



WinEra - Fostering EU wine through a new era of specialized training for organic and biodynamic wine- producers in EU

Guidelines for IO5 - WinEra Guidebook on certification of organic & biodynamic wine

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1. Introduction

In general

WinEra Guidebook on certification of organic & biodynamic wine is relevant to the needs of the target groups in Europe, primarily in the following countriesgroup in the respective country: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Spain where the project took place. It presents in summary the main aspects of the Regulation (eu) 2018/848 of the European parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, and how this legislation is applied in the project's countries. It represents the new regulations in the field organic certification that will come into force as of 1 January 2022.

The Guidebook will also take into account the main aspects of Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2020/464 of 26 March 2020 laying down certain rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the documents needed for the retroactive recognition of periods for the purpose of conversion, the production of organic products and information to be provided by Member States. It is also important as it says which documents to supply to shorten the conversion period – information that is important for those who are planting a new vine grove on virgin soil or were growing on organic way but didn't certify till then.

In addition, a short reference will be made to Commission implementing regulation (EU) No 203/2012 of 8 March 2012 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, as regards detailed rules on organic wine. It is used for lists of products agreed in ANNEX VIIIa - Products and substances authorised for use or addition in organic products of the wine sector.

Aims and objectives

As the certification of both organic and bio-dynamic wines is strictly regulated, it requires significant amount of time and efforts for the wineries' managers to get all the information they need in this regard. Therefore, the WinEra partnership has developed a separate Guidebook for the certification process. The aim of the Guidebook is to include only the relevant information and to describe the entire process step by step, so that the wineries' managers are aware of what is expected on them on each phase of the certification and afterwards. It includes information also on the main requirements, the steps to prove the requirements are met as well as on how the certification is maintained afterwards.

The objectives of WinEra Guidebook on certification of organic & biodynamic wine:

- ☑ to provide the wine producers & new incomers with information how to certify their wine as organic or bio-dynamic, also outlining some country specifics;
- ☑ to guide the wineries & wine producers & incomers in the informative decision-taking process whether they will undergo a certification of organic and biodynamic or not – what are the prerequisites - final piece of information that they will need in order to enter the market of organic wines;

Structure of the content

The first section of the Guidebook content aims to explain the certification processes both Organic and Biodynamic, and to outline what are the keys for success. Also, should provide general information on the economic aspects of the certification.

A national section with links towards national information regarding lists of products agreed, lists of national organization for certification, etc. is available in section 6. of the current document. The English version contains all national content with reference to the country where it is applicable (i.e. all country specific information).

2. REGULATION (EU) 2018/848

REGULATION (EU) 2018/848 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007

The European Union (EU) organic farming rules cover agricultural products, including aquaculture and yeast. They encompass every stage of the production process, from seeds to the final processed food. The EU rules on Organic Production (OP), considering the experience gained for the application of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, identified several points of improvement, in order to correspond to the high expectations of consumers, and to clarify the products concerned by the Regulation. Therefore Regulation (EC) No 834 will be repealed and replaced from the 1st of January 2022 by the new Regulation (EC) No 2018/848.

The new Regulation is in the same spirit, but the main changes are:

- **Details of production rules** aiming to harmonize the organic rules with one mode of action being the phasing out of some exceptions and derogations made on many levels under the former Regulation 834/2007,
- **Introduction of group of operators in the EU** – till 01/2022 in the EU each small producer must be certified separately. Under the new Regulation, group certification will be allowed everywhere within the EU.
- **(Physical) inspection of operators every 2 years under certain conditions** - All operators and groups of operators will be subject to a verification of compliance including a physical on-the-spot at least once a year under the new rules except where compliance has been shown by operators for at least three consecutive years or where operators are able to demonstrate a low likelihood of non-compliance. Verification of compliance will occur at every stage of production, preparation and distribution.
- In third countries (outside EU), transition from the current equivalency recognition to compliance recognition i.e. **compliance recognition for non-EU countries** - the principle of equivalence will be replaced with the new Regulation and organic producers in third countries will have to comply with the same rules as those set within the EU. This allows for the assurance that all organic products available in the EU are of the same quality and fairness for producers. Countries which, at the moment, are seen as equivalent with the EU will have to renegotiate the terms of their trade agreement by 31 December 2026 – when this current recognition expires.

