FOOD LABELLING

Guidelines n°31:

EC RULES ON LABELLING ORGANIC FOODSTUFFS

According to EU Regulations (EC) no.834/2007 & (EC) no.889/2008

The guidelines apply to all food products; with regards to animal feed, please refer to EC Guidelines n°26.
I. **Reference to the organic production method**

Any references to organic farming as listed in the annex of R(EC) no.834/2007 are protected in any European Community language and countries (e.g. « biologique » or « bio » in French, « organic » or « org » in English, « ecologico » or « eco » in Spanish).

Organic references are prohibited in the following cases:

- On labels of non-organic products unless references are clearly not connected to organic production or not related to the agricultural ingredients of the foodstuff.
- In trademarks or advertising of non-organic products that are likely to mislead the consumer on the actual type of product.
- On labels and advertising of products containing, composed of or derived from GMO as per EC regulation no. 1830/2003

Mandatory statements are set out in general regulations (notably Directive 2000/13/EC relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs) and in regulations related to specific foodstuffs. In order to familiarise yourself with regulations, ECOCERT advise that you to contact your Competent Authorities.

According to the certification category the product belong to, references to organic farming are different (for further details on categories and composition rules for foodstuffs, please refer to EC Guidelines n° 30).

### A. « Organic » products (unprocessed agricultural products and foodstuffs containing at least 95% agricultural organic ingredients)

**Sales description**: references to organic farming may be used in the sales description of the product and displayed anywhere on the label.

**List of ingredients**: organic nature of the designated ingredients has to be specified.
B. Foodstuffs containing a variable percentage of organically produced ingredients

**Sales description:** no reference to “organic” may be included in the sales description of products in this category.

**List of ingredients:** references to organic farming may only be used in the ingredient list providing the following requirements are met.

The organic nature of the designated agricultural ingredients has to be specified and the total percentage of organic ingredients in proportion to the total quantity of ingredients of agricultural origin has to be indicated. Any references to « organic » and the indication of percentage must be printed in the same colour, identical size and style of lettering as the other information in the ingredient list.

C. Products mainly containing ingredients of fishing or hunting of wild animals

**Sales description:** The organic origin of the designated agricultural ingredients may be displayed in the same visual field as the sales description (provided all other ingredients of agricultural origin are organic, otherwise the product falls into the product type as per section B above).

E.g. sardine with olive oil, organic oil

**List of ingredients:** The “organic” status of the designated agricultural ingredients, as well as the total percentage of organic ingredients in proportion to the total quantity of ingredients of agricultural origin, both have to be displayed. References to "organic" status and percentage must be printed in the same colour, identical size and style of font as the other information in the ingredient list.
D. In-conversion products of plant origin

**Sales description:** unprocessed or processed products containing one single in-conversion plant ingredient of agricultural origin may bear the statement « **Produced under conversion to organic farming** »

The statement must be printed in a colour, size and font style that does not make it stand out more than the sales description of the product. Furthermore the same font size must be used to print the whole statement (e.g. the following statement « product under conversion to ORGANIC farming » would be prohibited)

E. Specific case: Wine and wine vinegar

Pending the potential adoption of EC regulations on organic wine-making:

- The following statement may feature on labels of wine and wine vinegar made with organic grapes: « **Wine/Wine vinegar made with organically produced grapes** ». 
- The following statement may feature on labels of wine and wine vinegar made with in-conversion grapes: « **Wine/Wine vinegar made with grapes produced under conversion to organic farming** »
I. Logos

A. EU logo

1. Scope:

EU logo may only be used for the following products:

- Unprocessed agricultural products
- Foodstuff containing at least 95% of agricultural organic ingredients

The logo is mandatory since 1st July 2010 on the packaging of pre-packaged food manufactured within the EU; it remains optional for products imported into the EU from third countries.

