OVERVIEW OF THE PROVISIONS FOR LABELING AND MARKETING ORGANIC PRODUCTS IN THE BALKAN COUNTRIES

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Overview of the provisions for labeling and marketing organic products in the Balkan countries

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The aim of this brochure is to provide information to the organic movement in the Balkan countries regarding the specific national requirements for import, trade and export of organic products.
Introduction

Even though still constituting a small proportion of European agriculture, the market for organic food, and as such the land area that is organically farmed, has been increasing substantially over the past decade. This trend first appeared in Western Europe but today it has moved to Eastern Europe including the Balkan as well. Eastern European organic food producers are starting to answer the increasing demands for organic foods in Western Europe as well as for their own domestic markets.

A general conclusion about the present state and prospects for the future regarding organic food in the Balkans is that this region is currently one of the least developed in Europe, but also that this region has great potentials which should be used. First of all, soils are cleaner than in Western Europe, so there is no need to wait 3 years for chemical substances to be purged from the land. Chemical and pharmaceutical industries and other great polluters do not work for decades. Disadvantages from the past became advantages in the present. Another advantage is the cheaper labor and much more people in this regions work in agriculture. If in Western Europe only 1-5% people work in agriculture, in the Balkans there are 15-20%. Organic farming nevertheless still faces many obstacles on its path.

One major obstacle in the development of organic agriculture in the Balkan is the lack of a good and sustainable market for these products. The market for organic food in the Balkan has just started to develop. Unlike the developed western markets, the demand for organic products in the Balkans is yet to pull the formation of a steady offer and supply. Supermarkets and specialty shops are sporadically supplied with domestic products while the prices for imported organic products from the western countries are too expensive for the majority of people. Farmers’ markets and box schemes as an alternative for supply of organic products in the Balkans are still greatly underdeveloped. With this situation at hand all Balkan countries want to sell organic food to the EU. Do to the easier access to organic production inputs, certifying services, movement and marketing of organic products and the common legislation for organic production it is easier for the Balkan countries that are inside EU to produce and offer their organic food, thus this segment is more developed.

Countries that are not in the EU have some difficulties to export their products to EU because of the strict EU import regulations, quantity and quality requirements. Once the number of producers is sufficient to consolidate a quantity for export and steady supply to larger markets and the quality in sufficient the more demanding EU market may be targeted with the organic produce. Aldo EU may prove to be a market solution for the more organized producers in terms of quality and quantity of organic products that can be offered, the domestic and regional markets are also a valid option for the majority of the organic producers.
Following the road to the EU membership the Balkan countries are undergoing a process of harmonizing their national legislation (including the one for organic production) with that of the EU. Having in mind that in each Balkan country (excluding the EU members) the respective national legislation on organic production was developed according to the EU regulation that was in force at that moment (EU Reg. 2092 and/or EU Reg. 834 and 889) there are differences in the level correspondence of the national legislation with the current EU legislation. In some cases national authorities have added additional requirements regarding the organic production, labeling and trade with organic products, while in some cases whole chapters present in the EU regulations are missing or were developed according to the outdated EU regulation. This in fact may present a significant barrier or a mitigating factor for the regional exchange of organic products.

In order to stimulate the regional exchange of organic products and thereby contribute to the development of the organic movement in the region, this brochure will provide an overview of the specific national requirements for labeling, trade and placing on the market of organic products in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. For remaining Balkan countries as members of the EU the provisions of the EU Regulations 834/2007 and 889/2008 apply, thereby a overview of the EU requirements will be provided.

Labeling of organic products

An organic label shows that a product has been produced according to certain organic production standards or regulations and that an independent certification body has certified it.

It is important to know that certifiers cannot certify all labels; each certifier is accredited to certify against specific criteria and the respective label for this criteria before you are allowed to label the products ‘organic’ or in conversion and market them on the local, regional or EU level.

Besides EU labeling for organic products, both national governments and the private sector have additional standards and labels. One should realize that the importance of the different labels could differ between the countries. In national labeling programs both national symbols as well as labels used by the private sector, for instance supermarkets, producer organizations etc.
National requirements Albania

Labeling and marketing of organic products

When referring to organic production the term "bio" must used in products and accompanying documents. This labeling can only be used for products in accordance with rules laid down in the Albanian Law on organic production. The labels of organic products should include the name of the certification body that has performed the last inspection.

