



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 equivalency arrangements, agreements and trade relationships 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](#).

Country or Union	Trade Policy	Scope Restrictions and Resources	Importing From (documentation and restrictions)	Exporting To (documentation and restrictions)
Equivalency Arrangements and Trade Relationships				
<p>Canada</p>	<p>US/Canada Equivalency</p>	<p>Open bilateral arrangement</p> <p>COR or NOP product can come from any country as long as it is certified to either standard by an accredited certifier.</p> <p>Includes all USDA Organic products and/or COR certified products, regardless of where they are produced and handled.</p> <p>Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Either NOP or COR Seal are allowed on Organic products. See the OTCO Canada Organic Labeling Regulations.</p> <p>Outside of Scope: Personal care products, supplements, or pet food products. This means NOP certified personal care, supplements, and pet food products may be labeled/sold as USDA organic in Canada. They may not bear the COR organic seal.</p>	<p>COR certified product coming from any country to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 indicates that they meet the requirements of export to the US. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural products derived from animals must be produced without the use of antibiotics. • The attestation may be included on the organic certificate, a transaction certificate, statement on bill of lading, purchase order, etc. The operator may provide this attestation or may request that a certifier do so. 	<p>NOP certified product coming from any country to Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP). • Organic certificate accompanying shipment must include the statement “Certified in accordance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement.” • 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.

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Europe an Union	US/EU Equivalency	<p>Closed bilateral arrangement</p> <p>Products must be final processed and/or handled within the US or an EU member country.</p> <p>Product imported to the US must be from an EU member country: Current list of EU countries</p> <p>Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Either NOP or EU Organic Seal are allowed on organic products. See the OTCO EU Organic Labeling and Regulations Guide as well as EU Labeling Logos and Resources.</p> <p>Outside of Scope: Personal care products, aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish), & pet food products. This means NOP certified personal care and pet food products may be labeled/sold as USDA organic in the EU, and no export approval or documentation is required. They may not bear the EU organic seal.</p>	<p>Importing from EU to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Certificate to European Commission (EC 834/2007) Standards for EU Operation NOP Import Certificate. Imported goods must be accompanied by an NOP Import Certificate issued by the exporter’s certifier and retained by the purchasing operation for their annual organic inspection. No agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics. 	<p>Exporting to EU from US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation. EU Import Certificate (Certificate of Inspection [COI]). For goods exported to the EU, each shipment must be accompanied by a COI 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 exist for wine and wine labeling – Please see full trade arrangement for details.
Switzerl and	US/Switzerla nd Equivalency	<p>Closed bilateral arrangement.</p> <p>Products must be final processed and/or handled within the US or Switzerland.</p> <p>Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. The NOP Seal is allowed on Organic product. There is no Swiss Seal. See the Swiss Organic Labeling (& EU Labeling) regulations.</p>	<p>Importing from Switzerland to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Certificate to Swiss organic ordinances for Swiss Operation NOP Import Certificate. Imported goods must be accompanied by an NOP Import Certificate issued by the exporter’s certifier and retained by the purchasing operation for their annual organic inspection. No agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics. Wine must be produced and labeled according to NOP regulations. 	<p>Exporting to Switzerland from US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation. Swiss Certificate of Inspection issued through TRACES. Wine must be produced and labeled to Swiss Organic Regulations.

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Korea	US/Korea Equivalency	<p>Closed bilateral arrangement</p> <p>Products must be final processed and/or handled within the US or Korea.</p> <p>Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Either the NOP or Korean Seal is allowed.</p> <p>Korea labeling requirements are linked on USDA Equivalency page.</p> <p>Outside of Scope: Personal care products & organic raw or unprocessed products. This means 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 not bear the Korean organic seal.</p>	<p>Importing from Korea to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Certificate to MAFRA Korean standards NOP Import Certificate. Imported goods must be accompanied by an NOP Import Certificate, issued by the exporter’s certifier and retained by the purchasing operation for their annual organic inspection. No products that contain livestock products produced with the use of antibiotics. 	<p>Exporting to Korea from US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation. Korean NAQS Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods. Exported goods must be accompanied by a NAQS. Must be a “processed food” as defined by the Korean Food Code. Organic raw or unprocessed products are not allowed. Apple and pear products cannot be produced using antibiotics for 3 years (this variance is considered 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.

