



Organics and the EU Exit transition period

What does the transition period mean for organics?

On 31 January the UK will leave the EU and enter into a transition period until the end of 2020. During this time, businesses will be able to trade with the EU on the same terms as they do now. There are no immediate changes that will come into effect from 31 January that you need to prepare for. Organics will continue to follow EU rules until the transition period ends including import/export rules and labelling requirements.

Will regulations remain the same during the transition period?

Yes, the rules for organic production will remain the same as now. The UK continues to operate under Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Commission Regulations (EC) Nos 889/2008 and 1235/2008 which also apply in the EU.

Can exports continue to the EU and third countries as they do now?

Yes, during the transition period, exports can continue to the EU and EEA States and will not require additional documentation. Exports to third countries where they have equivalence with the EU can continue.

Will goods imported into the UK from the EU continue to be accepted?

Yes. Organic products from the EU and EEA States will be accepted into the UK in the same way as now. They do not require a Certificate of Import (Col).

Are the UK control bodies still approved and recognised during the transition period?

Yes, the list of approved control bodies can be found on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Is the EU logo still required on organic products?

Yes, during the transition period, we are still required to comply with EU law, meaning the logo **must** be used on:

- all pre-packaged EU food products, produced and sold as organic within the UK and EU

The logo can **optionally** be used:

- on imported products from third countries, where the product conforms to the EU rules on the use of the EU logo

- on non-pre-packaged organic products
- on UK organic products placed on third countries markets
- as part of information campaigns intended to educate the public about the organics scheme (as long as it is not misleading or used to imply that a non-organic product fulfils the requirements of an organic product)

The logo **cannot** be used for:

- products containing less than 95% of organic ingredients
- mass catering operations such as restaurants or hospitals
- products not in the scope of organic rules such as cosmetics or products from hunting and fishing
- products in 'conversion' (where organic methods have only just been introduced and there may still be non-organic substances in the soil or animal chain)

Will use of TRACES NT still be required for third country imports?

Yes, all third country imports will still require a Certificate of Inspection (Col) which will need to be issued and endorsed by the relevant control authority or control body on TRACES NT. Checks will continue to be required at the first point of entry into the EU.

Will a Certificate of Inspection (Col) be required for goods imported from non-EU (third) countries?

Yes, the same process applies as now. Cols will need to be issued on TRACES NT and these will need to be checked and endorsed by the exporters control body.

Will the tariffs for importing organic produce be the same as they are now?

The UK will continue to import goods tariff-free from within the EU and will continue to apply the EU's Common External Tariff (CET) to goods imported from outside the EU during this period. At the end of the transition period, the Government will introduce a long-term tariff regime. Further information will be provided on GOV.UK at the appropriate time.

Are there any changes to the organic certificates issued to businesses?

No, the certificate template including references to the EU Regulations will remain the same as now.