

The New Taiwanese Import Requirements for Organic Produce

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On 31st January, 2009 the two year grace period of the Agricultural Production and Certification Act, which has been in force since January 2007, will end, and all local and imported organic agricultural products will then have to be certified before they can be sold as organic.

In terms of imported organic produce this means that it can be sold after having gained the approval of the Council of Agriculture (COA) and on the condition that it is imported from one of the 16 countries the COA has recognized, those being: Germany, UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Belgium, Austria, New Zealand, and Australia.

According to Art.6 of the Agricultural Production and Certification Act, all imported agricultural products and their processed products need to be certified by the central competent authority, the rules for which are laid out in the Imported Organic Agricultural and Organic Agricultural Processed Product Management Regulations; fortunately the rules on the application and labeling contained therein are less complicated than the name might make one suspect.

Article 4 of the Regulations states that the application must be made by the importer or an agent commissioned by him and contains a list of required documents, among them quarantine documents and documents demonstrating that the imported product has been granted organic certification. Some of those documents, according to Art. 20 of the Regulations, may have to be certified by an embassy or representative office of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Art. 7 of the Regulations names grounds on which an approval might be rejected, such as the raw material content in the product being less than 95%, the imported product no longer complying with the certification criteria, or the results of product testing no longer complying with Art. 13 of the Act, i.e. certain chemical fertilizers, pesticides or animal drugs having been used in the production process.

When the imported product does pass review, however, the central competent authority shall issue an organic labeling approval document which will then allow the import of organic produce to Taiwan; all things considered, the regulations, which will soon be binding, provide the consumers with a certificate they can rely on for the quality of their food and at the same time give producers and importers another opportunity to promote their organic food, whilst the „black sheep“ of the organic food market will no longer get a chance to trick consumers and competitors.

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The logo for 'eiger' is located in the bottom right corner of the page. It features the word 'eiger' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are a warm, golden-brown color. The 'e' and 'i' have a slight shadow or glow effect around them, making them stand out from the other letters. The overall style is clean and professional.