

Japan-EU Organic Equivalency Arrangement (updated on May 18, 2025)

1. Export from Japan to the EU

(1) Scope of Japanese organic products covered

Those organic products that have been produced or lastly processed within Japan and certified/graded under the Organic JAS system, such as Organic Products of Plant Origin, Organic Livestock Products and Organic Foods (that includes Organic Alcohol Beverages, but excludes Organic Algae derived processed foods)

(2) Requirements etc.

- Ingredients for the relevant Organic Processed Foods are limited to only those Organic JAS certified products, which must bear Organic JAS seals. (It is possible to use those ingredients imported into Japan from a 3rd country other than those that share organic equivalency arrangement with Japan, provided that Organic JAS seals are affixed to such imported ingredients under organic JAS certification.)
- It is necessary to issue a Certification of Inspection (COI) for export to the EU, through the Trade Control and Export System (TRACES).
- Those accredited certification bodies, (that can issue a Certificate of Inspection (COI) for export to the EU), must be recognized by the EU and registered accordingly.

Please refer to the “List of Accredited Certification Bodies (that can issue Certificate for export of Organic Plant Products. etc.)”, on the following webpage: (https://www.maff.go.jp/j/jas/jas_kikaku/attach/pdf/yuuki-490.pdf)

- The EU Organic Logo may be optionally used in the labelling, by the organic JAS certified foreign grade labelling operators, in compliance with the EU standards and rules.

According to the EU standards and rules, a code number of the certification body (JP-BIO-XXX) and the place where the ingredients originate (e.g. In the case of Japan: “non-EU Agriculture” or “Japan Agriculture”) must be displayed next to the EU organic logo. For further details, please refer to the following webpage: (https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/organic-logo_en)

- It is necessary for the Certification Body, (that has certified/graded the relevant organic products for export to the EU), to publish in their website those items specified in Article 48-(1)-(iv) of Regulation for Enforcement of the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards

2. Import from the EU to Japan

(1) Scope of the EU organic products covered

Those organic products that have been produced or lastly processed within the EU and certified under the EU Organic system, such as Organic Products of Plant Origin, Organic Livestock Products (limited only to those livestock species covered under Organic JAS) and Organic Foods (that includes Organic Alcohol Beverages, but excludes Organic Algae derived processed foods)

(2) Requirements etc.

- The EU organic certified products exported to Japan must be accompanied by an organic certificate for exporting to Japan (or a photocopy) (※2) issued by the government institutions or quasi-governmental organizations (※1) located within the EU member states.

(※1) Please refer to the list of quasi-governmental organizations (including their name and address) on the following webpage
(https://www.maff.go.jp/j/jas/jas_kikaku/koujigaikoku.html).

- (※2) Such certificate must include all the matters specified in Article 29 of Regulation for Enforcement of the Act on Japanese Agricultural Standards
1. The name and address of the organization which has issued the certificate;
 2. The issuance date of the certificate;
 3. The type (※1) and quantity of agricultural and forestry products relating to the certification;
 4. The name and address of the overseas organization (※2) which has performed an act equivalent to the certification of the product handler, production process manager (meaning the production process manager prescribed in Article 10, paragraph (2) of the Act; the same applies hereinafter), distribution process manager (meaning the distribution process manager prescribed in paragraph (3) of the same Article; the same applies hereinafter), or re-packer (meaning the re-packer prescribed in Article 11, paragraph (1) of the Act; the same applies hereinafter) relating to the relevant agricultural and forestry product; and
 5. An indication that the relevant agricultural and forestry product has been graded(※3).

※1 Organic Products of Plant Origin, Organic Livestock Products or Organic Processed Foods

※2 Regarding the organic equivalence between Japan and the EU, Please specify the final producer or processor.

※3 The term 'graded' here refers to indicate that it is an organic product (organic grade), not to the grade of the product such as first class or second class.

※Revision History

May 18, 2025: Updated in accordance with the scope expansion of the equivalency recognition