On the other hand, EU logo may not be used for the following products:

- Products containing a variable percentage of agricultural organic ingredients
- Products containing mostly ingredients from hunting or fishing
- Products in-conversion to organic
- Wine/wine vinegar made with organic/in-conversion grapes
- Organic products certified according to domestic standards (e.g.: snails, rabbits, ostriches in France)

2. Terms of use: geographic origin of agricultural raw materials

Where the EU logo is used, the location where the agricultural raw materials (organic and non-organic) of the product have been farmed must be displayed as follows:

- « EU Agriculture » where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in the EU
- « non-EU Agriculture » where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in third countries outside the EU
- « EU/non-EU Agriculture » where part of the agricultural raw materials has been farmed in the EU and a part of it has been farmed in a third country (if one of the 2 origins « EU » or « non-EU » does not exceed 2% of the total quantity by weight of agricultural raw materials, it is possible to remove the reference).

The indication « EU » or « non-EU » may be replaced or supplemented by a country name when all the agricultural raw materials of the product have been farmed in that country.

The above references must be displayed on the label immediately below the code number of the Control Body and in the same visual field as the EU logo.
3. Graphic charter

**Colour:**
- Green Pantone N° 376 and Green (50% cyan + 100% yellow) when a four-colour process is used or
- Black and white if not applicable in colour or
- Where there are indications in a single colour on the packaging, the logo may be used in the same colour

When associated to national or private logos using a different shade of green (e.g. French AB logo), the EU logo may be printed in the same shade as the other logo.

**Sizes:**
Height of at least 9 mm and a width of at least 13.5 mm (height of 6 mm and width of 9 mm for very small packages)

Various EU logo formats as well as a user guidelines and Q&A may be downloaded from the European Commission website at: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en)

The actual Community logo « euro-leaf » has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union in March 2010 EU regulation no.271/2010), it replaces previous logo:

![EU Community Logo](image)

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**B. National or private logos**

These logos may be used on labels of products complying with EC Regulations no.834/2007 in accordance with terms of use.

E.g. AB logo in France

![AB Logo in France](image)
II. References to the Control Body (CB)

A. Mandatory reference to the Control Body of the last processor

The reference code number of the Control Body (CB) of the operator who has carried out the most recent production or handling operation must be displayed on labels. (NB: packaging and labelling are also handling operations). The reference may be supplemented by the name and address of the CB but in all cases the reference code number is mandatory.

The reference code number of the CB must be displayed on labels of all certified products whatever their certification group may be (organic, with a variable percentage, in-conversion...)

When the EU logo is used, the reference code number of the CB must be displayed in the same visual field as the logo.

A vendor controlled by another CB than the one of the last processor may also include a reference to his own CB but the type operations controlled by each CB must be clearly stated:

E.g. « processing certified by code number of manufacturer CB » and « distribution certified by code number and/or name of vendor CB »

B. The reference code number of the CB

Official reference code numbers of Control Bodies have been formally published by European Commission.

Three lists with code numbers have been issued:

- List of EU control bodies and authorities
- List of control bodies and authorities from equivalent third countries (Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, India, Israel, New Zealand, Switzerland, Tunisia)
- List of control bodies and authorities working under the system of import authorisations

These lists can be downloaded on the European Community website: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-confidence/inspection-certification_en

The reference code number of ECOCERT SA is AB-BIO-602, AB being to be replaced by the ISO code of the country where the control takes place. For ISO country codes, please check on ISO 3166 standards: http://www.iso.org/iso/fr/english_country_names_and_code_elements
E.g. Code number for Brazilian operators is BR-BIO-602, for Chinese operators, code is CN-BIO-602.

For Europe, the ECOCERT office code numbers are as follow:

ECOCERT Deutschland GmbH: DE-ÖKO-024
ECOCERT France SAS: FR-BIO-01
ECOCERT Portugal: PT-BIO-02
SC ECOCERT SRL (Romania): RO-ECO-007
AMBICERT SL (Spain): ES-ECO-010-AR

For equivalent third countries, the code numbers of ECOCERT offices in India, Tunisia and Japan and Canada are:

ECOCERT India Private Limited: IN-ORG-005
ECOCERT SA Tunisia: TN-BIO-001
ECOCERT QAI Japan Ltd: JP-BIO-006
ECOCERT Canada: CA-ORG-006

III. Using old stock of printed labels

Most of the references above mentioned are mandatory on labels since 1st July 2010, notably the reference to the CB code number and the use of the new EU logo for the « organic » products that have been produced within the EU.

