



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Brussels,
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[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 March 2017. According to my understanding of your email, you ask whether the EU organic logo is required on the packaging of your product for export from Sri Lanka to a distributor in France, and whether, as an exporter, you are required to conform to certification procedures.

With reference to your first question regarding use of the EU organic logo, Article 24(1) fifth subparagraph of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007¹ states that the use of the organic production logo of the European Union for products imported from third countries is optional: "The use of the Community logo as referred to in Article 25(1) and the indication referred to in the first subparagraph shall be optional for products imported from third countries. However, where the Community logo as referred to in Article 25(1) appears in the labelling, the indication referred to in the first subparagraph shall also appear in the labelling".

Thus, in answer to your first question, whilst the organic product must conform and be labelled in conformance with the terms of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, the use of the EU organic logo is optional for products imported from third countries.

With reference to your second question regarding certification, a product imported from a third country may only be placed in the EU market if it is covered by a **certificate of inspection** issued by control authorities and control bodies competent to carry out controls and issue certificates recognised as equivalent in third countries, in accordance with Article 33(1)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

Furthermore, Article 33(1)(c) provides that "operators at all stages of production, preparation and **distribution** in the third country have **submitted their activities [...] to a control authority or control body** recognised in accordance with paragraph 3"

Therefore, in answer to your second question, an exporter of organic products from a third country is required to adhere to the control procedures, and the product(s) exported must be covered by a certificate of inspection.

¹ [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation \(EEC\) No 2092/91, OJ L 189, 20.7.2007, p. 1–23](#)

I invite you take contact with one of the competent control bodies should you require further information, a list of which is provided in Annex IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008². For your information and as listed in Annex IV, the control bodies competent for Sri Lanka are provided below:

[Redacted list of control bodies for Sri Lanka]

I also invite you to consult our website which contains useful information on the various aspects of the EU organic production scheme:

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_en

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email and on the understanding that in the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

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² [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1235/2008 of 8 December 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries OJ L 334 12.12.2008,](#)