



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy

B.4. Organics

Brussels,

██████████/agri.ddg1.b.4(2016)7674418

Subject: Organic fruit and berry alcohol beverages in Lithuania

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Thank you for your e-mail regarding production of organically certified berry and fruit alcohol "*wines*".

Please note that not all beverages derived from fermented fruit juice are considered to be wine. Indeed, wine is defined in Part II of Annex VII of Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013¹ as follows: "*Wine means the product obtained exclusively from the total or partial alcoholic fermentation of fresh grapes, whether or not crushed, or of grape must.*" Therefore, alcoholic drinks made from berries or fruits other than grapes are not wine and thus cannot be labelled as such in the EU.

Regarding organic certification of alcohol fruit and berry beverages; Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007² lays down the general rules on organic production and labelling, while the detailed production rules and requirements have been laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008³. If your products comply with the rules on organic production laid out in the above Regulations, they could be certified as organic. However, they can only be certified as "organic wine" if they also meet the criteria of Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671–854).

² 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 (OJ L 189, 20.7.2007, p. 1–23).

³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (OJ L 250, 18.9.2008, p. 1–84).

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In order to obtain organic certification for your fruit and berry alcohol beverages, you should approach a control body in Lithuania; on http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system_en you will find a list of control bodies in the organic sector, including those active in your country.

If you need further information on the EU organic legislation, you will also find information on our website: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic>.

Yours sincerely,

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