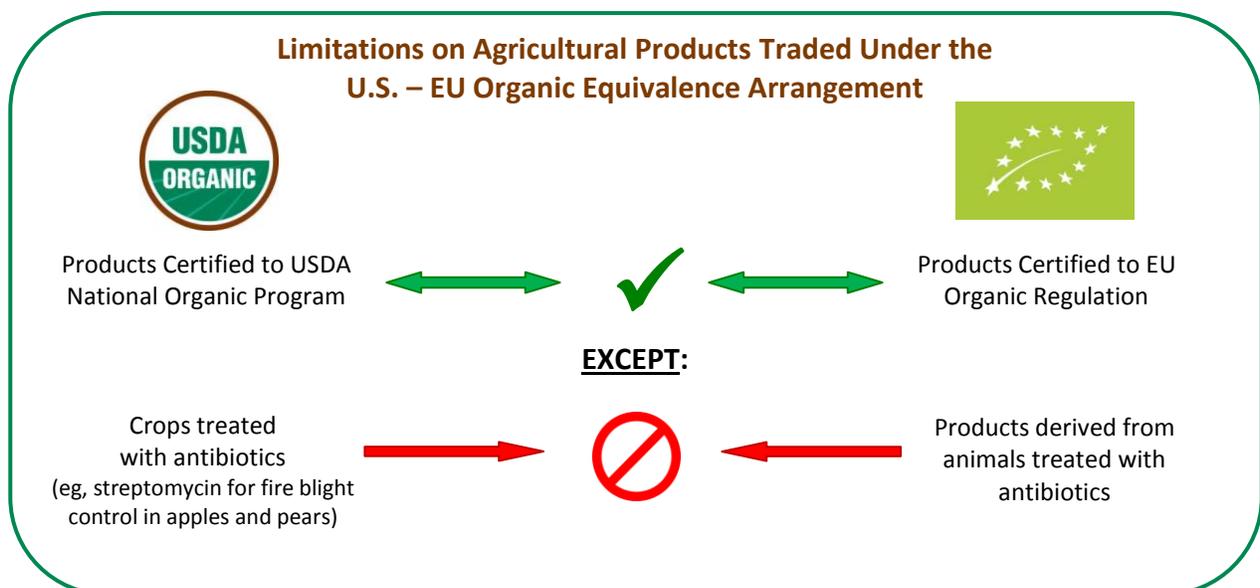




Frequently Asked Questions About the U.S. – EU Organic Equivalence Arrangement

The U.S. has an organic equivalence arrangement with the European Union: What does it mean?

1. As of June 1, 2012 products certified to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Rules by a USDA-Accredited Certifying Agent can be sold to the countries in the European Union (EU) without the need for a separate EU certification. And, products certified to the EU Organic Regulation by an EU-Accredited Certifying Agent can be sold in the U.S. without the need for a separate U.S. NOP certification.
2. The arrangement requires that certification agents issue import certificates for products being shipped to the EU and to the U.S. USDA and EU Accredited Certifying Agents will have the forms necessary to meet this requirement.
3. The arrangement excludes EU certified organic livestock products, including organic livestock ingredients used in products, if the animals received antibiotic treatments during their life. Organic livestock must be raised without antibiotic treatments in order to fall within the scope of this arrangement.
4. The arrangement excludes NOP certified organic crops if the crops are treated with antibiotics for instance, organic apples and pears that receive streptomycin for fire blight treatment.

