

European Union



Organic farmers, processors and traders, must comply with strict EU requirements if they want to use the EU organic logo or label their products as organic.

EU legislation ensures that 'organic' means the same for consumers and producers all over the EU. Legislation concerning organic produce is developed with the participation of Member States and the assistance of advisory and technical committees and expert bodies.

In 2007 the European Council of Agricultural Ministers agreed on a new Council Regulation (Council Regulation [\(EC\) No. 834/2007](#)) setting out the principles, aims and overarching rules of organic production and defining how organic products were to be labelled.

The regulation set a new course for developing organic farming further, with the following aims:

- sustainable cultivation systems
- a variety of high-quality products
- greater emphasis on environmental protection
- more attention to biodiversity
- higher standards of animal protection
- consumer confidence
- protecting consumer interests.

Organic production respects natural systems and cycles. Biological and mechanical production processes and land-related production should be used to achieve sustainability, without having recourse to genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

In organic farming, closed cycles using internal resources and inputs are preferred to open cycles based on external resources. If the latter are used, they should be

- organic materials from other organic farms
- natural substances
- materials obtained naturally, or
- mineral fertilizers with low solubility.

Exceptionally, however, synthetic resources and inputs may be permissible if there are no suitable alternatives. Such products, which must be scrutinized by the Commission and EU countries before authorisation, are listed in the annexes to the implementing regulation (Commission [Regulation \(EC\) No. 889/2008](#)).

Since 1 January 2022, [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 is the applicable legislative act, also known as the basic act, laying down the rules on organic production and labelling of organic products, repealing and replacing Council [Regulation \(EC\) No](#)

[834/2007](#) of 28 June 2007. The new regulation provides for transitional periods for the implementation of certain new provisions, in particular on trade. Please refer to section 2 of Chapter IX of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, where provisions under previous Council [Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007](#) and Commission [Regulation \(EC\) No 889/2008](#) may apply for a limited period.

The Legislation for the organics sector can be found at https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/legislation_en.

The Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 can be found in 24 languages at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018R0848-20230221>.