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Organic trade between the European Union and the Republic of Korea

Questions and Answers

Exporting organic products to Korea

1. What is the recognition of EU organic products about?

Korea has recognised processed organic food products legally produced and certified in the European Union as equivalent under the Act on Promotion of Environmentally-friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and Management and Support for Organic Food. These products may be sold as organic in the Republic of Korea.

2. When does this recognition take effect?

The recognition takes effect on 1 February 2015, allowing trade of the covered organic goods to begin on that date, irrespective of their production date.

3. What certificate needs to be used for exporting organic products to Korea?

The Korean authority, the National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (NAQS), has established a specific certificate that has to accompany all organic products that are to be exported to Korea under the recognition. The certificate needs to be signed by a certifying body or authority in the EU to which competent authorities of Member States have delegated control tasks in accordance with Article 27 of Council [Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007](#).

Link to Korean import certificate:

<http://www.enviagro.go.kr/portal/content/html/import/eu.jsp>

4. Which organic products can be exported to Korea?

- Only organic processed food products, such as defined by Article 1.2.29 of the Korean Food Code, can be exported.
- Only processed food products that contain at least 95% organic ingredients can be exported.
- These processed food products must be certified in accordance with EU Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. Ingredients grown in the EU and imported into the EU in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 can be used as ingredients. Also the processing must take place in line with the EU organic regulations (EC) No 834/2007 and [\(EC\) No 889/2008](#).
- The final processing must have taken place in the European Union.

5. Korean definition of processed food products

The Korean Food Code defines processed food as follows:

"Food manufactured, processed and packaged by adding food or food additives to food raw materials (agricultural, forestry, livestock or marine products), transforming food raw materials (such as grinding or cutting) till their original forms cannot be recognised, or mixing such transformed ones or adding food or food additives to such mixture.

However, where, without the use of food additives or other materials, the agricultural, forestry, livestock or marine products are simply cut, peeled, salted, ripened or heated (except the cases where heating is performed for sterilisation or heating causes significant changes to those products) till their original forms can be recognized or where sanitary risks from treatment processes are not expected and food raw materials are simply treated so as to allow organoleptic identification of food quality, such food products are excluded from the definition of processed food."

6. Examples of processed and unprocessed food according to the Korean definition

Examples of processed food products covered by the recognition:

- Blends of multiple products, such as nuts, dried fruits, and frozen vegetables
- Processed livestock products such as cheeses, cured meat, pork chops, sausages and bacon
- Baby food and infant formula
- Pasteurised products, including liquid milk and fruit juices
- Coffee, tea and condiments
- Honey
- Chocolates
- Wine, fruit wine, beer, spirits

Examples of unprocessed food products not covered by the recognition:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Frozen peas that are not blended with other vegetables
- Dried mangoes that are not blended with other dried fruits

7. Can unprocessed food products that are not in the scope of the recognition, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, still be exported to Korea?

Yes, if they undergo the complete Korean certification procedure by Korean certification bodies verifying the compliance with Korean organic production standards.

8. Are processed aquaculture products covered by the recognition?

Aquaculture products are not covered by the recognition.

9. Does the recognition require labels to meet the Korean labelling standards?

Yes, the labelling must comply with the Korean labelling standards. The EU organic logo may be used and/or the Korean organic logo.

Link to Korean logo:

http://www.naqs.go.kr/serviceInfo/service_01_10.jsp

In addition, the labelling should include the origin of the product, the name of the manufacturer, a contact number in Korea, the address of the packaging establishment, the name of the certifying body or authority and a certification number.

10. Korean website about organic trade

<http://www.enviagro.go.kr/portal/en/main.do>

Importing organic products from Korea

1. What is the recognition of EU organic products about?

The EU has recognised Korea as an equivalent third country for processed organic food products under [Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007](#). Processed products legally produced and certified in the Republic of Korea may be sold as organic in the European Union.

2. When does this recognition take effect?

The recognition takes effect on 1 February 2015, allowing trade of the covered organic goods to begin on that date, irrespective of their production date.

3. What certificate needs to be used for exporting organic products to the EU?

As for all other imports, the Certificate of Inspection, for which a model is laid down in Annex V of Commission [Regulation \(EC\) No 1235/2008](#), must be used. –

Link to EU import certificate:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008R1235&rid=16>

4. Which organic products can be imported from Korea?

Only processed food products, as defined in [Regulation \(EC\) No 852/2004](#) on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs, can be imported under the equivalence recognition of Korea.

5. EU website on international trade in organic food

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/organic-farming/what-is-organic-farming/international-trade-in-organics/index_en.htm