Labeling and advertising of processed products and products with more than one ingredients, may refer to organic production methods only if 95% of the mass of the ingredients of agricultural origin before processing (plant and animal) in product are from organic production methods while 5% difference does not affect the status of the product.

Products with complex composition, composed of ingredients that partly do not satisfy the 95% limit, as stated above may refer to the methods of organic production provided that at least 70% of the ingredients are from agricultural origin and satisfy the requirements of the law. This referring may be stated in the ingredients list with declared percentages in descending order written in the same font, color and size.

For conversion to organic production the term "Produkt në proces konvertimi" should be used for single ingredient products that have been in conversion period not less than 12 months.

Trade with organic products

Referring to organic production for imported products are covered by respective inspection schemes in each country where the product originates from, and their respective logos may be used.

Transport and storage

Products may be transported to other units, wholesale and retail only in suitable packages and containers with safety labels that prevent replacement of content.

Current Albania organic legislative basis

Law on production, processing, certification and marketing of organic products.
National requirements Bosnia and Herzegovina

Labeling and marketing of organic products

During the development of this brochure Bosnia and Herzegovina did not have official organic production legislation on a country level. On a regional level only Republic of Srpska had adopted organic production legislation. Thereby only a summary of the organic production legislation of Republic of Srpska legislation are stated.

The organic products produced or imported and placed on the market according to the organic legislation of Republic Srpska may be labeled as organic. The label should include the name of the certification body and the number of the certificate.

For organic products placed on the market will be labeled as “organski proizvod” and on the label will use official languages in republic of Srpska will be used. For products for imported products or products for export the terms indicating organic production on the languages used in the individual country may be used e.g. bio, eco, oekologisch, organic, biologique, biologico, biologisch.

For imported organic products on the label a translation of the text must be included. The certification body determines the content of the label for export.

Products which do not comply with the requirements of the law on organic production should not contain indications which may suggest that the product or their ingredients is organic e.g. bio, eko.

Organic products need to be labeled in a way that the content of the label provides information on the date and the place of processing and packing as well as the ingredients of the products.

Products can be labeled as organic only if 95% of the mass of the ingredients is from agricultural origin and fulfill the requirements for organic production.

Transport and storage

During transport and storage identification of the organic products must be possible. Organic and conventional products should be stored and transported separately if they are not labeled and physically separated. Mixing of organic and conventional products should be prevented.

Trade with organic products

Imported organic products may be declared as organic if they are certified and comply with the requirements of the law. The country of origin should be stated if possible and the country of preparation of the product must be always declared. The competent authorities will maintain a list of countries and certification bodies that provide guarantees that the products comply with the requirements of the law.

Current Republic of Srpska organic legislative basis

Law on organic production of food
Rulebook on conditions for issuing certificates for organic production
National requirements Croatia

Labeling and marketing of organic products

Organic products, documents and promotion materials can be designated and labeled as »ekološki«, »organski«, »biološki« or »bio« and »eko« only if they comply with the Croatian legislation on organic production. The organic product label must include the code of the certification body and the national organic production logo.

Croatia national organic production logo

The processed products can be labeled with the mentioned designations if 95% of mass of product ingredients is produced from organic inputs, which comply with the Croatian legislation of processed organic products. The list of ingredients must be present on the label. All organic ingredients may be stated in percentages in the list with a font color and size that is not more distinguishable then the non-organic products.

Single ingredient plant products from the conversion period may be labeled as „proizvod u prijelaznom razdoblju“ “products from conversion period” providing that the conversion period is not less then 12 months before the harvest and the used letter font is not more distinguishable then the name of the product. The code of the certifying body must also be stated on the label.

The EU organic logo is optional and may also be included on the label together with the origin of the products or the ingredients. The rules for usage of the EU logo are the same as in the EU. More information on the EU rules for labeling and usage of the EU logo can be found in the section for EU labeling. The national organic production logo must not be used for products that are in conversion to organic production.

