



## OTCO Guide to International Trade

### OTCO Surveillance

The work of organic certification with verification of imports and exports has become increasingly complex as trade in organic products has expanded in the global marketplace. This is a guide to international trade in accordance with the international equivalency arrangements, agreements, and trade relationships in place with the USDA NOP and other recognized bodies. The NOP has identified importing and exporting to be a high-risk activity. More information can be found on the [OTCO International Programs webpage](#) and within our [OTCO NOP Certification Manual](#). Other trade information can be found on the [USDA NOP International Trade Partners website](#).

Country or Union	Trade Policy	Scope Restrictions and Resources	Importing From (documentation and restrictions)	Exporting To (documentation and restrictions)
<b>Equivalency Arrangements and Trade Relationships</b>				
Canada	<a href="#">US/Canada Equivalency</a>	<p><b>Open bilateral arrangement.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Organic Regime (COR) or National Organic Program (NOP) products can come from any country if it is certified to either regulation by an accredited certifier.</li> <li>Includes all USDA NOP certified organic products and/or COR certified products regardless of where they are produced and handled.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet label requirements of the country of destination. Either NOP or COR seal are allowed on Organic products. See <a href="#">OTCO's Canada Organic Labeling Guide</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside of scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal care products, supplements, and pet food products. This means NOP certified personal care, supplements, and pet food products may be labeled and sold as USDA organic in Canada. They may <u>not</u> bear the COR Organic Seal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing of COR certified product coming from any country to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to Canadian Organic Regime (COR) Standards.</li> <li>COR organic products exported to the US must be accompanied by an organic certificate issued by a COR-accredited certifying agent recognized under the terms of the US-Canada equivalence arrangement.</li> <li>The organic certificate issued by the COR certifying agent must include the following attestation statement "Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement."</li> <li>Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics shall not be marketed as organic in the US.</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by a <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting NOP certified products from any country to Canada:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP).</li> <li>Organic certificate accompanying shipment must include the <a href="#">statement</a> "Certified in accordance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement".</li> <li>Agricultural products derived from non-ruminant animals must be produced according to the stocking rates in <a href="#">CAN/CGSB32.310</a>.</li> <li>Agricultural products cannot be produced with the use of sodium nitrate, hydroponics, or aeroponics.</li> </ul>

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European Union	<a href="#">US/EU Equivalency</a>	<p><b>Closed bilateral arrangement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products must be produced or had their final processing occur within US or EU member country.</li> <li>Products imported to the US must be from an <a href="#">EU member country</a>.</li> <li>This trade agreement only allows direct trade between the U.S. and the EU. Products cannot be shipped directly from countries outside the U.S. and EU to either the U.S. or the EU under this trade agreement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet the labeling requirements of the country of destination. Either NOP or EU Organic Seal are allowed. See OTCO's <a href="#">EU Organic Labeling and Regulations</a> for more details.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside of Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal care products are outside of the scope of this arrangement. This means that these NOP certified personal care products may be labeled and sold as USDA Organic in the EU and no export approval documentation is required. They may <u>not</u> bear the EU Organic Seal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing from EU to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to European Commission</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>.</li> <li>No agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics may be exported from the EU to the US as organic.</li> <li>Aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish) and salt cannot be exported from the EU into the US as "USDA organic" or utilize the USDA organic seal. These products may refer to EU certification.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting to EU from US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.</li> <li><a href="#">EU Import Certificate (Certificate of Inspection [COI])</a>. For goods exported to the EU, each shipment must be accompanied by a COI issued by OTCO through <a href="#">TRACES</a>. The COI must be issued prior to departure from the US port or may be denied entry into the EU.</li> <li>Restrictions exist for wine and wine labeling. Please see the <a href="#">full trade arrangement</a> for details.</li> </ul>
Switzerland	<a href="#">US/Switzerland Equivalency</a>	<p><b>Closed bilateral arrangement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products must produced or had their final processing occur within US or Switzerland.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet label requirements of country of destination. The NOP Seal is allowed on Organic products. There is no Swiss Seal. See <a href="#">Swiss Organic Labeling regulations</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing from Switzerland to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to Swiss organic ordinances for Swiss Operation.</li> <li>All imported goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>. NOPIC must state "Certified in compliance with the terms of the U.S.-Switzerland Organic Equivalence Arrangement."</li> <li>No agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics.</li> <li>Wine must be produced and labeled according to NOP regulations.</li> <li>No aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish) can be imported into the US as "USDA organic".</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting to Switzerland from US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.</li> <li><a href="#">EU Certificate of Inspection (COI)</a> issued by OTCO through <a href="#">TRACES</a>. The COI must be issued prior to departure from the US port or may be denied entry into Switzerland.</li> <li>Wine must be produced and labeled to <a href="#">Swiss Organic Regulations</a>.</li> </ul>

