



## Importing Organic Products from 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 businesses wishing to import organic products from 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 Code<sup>1</sup>. Additional guidance is available at [www.ams.usda.gov/NOPTradeKorea](http://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 Korea.
4. Don't contain livestock products produced with the use of antibiotics.

Other products, such as fresh pears or onions, need to be certified to the USDA organic standards. The list of USDA-accredited certifying agents (located around the world) is available at [www.ams.usda.gov/NOPACAs](http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPACAs). For more information on USDA organic certification, visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPFAQsHowCertified>.

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

### Documentation

All Korean exports under this arrangement must be accompanied by the NOP Import Certificate. Korean operations should inform their certification body that they wish to ship products to the U.S. The certification body will complete the form (<http://1.usa.gov/nop-import-certificate>) and return it to the operator for inclusion with their shipment of organic products.

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<sup>1</sup>“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.

## Labeling

Processed products certified as “organic” in Korea that meet the terms of the arrangement listed above may be sold as “organic” in the U.S. Products must be labeled according to USDA organic labeling requirements and may display the Korean organic food label and/or the USDA organic seal. For example, all imported retail products’ labels or stickers must state, “Certified Organic By (insert name of Korea-accredited certification body).”

For more information on labeling organic products in the United States, please review the labeling section of the USDA organic regulations: <http://bit.ly/usda-organic-labeling>.

## Organic Seals



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



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