



Circular 3/2022

Date 07 Dec 2022

NOTICE TO ALL ORGANIC CONTROL BODIES & IMPORTERS/FIRST CONSIGNEE

1. Customs Single Window

Importers/First Consignees are obliged to declare whether or not such imports are organic on the customs declaration on Revenue's Automated Import System (AIS). This is done by declaring the code C644 for organic products or the code Y929 for non-organic products. It is important to note that only one of these codes can be declared in a single customs declaration. If both codes are declared on an item, the declaration will be rejected. If an operator declares C644 on the customs declaration for a consignment that consignment must have a corresponding Certificate of Inspection.

From 11th January 2023 Revenue will be releasing an update to AIS. This release will introduce new functionality that will enable electronic matching of specific data on the customs import declaration against the equivalent data on the CHED/COI certificate. Data matching will be carried out on the CN Code and Net Mass. If the net mass is not available, matching of the Supplementary Units measure will be undertaken. If mismatches occur, processing of the customs import declaration will be suspended until the issue is resolved. In order to avoid delays clearing goods through Customs, Importers should be making preparations now to ensure that the data on import declarations matches the data on relevant CHEDs and COIs.

For more information on the Single Window please visit the Revenue website:

<https://www.revenue.ie/en/customs/businesses/electronic-systems/ais/certex/index.aspx>

2. Stages of a COI when it leaves the country of origin

The Certificate of inspection must be issued by the relevant control authority or control body before the consignment leaves the third country of export or origin. On TRACES the COI must show 'Issuing Body Declaration Signed' as the status of the COI. It is the responsibility of the Control Body issuing the COI to ensure that EU legislation is duly met.

3. Advance notification

Further to Circular 1/2022, importers are reminded that Advance notice of all imports of organic products from third countries must be submitted to DAFM via the Import Notification Inspection System (INIS) Portal. Please note if commodities require both a COI and a CHED you will need to create two separate applications on the portal, in addition to an organic application for the COI a separate CHED application is also required.

Portal Link [agfood.ie:Individual Login \(agriculture.gov.ie\)](https://www.agfood.ie/IndividualLogin/agriculture.gov.ie)

The operator responsible for a consignment will have to register their details on the INIS Portal. Information on the registration process can be found at <https://publicapps.agriculture.gov.ie/ccm-pub-ui/#/>

The operator responsible for a consignment shall give prior notification at least one working day before the expected arrival of the consignment, as set out in Article 1 of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/1013.

4. Obligations on Importers and First Consignees for organic imports from third countries

DAFM as the Competent Authority wishes to advise importers and first consignees of the requirement to check that there is a valid and endorsed Certificate of Inspection (COI) for each consignment, whereby the status of the COI is 'consignment verified'.

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

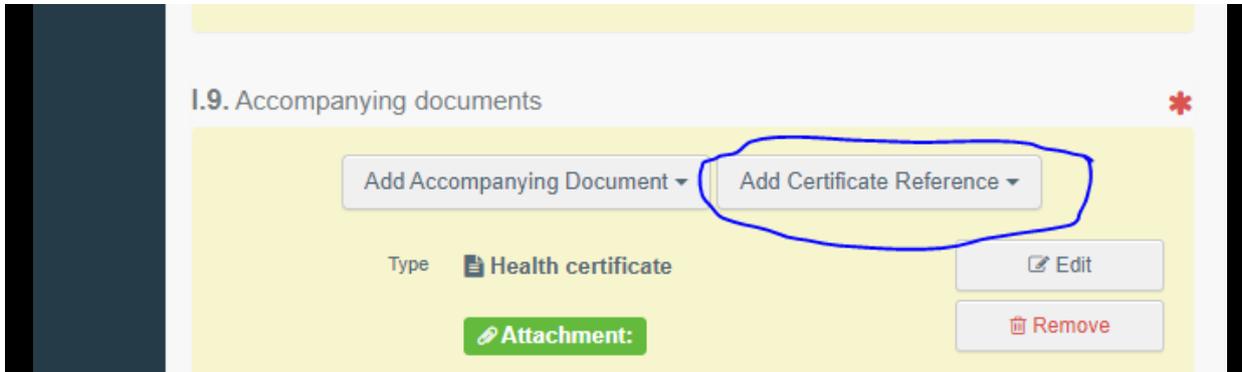
The importer must retain the certificate for a period, not less than two years, and make available on the request of the organic control authority or the control body

