

## Brief information about organic labeling according to Reg. (EU) 2018/848, NOP and JAS

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### 1. Introduction

The present document provides an overview of labeling requirements for organic products, addressing especially the EU organic logo introduced in 2010. For further information on labels for different multi-ingredient products, please also see our Brief Info on NOP (CERES document 3.2.10). For more information on the use of the CERES seal, please see the annex to our certification contract (document 7.2.1.1).

### 2. Overview of requirements for wholesale labels (non-retail containers):

	Reg. (EU) 2018/848	NOP	JAS
<b>Mandatory</b>	<p>The label must ensure traceability and allow to identify the entity responsible for the product (producer or trader)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certifier code number (see below)</li> <li>• Refer to "organic"</li> </ul>	It is highly recommended to identify the product as "organic"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic JAS mark, certificate number (see below)</li> <li>• Refer to term "organic" or "in conversion"</li> </ul>
<b>Optional</b>	EU organic logo and certifier logo	USDA logo, certifier logo, certifier name	No provisions

### 3. Overview of requirements for retail labels (consumer packages)

	Reg. (EU) 2018/848	NOP	JAS
<b>Official logo</b>			
<b>Design details</b>	<p>Defined in Reg. (EU) 2018/848 Annex 5, Art. 33</p> <p><a href="https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-11/organic-logo-user-manual_de_0.pdf">https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-11/organic-logo-user-manual_de_0.pdf</a></p>	Defined in §205.311	Not. 920 (2021)
<b>Download</b>	E.g. at <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en">http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en</a> (different languages available).	<a href="https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/organic-seal">https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/organic-seal</a>	(Will be provided by the certifier once the company has achieved certification)
<b>Mandatory</b>	<p>The EU logo can only be used if at least 95% of the ingredients by weight are of agricultural origin and organic.</p> <p>For organic food produced <u>inside</u> the EU, use of the seal is compulsory.</p>	USDA seal not mandatory	JAS seal mandatory
<b>Optional</b>	For organic food produced <u>outside</u> the EU, use of the seal is voluntary	Voluntary on "100 % Organic" and "Organic" products	No provisions
<b>Not allowed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For products "in conversion"</li> <li>• For products which may refer to organic only in the ingredient list</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For products "made with organic ingredients"</li> </ul>	For products with less than

	Reg. (EU) 2018/848	NOP	JAS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For wine "made from organic grapes"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For products which may refer to organic only in the ingredient list</li> </ul>	95 % organic ingredients
<b>National, certifier and other private logos</b>	Allowed	(National logos are not applicable) Certifier and other private logos are allowed, but must not be more prominent than USDA logo	Certifier and private logos are allowed
<b>Certifier identification</b>	<p>The certifier <u>code number</u> must be indicated (see Sections 4 and 5 below)</p> <p>The code number of the Certification body responsible for inspecting the last producer or processor must be in the same field of vision as the EU logo and indication of origin, i.e. on the same side of the packaging.</p> <p>If these requirements are met, the EU logo can be displayed on the packaging as often as you like, even without a code number and indication of origin.</p>	The certifier <u>name</u> must be mentioned. It must be placed below the producer or handler name, using the words "Certified organic by..." (See Section 6)	(Is assured through the JAS organic seal)
<b>Other mandatory information</b>	<p>The company which is responsible for placing the product on the market must be identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to Art. 32, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the indication of origin must be in the following form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"EU Agriculture" if 95% of agricultural raw materials are produced within the EU;</li> <li>"Non-EU Agriculture" where 95% of agricultural raw materials are produced in third countries;</li> <li>"EU/non-EU Agriculture", where the agricultural raw materials are produced partly in the EU and partly in a third country.</li> <li>If all agricultural products come from one country, the indication "EU" or "non-EU" can be replaced by the country; Example: "Romania Agriculture"</li> <li>If all agricultural products also come from one and the same region, the country can be supplemented by the region in future (a precise definition of the region is not yet available).</li> <li>The mentioned indication "EU agriculture" or "non-EU agriculture" must not be in a more conspicuous colour, size or typeface than the sales denomination of the product appear. (See examples below)</li> <li>The place of production of the agricultural raw materials must be indicated directly under the code number.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For multi-ingredient products: Identification of organic ingredients (see examples below)</p>		

