



Northern Ireland Imports Controls for China, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Turkey

The European Commission (EC) have placed additional controls on the import of certain organic goods from the countries detailed below. This is following concerns over the organic integrity of certain products. Northern Ireland Competent Authority (NICA) have issued guidelines to certification bodies. The requirements for Turkey come into effect from 1st March 2021. These must be followed for importing into the European Union (EU) and Northern Ireland (NI), any of the product categories from the countries listed below.

The information below is taken from guidance issued by Northern Ireland Competent Authority (NICA) to certification bodies. We understand NI border controls points have also been informed by NICA of these requirements.

The elements covered in this note set out the responsibilities of the organic operator (importer), the Porth Health Authorities (PHA) and the Control Body (CB). The requirements will be applied from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021 and do not prejudice or override any measure taken by the Commission, or by a Member State, within the terms of Articles 32 and 33 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008, nor any case law developed concerning these measures.

Importers are responsible for ensuring any product they want to import into NI adheres to these guidelines.

1. Tracking and identification of relevant consignments of imported organic food and feed

The importer shall in due time inform the PHA of each consignment to be imported into NI from a third country.

Until the end of 2021 at least, the following increased control measures will be applied to organic products originating from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey and China and imported from one of these countries or from another third country to ensure compliance of products with Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

The additional control measures must be applied to the products listed and the operators producing, processing, trading or exporting such products: organic food and feed with the following CN-codes originating from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation and China.

Products originating from one of these countries arriving at the NI/EU border from another third country, including the UK shall also be concerned by these guidelines.

Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation and Turkey:

- a) Chapter 10 – Cereals
- b) Chapter 11 – Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten. The following CN codes are excluded: CN codes 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109.
- c) Chapter 12 – Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder, except for processed products ready for human consumption derived from them. The following CN codes are excluded: CN codes 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214.
- d) Chapter 23 – Residues and waste from the food industries, prepared animal fodder. The following CN codes are excluded: CN codes 2307.

China:

- a) Chapter 10 – Cereals

- b) Chapter 11 – Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten. The following CN codes are excluded: CN codes 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109
- c) Chapter 12 – Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder, except for processed products ready for human consumption derived from them. The following CN codes are excluded: CN codes 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214
- d) Chapter 23 – Residues and waste from the food industries, prepared animal fodder. The following CN codes are excluded: CN codes 2307
- e) CN code 0810 9075 – only Goji berries (*Lycium barbarum* and *Lycium chinense*) and products processed from them.

2. (PHA) documentation check at point of entry

Operator and PHA - operators need to ensure that there is complete documentation for these consignments that can be verified systematically by the PHA including:

- a) Certificate of inspection
- b) Documents of custom declaration
- c) Transport documents
- d) Operators and product traceability: verification of names, addresses and valid certification of each operator involved, from the farmer(s) to exporter and all operators in between, including traders and sub-contractors.

The PHA will only endorse the COI allow these consignments to leave the premises of the first consignees and allow these products to be put on the market as being an organic product when the control measures of these guidelines have been carried out under their responsibility and have been concluded with satisfactory results.

3. Sampling and analysis

At least 1 representative sample shall be taken of each of these consignments at the point of entry in the EU. Sampling shall be done by using the methods as described in Commission Regulation (EU) No 691/2013 on the sampling methods to be used for the official control of feed and Commission Directive 2002/63/EC establishing Community methods of sampling for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin.

Analysis of these samples for the presence of pesticide residues shall be conducted in a laboratory accredited to the analytical methods used. The analytical methods to be used should cover all the relevant pesticides, as defined by expert knowledge.

The sampling report of each sample must contain the identification of the consignment: lot number and number of the Certificate of Inspection.

4. Action on the outcome of test results or other any other irregularities found

Once the operator obtains the test results from the laboratory, it must report them to their Control Body and the relevant Porth Health Authority for approval to release the product for sale as organic, or where contamination is detected for further action.

When pesticide residues or other irregularities are detected, an investigation shall be started and a notification in the Commission's Organic Farming Information System (OFIS) shall be made.

The CB will not allow any part of the consignment to be marketed as organic pending the satisfactory outcome of a CB led investigation. The cost of removal and/or redistribution of the consignment will be the responsibility of the Operator.

If you have any queries, please contact us on cert@soilassociation.org or on 0117 914 2411