

U.S. – Taiwan Organic Equivalence Frequently Asked Questions

1. The United States has an “equivalence arrangement” with Taiwan.

What does this mean?

This arrangement eliminates the need for organic operators to have separate organic certification to both U.S. and Taiwan standards, which avoids a double set of fees, inspections, and paperwork. This means that organic products certified to the United States or Taiwan organic standards that meet origin requirements and other terms of the arrangement may be sold and labeled as organic in both markets.

2. What are the origin requirements?

The arrangement is limited to products certified to the USDA organic regulations or Taiwan organic regulations that are either:

1. Grown or produced in the United States or on Taiwan; or
2. Have their final processing or packaging occur in the United States or on Taiwan.

3. When can I start shipping organic products under the arrangement?

The arrangement is effective as of May 30, 2020.

4. Which organic products are covered under the arrangement?

The arrangement covers USDA and Taiwan organic crops, wild crops, livestock, and processed products that meet the origin requirements (see above). Aquatic animals (e.g., fish and shellfish) and honey (single ingredient) are not included within the scope of the arrangement. Organic processed products that contain organic honey or other apiculture products as ingredients are included in the arrangement. There are additional requirements for wine and livestock products traded under the arrangement (see below).

5. Are products in the USDA’s “made with organic...” labeling category included in the arrangement?

No. Taiwan does not have a “made with organic...” labeling category like the U.S. does. Only products with 95 percent or more organic content may be labeled as organic in Taiwan.

6. Are “in transition” crops included under the arrangement?

No. “In transition” crops are not included under the arrangement.

7. Can organic wine be exported to Taiwan under the arrangement?

Yes. U.S. wine certified as “organic” by a USDA-accredited certifying body is considered organic in Taiwan.

All certified wine exported to Taiwan must meet [Taiwan’s organic labeling requirements](#), including labeling the product “organic” in traditional Chinese characters; the “made with organic...” claim cannot appear on labels because the



Taiwan standards do not include this labeling category option. See the Agriculture and Food Agency Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan, Taiwan website for details.

8. What are the requirements for organic livestock products traded between the United States and Taiwan?

1. U.S. fresh milk – Fortified organic milk (milk with added vitamins and minerals) products to be sold in Taiwan must use the term “fortified milk” on labels and not be labeled as “fresh milk”. A USDA-accredited certifying body that issues a USDA Export Certificate, FormTM-11, for dairy products going to Taiwan must ensure that fortified organic milk products comply with Taiwan’s labeling requirements.
2. U.S. livestock products – Organic livestock products or any livestock products used as ingredients (e.g. eggs, milk, meat) in any products to be sold in Taiwan as organic must be derived from animals not treated systemically with analgesics, including procaine and lidocaine.
3. Taiwan livestock products – Organic livestock products or any livestock products used as ingredients (e.g. eggs, milk, meat) in any products to be sold in the United States must be derived from animals not treated with antibiotics. This means that if an Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA)-supervised certification body issues the National Organic Program (NOP) import certificate for organic livestock products or a product that includes ingredients derived from organic livestock, it must ensure that no antibiotics were used.

9. If an operator is producing a multi-ingredient product, do all the ingredients have to be sourced from the United States or Taiwan?

Products that are raised within the United States or on Taiwan, or that have their final processing or packaging occur within the United States or on Taiwan, are covered by the scope of the arrangement. This includes products processed or packaged in the United States or on Taiwan that contain organic ingredients from foreign sources that have been certified to the USDA or Taiwan organic standards. Therefore, such products may contain organic ingredients from the United States, Taiwan, or any other country, as long as they are imported as organic into the United States or Taiwan and derived from livestock products that meet the terms of the arrangement as described.

LABELING

10. Which seals can be used for USDA organic products exported to Taiwan?

USDA organic product exported to Taiwan can use the USDA organic seal but cannot use the Taiwan organic mark. The Taiwan organic mark can only be used on certified products that are produced or processed on Taiwan.

