



Export of Swiss organic products to Japan

Switzerland and Japan have recognized their regulations for production, processing and labelling of organic products as well as their control systems as being equivalent. The following information sheet equally applies to plant and animal products.

Basic principles

- The products need to be certified according to the Swiss Ordinances on Organic Farming and have to be imported into Japan by a JAS-certified importer.
- The products have to fulfill the Japanese organic labelling requirements and be labelled with the JAS logo.

Export procedure and application of the JAS logo

Within the framework of the equivalency arrangement between Switzerland and Japan, the organic JAS logo has to be applied using one of the two following methods:

Method 1:

If a Swiss-based company wants to apply the organic JAS logo on its products in its production site in Switzerland (as a sticker or printed directly on the label / package), a contract with a JAS-certified importer is required. Only then can the Swiss-based company apply the organic JAS logo in Switzerland and subsequently export the products via the JAS-certified importer.

Method 2:

If a Swiss-based company doesn't wish to apply the JAS logo itself, a JAS-certified importer has to apply the logo on the product once it has arrived in Japan.

Please note:

- If you chose method 1, you must first decide on an importer. Once you have chosen an importer, you cannot change this. You lose a certain degree of flexibility.
- The JAS-certified importer: The importer can be a processor or producer at the same time, but he must in any case be JAS-certified for his import activity. For example it may be the subsidiary company of the Swiss producer.
- A Swiss company, respectively its products, can still be certified according to JAS, even despite the mutual recognition of equivalence. If a Swiss company is JAS-certified, it can export its organic products to Japan via any Japanese importer. In this case, the Japanese importer does not have to be JAS-certified.



The organic JAS logo

The organic JAS logo has to contain the following information:

- The name of the certification body (the identification number of the certification body is not necessary)
- The identification number of the JAS-certified importer (not necessary if the name of the JAS-certified importer already appears) below the name of the certification body.

The purpose of this information is to ensure traceability in the market. This is a specific requirement in Japan, which is defined in the JAS Act.



Certificate of inspection (COI)

There is no official template for certificate of inspection for export to Japan. However, the certificate must contain the following information according to article 35 of the “Enforcement Regulations for the Law Concerning Standardization, etc. of Agricultural and Forestry Products”:

- [1] the name and address of the organization who has issued the certificate;
- [2] the issue date of the certificate;
- [3] the type and quantity of the specified agricultural and forestry products to be certificated;
- [4] the name and address of the overseas organization which has performed the equivalent service to the certification for the producer or re-packer of the mentioned specified agricultural and forestry products; and
- [5] the statement to the effect that the grading has been conducted on the mentioned specified agricultural and forestry products.

More information is available from the Japanese MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries):

Organic JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standards):

https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/specific/organic_JAS.html

Export of organic products to Japan:

https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/specific/Export_of_Organic_products.html