International Trade Resource Guide For US Based Companies

The work of organic certification in verification of imports and exports has become increasingly complex as trade in organic products has expanded in the global marketplace. This resource guide provides an overview of the international equivalencies and arrangements in place with the USDA NOP and provides a quick review of the necessary requirements when verifying imports of ingredients or export of finished products certified by OTCO. Additional information can be found on the USDA NOP [website](#).

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| Canada           | US/Canada Equivalency | Open bilateral (COR/NOP product can come from any country) | COR certified product coming from any country to US:  
• Organic Certificate to Canadian Organic Regime (COR) Standards  
• Documentation accompanying shipment must include the statement “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”  
• Attestation for any livestock products (including dairy) that they meet the requirements of export to the US (not treated with antibiotics). | Exporting to Canada:  
• Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) or Canadian Organic Regime (COR) Standards  
• Documentation accompanying shipment must include the statement “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”  
• Attestation for any High Risk agricultural ingredients or livestock products that they meet the requirements of export to Canada. Self-attestations are acceptable.  
• Agricultural products derived from non-ruminant animals must be produced according to the stocking rates in CAN /CGSB32.310.  
• Agricultural products cannot be produced with the use of sodium nitrate, hydroponics, or aeroponics. |

- **Labeling**: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Either NOP or COR Seal are allowed on Organic products.
- **Outside of Scope**: Personal care products, supplements, or pet food products.

- **OTCO Canada Organic Labeling Regulations**

![Image](#)
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| European Union  | US/EU Equivalency | Closed bilateral (products must be final processed and/or handled within the US or an EU member country).  
Product must be from an EU member country: [Current list of EU countries](#)  
Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Either NOP or EU Organic Seal are allowed on Organic products.  
[OTCO EU Organic Labeling and Regulations Guide](#)  
[EU Labeling Logos and Resources](#)  
**Outside of Scope:** Personal care products, pet food products | Importing from EU to US:  
• Organic Certificate to European Commission (EC 834/2007) Standards for EU Operation  
• [NOP Import Certificate](#)  
• No agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics.  
• No aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish) | Exporting to EU from US:  
• Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.  
• EU Import Certificate (Certificate of Inspection) issued through TRACES  
• Apple and Pear products cannot be produced using antibiotics for 3 years (obsolete as antibiotics was removed from National List in 2014).  
• Restrictions on wine and wine labeling – see full trade arrangement for details. |
| Switzerland     | US/Switzerland Equivalency | Closed bilateral (products must be final processed and/or handled within the exporting country [US or Switzerland]).  
Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. The NOP Seal is allowed on Organic product. There is no Swiss Seal.  
[Swiss Organic Labeling (EU Labeling)](#) | Importing from Switzerland:  
• Organic Certificate to Swiss organic ordinances for Swiss Operation  
• [NOP Import Certificate](#)  
• No agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics  
• Wine must be produced and labeled according to NOP | Exporting to Switzerland:  
• Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.  
• Swiss Certificate of Inspection issued through TRACES  
• Wine must be produced and labeled according to Swiss regulations |
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| Korea           | US/Korea Equivalency | Closed bilateral (products must be final processed and/or handled within the exporting country [US or Korea]). | Importing from Korea:  
• Organic Certificate to Korean standards (under MAFRA) for Korean Operation  
• NOP Import Certificate  
• No products that contain livestock products produced with the use of antibiotics. | Exporting to Korea:  
• Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.  
• NAQS Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods  
• Must be “Processed Foods” as defined by the Korean Food Code.  
• Apple and Pear products cannot be produced using antibiotics for 3 years (obsolete as antibiotics was removed from National List in 2014)  
• Must contain at least 95% organic ingredients.  
• Must include the final manufacturer’s certification number on the packaging. |
| Japan           | US/Japan Equivalency | Closed bilateral (final handling and/or processing must occur in the exporting country) | Importing from Japan:  
• Organic Certificate to Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) for Japanese Operation  
• NOP Import Certificate  
• Applies only for plant or plant based processed products. | Exporting to Japan:  
• Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation.  
• Export Certificate TM-11  
• Applies only for plant or plant based processed products.  
• USDA Certified meat, dairy, and alcohol can ship freely |
| Taiwan          | Taiwan Export Trade Relationship | Closed unilateral (NOP only shipped to Taiwan) | Products must be final processed and/or handled in the US. | Exporting to Taiwan from the US:  
• Export Certificate TM-11 with additional statements on export requirements.  
• Zero tolerance for prohibited substance  
  o Product will be tested at import  
• Livestock and meat products must be managed and produced without the use of systemic pain killers or analgesics |
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| India           | Recognition Agreement: India | Must be produced in India and certified by an Indian government-accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards | Importing from India:  
  • USDA NOP certificate issued by India accredited certifier for an operation with address in India  
  • Transaction Certificate issued through TraceNet system | |
| Israel          | Recognition Agreement: Israel | Must be produced in Israel and certified by an Israeli accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards | Importing from Israel:  
  • USDA NOP certificate issued by Israel accredited certifier for an operation with address in Israel | |
| New Zealand     | Recognition Agreement: New Zealand | Must be produced in New Zealand and certified by a New Zealand government-accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards | Importing from New Zealand:  
  • USDA NOP certificate issued by New Zealand accredited certifier for an operation with address in New Zealand | |

**No Formal Arrangement/Agreement**

- Countries not listed above do not have any organic trade agreements/arrangements with the United States; therefore, products from all other countries must be certified to the NOP organic standard in order to be exported to the United States as organic.

- There is no organic-specific import documentation required in these cases; NOP Import Certificates are only required for countries as noted above, but are optional for NOP organic product exported from all other countries to the US.