



Circular No 2/2023

2nd May 2023

Notice to all Organic Control Bodies, Importers and First Consignee.

Further to Circular 3/2022, DAFM as the Competent Authority wishes to reiterate the Obligations on Importers and First Consignees for organic imports from third countries.

Importers and first consignees are required to check that there is a valid and endorsed Certificate of Inspection (COI) for each consignment, whereby the status of the COI is 'Issuing Body Declaration Signed' before the consignment leaves the country of export.

Importers and first consignees should be aware that following reception of advance notification, DAFM, as Competent Authority, carries out relevant checks and completes Box 30 of the COI, declaring whether the consignment is:

- Clearable – whereby the product is free for circulation as organic
- Clearable as conventional – whereby the consignment is released for free circulation as conventional, **NOT as organic**
- Not clearable – Consignment cannot be released for free circulation in the **EU**

There is an obligation on the first consignee (company listed in box 24), as set out in Annex III (6) of Commission Regulation 2018/848, to complete box 31 of the COI, to certify that:

1. The COI has been validated by the Competent Authority (Box 30)
2. The consignment is in appropriate packaging or container, closed in a manner preventing substitution
3. There is identification on the consignment that includes details of the exporter and other marks and numbers that identify the lot with the certificate of inspection

The first consignee declaration should not be signed until the goods are received.

Signing the first consignee declaration before the goods are received may delay the clearance of goods through customs controls.

Goods cannot be sold as organic until such time as the Certificate of Inspection status is as First Consignee Declaration Signed (Box 31).

The importer must retain the certificate for a period, not less than two years, and make available on the request of the organic control authority or the control body.

**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



For further information on Imports please refer to circulars 01/2022, 3/2022, 01/2021, 2/2021 & 5/2021. Circulars available on Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/fc7c8-organic-farming/#circulars>

Yours sincerely

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Signed: Seamus Barron
Seamus Barron
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