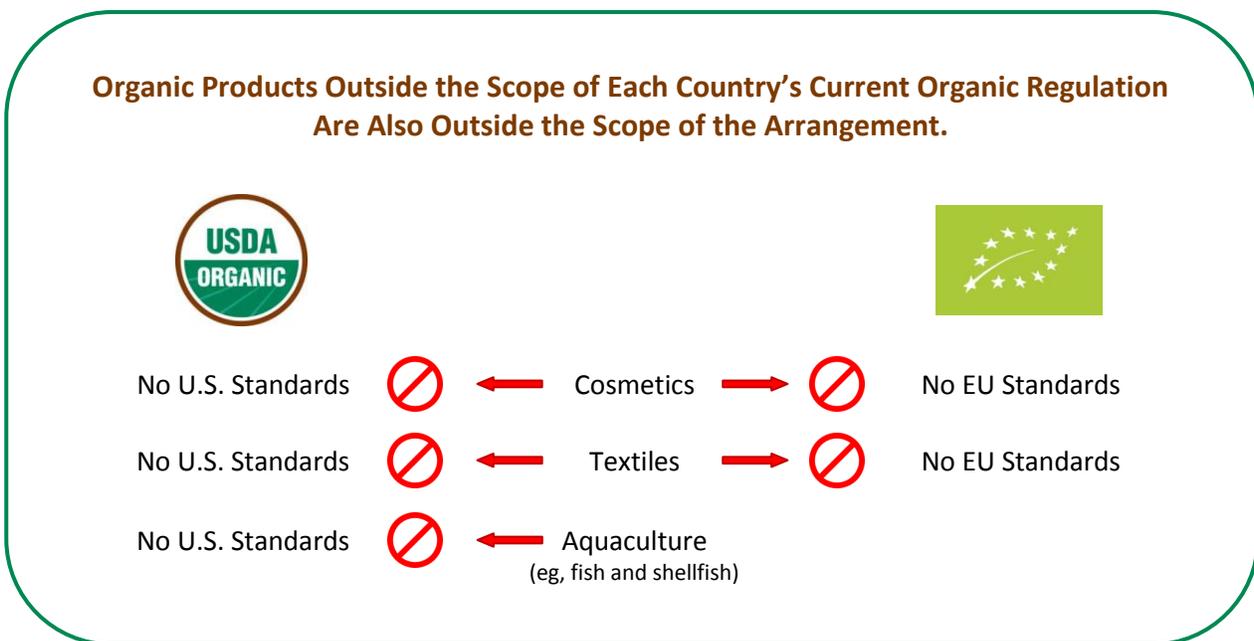


We deliver the strategic expertise to help organic, socially, and environmentally responsible products and projects reach their full potential—and flourish.

P.O. Box 458, New Castle, VA 24127
Tel 540-864-5107 • Fax 540-864-5161 • Info@OrganicSpecialists.com
www.OrganicSpecialists.com

5. Organic products can use either or both the USDA NOP Seal or the EU Organic Seal. However, the individual organic and other labeling requirements of the U.S. and EU must be followed.

6. Organic products outside the scope of each country's current organic regulation are also outside the scope of this organic equivalency arrangement. For instance, the U.S. does not have aquaculture standards therefore EU certified aquaculture products cannot be sold as USDA Organic. Neither the EU nor the U.S. have standards for cosmetics or textile products therefore the agricultural ingredients can be traded under this equivalency arrangement but the final products are subject to the private sector standards.

