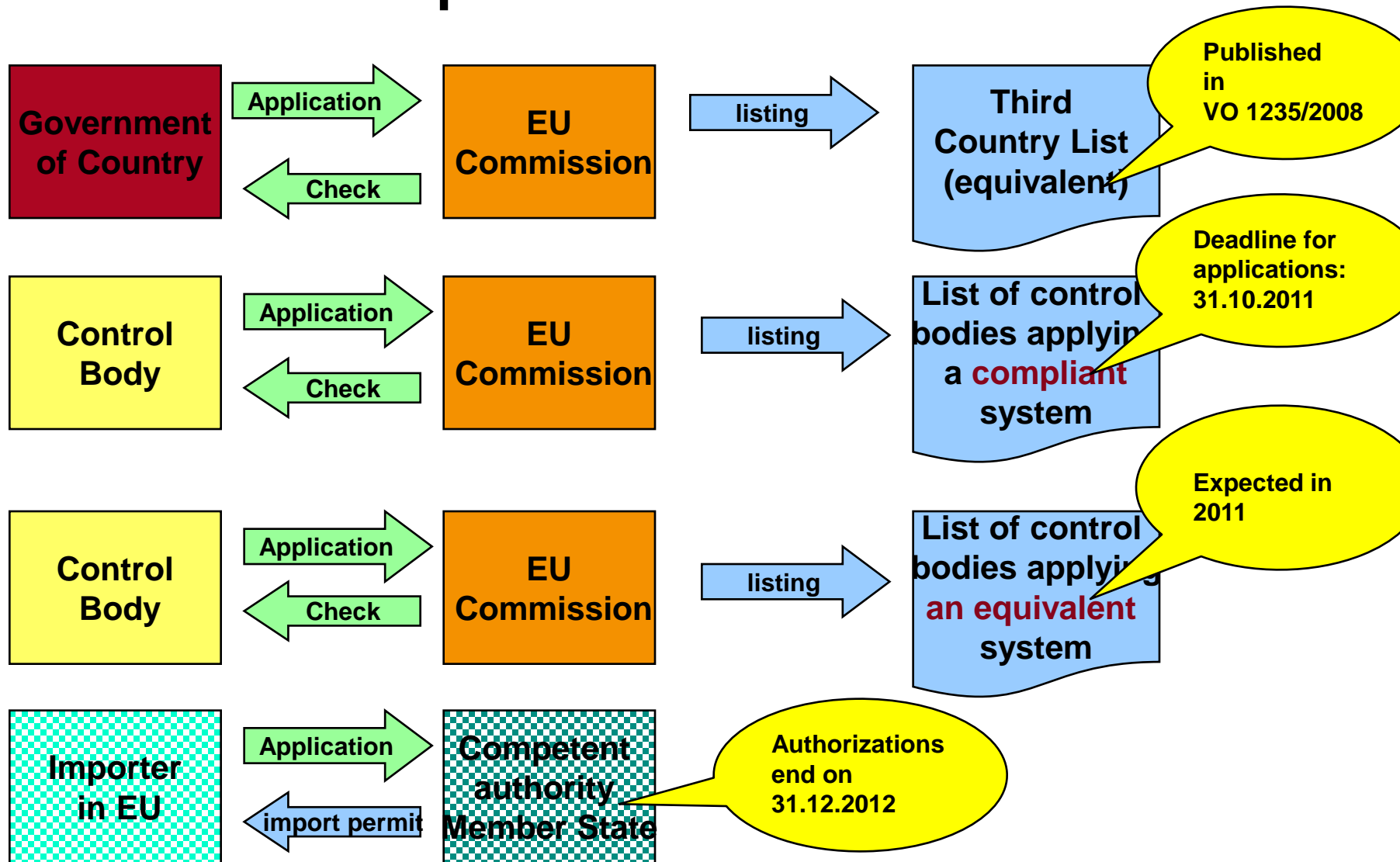




The EU Import Rules for Organic Products

EU - Revised Import Rules



EU Regulation Organic Agriculture: Import

Level 1: Basic Regulation

**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**

*List of equivalent third countries: Art 33 (2) List of CBs & CAs for equivalence: Art 33 (3) List of CBs & CAs
compliance: Art 32 (2)*

Level 2: Implementation Rules

**COMMISSION REG. (EC) No 1235/2008
... for implementation of Council Reg. (EC) No 834/2007... for imports of
organic products from third countries**

Level 3: Guidelines

Guidelines for imports of organic products into the EU

Unilateral recognition by European Union

› List of control bodies for equivalence



- › 73 applications until 31.10.2009
- › CB's contacted for further information in Febr. '11
- › Publication expected in 2011

› Third Country List (unilateral recognition)



- › 9 countries listed (Japan added in June 2010)
- › 20 applications (last ones Taiwan and Serbia)
- › soon expected: Canada, negotiations with the US

Compliance

- **Full compliance is required, no exceptions or interpretations can be made**
 - **i.e. national legislation is needed**
 - **No grower group systems**
 - **Database for availability of organic seeds**
 - **Exceptional rules only as outlined in implementation rules**