5. COI-CHED link

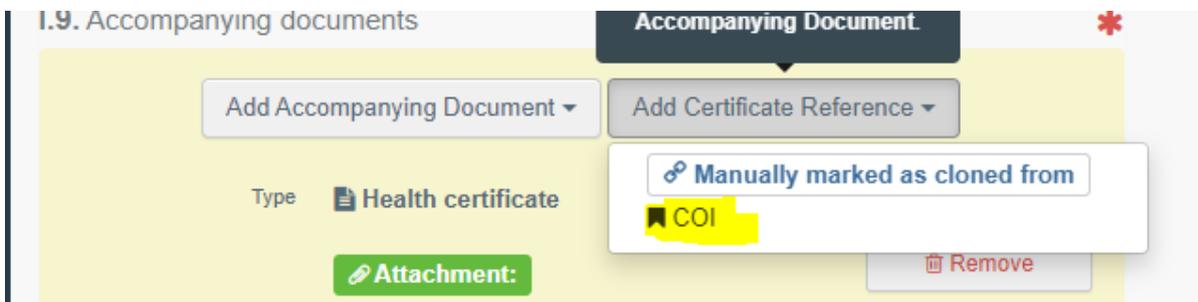
If your product required both a COI and a CHED, these are linked on TRACES. This means that in order for a CHED to be cleared, the COI must be validated beforehand, as appropriate. Therefore, it is important that all COI information submitted is accurate and timely, in order to facilitate efficient processing of COI and CHED documentation.

To link the COI correctly to the CHED:

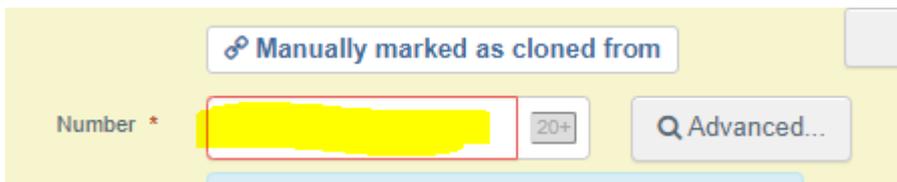
Please attach the COI using the Add Certificate reference button as shown below



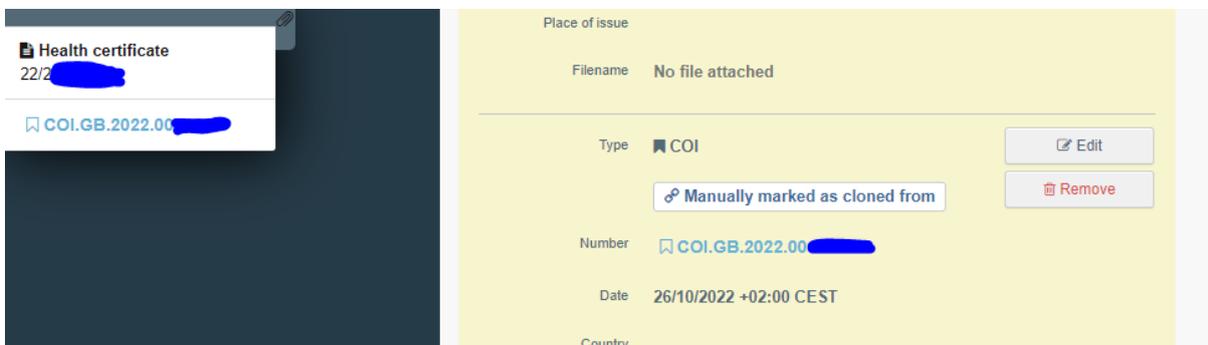
Click on COI as highlighted below



Insert the full COI number COI.GB.2022.00XXXXX and click on it when it appears listed below the highlighted box



It should appear on the CHED as below



On the CHEDP, in box I.31 'description of consignment', importers must select 'Organic' as product type

1.31. Description of consignment

+ Add commodities ✎ Modify commodities

1 04 DAIRY PRODUCE; BIRDS' EGGS; NATURAL HONEY; EDIBLE PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INCLUDED 🗑 Remove 🗑 Clear rows ➕ Add row

0403 Buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, yogurt, kephir and other fermented or acidified milk and cream, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa Subtotal quantity: 0 Units.
Subtotal number of packages: 2035 packages.
Subtotal net weight: 4327.08 kg.

Default weight unit: Default quantity unit: Default package type:

* Hide optional columns

#	Commodity *	Species	Product type *	Batch number	Quantity	Package count	Net weight
1	0403		Organic			2035 Case	4327.08 kg

Establishment of Origin * Final consumer

6. Additional Controls

In addition, please also be aware that there may be additional controls or requirement on products imported from certain non-EU countries. These guidelines can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/organic-farming/trade_en

7. Non-Compliant imports

Where organic product has been imported from a third country in the absence of a Certificate of Inspection, or where a residue has been found below the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL), the importer will have three options:

- A) Downgrade the product to non-organic
- B) Return the product to the country of origin
- C) Disposal of the product

DAFM will seek evidence of the above.

Any queries regarding same please contact:

Organic Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford

Tel: 053-9163400 Lo-Call 0761 064415

email: OrganicImports@agriculture.gov.ie

Kevin McGeever

Assistant Principal Officer

Organic Unit

Seamus Barron

Agricultural Inspector

Organic Unit