



الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء
Saudi Food & Drug Authority

Organic Food Products Clearance Conditions and requirements

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Introduction:

The regulatory framework for the conditions and requirements for the clearance of organic products and the corresponding procedures is based on Article 7 of the Organic agricultural System of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, issued by Royal Decree No. 55 16/09/1435 A.H. This document describes the conditions and requirements for organic food and its labeling and claims.

Scope:

These conditions and requirements apply to all food consignments with descriptive information on the label indicating organic production methods. Any product is considered organic if it contains indications to organic production on its labels in the form of terms such as 'organic', 'biological', 'biodynamic', 'ecological' or terms to the same purpose, and the claims - including advertising and commercial documents. Moreover, any formulae suggesting to the consumer that the product or its ingredients have been obtained using organic production methods, including:

- 1 - Unprocessed agricultural and animal products.
- 2 - Processed agricultural and animal products.

Products include (vegetable, livestock, poultry, bee, aquarium, seaweed and food) production.



Objective:

This document aims to:

- 1- Ensuring that all stages of production, processing, storage, transport and marketing are subject to control and comply with these conditions.
- 2- Protecting consumers from fraud and deception against all claims of unsubstantiated organic products.
- 3- Maintaining and promoting Organic Agricultural Systems.
- 4- Contributing to the provision of healthy, high quality food free from any chemical residues.
- 5- Preservation of the environment and natural resources.

Definitions:

The following words and expressions, when mentioned in these terms, have the meanings that precede them, unless the context suggests otherwise.



Organic Foods:

Products produced under a production system subject to control and inspection in accordance with certification schemes established on the basis of clear and specific legal requirements at all stages of the production chain. This system includes practices that ensure access to a high quality product while protecting natural environmental resources and human health, respecting the natural capabilities of (plants, animals and nature) and reducing external inputs by avoiding the use of (fertilizers, pesticides, chemical medicines and growth hormones). The use of genetically modified strains and organisms is prohibited, as is the use of ionizing radiation at all stages of production chain from harvest to consumer.











Manufactured Organic Food:

Food produced from organic products by mechanical or biological processing methods such as evaporation, smoking or fermentation to ensure its nutritional value, provided that no additives or other substances that chemically interact with or alter the properties of organic foods are used during the manufacturing process, nor are radioactive methods used. The only allowed methods for the production of organic food are the modern methods such as the regulation of humidity, temperature and various drying methods (only the allowed methods in accordance with the standards of organic production). Special material is required for packaging of organic food, which consists of biodegradable substances without harmful residues and is different from the materials used for inorganic food. It is prohibited to use packaging materials that contaminate the food, and preservatives and fungicides must not be used As well.



Authentication Bodies:

Authentication companies approved by the Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture in Saudi Araba. These companies are authorized to inspect the production, manufacturing, handling, marketing, import, export and certification of organic food. These companies include:

NO	Company name	Company logo	Country
1	(BCS)		Germany
2	(CERES)		Germany
3	(TAWTHIQ)		Saudi Arabia
4	(ONE CERT)		America
5	(CCPB)		America
6	(BUREAU VERITAS)		France



Organic Food Products Clearance Conditions:

First: documents and certificates:

Without prejudice to the requirements concerning the documents and certificates accompanying food consignments, the following certificates and documents shall accompany organic products consignments:

1. A copy of the contract between the importer and the authentication company.
2. A copy of the authentication certificate (Organic Certificate) of the organic production unit issued by the competent authority of the country of origin or the certified authentication company.
3. Export certificate (Transaction Certificate) issued by the authentication company of the country of origin exclusively for the purpose of export. This is a confirmation of the identification, quantity, type and number of export products. The transaction certificate includes:
 - Name and address of the first exporter (company/ manufacturer).
 - Date of export.
 - Port of shipment (export).
 - Port of entry
 - First consignee in the importing country (address/ means of communication).
 - Type of organic products (raw, fresh, processed, semi-processed, weights, quantities, number of packages...etc).
 - The certificate shall be stamped by the authentication company.
4. An obligation states that the importer is required to verify the authenticity of the certificates and documents through the authentication company to which the product is subject in the country of origin before the consignment arrives to Saudi Arabia. And to request a statement of the documents issued to them and to keep these documents for a period of two years for inspection purposes in accordance with Article (32) clauses (2) paragraph (A) of the Implementing Regulation of Organic Agriculture.



Second: product requirements:

1. The product shall not be one of the items to which import prohibitions apply.
2. The product shall be registered in the Saudi Food and Drug Authority system for food import.
3. The product shall comply with the requirements of the approved technical regulations.
4. Organic food ingredients shall not be derived from organic and inorganic substances in proportions other than those permitted.
5. The product or its components shall not be exposed during processing to ionizing rays or substances other than permitted substances.

Third: Labeling:

Without prejudice to the requirements of the technical regulation “Labeling of Prepackaged Food Stuffs”, the label of the organic product shall contain the following information:

- Food product origin, manufacturer and communication data.
- Name and address of the exporting or importing company.
- Nutritional information of the manufactured products and their components.
- Certified organic product logos in the country of origin.
- List of raw organic materials used in the composition of the final product and the ratio of each one.
- Terms and expressions identifying an organic product (Bio, Bio, etc.).
- If the proportion of ingredients (raw materials) included in the composition of the final product is 95% or more (excluding water and salt), the mention of organic ingredients may be excluded, provided that the processes of this product are subject to the authentication process. In addition, the product shall be identified on the label with the term (organic). However, if the percentage of organic ingredients is less than 95 %, the final product shall not be labeled as 'organic' and only the ingredients and their percentage shall be mentioned.



Fourth: storage and transportation

The procedures for separating organic and inorganic products depend on the nature and characteristics of the products. Without prejudice to the general requirements for the transport of food products, the requirements as follows:

1. If organic food is imported as a (bulk) commodity, effective measures must be taken to separate it from those of the same class (inorganic) during transport, packaging and manufacture. And precautions must be taken to ensure that organic and inorganic products are not mixed.
2. Organic canned products with clear organic markings on the label that are identifiable during transport, trade, storage, etc., and where there is no possibility of mixing or contamination with other inorganic products, can be transported, traded and stored with other inorganic products.
3. Storage rooms and transport containers for organic products shall be cleaned using methods and substances approved for organic production.

Fifth: Sampling

SFDA is entitled to inspect consignments of organic produce and collect samples for testing when necessary for routine testing and national monitoring programs. Analysis is performed by SFDA laboratories or approved private laboratories in and outside of KSA. The importer shall bear the cost of analysis as determined by SFDA in accordance with the requirements of the approved technical regulations.

Sixth: General Requirements

1. Organic products shall be produced in accordance with equivalent criteria and be compatible with the implementing regulation of the Organic Agricultural System.
2. The Saudi national logo for organic products described in Annex (2) of the implementing regulation of the Organic Agriculture System can be placed on imported organic food products that meet the requirements of the regulation. The logo and batch number can be requested by submitting an application to the Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture.
3. It is mandatory to adhere to SFDA's circular reported to the chambers of commerce No. 47084 (12/06/1440 AH), which states that importers shall retain the assets of their documents for five years from the date of clearance.

