK as equivalent you can continue to use the existing codes of the form GB-ORG-XX

EU organic logo

57. Can EU certified organic products still be sold in GB with the EU organic logo on the label, so no label change necessary, or must the EU organic logo be removed?

Yes, products from the EU can continue to use the EU organic logo. They should continue to use EU as their statement of agriculture if they are using the logo.

58. Can the EU organic logo can remain on labels in GB indefinitely?

Yes, as the UK is recognised as equivalent, the EU organic logo can be used. Using the EU organics logo becomes optional for goods sold in GB, however if the logo is used it must follow the regulations around the correct use of the logo. See responses above.

59. Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 requires the use of the community logo in Art 24: has the UK version of 834 been amended so this is no longer required, or will a UK version be required?

This has been removed from regulations which will apply in GB. The EU logo may continue to be used but is now optional. A UK logo may be created in the future but does not currently exist. If one is decided upon this will be consulted on extensively and announced far in advance.

60. Is there a legality issue with using an EU logo on a UK product in a 3rd country?

The third country or third country control body must be recognised by the EU to be able to use the EU organic logo. The UK has been recognised as equivalent by the EU so the

logo can be used on products produced in GB or NI. This is optional in GB, but the producer would need to meet the rules for the use of the logo. Organic goods produced in GB must meet the labelling requirements of the third country.

61. If products are manufactured in the EU and they have both the EU leaf logo and the private CB logo, can we still use both logos on labels to sell in the UK?

Yes.

62. Can the EU logo be included on labels with only the GB control body code “GB-ORG-XX”?

Yes, but they must include the EU and UK statement of agriculture. See responses above.

Addresses

63. Is an EU address needed only if you are selling in the EU?

You need an EU address to place food on the EU market, and an EU or NI address to place foods on the NI market. An EU address can also be used on the GB market until 30 Sept 2022 in line with the 21 month transition period for labelling enforcement.

64. Does the EU address have to be an address where we have a registered office/company or can it just be a point of contact, e.g. one of our suppliers who we have a close relationship with?

The EU address must be a meaningful registered address and the importer will need to be certified.

65. Is the Food Business Operator (FBO) address only for ‘retail ready’ packaging or would it include bulk which is sold for further processing?

Foods sold for further processing do not require an FBO address. Please refer to the general labelling rules on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for further information.

66. If you have more than one importer in the EU or in the same EU country importing products, would you need to list the name and address for each importer on the label, not just a single FBO address?

You would need to list both. Please refer to the general labelling rules on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for further information.

UK organic logo

67. Has any work been done on a UK organic logo yet?

No, we have no immediate plan to have a national logo, though we may revisit this in the future. If one is decided upon this will be consulted on extensively and announced far in advance.

Private logos

68. Do all GB CBs offer their own organic logo?

You will need to confirm this with individual control bodies.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Latest information

There is no change to the movement of organic goods from NI to GB.

You do not need a Col if you're moving goods from NI to GB.

Goods moving from GB to NI need an EU Col on TRACES NT, with the exception of goods covered under the 3 month grace period for authorised traders such as supermarkets and their trusted suppliers. These goods will require Cols from 1 April 2021. For those traders who are now authorised, the NI DAERA have issued [guidance](#) on the requirements for goods movements.

69. Can you confirm that UK organic control bodies can continue to authorise NI organic products for export to the EU market?

Yes. The UK organic control bodies currently established in Northern Ireland can continue to certify organic products in Northern Ireland for export to the EU market. These are Organic Farmers & Growers CIC, Organic Food Federation, Soil Association Certification

Ltd, Biodynamic Association Certification, Irish Organic Association and Organic Trust CLG. The other two UK control bodies Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd and OF&G (Scotland) Ltd do not operate in Northern Ireland.

70. What is the situation regarding certification for products coming from the EU i.e. Ireland into Northern Ireland, and from the EU via GB into Northern Ireland?

For organic goods moving from the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland no Col is required, trade can operate as before.

For organic goods coming from the EU via GB into Northern Ireland, it depends on the consignment. If the movement is direct (i.e. the goods transit through GB), there will be no changes. If the goods are cleared in GB, then an EU Col will be required to move them to NI, with the exception of goods covered under the 3 month grace period, as set out above.

71. What will be the status of organic goods produced and certified in the EU, shipped to retailers in GB and then moved to NI for sale to consumers? Will they still be classified as organic in NI?

Yes, the goods will maintain the organic status. If the goods are cleared in GB then an EU Col will be required to move goods to NI, with the exception of those covered under the three month grace period noted above.