However, a transitional period for the use of old packaging materials has been set out as follow: labels edited in accordance with Regulations (EEC) no.2092/1991 or (EC) no.834/2007 (without new mandatory references) may be used until 1st July 2012 provided products are complaint with the requirements of Regulation (EC) no.834/2007 (with regards to production and composition rules).

Stocks of products that have been produced, packaged and labelled before 1st July 2010 in accordance with Regulation (EEC) no.2092/1991 or Regulation (EC) no.834/2007 may continue to be marketed in the EU until stocks are exhausted.

Wines that have been produced, packaged and labelled before 31st July 2012 in accordance with Regulation (EEC) no.2092/1991 or Regulation (EC) no.834/2007 may continue to be marketed in the EU until stocks are exhausted.
IV. Label Examples

A. « Organic » Product

Vegetable soup with 1% of non-organic Peruvian peppers (*Schinus molle L.*) (Listed in Annex IX of R (EC) 889/2008).

Case 1: Manufactured in France (with vegetable coming from EU), Certified by ECOCERT SAS

Vegetable Soup

BIO

* Organic ingredients

List of ingredients:
vegetable* (potato*, carrot*, onion*, celery*), water, salt, pepper.

99% of agricultural ingredients from organic farming

In red: Mandatory references

Case 2: Manufactured in Morocco (with vegetable coming from EU and Morocco), certified by ECOCERT SA

Vegetable Soup

BIO

* Organic ingredients

List of ingredients:
vegetable* (potato*, carrot*, onion*, celery*), water, salt, pepper.

99% of agricultural ingredients from organic farming

In red: Mandatory references
B. Product with a variable organic percentage

Muesli with 6% of non-organic macadamia nut (94% organic product), manufactured in Turkey by an operator certified by ECOCERT SA

In red: Mandatory references

List of ingredients: wheat flakes*, honey*(15%), oat flakes*, flaxseed*, flaked almonds*, raisins*, macadamia nut, hazelnuts*

*94% of agricultural ingredients from organic farming

Certified TR-BIO-602
Corporate name + address of the company

C. Products containing mostly ingredients from fishing

Tuna (wild fishing) with organic olive oil and capers (30%) manufactured in Ecuador certified by ECOCERT SA

In red: Mandatory references

Ingredients:
Tuna, olive oil*, capers*.

*30% of agricultural ingredients coming from organic farming
D. Product conversion to organic farming

In-conversion carrots produced and packaged in Tunisia, certified by ECOCERT SA Tunisia

V. Definitions

**Ingredient** (as per Directive 2000/13/EC)

Means any substance, including additives, used in the manufacture or preparation of a foodstuff and still present in the finished product, even if in altered form. Within a given food products, if a primary ingredient consist in a combination of several secondary ingredients, the latter have to be listed on the ingredients list of the designated food product. However, food additives and enzymes incidentally present in a food product due to the fact that they were present in one or several ingredients of the food, are not considered as ingredients, providing they do not have any technological effect on the finished product.
Labelling (Article 2k REC 834/07)
Means any terms, words, particulars, trademarks, brand name, pictorial matter or symbol relating to and placed on any packaging, document, notice, label, board, ring or collar accompanying or referring to a product.

Preparation (Article 2i REC 834/07)
Means the operations of preserving and/or processing of organic products, including slaughter and cutting for livestock products, and also packaging, labelling and/or alterations made to the labelling concerning the organic production method.

VI. References and EU Regulations

EU Regulation no.834/2007 of 28 June 2007
Article 23: References to the organic farming
Article 24: Mandatory references
Article 25: Logos

Article 57: EU Logo + Annex XI
Article 58: CB code number and place of origin
Article 62: Labelling in-conversion products of plant origin

Documents available upon request to ECOCERT or to be downloaded from our website www.ecocert.com