All operators involved in production, processing, storage, placing on the market and import of organic origin conversion products must be subject of control by certification bodies.
Trade with organic products

Import of organic products may be done by operators holding a valid certificate issued by a certification body that is approved in EU or on the EU list of certification bodies from third countries. Operators importing organic products certified by other certification bodies need to undergo a process of compliance check and recertification from the certification bodies authorized in Croatia. All documents connected to the import of the organic products need to include designations regarding the organic status of the products.

Transport and storage

Organic products must be transported in suitable packages containers and vehicles that disable change or substitution of the content

On receipt of products the sealing of the packages and the certificate must be checked.

Storage of organic products should be in a way that enables identification of the production series and prevents mixing and contamination of the products.

Current Croatia organic legislative basis

Law on organic production and labeling of organic products
Rulebook on Labeling of Organic Products
Rulebook on labeling of food and feed from organic production
Rulebook on processing, packaging, transport and storage of organic products
Rulebook on keeping the database for agricultural raw materials from organic production
Rulebook on organic production of animal products
Rulebook on inspection in organic production
Rulebook on organic production of plants and plant products
National requirements Macedonia

Labeling and marketing of organic products

Organic products may be placed on the market only with a valid certificate issued by the certification bodies authorized in Macedonia.

Control and certification is mandatory for all subjects involved in preparation, storage, import, handling and placing on the market organic products and products in conversion.

The word organic may be used for live, fresh and non-processed products if they comply with the provisions for organic production. The use of words in terms of the organic status for the domestic organic products e.g. "eko", "bio" and "ekological" and similar words derived from the word "organic" that can be misleading for the customer is forbidden.

The processed products may be labeled as organic only if 95% of the ingredients are organic products from agricultural origin, not taking in to consideration the added salt and water.

Organic products should be marked with: „ОРГАНСКИ ПРОИЗВОД”, the national logo, the code of the certification body and a list of ingredients with a country of origin.

Macedonia national organic production logo

Private labels and logos may be used when labeling organic products. Products from the conversion period may be marked as „ПРОИЗВОД ВО ПРЕОД” and labeled with the national logo for conversion to organic production and the code/logo of the certifying body.

Macedonia national logo for products in conversion
Trade with organic products

The importer of organic products in Macedonia must hold a valid certificate for import and trade issued by a certification body authorized by the competent authorities in Macedonia. The certification body will check if the certificate and the imported products comply with the national requirements for placing on the market organic products. The importer must report the imported quantities of organic products to the certification body. Organic products imported from other countries need to be packed and sealed in a way that prevents substitution of the content. The products must be accompanied by documents from the exporter and to enable identification of the exporter and the lot numbers for the imported products, as well as the valid certificate from the producer.

Current Macedonian organic legislative basis:

- Law on organic production
- Rulebook on method of issuing the authorization of certification bodies for controls and scientific institutions or other entities to perform the analysis in organic agricultural production, the necessary documentation, form, content and the way of keeping records
- Rulebook of the form, content and color of the national logo for organic products and the national logo for product in conversion
- Rulebook on procedures for production of organic processed food
- Rulebook on the form, content and the way of keeping records and database for the subjects and for organic seed and seedlings
- Rulebook on the form and content of annual report
- Rulebook on rules and procedures in beekeeping
- Rulebook on rules and procedures for organic plant production
- Rulebook on form and content of the certificate, the method of its issuing, and the procedure for collection, transport and storage of organic products
- Rulebook on the procedures for livestock farming, minimum surface areas of housing in the different species and maximum number of animals per hectare
- Rulebook on the manner and procedure for control in organic production
National requirements Montenegro

Labeling and marketing of organic products

Products that are produced in accordance with the Montenegro legislation on organic production are labeled as "ПРОИЗВОД ОРГАНСКОЕ ПОЛЬОПРИВРЕДЕ".

The labeling of organic production may be used for single ingredient and complex processed and non-processed products from a plant or animal origin if minimum 95% from the ingredients are produced according to the rules for organic and the remaining part is in compliance with the Montenegro rulebook on processing transport and storage of organic products. The organic production logo may also be used on the label.

