

## DISCLAIMER

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## PURPOSE

This brief provides at a glance information on key legal requirements that need to be respected when brewing organic beer. It should be read together with the European Union legislation on organic production - [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#)

## INTRODUCTION



Organic beer must be produced mainly from ingredients of agricultural origin (added water is not taken into account).

The additives, processing aids and flavourings that are permitted for use are laid down in the legislation.

Non-organic agricultural ingredients can only be used if they have been authorised at European Union level or have been provisionally authorised by a Member State.

An organic ingredient cannot be present together with the same ingredient in non-organic form or an ingredient in conversion<sup>1</sup>.

Beer produced from in-conversion crops can only contain one crop ingredient of agricultural origin.

Substances and techniques that correct the results of negligence in the production

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Before placing an organic product or a product under conversion to organic farming, any operator that either produces, prepares, stocks or imports from a third country must:

- notify its activity to the national organic body;
- submit its company to a control system by a certifying organization.



<sup>1</sup> 'conversion' means the transition from non-organic to organic farming within a given period of time, during which the provisions concerning the organic production have been applied

## REQUIREMENTS TO RESPECT

### ✓ A SINGLE REGULATION THROUGHOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION

Everywhere in the European Union, Regulation (EC) 834/2007 details a set of rules to follow regarding production, processing, distribution, import, control and labelling of organic goods.

It is completed by [Regulation \(EC\) 889/2008](#).

A new regulation will enter in force in January 2021.



### ✓ 95% OF INGREDIENTS FROM ORGANIC FARMING

95% of the ingredients must be from organic farming. The other 5% can be products not sufficiently available by organic farming and therefore available on Annex IX of Regulation (EC) 889/2008 or subject to a national derogation. Such derogation is granted by the competent national authority after evidence is provided that all possible actions were undertaken to secure organic supply. The derogation has a validity of 12 months and is renewable three times maximum. As from 2021, the validity will be limited to 6 months, renewable twice.

Example of calculations:

	Organic ingredients	Conventional ingredients	Organic ingredients	Conventional ingredients
	15 kg malt	0.5 kg hops	15 kg malt	0.8 kg hops
	0.1 kg honey	0.1 kg yeast	0.1 kg caramel	0.1 kg yeast
	0.05 kg cilantro		0.05 kg cinnamon	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.15 kg</b>	<b>0.6 kg</b>	<b>15.15 kg</b>	<b>0.9 kg</b>
	(96.2% of "agricultural ingredients weight")	(3.8% "agricultural ingredients weight")	(94.4% of "agricultural ingredients weight")	(5.6% "agricultural ingredients weight")

For instance, one litre beer is made from ingredients above. The weight of agriculture organic ingredient is here above 95%. Therefore, this beer can be considered as organic.

Another example of a recipe above. Organic ingredients now represent less than 95%. This beer cannot be considered as organic

### ✓ ADDITIVES, PROCESSING AIDS, AROMAS, ENZYMES, ...

They are authorised provided they are listed in Regulation (EC) 889/2008.

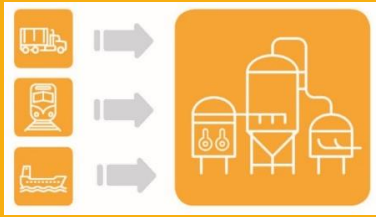
### ✓ PROHIBITION OF MIXING CONVENTIONAL AND ORGANIC PRODUCTS

The same ingredient cannot be a mix between an organic product and a non-organic product

### ✓ ABSENCE OF GMOS

No GMOs or products from GMOs can be used in organic production.

## RAW MATERIALS: RECEPTION-STORAGE



Product traceability must be ensured

### ✓ RECEPTION

Keep every document following raw materials: delivery notes, certificates of origin, food certificates and organic certificates.

### ✓ STORAGE

Organic raw materials must be stored away from non-organics materials and identification must be present for every organic item.

Risks of cross contamination must be controlled. For instance, in case of vertical storage, organic materials must be placed on top.

