



## Questions & Answers<sup>1</sup>

### 1. What does the new organic logo of the European Union look like?



It is often named “Euro-leaf”. It symbolizes the marriage of Europe (the stars derived from the European flag) and Nature (the stylized leaf and the green colour).

### 2. What is the meaning of the new organic logo?

If used on a product, the EU organic logo indicates that this product is in full conformity with the conditions and regulations for the organic farming sector established by the European Union. For processed products it means that at least 95% of the agricultural ingredients are organic. Next to the new EU organic logo, a code number of the control body is displayed as well as the place where the agricultural raw materials composing the product have been farmed.

### 3. What needs to be considered by using the new EU organic logo?

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<sup>1</sup> *This document has been conceived as an informative document. It does not intend to produce legally binding effects and by its nature does not prejudice any measure taken by the Commission or by a Member State within the implementation prerogatives under European Union legislation, nor any case law developed with regard to such legislation.*



The relevant European legislation is the Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and the Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. Moreover the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development has developed a detailed user manual, which includes concrete guidelines for the application of the EU organic logo. The user manual is available for download under the section "Logo and labelling" of the EU Organic Farming Website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/documents/logo/user\\_manual\\_logo\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/documents/logo/user_manual_logo_en.pdf)

#### **4. Is the use of the new EU organic logo compulsory?**

Where the terms referred to in Article 23(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 are used (e.g: organic, bio, eco...), the EU organic logo is compulsory for the labelling and advertising of organic pre-packaged food products which satisfy the requirements set out under or pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, placed on the EU market. It should be underlined that although the use of the logo is compulsory where the terms referred to in Article 23(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 are used, the organic logo is not exclusive on the packaging: subject to the respect of the EU legislation, national and private labels may be used and can be displayed on organic products next to the Euro-leaf.

#### **5. For which product categories is the new EU organic logo compulsory?**

The use of the EU organic logo is compulsory for organic pre-packaged food produced within the European Union where the terms referring to organic production are used (see Article 24(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007).

#### **6. For which product categories is the new EU organic logo voluntary?**

It is also possible to use it on a voluntary basis for non-pre-packaged organic products produced within the Union and which satisfy the requirements set out under or pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 or any organic products imported from third countries and recognised as equivalent in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. Operators are not obliged to use the logo on organic products when those products are only placed on third countries' markets. In cases where the logo is used, the EU legal provisions must be respected, however.



### **7. For which products can the EU organic logo not be used?**

EU organic logo cannot be used for a product which does not satisfy the requirements set out under Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

The EU organic logo shall not be used in the case of in-conversion products and food as referred to in Article 23(4)(b) and (c) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, i.e containing less than 95% of organic ingredients.

Products from the hunting and fishing of wild animals are not considered as organic production and cannot bear the EU logo.

#### **Examples of use:**

Can the logo be used on packaging material of the following products (subject that they satisfy the requirements set out under Regulation (EC) No 834/2007)

- Sardines in organic olive oil: NO
- Organic farming salmon: YES
- Organic wine: YES
- Soup made from organic vegetables: YES
- Wool from organic sheep: NO
- Milk from a dairy farm in conversion period: NO

### **8. When the logo is used, what additional information is obligatory?**

Whenever the EU organic logo is used on a product, it always has to be accompanied by the code number of the control body and the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed.

### **9. Where should the additional information be placed?**

The code number of the control body or control authority shall be placed in the same visual field as the EU organic logo. Indication of the place of farming should appear directly below the reference to the control body.



### 10. How should the code number be displayed?

The code number shall appear as follows: AB-CDE-999 where "AB" is the ISO code for the country where the controls take place, "CDE" is a term establishing a link with the organic production like "bio" or "eko" and "999" is the attributed reference number composed of 1 to 3 digits.

