



Organic Food Federation

Explanatory Note 301

These notes are intended to help applicants comply with Organic EC Regulation 2092/91. They are not exhaustive and are for explanation only. In cases of doubt the Regulation or the OFF should be consulted.

10 Simple rules that must be observed

1. You must have a valid Certificate of Compliance to produce and sell products labelled or merchandised as organic within the EU. Only a Registered Approved organic Sector Body can issue a valid certificate
2. Only the products listed on a certificate are deemed organic. Changes to products on a certificate must be agreed with OFF, and any additions to an organic product range must be certified separately.
3. It is a legal necessity to keep records of all inputs (materials purchased) and outputs (units produced) of organic materials. Good quality record keeping can have the added benefit of helping control costs.
4. An organically certified supplier must have produced every organic ingredient. Certificates issued from any EU approved body are acceptable by other EU bodies. Before purchasing materials to be imported from outside the EU you must contact OFF, as not all certifying bodies outside the EU are recognised in Europe.
5. You should always use organic ingredients when possible. Most agricultural ingredients are available as organic with only few non-organic raw materials permitted under the Regulation and these are listed in the OFF Standards Book 3 (*Annex VI of Regulation 2092/91*.) Some ingredients cannot be used because they contain additives that are not permitted.
6. Substituting organic raw materials with non-organic raw materials is not allowed. Any product made with even a small proportion of non-organic ingredient as a substitute can only legally be sold as non-organic.
7. Organic raw materials and products must be clearly labelled and kept physically separated from non-organic products. Ensure that any equipment or surface that comes into contact with a product has been thoroughly cleaned prior to starting organic production. Best practice is to start the day with Organic.
8. A product can only be called ORGANIC if it has 95% or more organic agricultural ingredients. The organic content is always expressed as a proportion of the total content of agriculturally derived ingredients.
9. If a product has between 70% and 95% of its agricultural composition as organic, it is not possible to call it organic, although it is permitted to use the statement "X% of the agricultural ingredients were produced in accordance with the rules of organic production" Providing the non organic ingredients used are listed in OFF Standards.
10. If in any doubt the OFF can clarify compositional queries and where appropriate can help in the sourcing of approved organic raw materials. OFF can also provide information on labelling.

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