



Organic Food Federation

Information Sheet for Importers

Issue 003

Issue Date 22/09/23

Guidelines On Additional Controls On Organic Turmeric

Following a review of recent irregularity cases, Defra has concluded that increased control and reporting measures are necessary for certain imported products before export and on arrival in Great Britain.

Defra is implementing additional controls on organic turmeric (curcuma) imported under CN codes 0910 30 00 and 2106 90 92, for 12 months starting from 25 September 2023.

Defra will continue to monitor the irregularity notifications and take further action if deemed appropriate, including extending the duration of the additional controls if required.

This guidance note sets out the additional official control measures for turmeric and how it will be implemented in Great Britain (GB).

Actions you must take:

Importers shall conduct sampling on all turmeric products to be marketed as organic in accordance with Article 91 of retained Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

Turmeric products may only be used or placed on the market after appropriate laboratory test showing no residues of pesticides, unless the product is placed on the market without indication referring to the organic production method and is compliant with the relevant other horizontal legal requirements.

You must inform us immediately if any irregularities are detected.

Products having results above Maximum Residue Level (MRL) (taking into account the analytical uncertainty) must be reported to russell.wedgbury@hse.gov.uk, Chemicals Regulation Division, Health & Safety Executive for advice.

Please note that if an analysis result indicates the MRL has been breached, goods must not be marketed. Measurement Uncertainty (MU) does not apply with respect to food business compliance.

Sampling and analysing for presence of pesticide residues.

Sampling shall be done by using the methods described in Retained Commission Regulation EU (No) 691/2013 on the sampling methods to be used for official control of feed and Retained Council Directive 2002/63/EC establishing methods of sampling



Organic Food Federation

Information Sheet for Importers

Issue 003

Issue Date 22/09/23

for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin.

Analysis of these samples for the presence of pesticide residues shall be conducted in a laboratory accredited to the analytical methods used. The analytical methods to be used should cover all pesticides to be screened for.

When pesticide residues or other irregularities are detected, you must start an investigation and notify us, we will then inform DEFRA.

Action on outcome of test results or any other irregularities found.

Once you obtain the test results from the laboratory, you must report the results to us for approval to release the product for use or for sale as organic, or where contamination is detected for further action.

When pesticide residues or other irregularities are detected, we will start an investigation and Defra will be informed.

We will not allow any part of the product to be marketed as organic pending the satisfactory outcome of our investigation. The cost of removal and/or redistribution of the product will be the responsibility of the importer.

Actions we will take:

Take and analyse samples in each case where an irregularity is suspected. In some cases, this may require testing more than the minimum number of samples.

All products contaminated shall be downgraded, including all positive results above the limit of quantification (LOQ) of pesticides.

Information on cases of irregularities or infringements will be immediately communicated between us, Defra and the countries concerned.