The new organic Regulation promising the harmonization of rules provides a better clarification of organic production to all operators. A new single set of rules applicable to all farmers in and outside the EU replacing the many current different standards will ensure a fair play for all farmers and operators and that all organic food marketed in the EU is of the same, high quality. *A simplification of certain production rules could see boost in the organic industry with more and smaller operators being able to access the international market under group certification.*

For the above reasons, accreditations granted to control bodies for control of Organic Production shall be updated. After discussions with the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (DG AGRI), the EA Certification Committee (CC)

Working Group (WG) Food proposes to the EA Certification Committee to harmonize as follows the transition of accreditation:

- Transition on national level

Before the 1st of January 2022, each National Accreditation Body (NAB) shall contact its National Competent Authority to define the assessments of accreditation performed before updating accreditation certificate and the date to refuse application for the Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007.

- Transition between Equivalency and Compliance approach

If a Certification Body accredited for OP in third countries for the recognition on equivalency (relating to Regulation (EC) No. 1235/2008), it can apply a transfer of its accreditation to be recognised in purpose of compliance. In this case, the NAB shall perform a document review, and at least one on-site assessment before granting accreditation for compliance. Witnessing is not mandatory for transitioning.

Any accreditation granted for the current equivalency approach shall be upheld until the end of the legal transition period of the new regulation.

- Expiration of equivalency recognition

The recognition of equivalency will expire on 31st of December 2023. Specific provisions will be discussed to harmonize practices between NABs during this period.

Subject matter, scope and definitions

The Regulation **establishes the principles of organic production** and lays down the rules concerning organic production, related certification and the use of indications referring to organic production in labelling and advertising.

The Regulation **applies to the following products** originating from agriculture, including aquaculture and beekeeping, and to products originating from those products, where such products are, or are intended to be, produced, prepared, labelled, distributed, placed on the market, imported into or exported from the Union: (a) live or unprocessed agricultural products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material; (b) processed agricultural products for use as food; (c) feed.

The Regulation **applies to any operator** involved, at any stage of production, preparation and distribution, in activities relating to such products.

Organic production is an overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental and climate action practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources and the application of high animal welfare standards and high production standards in line with the demand of a growing number of consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes. Organic production thus plays a dual societal role, where, on the one hand, it provides for a specific market responding to consumer demand for organic products and, on the other hand, it delivers publicly available goods that contribute to the protection of the environment and animal welfare, as well as to rural development. For the purposes of the Regulation, the following definitions apply:

(1) “**organic production**” means the use, including during the conversion period referred to in Article 10, of production methods that comply with this Regulation at all stages of production, preparation and distribution;

(2) “**organic product**” means a product resulting from organic production, other than a product produced during the conversion period referred to in Article 10. The products of hunting or fishing of wild animals are not considered as organic products;

(3) “**agricultural raw material**” means an agricultural product that has not been subjected to any operation of preservation or processing.

Principles of organic farming

The **general principles** of the organic farming include among others:

- a) respect for nature’s systems and cycles and the sustainment and enhancement of the state of the soil, the water and the air, of the health of plants and animals, and of the balance between them;
- b) responsible use of energy and natural resources, such as water, soil, organic matter and air;
- c) production of a wide variety of high-quality food and other agricultural and aquaculture products that respond to consumers’ demand for goods that are produced by the use of processes that do not harm the environment, human health, plant health or animal health and welfare;
- d) ensuring the integrity of organic production at all stages of the production, processing and distribution of food and feed;
- e) appropriate design and management of biological processes, based on ecological systems and using natural resources which are internal to the management system, etc.

Specific principles applicable to agricultural activities are:

- a) maintenance and enhancement of soil life and natural soil fertility, soil stability, soil water retention and soil biodiversity, preventing and combating loss of soil organic matter, soil compaction and soil erosion, and the nourishing of plants primarily through the soil ecosystem;
- b) limitation of the use of non-renewable resources and external inputs to a minimum - ban on the use of phytosanitary products and inputs from synthetic chemistry;
- c) the recycling of waste and by-products of plant and animal origin;
- d) maintenance of plant health by preventive measures, in particular the choice of appropriate species, varieties or heterogeneous material resistant to pests and diseases, appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and protection of the natural enemies of pests;
- e) use of seeds with a high degree of genetic diversity, disease resistance and longevity;
- f) production of organic varieties through natural reproductive ability and focusing on containment within natural crossing barriers, etc.

