



## Labelling Guidelines for UK organic food and feed products from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

This document provides Soil Association Certification's licensees with labelling rules for GB and EU (including Northern Ireland) markets as a result of the end of the Brexit transition period on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. It does not include organic labelling rules which will not change such as the list of ingredients – for these rules refer to the [Soil Association Food & Drink standards](#).

Defra have confirmed there will be a grace period for technically non-compliant labelling placed on the UK market (e.g. certification codes, agricultural statements, EU Logo) up to September 2022. This is to allow time to use up existing labels and for labelling amendments to take place.

The EU (and NI) will continue to accept products from GB with existing labelling provided the products were placed on the market, either in the EU or GB, prior to 31st Dec 2020. The definition of 'placing on the market' includes written or verbal agreement for the transfer of ownership or possession, or an offer of sale to supply a product for distribution, consumption or use in the UK or the EU. This relates to an existing and individually identifiable good, after manufacturing has taken place.

All certification codes refer to Soil Association Certification. If your product is packed by a company certified by another certifier you will need to consult them about the correct code.

The information provided relates to organic requirements only. It is your responsibility to ensure your labels comply with any other legal requirements for products exported to EU. You can find details [here](#)

This guide covers:

- [Products placed on GB market](#)
- [Products placed on EU or NI market](#)
- [Products packed in Northern Ireland](#)
- [Products exported to non-EU markets](#)
- [Scope of the UK / EU Trade Cooperation Agreement \(TCA\)](#)

# 1. Products placed on GB market (England, Wales Scotland)

This applies to products retail packed by a GB based Soil Association Certification licensee and certified to the EU regulations 834/2007 & 889/2008 (as retained in GB).

The following labelling requirements apply:

- Certification code GB-ORG-05
- UK statement of agricultural origin (on pre-packed product only), one of:
  - UK agriculture
  - Non-UK agriculture
  - UK and non-UK agriculture
  - or the name of an individual country if more than 98% of the ingredients are grown there
- SA logo (where certified to SA standards)

EU organic logo is optional, but if used must be accompanied by EU agriculture, non EU agriculture, or EU/non EU agriculture in addition to the UK agriculture statement (if the name of an individual country is used, only one statement of agriculture is required).

- As the UK is considered an individual country, if over 98% of the ingredients are grown in the UK, then only a UK statement of agriculture is needed when using the EU logo

Although there is no requirement for where the UK agriculture statement appears, it is recommended it is in the same visual field as the certification code. If used the EU agriculture statement must appear below the certification code. **NB:** products sold in GB which have been packed in the EU or other third countries, and certified and labelled according to the EU organic regulation, do not need to additionally meet these rules (i.e. the UK agriculture statement is not required in addition to an EU agriculture statement). Where the product is for sale only in GB the use of the EU organic logo is optional.

For example, a product certified to the ~GB organic regulations and Soil Association standards may use one of:



GB-ORG-05  
UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
Non UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
UK/non UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
French Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
EU Agriculture



Non UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
EU/non EU Agriculture



UK/Non UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
French Agriculture



If more than 98% of the ingredients are grown in the UK

For example, a product certified to just the GB organic regulations may use



GB-ORG-05  
UK Agriculture

If more than 98% of  
the ingredients are  
grown in the UK



GB-ORG-05  
EU Agriculture  
Non-UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
EU/non EU Agriculture  
UK/Non UK Agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
French Agriculture

## 2. Products placed on EU or NI market

Products covered under the scope of the TCA ([see section 5](#)) may be labelled as described under section 1 above.

## 3. Products packed in Northern Ireland

Businesses in NI will continue to be certified to the EU organic regulation (from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 this will be EC reg 2018/848). You can continue to use GB-ORG-05, the EU logo and access the UK and EU market. However, if ingredients for your product are produced within GB, you will need to change the statement of agriculture to reflect non-EU origin.



GB-ORG-05  
EU agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
EU and non EU agriculture



GB-ORG-05  
Non EU agriculture



If the product consists of >95% agricultural ingredients from any individual country, EU agriculture or non EU agriculture can be replaced with the name of that country (NB under EC reg 2018/848 the % of ingredients from a single region/country has reduced from 98% to 95%)

## 4. Products exported to non EU markets

The label must meet the requirements of that market, check with your customer and their certification body. Some markets may have additional or different requirements (e.g. South Korea will not accept the EU logo for products packed in GB).

## 5. Scope of the UK-EU Trade & Cooperation Agreement.

The trade agreement covers products which are grown/produced or processed in the UK, or imported into GB and processed. Processing means any action that substantially alters the initial product. Packing or labelling products only is not considered processing, e.g. packing imported fresh produce.

Product imported into GB and not further processed is not covered by the TCA and cannot be exported to the EU. Further details of the TCA can be found [here](#).