



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
B.4. Organics

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[REDACTED]

According to my understanding of your email, you ask if a JAS organic certified label for a grade of [REDACTED] Tea imported from Japan is sufficient, or if an EU BIO label is also required.

In answer to your question,

- The Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) is a production standard recognised by the EU for the purposes of equivalence as set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008¹. The term "equivalence" means that the EU recognizes Japan as having equivalent organic production rules and control systems.
- Article 24(1) fifth subparagraph of Council Regulation 834/2007² states that the use of the organic production logo of the European Union (organic logo of the EU) 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".*

Therefore in accordance with the above, the use of the JAS organic certified label is sufficient, and the use of the EU organic logo is optional. However, please note that 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 the competent authorities, control authorities or control bodies of the third country recognised as equivalent in accordance with Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

May I draw your attention to the requirements for an operator importing products from a third country: in accordance with Article 28(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, *"any operator who produces, prepares, stores, or **imports from a third country** products in the meaning of Article 1(2) of the said Regulation, or who places such products on the market shall, **prior to placing on the market of any products as organic**:*

¹ [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](#)

² [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](#)

- (a) notify his activity to the competent authorities of the Member State where the activity is carried out;*
- (b) submit his undertaking to the control system referred to in Article 27 of the said Regulation."*

I therefore suggest you contact the relevant competent authority of the EU Country into which you wish to import these products. The full list is available on the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system_en

Furthermore, should you wish to use the EU organic logo, the labelling requirements as set out under Article 24(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 are to be respected and shall appear in the labelling of the product:

- "(a) the code number referred to in Article 27(10) of the control authority or control body to which the operator who has carried out the most recent production or preparation operation is subject, shall also appear in the labelling;*
- (b) the Community logo referred to in Article 25(1) as regards pre-packaged food shall also appear on the packaging;*
- (c) where the Community logo is used, an indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed, shall also appear in the same visual field as the logo and shall take one of the following forms, as appropriate:*
- 'EU Agriculture', where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in the EU*
 - 'non-EU Agriculture', where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in third countries,*
 - 'EU/non-EU Agriculture', where part of the agricultural raw materials has been farmed in the Community and a part of it has been farmed in a third country.*

I also invite you to consult our website which contains further information on the EU organic logo, and useful general information on the various aspects of the EU organic production scheme: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_en