Production Rules

Only products and substances that have been authorised in the Regulation may be used in organic production, provided that their use in non-organic production has also been authorised in accordance with the relevant provisions of Union law and, where applicable, in accordance with national provisions based on Union law.

The following products and substances referred to in Article 2(3) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 1107/2009](#) shall be allowed for use in organic production, provided that they are authorised pursuant to Regulation 2018/848:

- (a) safeners, synergists and co-formulants as components of plant protection products;
- (b) adjuvants that are to be mixed with plant protection products.

The use in organic production of products and substances for purposes other than those covered by this Regulation shall be allowed, provided that their use complies with the principles laid down in Chapter II “Objectives and principles of organic production”.

Ionising radiation shall not be used in the treatment of organic food or feed, and in the treatment of raw materials used in organic food or feed.

Conversion

The conversion period shall start at the earliest when the farmer or the operator notified the activity to the competent authorities, in accordance with Article 34(1), in the Member State in which the activity is carried out and in which that farmer or operator’s holding is subject to the control system. Products produced during the conversion period shall not be marketed as organic products or as in-conversion products.

GMO usage

GMOs, products produced from GMOs, and products produced by GMOs shall not be used in food or feed, or as food, feed, processing aids, plant protection products, fertilisers, soil conditioners, plant reproductive material, micro-organisms or animals in organic production.

Operators may assume that no GMOs and no products produced from GMOs have been used in the manufacture of purchased food where such products do not have a label affixed or provided, or are not accompanied by a document indicating GMO content. For that purpose, operators using non-organic products purchased from third parties shall require the vendor to confirm that those products are not produced from GMOs or produced by GMOs.

Plant production rules (Annex II, part I of the Regulation)

Organic crops, like vineyards, shall be produced in living soil, or in living soil mixed or fertilised with materials and products allowed in organic production, in connection with the subsoil and bedrock. All plant production techniques used shall prevent or minimise any contribution to the contamination of the environment.

For vineyards and wines to be considered as organic products, the production rules laid down in the Regulation should be applied with respect to the parcels during a conversion period of **at least two years before harvesting the grapes**. In the case of treatment with a product or a substance not authorised for use in organic production, the competent authority shall require a new conversion period.

Reproductive material

For the production of vineyards, only organic vines’ reproductive material shall be used. To obtain organic plant reproductive material (vines) to be used for the production of products other than plant reproductive material, the mother plant and, where relevant, other plants intended for plant reproductive material production shall have been produced in accordance with this



Regulation for at least one generation, or, in the case of perennial crops like vines for at least one generation during two growing seasons.

In organic plant production, tillage and cultivation practices shall be used that maintain or increase soil organic matter, enhance soil stability and soil biodiversity, and prevent soil compaction and soil erosion.

Soil management

Where the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met by tillage and cultivation practices, only fertilisers and soil conditioners that have been authorised pursuant to **Article 24** for use in organic production shall be used, and only to the extent necessary. Operators shall keep records of the use of those products. Preparations of micro-organisms may be used to improve the overall condition of the soil or to improve the availability of nutrients in the soil or in the crops.

For compost activation, appropriate plant-based preparations and preparations of micro-organisms may be used. Mineral nitrogen fertilisers shall not be used. Biodynamic preparations may be used.

Pest and weed management

The prevention of damage caused by pests and weeds shall rely primarily on the protection by natural enemies, the choice of species, varieties and heterogeneous material, cultivation techniques such as biofumigation, mechanical and physical methods, and thermal processes such as solarisation and, in the case of protected crops, shallow steam treatment of the soil (to a maximum depth of 10 cm).

Where plants cannot adequately be protected from pests by measures above or in the case of an established threat to a crop, only products and substances authorised pursuant to **Articles 9 and 24** for use in organic production shall be used, and only to the extent necessary. Operators shall keep records proving the need for the use of such products.

Operators shall keep records regarding the parcels concerned and the amount of the harvest.

Wine production rules (Annex II, Part VI of the Regulation)

Food additives, processing aids and other substances and ingredients used for organic production and any processing practice applied shall comply with the principles of good manufacturing practice ([GMPs](#)).

Commission Regulations (EC) [No 606/2009](#) and [\(EC\) No 607/2009](#) shall apply, save as explicitly provided otherwise in this Regulation.

