

## Korea-U.S. organic processed foods equivalence arrangement Q&A

1. The Republic of Korea has an “equivalence arrangement” with the U.S. What does this mean?

- This means that as long as the terms of the arrangement are met, organic products certified to Korea or U.S. organic standards may be labeled and sold as organic in both countries. In other words, organic processed foods certified by a certification body accredited according to the 「Act on promotion of environmentally-friendly agriculture and fisheries and management of and support for organic food, etc」 in Korea or 「National Organic Program」 in U.S. may be exported without an additional certification according to the other country’s standards.

2. When does this equivalence arrangement take effect?

- The equivalence arrangement was signed June 30, 2014, and it takes effect July 1, 2014.

3. What is the scope of the arrangement?

## 「The equivalence arrangement Q&A」

- An “organic processed food” must contain at least 95% organic content.
  - Refer to a food manufactured, processed, and packaged by adding food or food additives to food raw materials (agricultural, forestry or livestock products), transforming food raw materials (such as grinding or cutting) till their original forms cannot be recognized or mixing such transformed ones or adding food or food additives to such mixture. However, where, without the use of food additives or other materials, the agricultural, forestry or livestock products are simply cut, peeled, salted, ripened, or heated (except the cases where heating is performed for sterilization or heating causes significant changes to those products) till their original forms can be recognized or where sanitary risks from treatment processes are not expected and food raw materials are simply treated so as to allow organoleptic identification of food quality, such food products are excluded from the definition of the processed food”.
  
- In addition, it must be finally processed within the U.S. but the ingredients produced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> country can be used.
  
- The scope of Korea-U.S. equivalence arrangement is limited to organic processed foods which is manufactured and processed agricultural or livestock product as raw materials, while organic processed products produced from fishery are excluded.

4. What requirements must Korean producers and handlers meet for products being shipped to the U.S under the arrangement?

- Organic processed foods must be finally processed in Korea
- Organic processed foods using livestock as ingredients produced by use of antibiotics must not be labeled as organic.
- Residue test of prohibited materials like Pesticides, GMO or etc on products exported to the U.S. follows the U.S. standards.

5. What requirements must U.S. producers and handlers meet for products being shipped to Korea under the arrangement?

- Organic processed foods must be finally processed in the U.S.
- Organic processed foods using apple or pear produced by use of antibiotics as ingredients should not be exported as organic into Korea.
- Residue test of prohibited materials like Pesticides, GMO etc on products exported to Korea follows the Korean standards.

6. In case of organic processed foods exported under the arrangement, can the opponent country's logo be used?

- Organic processed foods exported under the arrangement can use their own country's logo or the opponent country's logo and both together.

Korea certification logo	U.S. certification logo
	

- Requirements of Organic labeling shall follow standards of importing country.

7. If a certified operator or a certification body violates the equivalence arrangement, what legal action is applied?

- If NAQS and NOP checks significant violations of certified operator or certification body, they will inform the violations to the opponent country and certified products or operator is applied for action like administrative measure according to standards.

8. What standard is applied to the equivalence arrangement products regarding GMO?

- Using GMO is prohibited on manufacture and handling process according to standards of both countries.
- Residue test and following measure after detection on GMO follows importing country's standards.

9. What document is required for imported products under the equivalence arrangement?

- An Import certificate must be accompanied to every shipments. This import certificate means that the imported products meet conditions of the equivalence arrangement.

10. Who does issue an import certificate?

- Korean certification bodies issue import certificates on Korean certified products exported to the U.S. The U.S. certification body issued import certificates on the U.S. certified products exported to Korea. In case that a certified operator requests an import certificate to certifying agents, the certifying agent issues import certificates after receiving necessary documents.

11. Where is a list of Korea certifying agents that authorized to issue the U.S. import certification?

- The list of Korea-accredited certifying agents is available at [www.enviagro.go.kr](http://www.enviagro.go.kr)