![Montenegro national organic production logo](image)

The organic production label must also include the name and the identification code of the producer and the certification body, the name of the product, the production date, the name of the competent authority that approved the certification body and the number of the approval. A list of ingredients should also be present on the label. The mass percentages of all ingredients, the processing method and eventual additives in the products must be stated on the label.

Single ingredient plant products that have been in conversion period for at least 12 months may be labeled as "ПРОИЗВОД ИЗ ПРЕЛЯЗНОГ ПЕРИОДА У ОРГАНСКУ ПОЉОПРИВРЕДЕ". This labeling is not allowed for animal products. The labels, related promotion materials, documents of organic products may include the national logo for organic production, while this is not allowed for products in conversion.

Trade with organic products

Import of organic products may be done only if the producer complies with the EU requirements for organic production and is registered and under monitoring of the respective competent authorities for organic production.
For import from countries that have legislation and rules for organic production, processing, storeing, transport and monitoring equivalent to the Montenegro legislation, an exemption from the above rule may be done, and import of organic products may be approved by the competent authorities. The imported products must also have a certificate from the certification body authorised in the exporting country. The importer will cover the costs for the compliance check of the producer by the competent authorities.

Repacking from the original packages of already packed organic products as well as labeling the products with labels from other producers without approval of the producer is prohibited.

**Transport and storage**

Organic products must be stored and transported separately. If adequately packed organic products may be stored or transported together with conventional products, providing that they are clearly separated and labeled. The transport of organic products should be done in sealed containers and packages that prevent substitution of the products content. All individual packages should be properly labeled.

The packages and the information on the labels must be checked and the findings documented when receipt of organic products. If the records are not available or the content of the label is not correct the product may be placed on the market as conventional.

Organic products must be packed in biodegradable packaging materials. PVC and other plastic packaging materials that contain chlorine should not be used for packaging. Storage of organic products must be done in a way that prohibits mixing and substitution of organic with conventional products.

**Current Montenegro organic legislative basis**

- Law on organic production
- Rulebook on detailed conditions to be met by the legal entity for control of organic agriculture
- Rulebook on organic methods of crop production and organic production methods for gathering of wild plant and animal species from natural habitats
- Rulebook on the form and contents of the form for certificates for products from organic agriculture
- Rulebook on the processing, transport and storage of products from organic agriculture
- Rulebook on organic livestock production methods
- Instruction on the procedure of issuing approval for hiring foreign legal entity for control and certification of organic agriculture
- Rulebook on the form and content of the labels, labeling and form of the trademark (logo) for products from organic agriculture
- Rulebook on the conditions to be met by legal bodies performing examination of the production process for products according to the organic production methods

**National requirements Kosovo**

During the development of this brochure Kosovo did not had adopted organic production legislation.

The Kosovo law on organic production No. 02/L-122 is in procedure to be adopted. The draft text of the document is available but is content may be subject of changes. As the law is not officially adopted the overview of the provisions will not be presented in this edition.
National requirements Serbia

Labeling and marketing of organic products

Organic product can be put for sale together with conventional products only if they have been packed. Organic products that are not packed must be put for sale separately on clearly marked places in order to prevent mixing with conventional products.

Labeling of organic products: All organic products placed in the market in Serbia need to be labeled. The label must include:
- Name of the producer/importer,
- Country of origin,
- Shelf life,
- Number of the certificate, date when the certificate was awarded.
- When it is a non-single ingredient product the list of ingredients the products contains.

Domestic non-processed organic products should be marked with: „ОРГАНСКИ ПРОИЗВОД“, the national logo and the code/logo of the certifying body.

![Serbia national organic production logo](image)

One year after signing the respective control and certification contract single ingredient plant products from the conversion period may be marked as „ПРОИЗВОД ИЗ ПЕРИОДА КОНВЕРЗИЈЕ“ and labeled with the national logo for conversion to organic production and the code/logo of the certifying body.

![Serbia national logo for products in conversion](image)
Domestic certified processed products may be labeled as organic product, with the national logo and the logo of the certifying body that certified the last production phase, only if it contains no less than 95% of the ingredients of agricultural origin which have been produced in accordance with the national legislation for organic production.