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Republic of Korea	<a href="#">US/Korea Equivalency</a>	<p><b>Closed bilateral arrangement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products must be produced or had their final processing occur within US or Korea.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet labeling requirements for the country of destination. Either NOP or Korean Seal is allowed.</li> <li><a href="#">Korea labeling requirements</a> are linked on the USDA Trade Partners page.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside of Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal care products, products that contain less than 95% organic ingredients, &amp; organic raw or unprocessed products are outside of the scope of this arrangement. This means that NOP certified products within these scopes may be labeled/sold as USDA organic in Korea, and no export approval or documentation is required. They may <u>not</u> bear the Korean Organic Seal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing from Korea to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to MAFRA Korean standards.</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>. The NOPIC must include the statement “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Korea Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”</li> <li>Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics may not be exported from Korea to the US and sold as organic.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting to Korea from US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.</li> <li>Exported goods must be accompanied by a <a href="#">NAQS Certificate</a>.</li> <li>Documentation must include the statement “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Korea Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”</li> <li>Must be a “processed food” as defined by the Korean Food Code. Organic raw or unprocessed products are not allowed.</li> <li>Must contain at least 95% organic ingredients.</li> <li>Must include the final manufacturer’s certification number on the packaging.</li> <li>The non-organic ingredient name cannot be part of the product name.</li> <li>The total percentage of organic ingredients or the percentage of each ingredient used in the product must be indicated in ingredients list. For example: Organic apple strawberry puree (Below is two ways of labeling) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ingredient list: organic apple (78%), organic strawberry (21%), natural flavor (banana flavor), ascorbic acid</li> <li>2. Ingredient list: *apple, *strawberry, Natural flavor (banana flavor), ascorbic acid. *Contains 99% organic ingredients.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Japan	<a href="#">US/Japan Equivalency</a>	<p><b>Closed bilateral arrangement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products must be produced or had their final processing occur within US or Japan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet labeling requirements for the country of destination. Reference the <a href="#">full equivalency</a> and the <a href="#">Q &amp; A</a> for details on the restrictions on the use of the JAS seal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside of Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honey and non-food processed products are outside of the scope. This means that these products may be labeled as USDA organic for shipment to Japan, and no export approval or documentation is required. They may not bear the JAS Organic Seal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing from Japan to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) for Japanese Operation</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a> (NOPIC). NOPICs must state “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Japan Organic Equivalence Arrangement.”</li> <li>No products that contain livestock products produced with the use of antibiotics may be exported from Japan to the US as organic.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting to Japan from US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.</li> <li>Japan Export Certificate <a href="#">TM-11</a>. Exported goods must be accompanied by a TM-11.</li> <li>All products must contain at least 95% organic content.</li> <li>USDA certified organic alcohol is allowed for export to Japan. It cannot bear the JAS seal.</li> <li>Use of the JAS seal is <b>mandatory</b>. The JAS seal may be applied in Japan by a JAS certified importer or applied by US companies through a Consignment Contract with a JAS certified importer.</li> </ul>

Country or Union	Trade Policy	Scope Restrictions and Resources	Importing From (documentation and restrictions)	Exporting To (documentation and restrictions)
Taiwan	<a href="#">US/Taiwan Equivalency</a>	<p><b>Closed bilateral arrangement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products must be produced or had their final processing occur within US or Taiwan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet labeling requirements for the country of destination.</li> <li>Reference the <a href="#">full equivalency</a> and the <a href="#">Q &amp; A</a> for details on the restrictions on the use of the Taiwanese Organic Seal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside of Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal care products, aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish), &amp; single ingredient (100%) honey products are outside of the scope of this arrangement. This means that NOP certified products within these scopes may be labeled/sold as USDA organic in Taiwan, and no export approval or documentation is required. They may <u>not</u> bear the Taiwanese Organic Seal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing from Taiwan to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to Taiwanese (COA AFA) Organic Regulations.</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>. The NOPIC must state "Certified in compliance with the terms of the AIT/TECRO-NOP/AFA Organic Equivalence Arrangement."</li> <li>No products that contain livestock products produced with the use of antibiotics may be exported from Taiwan to the US as organic.</li> <li>No aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish) can be exported from Taiwan to the US as organic.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting to Taiwan from the US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Export Certificate <a href="#">TM-11</a> with additional statements on export requirements.</li> <li>Livestock and meat products must be managed and produced without the use of systemic pain killers or analgesics, including the use of lidocaine or procaine.</li> <li>USDA certified organic alcohol is allowed for export as organic.</li> <li>All products must contain at least 95% organic content.</li> <li>Use of Taiwan's organic seal is restricted for use only by Taiwanese businesses and may not be applied to USDA organic products.</li> </ul>