### 11. How should the indication of place of farming be displayed?

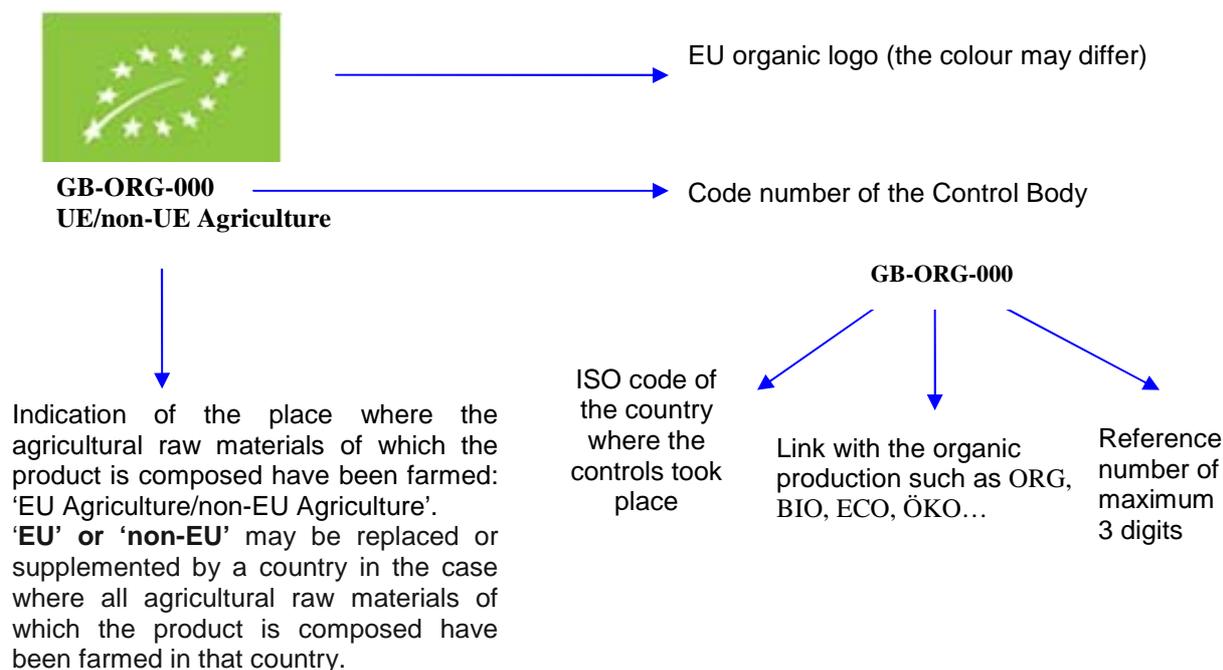
The indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed shall appear as follows:

- 'EU Agriculture', where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in the EU,
- 'non-EU Agriculture', where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in third countries,
- 'EU/non-EU Agriculture', where part of the agricultural raw materials has been farmed in the Union and a part of it has been farmed in a third country. The indication 'EU' or 'non-EU' may be replaced or supplemented by a country in the case where all agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed in that country.

For the abovementioned 'EU' or 'non-EU' indication, small quantities by weight of ingredients may be disregarded provided that the total quantity of the disregarded ingredients does not exceed 2 % of the total quantity by weight of raw materials of agricultural origin.



## 12. Compulsory information – graphical example



## 13. Is it compulsory to indicate the code number and the place of farming on products where the EU organic logo is not used or cannot be used?

Yes.

The code number of control bodies must appear on all products claiming to be organic, irrespective of the use of the logo. The place of farming is compulsory only when the logo is used.

## 14. Is it possible to include the old and the new EU organic logo on the same packaging?

No.

The old logo was replaced by the new one (Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No 271/2010 of 24 March 2010) and it is now



obsolete. The use of the old logo was only accepted during the transitional period which is now over. However, if the products in question are covered by Article 95(9) of Regulation No 889/2008, i.e stocks of products produced, packaged and labelled before 1 July 2010 in accordance with the EU organic legislation, and **if these products satisfy the requirements set out under the organic legislation in force**, they can bear the old logo and, if desired by economic operators, also the new logo (e.g. added as sticker on a can or another product with a long shelf life).

**15. Is there any database or catalogue of companies/products which are able to use the EU organic farming logo available on the website?**

No.

However you can find a list of approved control bodies and control authorities in charge of controls in the organic sector in the EU:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system/index_en.htm)

These control bodies can be distinguished by the code number that is visible under the EU organic logo. By visiting the websites of these approved control bodies and control authorities you can access a list of operators and the products that they produce and which are certified as organic.

**16. What are the technical aspects of placing the logo on the packaging?**

For the technical aspects please consult the user manual of the EU organic logo:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/documents/logo/user\\_manual\\_logo\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/documents/logo/user_manual_logo_en.pdf)