Certified organic products and related promotion materials, documents, and labels may contain words that refer to the origin of the product e.g. organic, biological, ecological and their short versions eco, bio, org. as well as the logo of the producer.

Trade with organic products

In order organic products from import to be placed on the market in Serbia, they must be packed and sealed in a way that prevents substitution of the content.

A confirmation of the origin and organic status of the imported products must be issued by certification bodies authorized by the competent authorities in Serbia before imported organic products are placed on the market.

Export of organic products from Serbia may be performed only with a valid certificate from a certification bodies authorized in Serbia. Indication that organic products are exported and the number of the certificate need to be included in the customs documents.

Transport and storage

Transport and storage of organic products should be done separately from the conventional products. Only final packed and clearly labeled may be stored or transported together with the conventional products.

Current Serbian organic legislative basis:

- Law on Organic Production;
- Rulebook on the requirements for and modality of placing on the market of organic products;
- Rulebook on the modality of keeping records and on the contents of reports on the basis of which records are kept in organic production;
- Rulebook on the design of organic product label and national logo;
- Rulebook on the packaging, storage and transportation of organic products;
EU requirements for organic production

The following presents an overview of the labeling requirements for organic products, addressing especially the EU organic logo introduced in 2010. From 1st January 2009 on, two legal texts replace the old EU Council Regulation. The EU Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 provides the basic rules and standards, while the EU Commission Regulation (EC) 889/2008 goes into further details. All the amendments to the old Regulation, which had been introduced between 1991 and 2008, also become obsolete.

Changes in the regulation regarding labeling of organic products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labeling</th>
<th>Old regulation</th>
<th>New regulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labeling of products with less than 95% of organic ingredients</td>
<td>Reference to organic only in the ingredient list</td>
<td>Just like in the old regulation, such products may refer to organic only in the ingredient list, not on the product label (see example below).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum 70% of agricultural ingredients organic</td>
<td>There is no minimum percentage: any multi-ingredient product, which contains certified organic ingredients, can refer to these in the ingredient list – even if the percentage is very small.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remaining 30% only from Annex VI.C</td>
<td>There are no restrictions concerning the non-organic agricultural ingredients (except for the prohibition of GMOs and ionizing radiation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-agricultural additives and aids only according to Annex VI.A and B</td>
<td>Restrictions concerning non-agricultural additives and processing aids remain the same (refer to Annex VIII).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Same ingredient may not be used from organic and non-organic sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of the official EU organic logo on organic labels</td>
<td>Voluntary</td>
<td>Will be compulsory from mid 2010 on for pre-products produced inside the EU. Where the logo is used, it must be indicated, whether the product is of &quot;EU&quot; or &quot;non-EU&quot;, or of combined origin. In &quot;EU&quot; products, at least 98% of the agricultural ingredients must be produced in EU member countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certifier Code Number</td>
<td>Not uniform in different countries</td>
<td>Uniform: Country Code = &quot;Bio&quot; (or synonymous) – Code (e.g. CERES in Bulgaria: BG-BIO-04)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Overview of requirements for wholesale labels (non-retail containers):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>The label must allow to identify the entity responsible for the product (producer or trader).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Certifier code number (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Refer to &quot;organic&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>EU organic logo and certifier logo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overview of requirements for retail labels (consumer packages):

#### Official logo

- ![Official logo](image)

#### Design details

Defined in Reg. (EC) 271/10

#### Download

E.g. at

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en

(different languages; you also find Reg. EC 271/10 there)

#### Mandatory

For organic food produced inside the EU, use of the seal is compulsory.

#### Optional

For organic food produced outside the EU, use of the seal is voluntary

#### Not allowed

- For products "in conversion"
- For products which may refer to organic only in the ingredient list
- For wine "made from organic grapes"

#### National, certifier and other private logos

Allowed

#### Certifier identification

The certifier code number must be indicated (see Sections 5 and 6 below)

#### Other mandatory information

The company which is responsible for placing the product on the market must be identified

The term "organic" (or other terms in the respective language)

An indication of origin (see Section 4 below)

### The certifier code number for the European Union

The certifier code number is assigned by the competent state authority in the EU member country (e.g. BG-BIO-04 for CERES in Bulgaria). For organic certification in third countries, new codes have been assigned recently by the EU-Commission. CERES code for third countries is "XY-BIO-604". "XY" must be replaced by the official ISO abbreviation for the respective country. For example: Producers certified organic in China by CERES use "CN-BIO-604", in Ethiopia "ET-BIO-604", in Macedonia "MK-BIO-604".

