
Action 19: Imports and equivalency

What is the content?

Step up efforts to include third countries in the equivalency list, including on-the-spot assessments.

Amend Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91 on organic farming, replacing the current national derogation for imports by a new permanent system making use of technical equivalency evaluations by bodies assigned by the European Community for that purpose. This could include, following appropriate consultations, developing a single and permanent European Community list of inspection bodies recognised as equivalent for their activities in third countries not already on the equivalence list.

Continue to ensure that the definition of equivalence with third countries takes into account the different climate and farming conditions and the stage of development of organic farming in each country.

Upon entry into force of this system, offer all imported products access to the EU logo.

What has been done? What was achieved?

The adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 foresees an adaptation of the current system, opening the possibility for the EU to approve directly inspection and certification body in third countries.

Products must be certified by an inspection body which is listed on one of the following lists:

- List of inspection bodies applying an inspection system and production standards compliant to EU;
- List of inspection bodies applying an inspection system and production standards equivalent to EU;
- List of countries with an inspection system and production standards equivalent to EU

Import authorizations will be ceased (12 months after publication of list of approved equivalent inspection bodies).

What is planned? What is on the way?

Details still have still to be clarified in the new implementation rules – a Commission consultation document was circulated in autumn 2007.

A working document on new implementing rules for imports (separate regulation from NIROF) presented and discussed in SCOF. Draft regulation planned for end 2008.

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Should the publication of corrigenda becomes necessary, there will be posted at the project website www.organic-revision.org.

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