



3 October 2019

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Implications of Brexit for Irish Organic Sector

To: All Organic Operators and Organic Control Bodies

In the event of a disorderly Brexit on 31 October, 2019 the following are the main implications for Irish Organic Operators.

Exports

The UK will have its own laws for the production, processing, labelling and trading of organic food and feed after Brexit. Post Brexit food and feed registered as organic in the EU will continue to be accepted as organic in the UK.

Irish operators who export animals, plants, products of animal origin and products of plant origin must register with Revenue for an EORI number and must also register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Further details on preparing for Brexit are outlined in the attached document.

Imports

The EU have advised Member States that the organic status of all imports from the UK will no longer be recognised post Brexit and such imports cannot be labelled as organic. This situation will remain until Organic Control Bodies are authorised by the EU to certify UK goods for export to



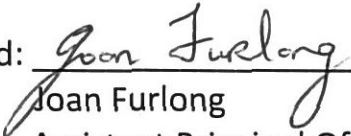
the EU and/or until the UK and EU agree to recognise each other's standards.

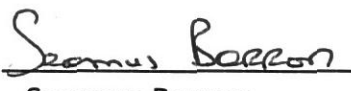
The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine is fully aware of the difficulties this creates, especially in respect of the importation of animal feed from the UK and are actively engaging with the EU Commission to address these concerns. The use of any regulatory provision to address these concerns however will have to be negotiated and agreed with the Commission before any agreed remedial action may be introduced.

In light of this, Irish organic operators who rely on organic imports from the UK are advised to make provision for such eventualities prior to 31 October, 2019.

BDAA Demeter UK

Post Brexit on 31 October, 2019, BDAA Demeter UK will no longer be recognised as an approved Organic Control Body to certify Irish organic operators. Any organic certification approved by BDAA Demeter UK prior to 31 October, 2019 will no longer be valid from 1 November, 2019. Irish organic operators who are currently certified by BDAA Demeter UK are advised to transfer to another Organic Control Body prior to 31 October, 2019 if they wish to retain their organic status. A lapse in certification will require an in-conversion period.

Signed: 
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