Products of the wine sector shall be produced from organic raw material.

Only products and substances authorised pursuant to Article 24 for use in organic production may be used for the making of products of the wine sector, including during the oenological practices, processes and treatments, subject to the conditions and restrictions laid down in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1308/2013](#) and Regulation (EC) No 606/2009, and in particular in Annex I A to the latter Regulation (Annex IA Authorised oenological practices and processes – page 7 in the linked document).

Only oenological practices, processes and treatments, including the restrictions provided for in Article 80 and Article 83(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, in Article 3, Articles 5 to 9 and

Articles 11 to 14 of Regulation (EC) No 606/2009, and in the Annexes to those Regulations used before 1 August 2010 shall be permitted.

The use of the following oenological practices, processes and treatments shall be prohibited:

- partial concentration through cooling;
- elimination of sulphur dioxide by physical processes;
- electrodialysis treatment to ensure the tartaric stabilisation of the wine;
- partial dealcoholisation of wine;
- treatment with cation exchangers to ensure the tartaric stabilisation of the wine.

The use of the following oenological practices, processes and treatments is permitted under the following conditions:

- heat treatments in accordance with point 2 of Annex IA to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009, provided that the temperature does not exceed 70°C;
- centrifuging and filtration with or without an inert filtering agent in accordance with point 3 of Annex IA to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009, provided that the size of the pores is not smaller than 0,2 micrometres.

Any amendment introduced after 1 August 2010 concerning the oenological practices, processes and treatments provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 or Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 may apply to the organic production of wine only after those measures have been included as permitted in this Section and, if required, after an evaluation in accordance with Article 24 of this Regulation.

Article 24 defines the authorization process of products and substances for use in organic production & Article 25 describes the process for authorisation of non-organic agricultural ingredients for processed organic food by Member States.

Labelling

For the purposes of this Regulation, a product shall be regarded as bearing terms referring to organic production where, in the labelling, advertising material or commercial documents, such a product or the ingredients used for its production are described in terms suggesting to the purchaser that the product or ingredients have been produced in accordance with this Regulation.

Products that have been produced during the conversion period shall not be labelled or advertised as organic products or as in-conversion products.

The label of the organic products should include:

- the code number of the control authority or control body to which the operator that carried out the last production or preparation operation is subject
- in the case of prepacked food (like wine), the organic production logo of the European Union.

Where the organic production logo of the European Union is used, an indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed shall appear in the same visual field as the logo and shall take one of the following forms, as appropriate:

(a) “EU Agriculture”, where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in the Union;



- (b) “non-EU Agriculture”, where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in third countries;
- (c) “EU/non-EU Agriculture”, where a part of the agricultural raw materials has been farmed in the Union and a part of it has been farmed in a third country.

These indication shall be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible, and shall be clearly legible and indelible.

Organic production logo of the European Union

The organic production logo of the European Union may be used in the labelling, presentation and advertising of products which comply with this Regulation.

National logos and private logos may also be used in the labelling, presentation and advertising of products which comply with this Regulation.

The logo includes the mandatory indication of the code of the country where the product is produced, the code number of the certification body, as well as the origin of the agricultural product (or its ingredients if the product is multicomponent) - whether it is from the EU, non-EU or ingredients produced inside and outside the EU, as is very often the case for multi-component products.

The organic production logo of the European Union shall follow the model set out in Annex V, and shall comply with the rules set out in that Annex.

The organic production logo of the European Union shall comply with the model below:

- in colour: the reference colour in Pantone is Green Pantone No 376 and Green (50 % Cyan + 100 % Yellow), when a four- colour process is used.
- in black and white only where it is not practicable to apply it in colour



The organic production logo of the European Union shall have a height of at least 9 mm and a width of at least 13,5 mm; the proportion ratio height/width shall always be 1:1,5. Exceptionally, the minimum size may be reduced to a height of 6 mm for very small packages.

Certification

The Certification system is defined in article 34 of the Regulation.

Prior to placing any products on the market as ‘organic’ or as ‘in-conversion’ or prior to the conversion period, operators and groups of operators which produce, prepare, distribute or store organic or in- conversion products, which import such products from a third country or export such products to a third country, or which place such products on the market, shall notify their activity to the competent authorities of the Member State in which it is carried out and in which their undertaking is subject to the control system.

