



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
B.4. Organics

Brussels,

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Thank you for your e-mail from 13 October, in which you inquired about the possibility of obtaining organic certification for hydroponic systems.

Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008¹ states that hydroponic production, as defined in Article 2(g) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 as "*a method of growing plants with their roots in a mineral nutrient solution only or in an inert medium, such as perlite, gravel or mineral wool to which a nutrient solution is added*", is **prohibited** in organic plant production. This is related to the principles of organic agriculture, which in accordance with Article 5(a) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007² is based on the nourishing of plants primarily through **the soil ecosystem**.

Yours sincerely,

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¹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (O.J. L 250, 18.09.2008, p. 1).

² Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products – Official Journal of the EU L 189 of 20/07/2007.

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