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United Kingdom	<a href="#">US/United Kingdom Equivalency</a>	<p><b>Closed bilateral relationship.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products must be produced or had their final processing occur within the US or the United Kingdom which includes Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales) and Northern Ireland.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Either NOP or EU Organic Seal are allowed on organic products. See the <a href="#">Great Britain DEFRA Organic food: labelling rules</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside of Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal care products and aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish) are outside of the scope of this arrangement. This means that NOP certified products within these scopes may be labeled/sold as USDA organic in the UK, and no export approval or documentation is required.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing from UK to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to the UK Regulations.</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>.</li> <li>NOP Import certificate must state "Certified in compliance with the terms of the U.S.-UK Organic Equivalence Arrangement."</li> <li>No agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics can be exported from the UK to the US as organic.</li> <li>No aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish) can be exported from the UK to the US as USDA organic or utilize the USDA organic seal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting to UK from US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.</li> <li><a href="#">Great Britain (GB) Certificate of Inspection (COI)</a>. For goods exported to the Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales). The COI must be issued prior to departure from the US port or may be denied entry into the UK.</li> <li><a href="#">EU Import Certificate of Inspection (COI)</a>. For goods exported to Northern Ireland, each shipment must be accompanied by an EU COI issued through TRACES. The COI must be issued prior to departure from the US port or may be denied entry into Northern Ireland.</li> <li>Restrictions exist for wine and wine labeling. Please see <a href="#">full trade arrangement</a> for details.</li> </ul>

<b>Recognition Agreements</b> Recognition agreements allow a foreign government to accredit certifying agents in that country to the USDA organic standards. These foreign certifying agents are authorized to certify organic farms and processing facilities, ensuring that USDA organic products meet or exceed all USDA organic standards. These products can then be imported for sale in the United States.				
Country or Union	Trade Policy	Scope Restrictions and Resources	Importing From (documentation and restrictions)	Exporting To (documentation and restrictions)
Israel	<a href="#">Recognition Agreement: Israel</a>	Must be produced in Israel and certified by an Israeli government-accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards.	<b>Importing from Israel to US:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOP Organic Certificate issued by an Israeli accredited certifying agency for an operation with an address in Israel.</li> <li>• All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>.</li> </ul>	
New Zealand	<a href="#">Recognition Agreement: New Zealand</a>	Must be produced in New Zealand and certified by a New Zealand government-accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards.	<b>Importing from New Zealand to US:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOP Organic Certificate issued by a New Zealand accredited certifying agency for an operation with an address in New Zealand.</li> <li>• All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>.</li> </ul>	
<p>Countries not listed above do not have an organic trade agreement/arrangement with the United States. Therefore, products from all other countries must be certified to the NOP organic standards by a USDA-accredited certification body to be exported to the United States as organic. Common countries with no arrangements/agreements may include China, Brazil, Norway, Türkiye, Ukraine, etc.</p> <p>All organic goods imported into the United States must have an NOP Import Certificate completed by an USDA-accredited certification body. Always check the <a href="#">USDA International Trade Partners</a> webpage for the most up to date information regarding international trade.</p>				

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Mexico	No equivalency arrangement	<p><b>No equivalency arrangement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic products exported from Mexico must be certified by a USDA accredited certification agency.</li> <li>Organic products imported into Mexico must be certified to Mexico's Organic Products Law (LPO) through the LPO Recertification Program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Labeling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Products exported to Mexico from the United States must follow the labeling requirements outlined in NOM-051. See OTCO's Mexico Labeling Guide.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside of Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact OTCO for more information about LPO Recertification Program.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importing from Mexico to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be certified to the USDA Organic Standards by an USDA accredited certifying agent.</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exporting to Mexico from US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic products coming into Mexico from the US must be certified to Mexico's Organic Products Law (LPO) through the LPO Recertification Program</li> <li>Must be accompanied by an <a href="#">OTCO US/MX Transaction Certificate</a>.</li> </ul>
India	No equivalency arrangement	No equivalency arrangement	<p><b>Importing from India to US:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be certified to the USDA Organic Standards by an USDA accredited certifying agent.</li> <li>Or certified by an accredited certification agency covered under a trade arrangement.</li> <li>Must be accompanied by a TRACENET Certificate</li> <li>All imported organic goods must be accompanied by an <a href="#">NOP Import Certificate</a>.</li> </ul>	