

EU/UK Equivalency

The EU has now agreed to recognise the UK as equivalent for organics until **31 December 2023** and all 6 UK certification bodies have received recognition from EC under Reg 1235/2008.

- They are: Soil Assoc., Org. Food Federation, Org. Farmers & Growers, OF&G Scotland (SOPA), BDA, Quality Welsh Food Certification
- All 6 are now approved to certify organic goods and processors to EU organic regulation and their certified operators can use the EU organic logo on their packs
- At least until **31-12-2023** the certification body codes for the certifiers will **not** change and their certified operators can use the EU organic logo on their packs.
- All organic processors making foods containing GB agricultural ingredients will have to update their labelling to state Non-EU EU/Non-EU Agriculture.

Certificates of Inspection - GB to EU

All organic goods being imported into Ireland and NI from GB must be accompanied by an electronic Certificate of Inspection, generated from TRACES NT.

- The exporter in GB or importer in IE/NI can generate to eCOI on TRACES NT and in order to do so they must be certified by their OCB as an Organic Exporter.
- The certificate is endorsed on TRACES NT by the GB OCB
- The importer in IE/NI has to send advance notification to DAFM (BrexitRegistration@agriculture.gov.ie) and IOA for every consignment and DAFM then verify the consignment on TRACES NT.
- Therefore, all existing IOA operators who import goods from GB must be registered on TRACES NT as an Organic Importer and validated on TRACES NT by DAFM.
- There are some exemptions to these requirements specific to trade between Northern Ireland and GB but these exemptions are specific to supermarkets and their trusted suppliers and are only in place until 01-04-2021.

Certificates of Inspection - EU to GB

From **01-07-2021** all organic goods being exported into GB from EU must be accompanied by the paper GB Certificate of Inspection

- The importer in GB notifies their certifier and gets the certificate generated
- The certificate is sent to the OCB in the EU for endorsement - therefore any IOA operator (except those in NI) selling goods to GB will need IOA to endorse a certificate for every consignment.

Phytosanitary Certificates and Imports of certain plants from GB

For the purposes of the importation of plant materials from Third countries, the EU has agreed to give the United Kingdom a favourable listing as a "Third Country Other Than" within the annexes of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Therefore:

- The import of ware potatoes from GB is permitted.
- The import of some species of plants such as Malus (Apple) and Fragaria (Strawberry) is permitted.
- All imports of regulated plants, plant products (including ware potatoes) and used machinery from GB require phytosanitary certification and pre-notification to DAFM 24 hours in advance of arrival.
- The **import of seed potatoes from GB is still prohibited** but the UK has applied to the EU for 'Third Country' equivalence for the export of certified seed potatoes to the EU, but engagement on this dossier is ongoing.
- Queries should be sent to plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie