



Information on the import of organic products into Switzerland

Three ordinances form the legal basis for the import of organic products into Switzerland:

- The ordinance on organic agriculture and the labeling of organically produced products and foodstuffs (Organic-O [910.18](#)), in particular chapters 4 and 5
- The EAER Ordinance on Organic Agriculture (Organic-O EAER [910.181](#)), in particular Section 2a.
- The FOAG ordinance on organic agriculture (Organic-O FOAG [910.184](#))

Imports of organic products into Switzerland, both from EU member states and from third countries, are subject to certification.

Import companies in Switzerland are subject to control by a [recognized Swiss certification body](#) and have to submit to the control procedure in order to prove that they meet the requirements of the organic regulations.

Since January 1, 2021, the FOAG has been responsible for drawing up the list of countries with equivalent organic production and control provisions from which organic products are imported into Switzerland (see Art. 23 Bio-V, list of countries).

These countries with details of the competent authority, the recognized certification bodies and the product categories concerned are listed in Appendix 1 of the Organic-O FOAG.

For the list of recognized third country control bodies and control authorities outside the list of countries in accordance with Art. 23a of the Organic-O, reference has been made to the corresponding list of the EU since January 1, 2021 (see Annex IV of Regulation (EC) [1235/2008](#)). Products that have been certified by EU-recognized third country control bodies may also be imported into Switzerland.

Additional special cases are listed in Appendix 2 of the Organic-O FOAG.

Two procedures are possible for imports from third countries:

1. Imports of products from a country listed in Annex 1 of the Organic-O FOAG 910.184.
2. Imports of products whose producers, processors and exporters have been checked by a recognized certification body, in accordance with Annex IV of EU Regulation (EC) 1235/2008 and Annex 2 of the Organic-O FOAG 910.184.

According to Article 24 of Bio-V, every consignment of imported products must be accompanied by a certificate of inspection (COI = Certificate of Inspection).

The use of the electronic certificate of inspection (E-COI) in the "System for electronic certification of imports of organic products" of the EU (TRACES) has been mandatory since January 1st, 2020.

The inspection certificate must be issued by the inspection body or authority in the country of origin **before the goods leave the country**.

Swiss companies have to register in TRACES. Importers and first-time recipients can obtain more detailed information on the procedure from their certification bodies.

No certificate of inspection is required for consignments from EU member states, provided that the imported products have been cleared through customs in the EU member states.

