



MALTA

Direttorat tal-Agrikoltura

Agriculture Directorate

IMPORT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Objective:

The purpose of this document is to provide organic operators and any interested parties with information and legal obligations related to the import of organic products.

Legal basis:

European: [Commission Regulation \(EC\) no. 1235/2008](#) and [Council Regulation \(EC\) no. 834/2007](#)

Guidelines:

Control of import of organic products is specifically addressed in:

- Commission Regulation (EC) no.1235/2008 detailed rules for implementation of 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries.

There are three main different import regimes:

One regime is concerned with import of products which are **compliant** with EU regulation (Art 32, 834/2007)

1. Control bodies recognised as competent to carry out **compliance** controls in third countries(Annex I)
 - Based on evidence from a control body in the EU or in a third country that controls can be effectively implemented
 - Produced and controlled in **precisely** the same manner
 - No Control Bodies have yet been recognised
 - Annex I is empty

The other two regimes are concerned with **equivalence** (Article 33, 834/2007) which is:

- Based on evidence of production standards and control systems applied and an assessment of equivalence to those in the EU
 - Similar rules which conform with goals and principles
2. Third countries having production rules and control measures recognised as of **equivalent** effectiveness to the EU regulation (Annex III, lists 11 countries)
 3. Control bodies recognised as applying production standards and control measures **equivalent** to EU organic standards in specified third countries (Annex IV, lists 60 CB's)



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Imported products are recognised in the following categories:

- A: Unprocessed plant products
- B: Live animals or unprocessed animal products
- C: Aquaculture products and seaweeds
- D: Processed agricultural products for use as food
- E: Processed agricultural products for use as feed
- F: Vegetative propagating material and seeds

All currently used import regimes require that the goods are accompanied by a certificate of inspection (Article 13):

- The certificate is issued by a control body or control authority of the exporter in the country where the goods originate
- Format is specified in annex V of [1235/2008](#)
- Must be presented for each consignment
- It must be verified and endorsed by the endorsing authority at the point of entry into the EU



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IMPORTING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS INTO MALTA

The following is a step by step account of the required legal procedures to be followed by any operator intending to import organic products in Malta or the EU.

- Step 1: Enrol in the Organic Farming Control system by applying with a recognised control authority or control body (MCCAA).
- Step 2: Inform the control authority or body and the competent authority as soon as possible before the consignment enters Malta and submit all relevant documentation including invoice, copy of the certificate of inspection, laboratory results (if available).
- Step 3: Advise the control authority or body when the consignment arrives in Malta so that necessary checks are carried out.
- Step 4: After the original certificate of inspection has been endorsed and the consignment is released for free circulation as organic, the certificate must accompany the goods and endorsed by the first consignee as well.
- Step 5: Keep proper records pertinent to that consignment for the purpose of traceability and controls.