Where operators have subcontracted any of their activities to third parties, both the operators and the third parties to whom those activities have been subcontracted shall comply with the

above paragraph. Unless the operator has declared in the notification that it remains responsible as regards organic production and that it has not transferred that responsibility to the subcontractor. In such cases, the competent authority shall verify that the subcontracted activities comply with this Regulation, in the context of the control it carries out on the operators or groups of operators that have subcontracted their activities.

Products shall be classified in accordance with the following categories:

- (a) unprocessed plants and plant products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material;
- (b) livestock and unprocessed livestock products;
- (c) algae and unprocessed aquaculture products;
- (d) processed agricultural products, including aquaculture products, for use as food;
- (e) feed;
- (f) wine;
- (g) other products listed in Annex I to this Regulation or not covered by the previous categories.

Official controls for the verification of compliance with this Regulation shall be performed throughout the entire process at all stages of production, preparation and distribution on the basis of the likelihood of non-compliance which shall be determined taking into account the following elements:

- the type, size and structure of the operators and groups of operators;
- the length of time during which operators and groups of operators have been involved in organic production, preparation and distribution;
- the results of the controls performed in accordance with this Article;
- the point in time relevant for the activities carried out;
- the product categories;
- the type, quantity and value of products and their development over time;
- the possibility of commingling of products or contamination with non-authorised products or substances;
- the application of derogations or exceptions to the rules by operators and groups of operators;
- the critical points for non-compliance and the likelihood of non-compliance at every stage of production, preparation and distribution;
- subcontracting activities.

In any case, all operators and groups of operators shall be subject to a verification of compliance at least once a year. The verification of compliance shall include a physical on-the-spot inspection, except where the following conditions have been satisfied:

- (a) the previous controls of the operator or group of operators concerned have not revealed any non-compliance affecting the integrity of organic or in-conversion products during at least three consecutive years; and
- (b) the operator or group of operators concerned has been assessed on the basis of the elements referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article as presenting a low likelihood of non-compliance.

In this case, the period between two physical on-the-spot inspections shall not exceed 24 months.

Official controls performed for the verification of compliance with this Regulation shall:

- be performed in accordance with Article 9(4) of [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) while ensuring that a minimum percentage of all official controls of operators are carried out without prior notice;
- ensure that a minimum percentage of additional controls are carried out;
- be carried out by taking a minimum number of the samples that have been taken in accordance with point (h) of Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625;
- ensure that a minimum number of operators that are members of a group of operators are controlled in connection with the verification of compliance.

The delivery or renewal of the certificate shall be based on the results of the verification of compliance.

The written record to be drawn up regarding each official control that has been performed to verify compliance with this Regulation shall be countersigned by the operator or groups of operators as confirmation of their receipt of that written record.

Certificate

Competent authorities shall provide a certificate to any operator that has notified its activity in accordance with Article 34 and complies with this Regulation. The certificate shall:

- be issued in electronic form wherever possible;
- allow at least the identification of the operator including the list of the members (if such), the category of products covered by the certificate and its period of validity;
- certify that the notified activity complies with this Regulation; and
- be issued in accordance with the model set out in Annex VI.

The operator shall not place products on the market as organic products or in-conversion products unless they are already in possession of a certificate.

Members of a group of operators shall not be entitled to obtain an individual certificate for any of the activities covered by the certification of the group of operators to which they belong.

Operators shall verify the certificates of those operators that are their suppliers.

Member States may exempt from the obligation to be in the possession of a certificate provided that those operators do not produce, prepare, store other than in connection with the point of sale, or import such products from a third country, or subcontract such activities to a third party, and provided that:

- such sales do not exceed 5 000 kg per year;
- such sales do not represent an annual turnover in relation to unpacked organic products exceeding EUR 20 000; or
- the potential certification cost of the operator exceeds 2 % of the total turnover on unpacked organic products sold by that operator.

