



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Guidance: Importing organic products from third countries into Great Britain at the end of the transition period

This guide explains the roles and responsibilities at each stage of the process for importing organic goods from third countries into Great Britain

Consignments that enter the EU/ NI and transit to Great Britain will need to be checked at the first point of entry into Great Britain.

Step to take	Who is responsible?
<b>1. Register with an approved GB organic control body</b>	Anyone who intends to import organic food or feed
<b>2. Complete the GB Certificate of Inspection (Col) and the exporter emails it to their control body</b>	Third country exporter, agent or importer
<b>3. Control Body to verify that the consignment is organic. Endorse the goods by signing and stamping box 18 of the Col. Send the original Col via courier and email a copy of the Col back to the exporter.</b>	Third country control body
<b>4. Send the original endorsed Col to the destination address and email a copy of the Col to GB importer</b>	Third country exporter or agent
<b>5. Let GB Port Health Authority know when the organic consignment will arrive (by phone or email at least 24 hours in advance)</b>	GB importer or agent
<b>6. Send the Col, organic certificate and shipping documents to the PHA via email so they have copies.</b>	GB importer or agent
<b>7. If the consignment is to be split, the importer mentioned in box 6 of the certificate of inspection shall submit an extract of the certificate of inspection to the relevant PHA.</b>	GB importer

<p><b>8. Check documents and carry out any necessary physical checks or testing. If the consignment passes, endorse by signing and stamping box 20 or box 13 of the extract of the certificate of inspection and clear the goods for onward movement. <u>The signature and the stamp must be in a different colour to that of the printing.</u></b></p> <p><b>(A copy can be endorsed, as long as the original is also endorsed within 10 working days).</b></p> <p><b>If the consignment does not pass, the goods must be either:</b></p> <p><b>a) re-labelled removing all reference to organics</b>  <b>b) re-exported as non-organic OR</b>  <b>c) destroyed</b></p>	<p>GB Port Health Authority</p>
<p><b>9. If the goods are cleared, indicate the number of the Col in the customs declaration for free circulation.</b></p>	<p>GB importer or agent</p>
<p><b>10. Collect the goods, sign box 21 or box 14 of the extract of the Col and ensure the importer receives the endorsed Col. The consignee of a batch shall keep the extracts of the Col for no less than 2 years.</b></p>	<p>GB first consignee</p>
<p><b>11. Keep the original endorsed Col and copies of the endorsed extracts of the Col on file for at least 3 years</b></p>	<p>GB importer</p>
<p><b>12. Check Cols during routine inspections of importers</b></p>	<p>GB organic control body</p>

**Adhering to the regulations:**

- If you are the importer, ensure that all organic imports from third countries meet the requirements laid out in retained Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.
- If you are the control body, ensure that the importers and exporters are licensed and that the products are covered under the retained Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.