



Guidance: Importing organic products from third countries into Great Britain at the end of the transition period

This guide explains the roles and responsibilities at each stage of the process for importing organic goods from third countries into Great Britain.

It does not apply to organic products imported from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Switzerland until 1 July 2021.

Consignments that enter the EU/ NI and transit to Great Britain will need to be checked at the first point of entry into Great Britain.

Step to take	Who is responsible?
1. Get certified with an approved UK organic control body and know which Ports, Local Authorities/ Local Trading Standards can carry out organic checks (some may differ depending on the commodity type and other checks require i.e. organic feed).	Anyone who intends to import organic food or feed
2. Complete the GB Certificate of Inspection (COI) and the exporter emails it to their control body	Third country exporter, agent or importer
3. Control Body to verify that the consignment is organic. Endorse the goods by signing and stamping box 18 of the COI. Send the original COI via courier and email a copy of the COI back to the exporter.	Third country control body
4. Send the original endorsed COI to the destination address and email a copy of the COI to GB importer	Third country exporter or agent
5. Let GB Port Health Authority/ Local Authority know when the organic consignment will arrive (by phone	GB importer or agent

or email at least 24 hours in advance or 6 hours in advance for air freight or Roll on Roll off (RoRo))	
6. Send the COI and shipping documents to the PHA via email so they have copies.	GB importer or agent
7. If the consignment is to be split, the importer mentioned in box 6 of the certificate of inspection shall submit an extract of the certificate of inspection to the relevant PHA/ LA.	GB importer
8. Check documents and carry out any necessary physical checks or testing. If the consignment passes, endorse by signing and stamping box 20 or box 13 of the extract of the certificate of inspection and clear the goods for onward movement. <u>The signature and the stamp must be in a different colour to that of the printing.</u> (A copy can be endorsed, as long as the original is also endorsed within 10 working days). If the consignment does not pass the checks, the goods must be either: a) re-labelled removing all reference to organics b) re-exported as non-organic OR c) destroyed	GB Port Health Authority/ Local Authority
9. If the goods are cleared, indicate the number of the COI in the customs declaration for free circulation.	GB importer or agent
10. Collect the goods, sign box 21 or box 14 of the extract of the COI and ensure the importer receives the endorsed COI. The consignee of a batch shall keep the extracts of the COI for no less than 2 years.	GB first consignee
11. Keep the original endorsed COI and copies of the endorsed extracts of the COI on file for at least 3 years	GB importer
12. Check COIs during routine inspections of importers	GB organic control body

Adhering to the regulations:

- If you are the importer, ensure that all organic imports from third countries meet the requirements laid out in retained Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.
- If you are the control body, ensure that the importers and exporters are licensed and that the products are covered under the retained Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.