72. Would it be possible to have a list of the Northern Irish Points of Entry and PHAs that will be listed for organics? Will they be listed on the TRACES NT portal for the clearance of the goods?

Please see below, these are now listed on TRACES NT.

Port (BCP)	Full Address of Port Authorities	Full Address of Relevant District Council
Belfast City Port	Belfast City Council, Port Health, 5 Corry Place, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, BT3 9HY	Belfast City Council, 9 - 21 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8BP
Larne Port	Larne Harbour Ltd, 9 Olderfleet Road, Larne, Northern Ireland, BT40 1AS	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ
Warrenpoint Port	Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, The Docks, Warrenpoint, Newry, BT34 3JR.	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Monaghan Row, Newry, BT35 8DJ

73. Will UK CBs still have access to TRACES NT in order to approve Northern Ireland importers on TRACES NT portal?

Yes, UK CBs have access to TRACES NT in order to approve NI importers.

74. Can you confirm that no Col will be needed for all transactions between NI and the EU/EFTA countries (both ways)?

We can confirm that no Cols are required for these movements.

NI labelling

75. If goods produced in Northern Ireland use the EU organics logo, which statement of agriculture should they use?

If the product contains at least 98% of ingredients grown in the UK, it may be labelled “UK Agriculture”, likewise if it contains at least 98% of ingredients grown in the NI it can be labelled “NI Agriculture”. This would meet the requirements of both the UK and EU statement of agriculture. It does not require a second statement.

If the product doesn't contain at least 98% ingredients grown in the UK, it must be labelled with both the UK and the EU statement of agriculture. Please refer to the general labelling and organic labelling requirements on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

76. Can organic products from NI and certified by a GB control body still apply the EU organic logo when sold in GB?

Yes.

PLACING ON THE MARKET

Latest information

Under article 41 of the [Withdrawal Agreement](#):

Any good that was lawfully placed on the market in the Union or the United Kingdom before the end of the transition period may:

(a) be further made available on the market of the Union or of the United Kingdom and circulate between these two markets until it reaches its end-user;

(b) where provided in the applicable provisions of Union law, be put into service in the Union or in the United Kingdom

An item is considered to be “placed on the market” if it is made available within the EU or United Kingdom.

The practical consequence of this is that: Goods manufactured before 31 December 2020 do not require changes to their labelling for export to EU, or sale in the EU if they have already been exported. However, organic products marketed in the EU as of 1 January 2021 have to satisfy the new labelling requirements including the inclusion of UK statement of agriculture and a correct EU Food Business Operator (FBO) address.

Further information can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

77. If an item was sold into the EU as organic prior to 31 December 2020, can it be sold on outside the EU now and still be considered organic?

This would be a decision for the non-EU country in question. Please contact the relevant body in that country if you are unsure.

78. If a product arrived in the EU before 31 December 2020, can it be taken from the warehouse and placed on sale and sold now?

Yes.

79. What about goods with a UK FBO address in circulation in Europe after 1 January 2021?

Goods that were already placed on the market before 1 January 2021 will be unaffected.

80. If the EU organic logo is not permitted on any GB organic food will there be a transition period for GB businesses to update labelling?

The EU organics logo will still be allowed on GB organic food sold in the UK and in the EU, as the UK has been recognised as equivalent. The logo is now optional.

There will be a 21-month period where labelling can be adjusted in the UK.



81. Are we able to use up remaining product packaging which includes the EU organic logo for products to be sold in GB only?

Yes. There will be a 21-month period for labelling to be adjusted in the UK, during which operators will not be penalised for using up their old packaging.

82. What does a “light-touch approach to enforcement” for labelling mean, since the EU organic logo is the intellectual property of the EU?

As the EU has recognised the UK you may continue to use the EU organic logo on GB organic food or feed until 31 December 2023. The EU organic logo will be optional. If used, it must meet the EU organic labelling requirements and both the UK and EU statement of agricultural origin.

There will be a 21-month period where labelling can be adjusted in the UK.

We cannot comment on whether the EU will take a similar approach. As a business affected by these changes you are able to contact the EU directly to ask for clarification.

You can contact the Organics Unit at the EU Commission at AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu.

83. Can businesses sell GB organic food labelled with the EU logo on the GB market after the end of the implementation period if the food was produced and stored in GB before 1 January 2021?

Yes.

84. What happens to all the organic products in the UK labelled under the previous regulations?

There is a 21-month period where labelling can be adjusted in the UK during which producers will not be penalised for using their old labelling.

85. Wine importer/exporter and distributor: with regard to 'Goods on the Market', could you clarify whether a new vintage of an existing, pre-marketed wine, would count as an existing product or a new product to the market?

It is considered a new product.

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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