


Labelling of organic products: changes in the regulations

The new EU organic regulation has brought with it a number of important changes to the labelling of organic products. If you package and/or sell any organic produce, you need to be aware of them and their implications.

New EU Logo

	<p>Use: From 1 July 2010, you must use this logo on all pre packaged organic¹ food products, but its use is voluntary on non pre-packed products. There is a transition period during which packaging material produced before 1/7/2010 may be used until 01 July 2012. Products that have already been packed may continue to be sold until stocks run out. Control body² logos can be used alongside the EU logo.</p> <p>Size: Minimum height is 9mm, and the minimum, height/width ration is 1:1.5. This means the minimum width is 13.5mm.</p> <p>Colour: Green Pantone 376 but it may also appear in black and white where a colour form is not practical.</p>
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Exceptions:

- On dark packaging the logo may appear in negative format using the packaging colour instead of white.
- If packaging is in a single colour then the logo may also appear in that colour rather than in green or black and white.
- If a national or private logo is green then that colour green may be used for the European logo as well.
- For exceptionally small packaging such as small sweets the logo may be used with a height of 6mm.

Control body codes

The logo has to be shown with the codes for the control bodies. The codes have also changed and the letters 'UK' have been substituted by 'GB'. The codes of the main control bodies working in Wales are given below:

¹ This applies to all products where at least 95% of agricultural ingredients are organic. It cannot be used if the proportion of organic agricultural ingredients is less than this

² 'Control Body' is the new term adopted for 'Certification body' in the new EU Organic regulation

Control Body	New code*
Biodynamic Agricultural Association	GB-ORG-006
Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd	GB-ORG-002
Organic Food Federation	GB-ORG-004
Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd,	GB-ORG-013
Soil Association Certification Ltd,	GB-ORG-005

*Format of code to be confirmed by DEFRA

Area of origin

The new regulation requires the origin of the agricultural raw material in the product to be identified as one of the following:

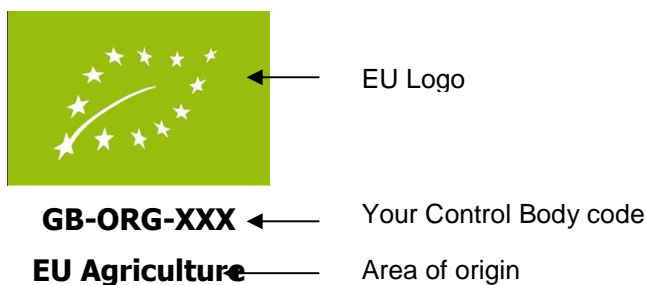
- EU Agriculture – All ingredients come from the with the EU
- Non EU Agriculture – All ingredients come from outside the EU
- EU/ Non EU Agriculture: Ingredients come from both inside and outside the EU

Exceptions

- 'EU' or 'non-EU' may be replaced or supplemented by a country where all agricultural raw materials have been farmed in that country.
- Small quantities of ingredients may be disregarded provided that the total quantity does not exceed 2 % of total product by weight of raw materials of agricultural origin. In other words, if less than 2% of agricultural ingredients come from outside the EU the product can be still designated 'EU Agriculture' and vice versa.

Format

Label designs must conform to the following format with respect to the logo, control body code and area of origin.



Further information

For full details of the packaging and labelling standards are available from your organic control body. The relevant EU Regulations are 834/2007 (Articles 23 – 25) and 889/2008 (Articles 57 – 58), which you can access from this website:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/legislation_en#regulation