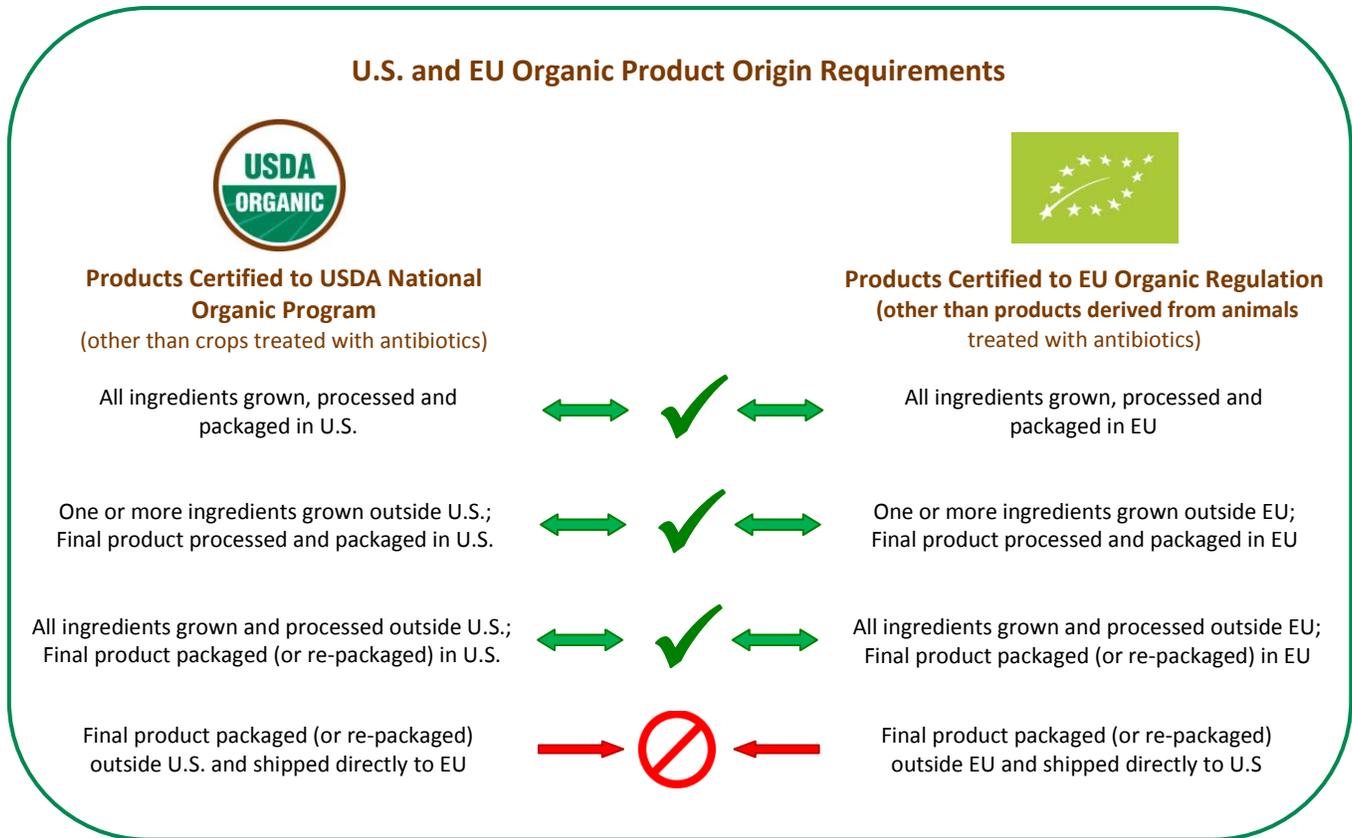


Organic products of U.S. or EU origin are included in the arrangement.

What does this mean?

1. If NOP certified organic crops (without antibiotics), livestock and packaged products are grown, processed **or** packaged in the U.S. then they can be shipped to EU countries without the need for a separate EU Organic certification. And, vice versa: If EU certified organic crops, livestock (without antibiotics) and packaged products are grown, processed **or** packaged in the EU then they can be shipped to EU countries without the need for a separate NOP certification.
2. If a NOP certified organic single or multi-ingredient product contains NOP certified ingredients grown or processed in other countries but the final product is processed **or** packaged in the U.S. then these products can be shipped to EU countries without the need for a separate EU Organic certification. And vice versa.
3. If NOP certified organic ingredients grown or processed in other countries are shipped to the U.S. to be re-packaged or re-labeled then these ingredients can be sold to EU countries without the need for a separate EU organic certification. And vice versa.

4. EU certified organic ingredients can be used in a multi-ingredient product that also contain NOP certified organic ingredients and those products can be sold in the U.S. as “Organic” or “Made with organic” if the EU organic ingredients are grown, processed **or** packaged and shipped from the EU. And vice versa.



What about allowed natural and synthetic materials used in organic production?

1. The organic equivalency arrangement recognizes that U.S. certified organic products will comply with the NOP Rules including the use of the NOP allowed natural and synthetic materials, and that EU certified organic products will comply with the EU Organic regulations including the use of the EU allowed natural and synthetic materials.
2. The organic equivalency arrangement does not include the approval and review of brand name inputs that are used in organic production since this is outside the scope of both the U.S. and EU Organic regulations.
3. Brand name inputs can be approved for use in EU certified operations by EU accredited certifying agents and other independent review organizations such as FiBL. A brand name product that is sold for use according to the NOP Rules must be reviewed and approved by a U.S. accredited certifying agent or a third-party material review organization such as OMRI. The approvals of brand name inputs are not

inter-changeable, for instance, if a product is OMRI listed for use in NOP certified organic production, it cannot be sold as EU approved for use in EU certified organic production.

What about other country or private-sector standards?

1. The organic equivalency arrangement is a bilateral arrangement between the U.S. and the EU. It does not include other national organic standards even those that appear on the EU third country list.
2. Canada has separate and individual bilateral arrangements with the U.S. and the EU. Canadian organic crops and livestock products that are grown and processed in Canada according to the U.S. and Canada arrangement can be used as ingredients in a single or multi-ingredient NOP certified organic product that is processed or packaged in the U.S. and then shipped to the EU.
3. Private sector standards are completely outside this government-to-government organic equivalency arrangement. Certification bodies in the EU are permitted to have their own standards in addition to the EU Organic regulations. If a U.S. producer wishes to use the seal of an EU private sector organization on their products then they must continue to meet the requirements of that organization and obtain an additional certification.

What countries are in the European Union?

1. The following countries are in the EU:

Austria	Latvia
Belgium	Lithuania
Bulgaria	Luxembourg
Cyprus	Malta
Czech Republic	Netherland
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Slovakia
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Spain
Ireland	Sweden
Italy	United Kingdom