



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate H. Sustainability and quality of agriculture and rural development
H.3. Organic farming

Brussels,
AGRI H.3/MF/xt D(2009) 187060

Subject: Code Number of the Control body or Control authority

Dear

Thank you for your email of 26 May 2009 in which you pose a question on how to use correctly the code number according to Article 24(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

Article 58 (1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 lays down the conditions for the use of the code number and states that it shall

"(a) start with the acronym identifying the Member State or the third country, as referred to in the international standard for the two letter country codes under ISO 3166 (Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions);

(b) include a term which establishes a link with the organic production method, as referred to in Article 23(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007;

(c) include a reference number to be decided by the competent authority; and

(d) be placed immediately below the Community logo, where the Community logo is used in the labelling."

It was the intention of the lawmaker, based on discussion with Member States, to harmonize the presentation and composition of the code number. Therefore the elements of the code number are clearly laid down and listed in consecutive order (from (a) to (c) of the named Article 58(1)). The fact that the term element and the number element are placed under separate headings (b) and (c) show that the order has to be followed in that

successive manner in the attributed code number. This means for the particular case you mentioned that the correct code number would be "SI-EKO-01". However, it is possible to add individual relevant indications, for example such as regions, after the mentioned elements.

This explanation was given in the Standing Committee of organic farming on 28 and 29 January 2009 and is visible in the minutes available on the Circa Homepage of DG AGRI.

Please note that for the use of the new code number a transition period is granted until the 1 July 2010 under Article 95(8)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. This should facilitate the introduction of the new code number and help operators for a smooth phasing out of the current code number or code name, if that is not in line with the new requirements.

Yours sincerely