

European Union - Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (EUCOEA)

1) Requirements for Canadian organic agricultural products for export to EU covered under the EUCOEA

Canada has been added to the list of recognised third countries in Annex III of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 590/2011 of 20 June 2011 amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008, as published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 161 of 21.6.2011, <http://www.pro-cert.org/docs/Equivalency/590%20Import%20Canada%20EN.PDF>.

According to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 590/2011 the following products certified according to the Canada Organic Regime by one of the certifiers listed are accepted as organic in the EU:

- a) live or unprocessed agricultural products and vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation;
- b) processed agricultural products for use as food;
- c) feed.

The products of category (a) and the ingredients of the products of categories (b) and (c) must have been grown in Canada. With regards to the reference to feed (c), on July 20 2011 EU indicated that it was an oversight not to include it in the present EU regulations and this will be rectified in the next publication of the regulations.

Canadian organic products exported to EU under the EUCOEA must be accompanied by a “*Certificate of Inspection for Import of products from Organic product into the European Community*” (the “*Certificate of Inspection*”) as per Article 13 and Annex V of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:334:0025:0052:EN:pdf>.

The certification body operating in Canada has to prepare, sign and stamp this “*Certificate of Inspection*”. In Box # 2 the certification body operating in Canada must mark the box associated with “Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, Article 33(2).”

Organic products exported from Canada for import to the EU under this Arrangement may bear the EU logo, under the conditions spelled out in article 24 of Regulation 834/2007, in particular the last paragraph of paragraph 1 of article 24. The logo can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en.

2) Requirements for Canadian organic agricultural products for export to EU outside the scope of the EU COEA

Products that are outside the scope of the EU COEA can continue to be exported to EU under Article 19 of the Commission regulation (EC) No 1235/2008. EU Member States can grant such import authorisations to importers who introduce a request to a Member State Competent Authority. (Status Quo to pre-arrangement requirements for all organic products)

Examples of products outside the scope of this Arrangement are: multi-ingredient products with ingredients not grown in Canada, pet food, aquaculture, cosmetics, textiles and furniture.

3) EU Labelling Requirements

All organic products imported into the EU must meet EU labelling requirements.

4) Requirements for EU organic products exported to Canada

In the Arrangement letter from Canada to the EU, Canada has accepted that, pursuant to the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act* and the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*, agricultural products produced and processed in accordance with the European Organic System, are produced and processed under an organic certification system that provides safeguards and guidelines governing the production and processing of such products that are equivalent to the requirements of the Canadian *Organic Products Regulations*, 2009.

The EC has indicated to Canada that EC will oversee the organic certification only in EU. Organic agricultural products produced and processed in EU and certified to the European Organic System are accepted as organic in Canada without additional certification. <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/201106lete.shtml>.

Ingredients of processed products must be produced in the EU or imported into the EU in accordance with Article 33 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF> .

Organic products must be accompanied by an organic certificate issued by an EU Control body listed in the *List of Control Authorities in Charge of Controls in the Organic Sector provided for in Article 35(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007*.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/files/consumer-confidence/inspection-certification/EU_control_bodies_authorities_en.pdf .

Organic products certified in accordance with the European Organic System and exported to Canada may bear the Canada Organic Logo. A copy of the logo must be requested from the Control bodies responsible for the certification.

Organic products imported into Canada must meet Canadian labelling requirements.

For example, the claim “wine made with organic grapes’ is not permitted as organic under the Canadian Organic Products Regulation. While this specific claim is not permitted in the Canadian market, EU wines which meet Canada's organic requirements can be marketed as organic wines in Canada. The EC must make its producers of organic wines aware of the means available to them to label their products for export to Canada.