ANNEX VI of the Regulation

MODEL OF CERTIFICATE

Certificate pursuant to Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production and labelling of organic products



1. Document number:	
2. (tick one box as appropriate) <input type="checkbox"/> Operator <input type="checkbox"/> Group of operators – see annex	3. Name and address of operator or group of operators:
4. Activit(y)(ies) of the operator or group of operators (choose as appropriate): <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural production <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution <input type="checkbox"/> Storing <input type="checkbox"/> Import <input type="checkbox"/> Export <input type="checkbox"/> Placing on the market	5. Name, address and code number of control authority or control body of the operator or group of operators:
6. Categor(y)(ies) of products as referred to in Article 35(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and production methods (choose as appropriate):	
— unprocessed plants and plant products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material Production method: <input type="checkbox"/> organic production excluding during the conversion period <input type="checkbox"/> production during the conversion period <input type="checkbox"/> organic production with non-organic production (pursuant to Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or in the case of preparation, distribution, storing, import, export, placing on the market)	Certificate validity period from to
— livestock and unprocessed livestock products Production method: <input type="checkbox"/> organic production excluding during the conversion period <input type="checkbox"/> production during the conversion period <input type="checkbox"/> organic production with non-organic production (pursuant to Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or in the case of preparation, distribution, storing, import, export, placing on the market)	Certificate validity period from to
— algae and unprocessed aquaculture products Production method: <input type="checkbox"/> organic production excluding during the conversion period <input type="checkbox"/> production during the conversion period <input type="checkbox"/> organic production with non-organic production (pursuant to Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or in the case of preparation, distribution, storing, import, export, placing on the market)	Certificate validity period from to



<p>— processed agricultural products, including aquaculture products, for use as food</p> <p>Production method:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of organic products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of in-conversion products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> organic production with non-organic production (pursuant to Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or in the case of preparation, distribution, storing, import, export, placing on the market)</p>	<p>Certificate validity period from to</p>
<p>— feed</p> <p>Production method:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of organic products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of in-conversion products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> organic production with non-organic production (pursuant to Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or in the case of preparation, distribution, storing, import, export, placing on the market)</p>	<p>Certificate validity period from to</p>
<p>— wine</p> <p>Production method:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of organic products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of in-conversion products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> organic production with non-organic production (pursuant to Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or in the case of preparation, distribution, storing, import, export, placing on the market)</p>	<p>Certificate validity period from to</p>
<p>— other products listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or not covered by previous categories (please specify):</p> <p>Production method:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of organic products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> production of in-conversion products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> organic production with non-organic production (pursuant to Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or in the case of preparation, distribution, storing, import, export, placing on the market)</p>	<p>Certificate validity period from to</p>
<p>This document has been issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 to certify that the operator or group of operators (choose as appropriate) meets the requirements of that Regulation.</p>	
<p>Date, place:</p>	
<p>Signature on behalf of the issuing control authority or control body:</p>	

3. REGULATION (EU) 2020/464

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2020/464 of 26 March 2020 laying down certain rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the documents needed for the retroactive recognition of periods for the purpose of conversion, the production of organic products and information to be provided by Member States

Conversion: Documents to be supplied for the purpose of the retroactive recognition of a previous period

According to **Article 10 of the Regulation (EU) 2018/848** - No previous period may be retroactively recognised as being part of the conversion period, except where:

(a) the operator's land parcels were subject to measures which were defined in a programme implemented pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 for the purpose of ensuring that no products or substances other than those authorised for use in organic production have been used on those land parcels; or

(b) the operator can provide proof that the land parcels were natural or agricultural areas that, for a period of at least three years, have not been treated with products or substances that are not authorised for use in organic production.

For sub-point (a) - the operator shall submit to the competent authorities the official documents from the relevant competent authorities proving that the land parcels for which the retroactive recognition of a previous period is requested were subject to measures which were defined in a programme implemented pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) No 1305/2013](#) and that no products or substances other than those authorised for use in organic production have been used on those land parcels.

For sub-point (b) - the operator shall submit to the competent authorities the following documents proving that the land parcels were natural or agricultural areas that, for a period of at least three years, have not been treated with products or substances that are not authorised for use in organic production in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848:

- maps identifying clearly each land parcel covered by the request for retroactive recognition and information on the total surface of those land parcels
- detailed risk analysis carried out by the control authority assess whether any land parcel covered by the request has been treated with products or substances that are not authorised for use in organic production for a period of at least three years,
- laboratory analyses results from accredited laboratories on soil and/or plant samples taken by the control authority or control body from each land parcel identified as presenting the risk of being contaminated as a result of being treated with products and substances that are not authorised for use in organic production following the detailed risk analysis referred above;
- inspection report from the control authority or control body following a physical inspection of the operator for the purpose of verifying the consistency of the information collected on the land parcels covered by the request;
- any other relevant documents deemed necessary by the control authority;

- final written statement of the control authority or control body indicating whether a retroactive recognition of a previous period as being part of the conversion period is justified and indicating the starting period considered as organic for each land parcel concerned as well as the total surface of the land parcels benefiting from a retroactive recognition of a period.

