

Organic labeling information on U.S. organic products exported to the Republic of Korea

A U.S. product for import into Korea as an organic processed food must be labeled according to Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) organic labeling requirements, and may display the MAFRA organic seal, or the USDA organic seal, or both. (Appendix 1 (B) of Korea-U.S. equivalence arrangement)

Labeling requirements for organic food

Article 21(2) of the Enforcement Rule of Act on Promotion of Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and Management of and Support for Organic Food, etc. (Korean Organic Food Act)

- **Name of certified operator or company:** The name of certified operator who produces the product exported to Korea.
 - **Contact number:** The phone number of a sales representative who can provide consumer consulting in relation to the quality management of the product. In case of product exported to Korea, the importer's phone number can be displayed in general.
 - **Address of operator:** The physical address of the packaging place where the relevant product has been packaged, including street address.
 - **Certification number:** The NOP ID of certified operator of the first requirement.
 - **Place of origin:** Origin Labeling must be complied with indication method specified in Article 5 of "Act on Origin Labeling of Agricultural and Fisheries".
- Labeling requirements must be indicated on product labels when producing products, but sticker is also permitted.

Labeling of products that contains non-organic ingredient(s)

Article 21(1) of Enforcement Rule of Korean Organic Food Act

This standard applies to organic products that contains non-organic ingredients, not organic products that contains 100 percent organic ingredients.

1. The total percentage of organic ingredients or the percentage of each ingredients used in product must be indicated in ingredients list.

Ex) Organic apple strawberry puree (Below is two ways of labeling)

A. Ingredients list: organic apple (78%), organic strawberry (21%), natural flavor (banana flavor), ascorbic acid

B. Ingredients list: *apple, *strawberry, Natural flavor (banana flavor), ascorbic acid.
*Contains 99% organic ingredients

2. Non-organic ingredient must not be used as part of product name.

In case of organic apple strawberry puree above, banana flavor of ingredients cannot be used as part of product name.

→ Labeling requirements must be indicated on labels when producing products, but sticker is also permitted. (There is grace period until December 31, 2021 to allow for use-up of labels)

MAFRA Organic Seal labeling

Article 21(1) of Enforcement Rule of Korean Organic Food Act

According to the Paragraph B of Appendix 1 of equivalence arrangement, products imported into Korea under Korea-U.S. Equivalence arrangement may display the USDA organic seal or Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) organic seal, or both.

* MAFRA organic seal is available at enviagro.go.kr.

Besides USDA and MAFRA organic seal, third countries organic seal on NOP products according to the equivalence arrangement which the U.S. concluded with other countries cannot be displaced on products imported into Korea.

Ex) JAS certification information on NOP products under the U.S.-JAS equivalence recognition is not permitted in Korea.

On the other hand, provided that the product is certified by the third country's regulation, third countries' organic seal on NOP products imported into Korea is permitted. In this case the certificate must be submitted during the custom clearance process.