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The new EU organic logo replaces the old one.

The new logo must be used on all products placed on the market since 1 July 2010. Existing packaged stock can be used until exhausted. Existing packaging material can be used up until 1 July 2012.

The EU logo must be combined with an indication of origin: "EU Agriculture" (Example 6.1 below) "Non-EU Agriculture" (Example 6.2), or combined "EU/non-EU Agriculture" (Example 6.3). If the product is from one single country, the country name can be used instead (Example 6.4).

### Examples EU retail labeling:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.1</th>
<th>Organic honey</th>
<th>Use of the CERES seal is voluntary. For further information see the CERES document “Certification Seal.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certified by RO-ECD-014&lt;br&gt;EU Apiculture&lt;brProduced by ApiEco&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This is the CERES code number in Romania (EU member country)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.2</th>
<th>Organic Coffee</th>
<th>This operator decided to use the black/white version and not to use the CERES seal.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certified by UG-BIO-604&lt;br&gt;Non-EU Agriculture&lt;brProduced by CoffeeComp&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This is the CERES code number in Uganda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.3</th>
<th>Organic Lentils</th>
<th>This Turkish company has mixed lentils from Eastern European EU member countries with Turkish lentils.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certified by TR-BIO-604&lt;br&gt;EU/non-EU Agriculture&lt;brProduced by PulsComp&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This is the CERES code number in Turkey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.4</th>
<th>Organic Frozen Strawberries</th>
<th>Since the product is from one single country, the label may mention the country instead of &quot;Non-EU.&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certified by CN-BIO-604&lt;br&gt;China Agriculture&lt;brProduced by Organic Exports Ltd.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This is the CERES code number in China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Import of organic products to the EU

Shipment to Europe requires that the product not only be EU certified, but also that the exporter have a certified importer in Europe, and that an EU Import Authorization has been processed and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture in the first European port of entry.

For the time being, products in third countries outside the European Union can be certified only as "equivalent to", not as "compliant with" Reg. (EC) 834/07. The EU Commission publishes the list of certifiers approved for "equivalent" certification in third countries. The list of certifiers approved for "compliant" certification, will not be published before 2012.

Operators based outside of the EU may use the EU logo on products, but are not required to do so. If the EU logo is used, it must be placed on the product, with the certifier code number directly below the logo. Below the logo, the origin of the raw ingredients must be indicated. This may be done by indicating "EU Agriculture" if the raw agricultural ingredients are from an EU country; "Non EU Agriculture" if the ingredients are not from an EU country; "EU/Non EU Agriculture" if the ingredients are a combination of raw ingredients grown in both EU countries and non EU countries; or the actual country or countries of origin of the agricultural products may be used.

A European transport document, Certificate of Inspection for Import of Products from Organic Production, is required for each shipment of product to Europe. The Certificate of Inspection for Import of Products from Organic Production must be accompanied by a Transaction/Export Certificate, as well as a bill of lading or invoice that corroborates the information on the Certificate of Inspection document.
Steps to the import of organic products to the EU from countries outside the EU:

The certified and registered importers of organic products have to apply to the competent authority in the EU country for an import license for organic products.

Once the import license is obtained the exporter’s certifier needs to provide a transaction certificate. The transaction certificate is issued by the certification body of the exporter and must be sent in original to the customs office, where the product is imported into the EU.

In order to issue a transaction certificate the importer or the exporter has to supply a proof of traceability for the shipment (usually Purchase Invoice of the respective lot from a certified supplier to the exporter, Sales invoice from the exporter to the importer, CMR for the transport of the respective shipment).

On all documents the certification status of the products needs to be indicated. Once inside the EU, the organic product can be traded freely.