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Japan	US/Japan Equivalency	<p>Closed bilateral arrangement</p> <p>Products must be final processed and/or handled within the US or Japan.</p> <p>Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Restrictions on use of the JAS seal (see full equivalency Q & A for details).</p> <p>Outside of Scope: Honey, alcohol, and non-food processed products. This means that these products may be labeled/sold as USDA organic for shipment to Japan, and no export approval or documentation is required, except for in specific cases associated with alcohol. They may not bear the JAS organic seal.</p>	<p>Importing from Japan to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Certificate to Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) for Japanese Operation • NOP Import Certificate. Imported goods must be accompanied by an NOP Import Certificate issued by the exporter's certifier and retained by the purchasing operation for their annual organic inspection. 	<p>Exporting to Japan from US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Certificate to National Organic Program (NOP) for US operation. • Japan Export Certificate TM-11. Exported goods must be accompanied by a TM-11. • All products must contain at least 95% organic content. • USDA certified organic alcohol is allowed for export to Japan. • Use of the JAS seal is mandatory. The JAS seal may be applied in Japan by a JAS certified importer or applied by U.S. companies through a Consignment Contract with a JAS certified importer.

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Taiwan	US/Taiwan Equivalency	<p>Closed bilateral relationship.</p> <p>Products must be final processed and/or handled within the US or Taiwan.</p> <p>Labeling: Must meet label requirements of country of destination. Restrictions on use of the Taiwan organic mark (see full equivalency Q & A for details).</p> <p>Outside of Scope: Personal care products, aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish), pet food products & single-ingredient (100%) honey products. This means NOP certified products within these scopes may be labeled/sold as USDA organic in the Taiwan, and no export approval or documentation is required. They may not bear the Taiwanese organic seal.</p>	<p>Importing from Taiwan to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Certificate to Taiwanese (COA AFA) Organic Regulations. • NOP Import Certificate. Imported goods must be accompanied by an NOP Import Certificate issued by the exporter’s certifier and retained by the purchasing operation for their annual organic inspection. • No products that contain livestock products produced with the use of antibiotics. 	<p>Exporting to Taiwan from the US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Export Certificate TM-11 with additional statements on export requirements. • 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. • USDA certified organic alcohol is allowed for export as organic. • All products must contain at least 95% organic content.

Recognition Agreements

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.

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India	Recognition Agreement: India	<p>Must be produced in India and certified by an Indian government- accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards</p> <p>Labeling: Per the APEDA Advisory ORG-2019-20-000038 issued on 8/5/19, the name and address of the person or company legally responsible for the production or processing of the product [the manufacturer] shall be mentioned on the label as established in NPOP Annex 5, Chapter 3, Clause 6.1(iv).</p>	<p>Importing from India to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOP Organic Certificate issued by an Indian government-accredited certifying agent for an operation with an address in India. • Transaction Certificate issued through the APEDA TraceNet system. 	
Israel	Recognition Agreement: Israel	<p>Must be produced in Israel and certified by an Israeli accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards</p>	<p>Importing from Israel to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOP Organic Certificate issued by Israeli accredited certifying agent for an operation with an address in Israel. 	
New Zealand	Recognition Agreement: New Zealand	<p>Must be produced in New Zealand and certified by a New Zealand government-accredited certifying agent to USDA NOP Organic Standards</p>	<p>Importing from New Zealand to US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOP Organic Certificate issued by New Zealand accredited certifying agent for an operation with an address in New Zealand. 	

No Formal Arrangement/Agreement

- Countries not listed above do not have an organic trade agreement/arrangement/relationship 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, and are optional for NOP organic product exported from all other countries to the US.