## USE – CLEANING OF INSTALLATIONS



### ✓ ABSENCE OF NON-ORGANIC RESIDUES

Ensure that all used installations were previously cleaned (particularly when the same installations are used to produce organic and non-organic beer).

### ✓ ABSENCE OF CLEANING RESIDUES

Ensure that all used installations contain no cleaning product traces. A water rinse is mandatory before use.

### ✓ RECORD AND CLEANING PROCESSES

Cleaning protocols must be described: methods, frequency, consumables, etc. The implementation of cleaning operations must be traced and recorded.

## PROCESS- TRANSFORMATION

### ✓ ADDITIVES AUTHORISED IN ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Ensure that all inputs and adjuvants are authorised in organic production: acids, sugar, etc. listed in Regulation (EC) 889/2008 (article 27).

### ✓ TRACEABILITY OF INPUTS

Record all raw materials and additives with the batch number and used quantity. Technical documents and certificates must be retrievable.

### ✓ GMOS FORBIDDEN

Obtain a certificate for non-presence of GMOs from suppliers: e.g. yeast, maize grits.

### ✓ IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRODUCTION

Any organic production must be clearly identified adding the denomination “organic”.

### ✓ PROCESS STEPS

Every step must be recorded with clear indications:

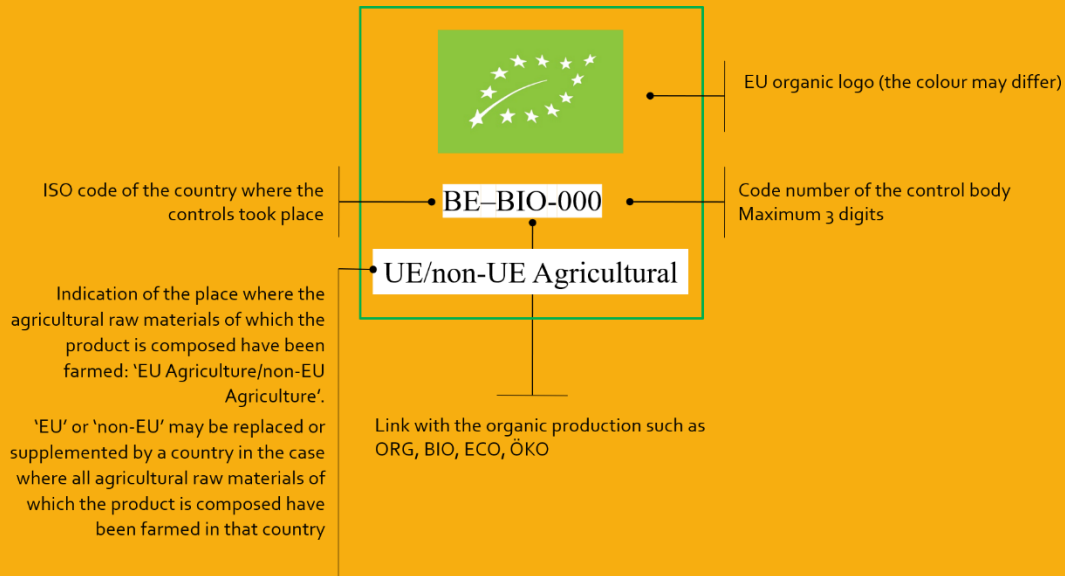
- Inputs: additives, auxiliaries, aromas
- Used quantities: volumes, weight, etc.
- Batch traceability
- Losses monitoring.



## FINISHED GOODS

### ✓ ORGANIC LABEL

Besides mandatory statements, the label must carry the Community logo as well as the code number of the control body.



The European Union organic logo indicates that the product is in full conformity with the conditions and rules for the organic farming sector established by the European Union.

For processed products it means that at least 95% of the ingredients of agricultural origin are organic.

Next to the organic logo, the code number of the control body must be displayed as well as the place where the agricultural raw materials composing the product have been farmed or the organic product was produced.

National and private labels may be used and can be displayed on organic products next to the Euro-leaf

The use of the label needs to be approved by the control body.

### ✓ ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Any document related to organic production e.g. removal order or invoice must carry the mention ORGANIC and the code number of the control body.

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