

Information sheet 1: Generally required labelling elements when labelling organic products + obligatory specifications

The labelling of a product with reference to organic production is legally defined by Regulation (EU) 2018/848, current version. A product that does not fully comply with the requirements of the regulation must not contain any labelling related to organic production.

For the purposes of this Regulation, a product shall be regarded as bearing terms referring to organic production where, in the labelling, advertising material or commercial documents, such a product, its ingredients or feed materials used for its production are described in terms suggesting to the purchaser that the product, ingredients or feed materials have been produced in accordance with this Regulation.

Irrespective of the general food labelling regulations, the following additional labelling requirements according to Regulation (EU) 2018/848, current version must be implemented when labelling food:

- In the case of "organic foods"¹ the commercial product designation should be accompanied by the term organic (and their derivatives and diminutives, such as 'bio' and 'eco'). For better understanding, the written reference to organic production can be added.
e.g.: **organic-apple-juice**
or: **apple-juice from organic production**
- In the list of ingredients (if general required) must indicate which ingredients are organic. This identification can be given with the organic reference (as an abbreviation) and/or with the written reference to the organic production method, e.g. usual identification marked with an asterisk (*):
***ingredients from organic production: apple juice*, carrot juice*, acidifier: citric**
or: ***organic ingredients: apple juice*, carrot juice*, acidifier: citric**

Code number of the control body

In addition to the organic information, the "code number of the responsible control body"² shall also appear in the labelling.

¹according to Regulation (EU) 2018/848, current version, Chapter IV, Article 30, (5), a)

²the code number of the control authority or control body to which the operator that carried out the last production or preparation operation is subject

Obligatory declaration:

In the case of “**prepackaged food**”³ that fall under the category "organic foods"¹, the EU organic logo and the indication of “**provenance/origin**”⁴ together with the “**code number of the responsible control body**”² shall also appear in the labelling. The indication of “provenance/origin”⁴ and the “code number of the responsible control body”² does not have to appear directly next to the EU organic logo, but are mandatory in the same visual field of the EU organic logo.

e.g.:



AT-BIO-301
EU-agriculture or non-EU-agriculture or EU-/non-EU-agriculture

For all other labels of "organic foods"¹ (e.g. for labels of organic products for further processing like big bags, ...) the EU organic logo does not have to be used. In addition to the organic information, the label must also state the “code number of the responsible control body”².

If the EU organic logo is used voluntarily to claim "organic foods"¹, then the indication of “provenance/origin”⁴ together with the “code number of the responsible control body”² shall also appear in the labelling (see obligatory declaration above).

For the indication of the “provenance/origin”⁴ small quantities by weight of ingredients may be disregarded, provided that the total quantity of the disregarded ingredients does not exceed 5 % of the total quantity by weight of agricultural raw materials.

The EU organic logo shall have a height of at least 9 mm and a width of at least 13,5 mm; the proportion ratio height/width shall always be 1:1,5. Exceptionally, the minimum size may be reduced to a height of 6 mm for very small packages.

You can use the “Regulation of Food Information”⁵ as a guide if you want to define small packaging. However, since the EU organic regulation does not define what a very small packaging is, the ABG recommends maintaining the minimum size of 9mm by 13.5mm.

¹according to Regulation (EU) 2018/848, current version, Chapter IV, Article 30, (5), a)

²the code number of the control authority or control body to which the operator that carried out the last production or preparation operation is subject

³each sales unit that is to be sold as such to the end consumer and to providers of mass catering (within the meaning of Article 2 paragraph 2 letter e of Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 as amended)

⁴the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed

⁵[Regulation (EC) 1169/2011, article 16 (2)] - In the case of packaging or containers the largest surface of which has an area of less than 10 cm² only the particulars listed in points (a), (c), (e) and (f) of Article 9(1) shall be mandatory on the package or on the label. The particulars referred to in point (b) of Article 9(1) shall be provided through other means or shall be made available at the request of the consumer.

Attention:

According to our current state of knowledge, non-product-specific use of the logo is permitted for advertising purposes or on documents accompanying the goods - but only without the product-specific indication of origin.

However, the use of the EU organic logo must not be misleading and may only refer to products that comply with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/848. A non-product-specific use of the EU organic logo is not recommended by the ABG and cannot be checked and approved.

The trademark "Bio-Garantie"

In addition, the trademark "Bio Garantie" can also be used.

However, this does not replace the obligatory indication of the "code number of the competent inspection body"² on labels and documents accompanying the goods.



²the code number of the control authority or control body to which the operator that carried out the last production or preparation operation is subject