

Registration of Storage and Warehousing or Wholesale Operations

Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements
Statutory information is for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print

The EU Organic Food Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 and (EC) 889/2008) was introduced in 2009. This regulation means that for the first time, some companies that store packed organic products are subject to the Regulation and there is a requirement for them to be registered with an organic control body.

Why was this legislation introduced?

The European Union introduced this requirement due to concerns about possible contamination and/or substitution of organic products during storage and to further ensure that there was an audit of the entire organic process.

What types of companies are subject to the new requirements?

This new Regulation covers all:

- wholesalers
- warehouses
- distribution centres

It applies to those storing products in bulk, and those storing products that are already packed and labelled for the final consumer.

Is any business exempt from this regulation?

Companies do not need certification if they sell directly to the final consumer or user, or are a warehouse owned by or operating under contract to retailers or a store attached to a retail operation.

This is provided they do not “produce, prepare, store other than in connection with the point of sale, or import such products from a third country” (Article 28 of (EC) 834/2007).

What does this mean for your business?

From 1st January 2009 all warehousing and storage operations subject to the Regulation must be inspected on an annual basis.

- Warehouses, distribution centres and wholesalers dealing only with pre-packaged goods are not subject to the full regulation and therefore a “light touch” risk assessment can be carried out annually, A physical inspection will be undertaken at least once every three years and an additional charge will be made for this inspection.

For further information or an application pack, please contact:

The OF&G Processor Certification Department

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