



**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

December 19, 2014

Dear Mr. Jerzy Plewa

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of the Republic of Korea has reviewed the European Union's (EU) organic system for organic production, labelling and control as set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 (hereinafter referred to as "EU Organic Regulation").

Based on that review, MAFRA has determined, pursuant to Article 25 of the Act on Promotion of Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and Management of and Support for Organic Food (hereinafter referred to as "Korean Organic Food Act"), that certain processed food products produced and processed in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation, as in effect on February 1, 2015, are produced and processed under an organic certification system that provides requirements and standards governing the production and processing of such products that are at least equivalent to the requirements of the Korean Organic Food Act.

Accordingly, subject to the conditions as set forth in Appendix 1, processed food products as described by Article 1.2.29 of the Korean Food Code produced and processed in conformity with the EU Organic Regulation as in effect on February 1, 2015, are deemed by MAFRA for three years to have been produced and processed in accordance with the Korean Organic Food Act. These products may be sold, labelled or represented in Korea as organically produced, including by display of the MAFRA organic logo as well as the EU organic logo as set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No889/2008, under the conditions set forth in Appendix 1.

According to reciprocity this recognition shall be completed by including the Republic of Korea to the list of recognised third countries in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

A longer recognition should be discussed as soon as possible and could be a subject of future bilateral agreement between Korea and the EU.

Sincerely,



Choi, Hee-jong

Deputy Minister for Food Industry Policy,
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs,
Sejong-si, Republic of Korea

Appendix 1

A. The EU product must be:

1. A "processed food" as defined by Article 1.2.29 of the Korean Food Code, must contain at least 95 percent organic content, and must have its final processing within the EU, using organic agricultural ingredients from EU origin and/or imported into the EU in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation;
2. Certified organic to the "EU Organic Regulation";
3. Verified by the EU to be produced and processed without the use of methods and substances prohibited under Title III of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, including prohibited pesticides, irradiation, and genetically modified organisms; and
4. Subject to residue testing requirements based on the general evaluation of the risk of non-compliance with the organic production rules, including testing for prohibited substances and methods, and with subsequent regulatory actions, as appropriate, in accordance with Article 23-2 and 31 of Korea's Act on Promotion of Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and Management of and Support for Organic Food, in Korea.

B. An EU product covered under Paragraph A above for import into Korea as an organic processed food (hereinafter referred to as "EU organic processed food") must be labelled according to Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) organic labelling requirements, and may display the MAFRA organic logo, or the EU organic logo, or both.

C. EU organic processed food imported into Korea must be accompanied by an NAQS import certificate of organic processed foods from a control authority/body designated/approved in accordance with Article 27 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 that attests to compliance with the terms of this Appendix.

D. Members States' national accreditation bodies will conduct periodic audits of the control bodies approved in accordance with Article 27 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, using ISO 17011 as a reference.

E. The European Commission will notify MAFRA in a timely manner of any instances of the following:

1. Changes with respect to the control authorities/bodies designated/approved in accordance with Article 27 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007; and
2. Proposed and final regulations and guidelines in the EU that may affect this Appendix.

F. Following advanced notice from Korea, the European Commission will permit MAFRA and Korea's National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (NAQS) officials to conduct periodic peer reviews in the EU to verify that the relevant administrative structures and control authorities/bodies are carrying out the requirements of the EU Organic Regulation. The European Commission will cooperate and assist both MAFRA and NAQS, to the extent permitted under applicable law, in carrying out these on-site peer reviews, which include visits to offices of relevant control authorities/bodies, the European Commission, Member State competent authorities, accreditation bodies, and production and processing facilities that have been certified in the EU.

G. The European Commission will provide to MAFRA the following documents on an annual basis:

1. A report that contains information regarding the types and quantities of EU organic processed foods exported to Korea under this Appendix;
2. A report that contains the types of non-compliances identified by EU during any oversight reviews or audits, and steps taken by the relevant authorities to ensure that non-compliances were corrected; and
3. A list of control authorities/bodies designated/approved in accordance with Article 27 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.