



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H. Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development

Director

Brussels, **29 AVR. 2013**
CG/sam agri.ddg3.h.3(2013)839419

Dear Mr. Paesano,

Thank you for your message of 20 March 2013, in which you seek clarification on the possibility for EU operators to label organic products exported to the United States as "100% organic", a term foreseen in the labelling rules of the United States' National Organic Program. You also enquired how such a labelling claim could be verified in the organic production chain in absence of an additional documentary evidence attesting that the product is composed of 100% organic agricultural ingredients.

Subject to a further complete description of the case set out in your letter, I should point out that in accordance with the EU organic legislation, the composition of the operator's products must be checked under the control system set up in accordance with Title V of Regulation No 834/2007¹. In particular, the compliance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the general rules on the production of processed food must be verified by the control authority or the control body under whose control the operator has placed its operation.

If an EU operator intends to place organic products onto the market in the United States under the equivalence arrangement that country has with the European Union, then its exported organic products must meet United States' labelling requirements.

For further information, please see the frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the EU-US organic equivalence arrangement on the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/files/news/Website_FAQs_EU-US-equivalence_1_June_2012_EN.pdf

Yours sincerely, *and best regards,*

María Angeles BENITEZ SALAS

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.(O.J. L 189 , 20/07/2007, p. 1.)

Mr Giuseppe PAESANO

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