4. REGULATION (EU) No 203/2012

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 203/2012 of 8 March 2012 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, as regards detailed rules on organic wine

REGULATION (EU) No 203/2012 regulates the specific rules for the organic production of the products of the wine sector including the authorized list of products and substances given in Annex VIIIa to the Regulation that can be used for the making of products of the wine sector, including during the processes and oenological practices.

Products and substances listed in Annex VIIIa to this Regulation and marked with an asterisk, derived from organic raw material, shall be used if available.

The full version of the Regulation can be found under the following link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32012R0203>

Products and substances authorised for use or addition in organic products of the wine sector referred to in Article 29c

Type of treatment in accordance with Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009	Name of products or substances	Specific conditions, restrictions within the limits and conditions set out in Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 and Regulation (EC) No 606/2009
Point 1: Use for aeration or oxygenation	— Air — Gaseous oxygen	
Point 3: Centrifuging and filtration	— Perlite — Cellulose — Diatomaceous earth	Use only as an inert filtering agent
Point 4: Use in order to create an inert atmosphere and to handle the product shielded from the air	— Nitrogen — Carbon dioxide — Argon	
Points 5, 15 and 21: Use	— Yeasts (*)	
Point 6: Use	— Di-ammonium phosphate — Thiamine hydrochloride	
Point 7: Use	— Sulphur dioxide — Potassium bisulphite or potassium metabisulphite	(a) The maximum sulphur dioxide content shall not exceed 100 milligrams per litre for red wines as referred to in point 1(a) of Part A of Annex I B to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 and with a residual sugar level lower than 2 grams per litre; (b) The maximum sulphur dioxide content shall not exceed 150 milligrams per litre for white and rosé wines as referred to in point 1(b) of Part A of Annex I B to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 and with a residual sugar level lower than 2 grams per litre; (c) For all other wines, the maximum sulphur dioxide content applied in accordance with Annex I B to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 on 1 August 2010, shall be reduced by 30 milligrams per litre.
Point 9: Use	— Charcoal for oenological use	
Point 10: Clarification	— Edible gelatine (*) — Plant proteins from wheat or peas (*) — Isinglass (*) — Egg white albumin (*) — Tannins (*)	
	— Casein — Potassium caseinate — Silicon dioxide — Bentonite — Pectolytic enzymes	



Type of treatment in accordance with Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009	Name of products or substances	Specific conditions, restrictions within the limits and conditions set out in Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 and Regulation (EC) No 606/2009
Point 12: Use for acidification purposes	— Lactic acid — L(+)-Tartaric acid	
Point 13: Use for deacidification purposes	— L(+)-Tartaric acid — Calcium carbonate — Neutral potassium tartrate — Potassium bicarbonate	
Point 14: Addition	— Aleppo pine resin	
Point 17: Use	— Lactic bacteria	
Point 19: Addition	— L-Ascorbic acid	
Point 22: Use for bubbling	— Nitrogen	
Point 23: Addition	— Carbon dioxide	
Point 24: Addition for wine stabilisation purposes	— Citric acid	
Point 25: Addition	— Tannins (*)	
Point 27: Addition	— Meta-tartaric acid	
Point 28: Use	— Acacia gum (*) (= gum arabic)	
Point 30: Use	— Potassium bitartrate	
Point 31: Use	— Cupric citrate	
Point 31: Use	— Copper sulphate	Authorised until 31 July 2015
Point 38: Use	— Oak chips	
Point 39: Use	— Potassium alginate	
Type of treatment in accordance with Annex III, point A(2)(b) to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009	— Calcium sulphate	Only for "vino generoso" or "vino generoso de licor"

(*) For the individual yeast strains: if available, derived from organic raw material.
 (*) Derived from organic raw material if available.

5. Description of the conversion & certification process

How to switch from conventional to organic farming?

The process of transition from conventional to organic farming takes several years. It involves three parties - a manufacturer, a control body/controller and a certification body. In the next few lines you can get acquainted with the steps that are included in the transition process:

Step one: Selection of a control body and setting deadlines.

