

## OVERVIEW – SCARICATA DAL SITO NOP

The U.S. has an equivalence arrangement with the European Union (EU). This means that as long as the terms of the arrangement are met, organic operations certified to the USDA organic or EU organic standards may be labeled and sold as organic in both countries.

[Equivalency FAQs](#) | [How to Access EU Market](#) (PDFs)  
[USDA Organic Standards](#) | [EU Organic Standards](#)

**Scope.** Beginning June 1, 2012, the equivalence arrangement only covers products exported from and certified in the United States or the European Union.

[USDA Organic Certifying Agents](#) | [EU Organic Certifying Agents](#)

**Requirements.** The following limitations apply to organic agricultural products traded under the arrangement:

### **The following U.S. organic products may not be exported to the EU**

- Crops produced using antibiotics (streptomycin for fire blight control in apples and pears).

### **The following EU organic products may not be exported to the U.S.**

- Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics.
- Aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish).

**Documentation – USDA Organic Products.** A USDA-accredited certifying agent must complete an EU import certificate for all USDA organic products traded under the arrangement.

[EU Import Certificate and Instructions](#)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1235/2008 of 8 December 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries

**Documentation – EU Organic Products.** An EU-accredited certifying agent must complete a U.S. import certificate for all EU organic products traded under the arrangement.

U.S. Import Certificate and Instructions - *coming soon*

**Labeling Requirements.** For retail products, labels or stickers must state the name of the U.S. or EU certifying agent and may use the USDA Organic seal or the EU organic logo. Exported products must meet the labeling requirements in the destination country.

[EU Labeling Requirements](#) | [USDA Organic Seal](#)

**Oversight.** The U.S. and EU will notify one another with any changes to their organic standards or certifying agent policies. They will also assess each other's systems on a regular basis to ensure that the terms of the arrangement are being met. Any issues will be resolved by the Organic Working Group, which will have representatives on both sides of the Atlantic.

### Historical Documents

Equivalency announcement: [Press Release](#) | [Video](#)

Equivalency Arrangement: [Letter to EU](#) | [Letter to U.S.](#) (PDFs)

[EU Regulation Listing U.S. as Third Country](#)

[EU Regulations: Importing Organic Products from Third Countries \(PDF\)](#)

[Audit Report of EU Organic Program \(PDF\)](#)

[GAIN U.S.-EU Trade Report: February 2012](#)

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### DAL DOC NOP - FAQs

## Shipping EU organic products to the U.S.

#### What is required to ship EU organic products to the U.S.?

First, the terms of the arrangement must be met.

This includes a prohibition on the use of antibiotics in organic livestock production.

Second, organic products must travel with a **U.S. import certificate**, which must be signed by an EU certifying agent.

#### Where is a list of EU certifying agents that are authorized to issue U.S. import certificates?

The list of EU certifiers is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/files/consumer-confidence/inspection-certification/EU\\_control\\_bodies\\_authorities\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/files/consumer-confidence/inspection-certification/EU_control_bodies_authorities_en.pdf).

#### How do EU operators obtain a U.S. import certificate?

To start, EU operations should inform their certifier that they wish to ship products to the U.S. Certifying agents will ask the operator a few questions, complete the form, and return it to the operator for inclusion with their shipment of organic products. Certificates will be available beginning June 1, 2012.

#### Is organic wine produced in the EU included in the arrangement?

Yes. Organic wine that meets USDA organic labeling requirements may be traded under the arrangement. USDA organic labeling requirements do not allow the addition of sulfites in organic wine. USDA organic labeling requirements allow added sulfites in "made with" organic wine with a maximum sulfite level of 100 parts per million.