- **„documentary evidence“ sufficient (general certificate)**

Equivalence

- › Definition EU Reg. 834/2007
'equivalent', in describing different systems or measures, means that they are capable of meeting the same objectives and principles by applying rules which ensure the same level of assurance of
- › Reference
Rules equivalent to EC rules
Assessment shall take into account Codex Alimentarius guidelines CAC/GL 32
- › **Provides flexibility for local adaptation**
- › **Accompanying certificates (certificate for inspection) requested**

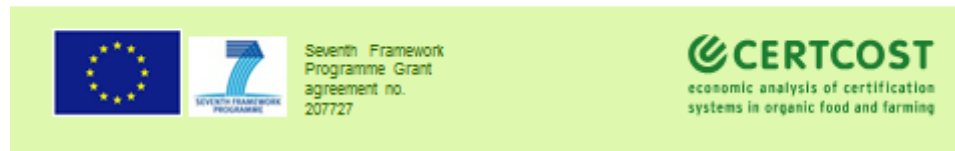
Certificate for inspection for import (required only for products imported under equivalent scheme)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY — CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION FOR IMPORT OF PRODUCTS FROM
ORGANIC PRODUCTION

| | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Issuing body or authority (name and address) | | 2. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1788/2001 Article 11(1) <input type="checkbox"/> or Article 11(6) <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3. Serial number of the certificate of inspection | | 4. Reference No authorisation under Article 11(6) | |
| 5. Exporter (name and address) | | 6. Inspection body or authority (name and address) | |
| 7. Producer or preparer of the product (name and address) | | 8. Country of dispatch | |
| | | 9. Country of destination | |
| 10. First consignee in the Community (name and address) | | 11. Name and address of the importer | |
| 12. Marks and numbers. Container No(s). Number and kind. Trade name of the product | | 13. CN codes | 14. Declared quantity |
| | | | |
| <p>15. Declaration of body or authority issuing the certificate referred to in box 1.</p> <p>This is to certify that this certificate has been issued on the basis of the checks required under Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1788/2001 and that the products designated above have been obtained in accordance with rules of production and inspection of the organic production method which are considered equivalent in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.</p> <p>Date</p> <p>Name and signature of authorised person</p> <p>Stamp of issuing authority or body</p> | | | |

Concerns and Expectation of Stakeholders

Economic Analysis of Certification Systems in Organic Food and Farming at EU Level



- › Preliminary results from workshops in Brussels, Turkey and Switzerland
- › Organized by EGE Turkey, FiBL, AFI

A Free Wish to the Commission

- › More transparency more enforcement of regulations
- › Harmonization of procedures
- › EU approved education for inspectors
- › More resources to DG Agric. Organic Unit for implementing and thinking ahead
- › An efficient supervision system for new import rules to avoid unfair trades and to avoid mistrust on organic foods



Quality of Controls

- › **More Harmonization expected ☺**
- › **Hope that CB's have to prove the local expertise (e.g. language, culture) ☺**
- › **No change in quality**
- › **Increased risk since authorities are less involved ☹**
- › **Concerns about poor surveillance by Commission (e.g. Third Countries) ☹**



Equivalence/Compliance

- › **Concerns about compliance approach – no added value seen ☹️**
- › **Risk of additional trade barriers if trade doesn't accept equivalent certification ☹️**
- › **Compliance is not possible and even within the EU a problem (lack of harmonization)**
- › **Compliance is a thread to national legislative initiatives (would contradict national legislation in Third Countries) ☹️**
- › **One barrier less for trade (no accompanying certificate needed) 😊**

Competition

- › **Unfair competition through lack of harmonization (national requirements vary) ☹**
 - › **What happens if no CB is approved in a country?**
 - › **Monopoly if only one CB is approved.**
 - › **“some CBs use money to build trust in the system, others seek to reduce cost”**
- › **competence of the assessment bodies will impact on fair/unfair competition**



Sector specific concerns

Traders

- › Reduction of bureaucracy is highly appreciated by operators 😊
- › change in trading relations once importers are not bound to a certain exporter by an import authorization any more and the other way round

Certification Bodies

- › Increase of costs for approvals 😞
- › Concerns about delays in approval 😞
- › Concerns about slow procedures for extending approval to new countries 😞
- › CB's approval should not be restricted to single countries

› **Communication/Information**

- › **Lack of transparency/information from COM is seen as major problem**

› **Concerns about capacities at COM level**

- › **Surveillance in Third Countries**
- › **Approval of CB's**

› **Harmonization**

- › **Lacking for import permits**
- › **Needed for inputs**



Conclusions

- › **Burden from traders has been shifted to certification bodies**
- › **A lot of concerns caused by lack of information/transperancy**
- › **...lacking capacities at COM level**
- › **Opportunities are seen – but depend on quality of implementation**

Thank you very much

Further information:

- www.organicrules.org/
- www.certcost.org.