The respective farmer chooses a control body. Then there is a contact and exchange of information incl. price negotiation, location and what the respective farmer wants to do, etc.

Upon reaching an agreement, both parties enter into a contract, payment is made and the farmer enters a conversion period. During the conversion period, the products can't be sold as organic products. However, only the following products produced during the conversion period may be marketed as in-conversion products:

- (a) plant reproductive material, provided that a conversion period of at least 12 months has been complied with;
- (b) food products of plant origin and feed products of plant origin, provided that the product contains only one agricultural crop ingredient, and provided that a conversion period of at least 12 months before the harvest has been complied with.

The duration of the conversion period depends on the respective crops. According to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 a conversion period is at least two years before sowing; in the case of grassland or perennial forage - at least two years before its use as organic feed; in the case of perennial crops other than forage - at least three years before the first harvest of organic products.

During the conversion period, inspections shall be carried out at least once a year. Samples may also be taken from the soil or plant material after consent between the farmer and the controller. The aim is to monitor the flows of incoming and outgoing raw materials and the products obtained from the farm.

Step two: Separate control and certification

The control of the production is carried out by persons/organisations, registered in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. They can be local & international organisation. However, in order to be able to perform their role, they must be authorized by the Ministry, enlisted in the registry and have a contract with a laboratory.

The people who exercise control do not engage in certification so that there is no influence.

At this stage, *an inspection report* is completed. It is prepared by an on-site inspector who checks the actual condition of the farm and the kept records. This is done to track the flows of incoming and outgoing raw materials and the products obtained from the farm.

The biological fields should be separated from the conventional ones with buffer zones. During production and storage an appropriate marking is placed in order to divide biological from conventional products.

The product flow is calculated and described - from the harvest to the sold products. Upon detection of discrepancies, the inspector shall prescribe corrective actions and deadlines for their elimination.

Step three: Issuance of a certificate.

After checking the documentation and the actual condition in the farm, including the premises, warehouses and fields, an inspection report is filled in, which is signed by both parties. At the same time, the certification manager prepares a reasoned proposal to the relevant issuing authority.

The certificate shall contain the document number, the name and address of the farmer, the name, address and code number of the inspection body, the type of production - plant, livestock or processing and the standard the received document refers to. The certificate has a period of validity, which is precisely mentioned.

Price of certification

"Everything is organic in my farm, but it's not certified because it's very expensive," is a line you can hear very often from different farmers/producers. Don't believe that. Organic products have a higher price not because of the amount paid for certification (which usually is less than one average monthly salary for 1-year-certification), but because of the lower yields in this method of cultivation.

Just another benefit of the organic certification

In addition to the well-known benefits from the production of organic products - both for the people and nature, their control and guarantees of compliance are much higher. When there is the slightest doubt as to the biological origin of a raw material or product, it shall be withdrawn immediately from the market and, depending on the extent of the infringement, shall either be destroyed or marketed as conventional. There is an extremely reliable system of communication between the various bodies in the chain to support of higher consumer confidence in organic products.



6. List of national control bodies

France:

To market products from organic farming, any operator (whether producer, preparer, distributor or importer) must have been checked by a certification body approved by the National Institute of Origin and Quality (INAO) and have the corresponding certificates.

The list of certification bodies approved is available at the following link:

<https://www.agencebio.org/profil/pages-communes/les-organismes-certificateurs-en-france/>

Spain:

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/alimentacion/temas/produccion-eco/listadoautoridadesyorganismosdecontrolecosept2020_tcm30-379438.pdf

Italy:

The national control bodies for the certification process for Italy can be found here:

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/6189>

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/113>

Cyprus:

To operate a Control and Certification Body for organic production in the Republic of Cyprus, one needs to obtain authorization for a private control and certification body from the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

The list of the available control and certification bodies in Cyprus can be found here:

<http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/All/61924303978C6EEBC225828D00226B5E?OpenDocument>

Croatia:

The list of certification bodies approved is available at the following link:

<https://poljoprivreda.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/poljoprivreda-173/poljoprivreda-175/ekoloska/popis-ovlastenih-kontrolnih-tijela/3671>

Bulgaria:

Information register of organisations authorized by the Minister of agriculture and food to carry over the conformity control for organic farming and organic production:

<http://bioregister.mzh.government.bg/front/controllers>