



WHAT DOES ORGANIC REALLY MEAN?



THE ORGANIC LABEL

You probably recognise this logo



this is the label
organic products
carry in the EU!



It allows consumers to identify
organic products easily.



In order to qualify as organic and therefore get the organic label, a product needs to comply with the rules outlined in the EU Organic Legislation, which we explained in a previous Plantastic Discoveries post.

Check it out



The logo can only be used on products when they contain at least **95% ORGANIC INGREDIENTS** (and with strict conditions for the remaining 5%)



In the EU, the certification of organic products is overseen by

ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODIES

These bodies assess that products comply with the EU organic regulation, and if so, certify the use of the organic label



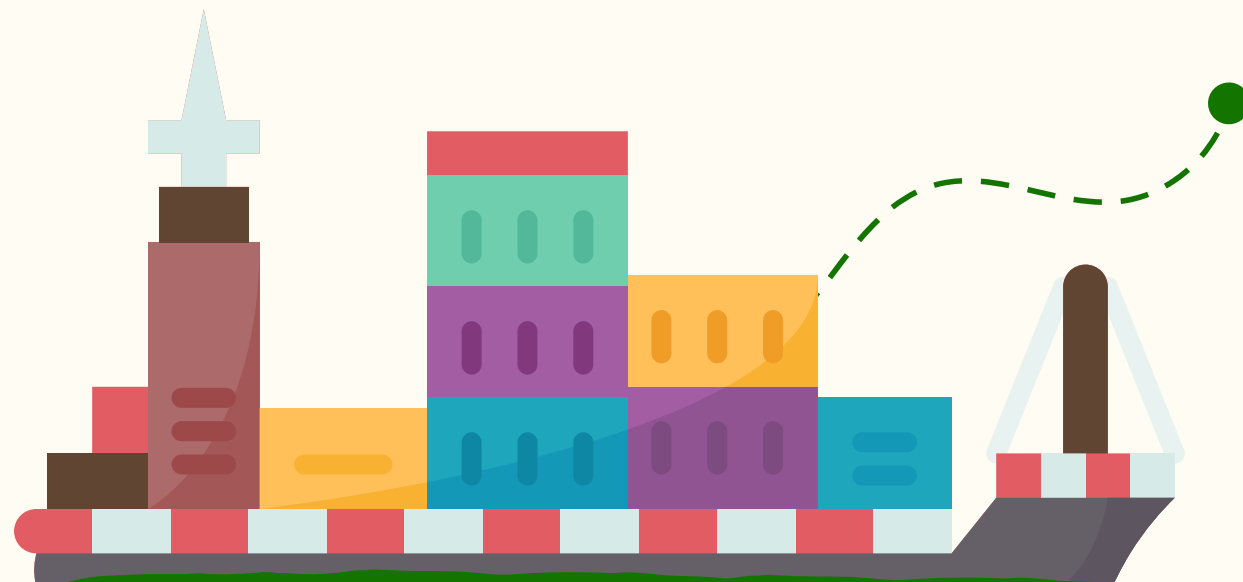
These bodies are typically
PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS

but they must be accredited by the relevant national competent authority in each EU Member State, to make sure that they meet specific criteria and standards.



As we discussed in the previous Plantastic Discoveries on organics,

ORGANIC DOES NOT MEAN LOCAL



Organic products can be imported from countries outside of the EU

IN 2022, 2.73 MILLION TONES OF ORGANIC AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS WERE IMPORTED TO THE EU FROM OUTSIDE COUNTRIES



Share (%) of organic agri-food import volumes by export country 2021 (inner circle) /2022 (outer circle)

Products that are imported, must conform to equivalent EU Organic standards!

*Figure from the EU imports of organic agri-food products report - Key developments of 2022

How does the EU make sure these imported products are in accord to EU organic rules?



For some countries, called *equivalent countries*^{*}, inspection and certification is carried out by their national authorities, as their standards and control measures have been assessed as equivalent to those in place in the EU.



In all other countries, independent bodies are appointed by the European Commission to ensure that organic producers in their area of responsibility follow standards and control measures equivalent to the EU ones.



But making sure everyone adheres to the same standards, is not easy, and ensuring it isn't always feasible. You can read more about this [here](#).

^{*}Equivalent countries are: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, Tunisia, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland or the United States



BE AWARE THAT...

some EU countries, use their own organic logo.

They have their own organic labelling rules, but they all comply with the rules set in the EU Organic Legislation.

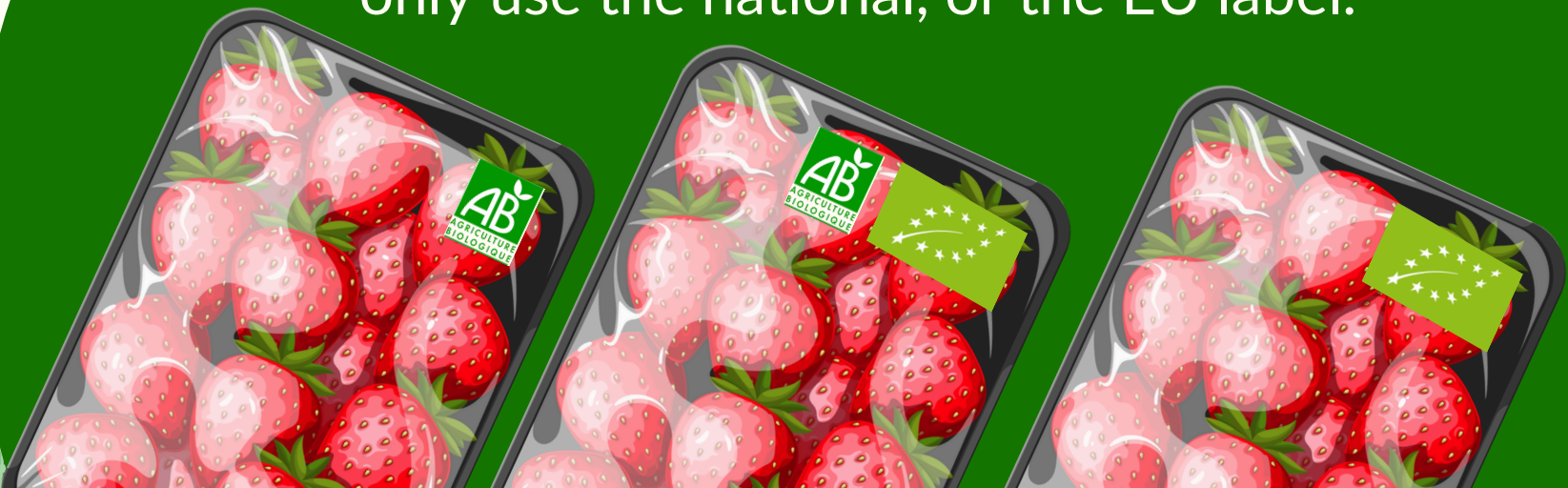
LIKE
THE FRENCH
ORGANIC
LABEL



AND THE
GERMAN ORGANIC
LABEL



Sometimes producers will use both the national and EU label, side by side, and othertimes, they will only use the national, or the EU label.



STAY TUNED FOR PT. 3!

ASK US

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tinyurl.com/bdzhepr9



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links!



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[The organic logo - EU Commission](#)

[EU Imports of organic agri-food products - Key developments in 2022](#)

[The control system for organic products has improved, but some challenges remain - Special report - European court of auditors, 2019](#)