#### 4. The certifier code number for the European Union

The following table should make clear which Code numbers are to be used:

Countries / Conditions	Code Numbers are assigned by	Details / Examples
EU member countries	Competent national authorities	RO-ECO-24 for CERES in Romania, BG-BIO-04 for CERES in Bulgaria
Non member countries for which CERES is listed by the European Commission (Reg. (EU) 2021/2325 Annex II)  Reg. (EU) 2021/2325 Art. 10: The scheme of control authorities and control bodies recognized by the Commission [...] is being phased out by Regulation (EU) 2018/848. [...] their recognition expires on 31 December 2024	European Commission	XY-BIO-140 ("XY" must be replaced by the official ISO abbreviation for the respective country. For example: Clients certified organic in China use CN-BIO-140, in Ethiopia ET-BIO-140, in Mexico MX-BIO 140)
Non member countries, which are approved by the EU Commission as "equivalent" (Reg. (EU) 2021/2325 Annex I)  Reg. (EU) 2021/2325 Art. 2: That recognition expires on 31 December 2026. [...]	Competent national authorities	CL-BIO-005; US-ORG-62 (for Chile and the USA, which have an "equivalent" control system, CERES is approved by the national authorities)


#### 5. Examples EU retail labeling

**5.1 Organic honey**


Produced by ApiEco

*Use of the CERES seal is voluntary. For further information see the CERES document "Certification Seal"*

RO-ECO-024  
EU Apiculture



*This is the CERES code number in Romania (EU member country). Code number and indication of origin should be "in the same visual field" with the logo*




**5.2 Organic Coffee**

Produced by CoffeeComp

*This operator decided to use the black / white version and not to use the CERES seal*

UG-BIO-140  
Non-EU-Agriculture





*UG-BIO-140 is the CERES code number in Uganda. "In the same visual field" (see 5.1).*

**5.3** **Organic Lentils**

Produced by **PulsComp**

TR-BIO-140  
EU/non-EU  
Agriculture

*This Turkish company has mixed lentils from Eastern European EU member countries with Turkish lentils.*

*TR-Bio-140 is the CERES code number in Turkey*

**5.4** **Organic Frozen Strawberries**

Produced by **Organic Exports Ltd.**

CN-BIO-140  
China Agriculture





*Since the product is from one single country, the label may mention the country instead of "Non-EU"*

*CN-BIO-140 is the CERES code number in China*

**5.5** **Organic Wine**

Produced by **Grandes Vinos S.A.**

CL-BIO-005  
Non EU Agriculture

*Chile is on the list of recognized third countries. We have a different code there*

(For further details on wine labelling, please see the CERES Brief Info on Organic Wine!)

**5.6** **Cucumbers in Conversion to Organic**

Produced by **Vegetables d.o.o.**


BG-BIO-04

*Neither CERES nor EU logo on products in conversion*

*This is the CERES code number in Bulgaria (EU member country)*

**5.7** **Grandma's old style organic pickles**

Organic Products  
SRL



EU/Non EU Agriculture  
RO-ECO-24

**Ingredients:**  
Gherkins 42 %\*  
Red peppers 17 %\*  
Onions 12 %\*  
Carrots 11 %\*  
Redbeets 8 %\*  
Vinegar 5 %\*  
Sugar 3 %\*  
Salt  
Citric acid  
\* Organic ingredients


*EU logo can be used for organic multi-ingredient products*

*This is the CERES code number in Romania*

*Each organic ingredient must be identified as such*

**5.8** **Johnson's Breakfast Cereals**

Ingredients:  
Oats 32 %  
Wheat flakes 15 %  
Corn flakes 18 %  
Freeze dried apples 8 %\*  
Freeze dried strawberries 7 %\*  
Raisins 5 %  
Glucose syrup 10 %  
Honey 5 %\*  
\* Organic ingredients

