



Exporting Organic Products to The Republic of Korea

As of July 1, 2014, processed organic products certified in Korea or in the U.S. may be sold as organic in either country. This partnership eliminates significant trade barriers and reduces the paperwork burden for farmers and businesses wishing to export organic products to Korea.

Products Covered Under the Arrangement

Products certified to the USDA organic standards that:

1. Are “processed products” as they are defined by the Korean Food Code¹. Additional guidance is available at www.ams.usda.gov/NOPTradeKorea.
2. Contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients.
3. Have their final processing (as defined in the Korean Food Code) occur in the United States.
4. Don't contain apples and pears produced with the use of antibiotics.

Korea's laws only allow organic equivalency arrangements to cover processed products. Other products, such as fresh cherries or broccoli, need to be certified to the Korean organic standards. Several certifying agents based in the U.S. are accredited to the Korean organic standards and can help walk you through this process.

The arrangement allows both countries to check imported organic products to verify that residues of prohibited substances and methods are not present in the final product. If such residues are detected in Korea, the organic label may need to be removed.

Documentation

The following documents are required for organic shipments exported to Korea:

Organic import certificate. All U.S. organic shipments exported to Korea under this arrangement must be accompanied by the [NAQS Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods](#).

¹ “Processed food” refers to a food manufactured, processed and packaged by adding food or food additives to food raw materials (agricultural, forestry, livestock, or marine products), transforming food raw materials (such as grinding or cutting) till their original form cannot be recognized, or mixing such transformed ones or adding food or food additives to such mixture. However, where, without the use of food additives or other materials, the agricultural, forestry, livestock, or marine products are simply cut, peeled, salted, ripened, or heated (except the cases where heating is performed for sterilization or heating causes significant changes to those products) till their original forms can be recognized or where sanitary risks from treatment processes are not expected and food raw materials are simply treated so as to allow organoleptic identification of food quality, such food products are excluded from the definition of the processed food.

U.S. operations should inform their certifying agent that they wish to ship products to Korea. Certifying agents will complete the forms, and return them to the operator for inclusion with their shipment of organic products. The list of USDA-accredited certifying agents is available at www.ams.usda.gov/NOPACAs.

Labeling

Processed products certified as “organic” in the U.S. that meet the terms of the arrangement listed above may be sold as “organic” in Korea. These products must be labeled according to Korea’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) organic labeling requirements, and may display the Korean and/or USDA organic seal. Additional guidance for organic labeling categories is provided below:

Organic products. Products certified as “organic” in the U.S. and meet the terms of the arrangement listed above may be sold as “organic” in Korea. Products may include the Korean and/or USDA organic seal.

100 percent organic products. Korea doesn’t have a labeling category for 100 percent organic products. Products meeting the terms of the arrangement listed above may be labeled “organic” and include the Korean and/or USDA organic seal.

“Made with” organic products. Korea doesn’t have a labeling category for “Made with” organic products. Products must contain 95 percent organic content. Additionally, products not covered under the arrangement can not have individual organic ingredients identified as organic in the ingredient statement.

Organic Seals



[USDA Organic Seal \(U.S.\)](#)



[Korean Organic Food Label \(Korea\)](#)