



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
B.4. Organics

Brussels,

██████████/agri.ddg1.b.4(2016)5713130

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your email dated 23 August 2016, in which you asked information regarding online sales of organic products.

According to the Interpretative Note No. 2012-03 regarding provisions concerned in the Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 – Article 28(2), no internet commercial platform cannot be considered as storage in direct connection with the point of sale.

In case of sales by Internet or similar commercial platforms for sales to the final consumer or user, the place where the products are physically kept by the operator shall be examined by the organic control. The operator, which has the physical possession of the organic product during storage, should submit his undertaking to the organic control system.

This is because in case of internet sales and similar platforms the products for sale are also typically stored physically at the point of dispatch and there is a phase between the storage and the delivery to the final consumer, so products sold in such a manner can hardly be considered as being 'sold directly' to the consumer.

It should be recalled in this respect that storage needs physical infrastructure that also is subject to certain operational requirements, which is why the organic farming legislation outlines specific provision on these aspects in Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

If you want to know more about the EU Organic Policy, you can visit the website: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_sv.htm

Yours sincerely,

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