



Accessing the United States Organic Market

Beginning June 1, 2012, organic products certified to the European Union or USDA organic standards may be sold as organic in either region.

Requirements: European Union Organic Products Exported to the United States

In addition to certification to the EU organic regulations, all products traded under the organic trade partnership must meet the following requirements:

1. Livestock must be produced without antibiotics.
2. Products must travel with an NOP import certificate (<http://1.usa.gov/nop-import-certificate>) that has been completed by an EU-authorized body. Instructions: <http://1.usa.gov/nop-import-instructions>
3. Products must be either produced or have had final processing or packaging occur within the EU.
4. Aquatic animals may not be exported to the U.S.
5. Wine must meet the requirements listed below:

Wine

The U.S. – EU Organic Working Group is currently determining how EU and US organic wines may fit into the equivalency arrangement. In the interim, EU organic wine may be exported to the U.S. if it meets the criteria for the labeling categories described below:

Organic wine. An EU control body must verify that prohibited substances, such as sulfur dioxide or potassium metabisulphite, were not added to the wine. Substances not listed under 7 CFR 205.605 are prohibited. Wine meeting these criteria may be exported to the U.S. under the arrangement and labeled with the USDA organic seal.

Wine “made with” organic grapes. Sulfur dioxide may be used in wine labeled as “made with” organic grapes; an EU control body must verify that the total sulfite concentration does not exceed 100 parts per million. Other prohibited substances, such as potassium metabisulphite, may not be used. Substances not listed under 7 CFR 205.605 are prohibited. Wine meeting these criteria may be exported to the U.S. under the arrangement. The front label may state, “made with organic grapes,” provided that the statement appears in letters that do not exceed one-half of the largest type size on the panel. The USDA organic seal must not be used.

All wine sold in the U.S. must be approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Application information is available at http://www.ttb.gov/alfd/alfd_organic.shtml.

Labeling

Retail Products

An overview of the four retail labeling categories recognized by the USDA organic regulations is provided below. All traded retail products' labels or stickers must state, "Certified Organic By (insert name of EU-authorized body), and may also include the code assigned to each EU-authorized body.

Organic products. Products certified as "organic" in the EU and meet the additional requirements listed above may be sold as "organic" in the U.S. Products may include the EU organic logo and/or the USDA organic seal.

100% organic products. Products certified as "organic" in the EU, meet the additional requirements listed above, and contain 100 percent organic ingredients may be sold as "100 percent organic" in the U.S. Products may include the EU organic logo and/or the USDA organic seal.

"Made with" organic products. Products that contain 70 – 95 percent organic ingredients may include the statement, "made with (insert specified organic ingredient or category)" on the principle display panel. For example, a bag of tortilla chips that contains at least 70 percent organic corn, non-organic canola oil, and salt may be labeled "made with organic corn." These products may not be labeled with the U.S. or EU organic seal.

Less than 70 percent organic products. Since they are not overseen by a certifying agent, products that contain less than 70 percent organic ingredients may not be traded under this partnership.

Bulk Products

The name of the EU-authorized bodies is not required to be stated on bulk containers. Instead, lot numbers are required, and must allow for a complete audit trail to verify the product's integrity. Examples of bulk products include 100 percent organic animal feed and organic dried cranberries.

For more information on each of the labeling categories, please review the labeling section of the USDA organic regulations: <http://bit.ly/usda-organic-labeling>.

Organic Seals



USDA Organic Seal (U.S.)



European Organic Food Label (E.U.)