11. Which seals can be used on Taiwan organic products exported to the United States?

The equivalence arrangement authorizes Taiwan organic products meeting the terms of the arrangement to be labeled with the USDA organic seal, the Taiwan organic mark, or both as long as the [USDA labeling requirements](#) are met.

12. Unlike the United States, Taiwan does not have a labeling category for “100% organic” or “made with organic *” products. How should such products be labeled in Taiwan?**

“100% organic” products—and any other products above 95 percent organic ingredients—can be labeled “organic.”

If the product contains less than 95 percent organic ingredients, no reference to organic may appear on the label or the list of ingredients. This means that labeling claims such as “made with organic corn” may not be used.

See [Taiwan’s organic labeling requirements](#) for more information.

DOCUMENTATION

13. What documentation is required for organic products traded between the United States and Taiwan?

All products traded under the equivalence arrangement must be accompanied by an organic import certificate (see below).

14. Why are import certificates included in the arrangement?

The import certificates attest that imported products meet the terms of the arrangement. The certificates are also used by port of entry officials in both the United States and Taiwan to document organic production.

SHIPPING FROM THE UNITED STATES TO TAIWAN

15. What is required to ship U.S. organic products to Taiwan?

Products must be certified to the USDA organic standards and must meet all Taiwan organic labeling requirements. Products meeting the terms of the arrangement must be accompanied by a USDA Export Certificate, Form TM-11 (TM-11). All USDA accredited certifying agents (certifiers) may issue the TM-11 for compliant product going to Taiwan.

The TM-11 export certificate must be signed by a USDA certifier and must include the following statement: *“Certified in compliance with the terms of the AIT/TECRO-NOP/AFA Organic Equivalence Arrangement.”* Certifiers are to use acronyms assigned in the USDA Organic INTEGRITY Database when completing the TM-11 Export Certificate, as described in the TM-11 Instructions. The TM-11 export certificate and instructions can be found on the USDA National Organic Program website:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Exporting%20USDA%20organic%20products%20to%20Taiwan%20and%20Japan.pdf>

U.S. products shipped to Taiwan must be received by a registered importer. To become registered, importers must submit an Importer Registration Application

form and approval/authorization documents as described in the Taiwan organic regulations.

16. How does Taiwan conduct residue testing for imported organic products?

Taiwan conducts random testing at the retail level for both domestic and imported products. U.S. products that test positive will be referred to NOP for further investigation and discussion at the annual Organic Working Group meeting for this arrangement.

17. Can USDA organic products produced outside of the United States be exported directly to Taiwan?

No. Any USDA organic product traded under the arrangement must be produced in the United States or have their final processing or packaging occur in the United States.

SHIPPING FROM TAIWAN TO THE UNITED STATES

18. What is required to ship Taiwan organic products to the United States?

Products must be certified to the Taiwan organic standards and must meet all USDA organic labeling requirements, including compliant use of the USDA organic seal. Products must be accompanied an NOP Import Certificate, Form NOP 2110-1, from an Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA)-supervised certification body or a USDA accredited certifying agent. The Import Certificate must include the following statement: *"Certified in compliance with the terms of the AIT/TECRO-NOP/AFA Organic Equivalence Arrangement."*

Download NOP import certificate, Form 2110-1:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP%20Import%20Certificate.pdf>

Instructions for completing an NOP Import Certificate (NOP 2110-1):

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP%20Instructions%20for%20Completing%20Import%20Certificate.pdf>

19. Where is a list of Taiwan certifying agents that can issue U.S. import certificates?

Taiwan's certifying agents can be found Taiwan Organic Agriculture website:

https://www.afa.gov.tw/eng/index.php?code=list&flag=detail&ids=497&article_id=46613

20. Can Taiwan organic products produced outside of Taiwan be exported directly to the United States?

No. Any Taiwan organic products traded under the arrangement must be produced on Taiwan or have their final processing or packaging occur on Taiwan.

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