Johnson's Inc., Guadalajara, Mexico  
 **MX-BIO-140**

*The product as such may not be called "organic"*

*No use of EU logo on products which contain only certain ingredients from organic origin. CERES logo may be placed on the ingredient list but must not be prominent and not insinuate the product as such is organic.*

*This is the CERES code number in Mexico*




(For further details on product labelling, please see Reg. (EU) 2018/848 Art. 30 – 32)

## 6. Some additional specific instructions for EU (equivalent) labels

The certifier code number must be the one for the entity responsible of the **last physical handling** of the product. "Last physical handling" **can** also be the labeling itself. But if e.g. the final seller is a trader who does not make any changes to the product, then the last processor's certifier code must appear on the label, not the trader's certifier code. This rule applies to **both retail and wholesale** labels. If e.g. the product is packed in the final retail packages provided by the distributor inside the EU – still the code number of the "last operator" who physically handles the product must be on the label. It is allowed, however, to also place the CB code of the importer or distributor inside the EU.

Producer	Last processor	Exporter (last owner)	CB Code
 Certified by CERES	 Certified by CERES	 Certified by CB X	EC-BIO-140 (CERES in Ecuador)
 Certified by CERES	 Certified by CB X	The winery exports the wine itself 	ZA-BIO-XXX (CB X in South Africa)

## 7. Examples NOP retail labeling

<p>Use of the USDA and CERES seal is voluntary. For further information regarding CERES seal, see the document "Certification Seal"</p>	<p><b>7.1 100 % organic honey</b>            Produced by ApiEco            Certified organic by CERES</p> 	<p>Honey, if not further processed, can be labeled as "100% organic"</p> <p>Statement "Certified organic by..." must be placed <u>under</u> producer, processor or distributor name</p>
<p>This company has decided to use the black / white version of the USDA seal and not to use the certifier seal.</p>	<p><b>7.2 Organic apple juice</b>            Produced by Organic Juices Ltd.            Certified organic by CERES</p> 	<p>Since the apple juice in this example is produced with the help of enzymes, it is only "organic", not "100% organic"</p>
<p>No use of USDA logo on products which are only "made with", not fully organic</p>	<p><b>7.3 Wine made with organic grapes</b>            Produced by Grandes Vinos S.A.            Certified organic by CERES GmbH</p> 	


(For further details regarding wine and different labelling categories under NOP, please see the CERES Brief Infos about organic wine and NOP!)

**7.4 Grandma's old style organic pickles**  
**Productos Ecológicos S.A.**  
 Certified organic by CERES


**Ingredients:**  
 Gherkins 42 %\*  
 Red peppers 17 %\*  
 Onions 12 %\*  
 Carrots 11 %\*  
 Redbeets 8 %\*  
 Vinegar 5 %\*  
 Sugar 3 %\*  
 Salt  
 Citric acid  
 \* Organic ingredients

Each organic ingredient must be identified as such

NOP logo may be used for organic multi-ingredient products



**7.5 Johnson's Breakfast Cereals made with 72% organic ingredients**  
 Certified organic by CERES

**Ingredients:**   
 Oats 42 %\*  
 Wheat flakes 30 %\*  
 Honey 28 %  
 \* Organic ingredients  
 Johnson's Inc., Guadalajara, Mexico

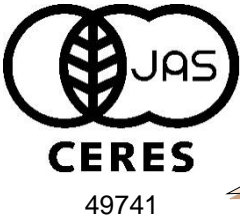
All organic ingredients must be identified as such. Minimum 70% organic ingredients for products labeled as "made with". Maximum three different agricultural ingredients (or groups of ingredients) on the label of such products

No use of NOP logo on products "made with" organic ingredients. CERES logo may be placed on the ingredient list but must not be prominent and not insinuate the product as such is organic.

**8. The JAS certification number**

Both wholesale and retail products must carry not only the JAS seal, but also a JAS certification number. This number can be found under JAS logo on your certificate.

**Organic Green Tea**  
 China's Pride Best Natural Teas



This is the JAS certification number assigned by CERES to this tea factory. This number will be used continuously once it is assigned and it is different from the certificate number (CO-xxxxxx) which will change every year.