



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
The Director

Brussels
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Thank you for your email¹ raising several questions concerning the bilateral EU-UK equivalency recognition on organics.

In relation to your first question on the timeline for its application, please note this mutual equivalency recognition is set out in Annex TBT-4 of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) which applies provisionally as of the 1st January 2021. In this context, the Commission has already taken the necessary practical steps to allow for its implementation by notifying the EU control bodies to UK authorities and updating the relevant IT systems (OFIS and TRACES)

Moreover, in the coming weeks the Commission will launch the necessary amendments of Regulation (EC) 1235/2008, to remove the recognition of the control bodies for the certification and control of operators in UK under annex IV and to include the UK competent authorities and designated bodies under annex III of that regulation.

Concerning your second question, please note that Annex TBT-4 of the agreement provides for the recognition of equivalence of the existing EU and UK legislative frameworks for organic products (currently, both based on Regulation (EC) 834/2007). In view of the important changes brought about by Regulation (EU) 2018/848, Article 3(3) of Annex TBT-4 provides for a genuine reassessment of equivalence by 31 December 2023. This period is considered adequate to allow the UK to pass new legislation as necessary and for the reassessment of equivalence, including any required on-site visits, to take place.

It is to be noted that this deadline for reassessing equivalence is considerably shorter than the deadline provided for in Article 48 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, pursuant to which the recognition of equivalence of third countries under Regulation (EC) 834/2007 will expire on 31 December 2026.

As for your last question on the certificate of inspection requested by the UK for imported organic products, please note that UK has confirmed the adoption of the

¹ Ares(2021)112427

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amendments allowing for the waiver of the Certificate of Inspection for EU organic products until 1 July 2021.

[The Agricultural Products, Food and Drink \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

