

ORGANIC PROCESSING AND LABELLING

Compliant with Section 7.1 - 8.1 of IFOAM Norms 2014
(updated June 2019)



**Organic agriculture is based on 4 principles:
Health · Ecology · Fairness · Care**

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Organic processing and handling ensures the organic integrity of nutritious high quality organic products to consumers, while organic farmers enjoy preferred market access for their products. Handlers and processors shall ensure traceability in the organic processing and handling chain. All organic products shall be identified as such and processed, stored, and transported in a way that prevents substitution by or contact with conventional products as well as any kind of contaminants throughout the entire process.

INGREDIENTS

Organic processed products are made from organic ingredients. Non-organic processing aids allowed in organic products are defined in Appendix 4 of the IFOAM Norms. Exceptions can be granted by the control body where organic raw material is not commercially available, labelling requirements defined in this document and in IFOAM Norms have to be adhered to. Preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes commonly used in food processing may be used, with the exception of genetically engineered micro-organisms and their products.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Organic products must be protected from pests and diseases using good manufacturing practices that include proper cleaning, sanitation and hygiene, without the use of chemical pest control treatments or irradiation. Preventative methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat and access to facilities must be put in place. If not sufficient, physical, mechanical and biological

control measures must be used. Only if this is insufficient, products listed in the Appendix of the IFOAM Norms may be used. Fumigation with ethylene oxide, methyl bromide, aluminium phosphide or other substances not contained in Appendix 4 is not allowed.

PROCESSING METHODS

Techniques used to process organic products shall be biological, physical, and mechanical in nature. Other processing aids must be listed in Appendix 4 of the IFOAM Norms or be organically produced. Irradiation is not permitted for any ingredient or the final product. The following conditions of storage are permitted: controlled atmosphere; temperature control; drying; humidity regulation. Intentional manufacture or use of nanomaterials in organic products is prohibited.

PACKAGING

Organic product packaging must have minimal adverse impacts on the product and on the environment. The product may not get contaminated from packaging, such as re-used packaging (if re-using packaging, the packaging must be appropriately cleaned). Operators shall demonstrate efforts to minimize packaging and/or choose packaging materials with minimum environmental impact. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and aluminum should be avoided. Packaging materials, and storage containers, or bins that contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative, fumigant, or nanomaterials are prohibited.

CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND

SANITIZING OF PROCESSING FACILITIES

Organic products must be safe, of high quality, and free of substances used to clean, disinfect, and sanitize the processing facilities. Operations using cleaners, sanitizers, and disinfectants must ensure these do not contaminate the product.

The operator shall perform an intervening event between the use of any cleaner, sanitiser, or disinfectant and the contact of the organic product with that surface sufficient to prevent residual contamination of that organic product (e.g. by wiping surfaces with water).

LABELLING

Only products produced and processed according to the standard may be labelled as organic.

The following terminology may be used:

- Products with 95-100 % organic ingredients may be labelled as “organic”
- Products with 70-95 % organic ingredients may be labelled as “made with organic ingredients”. It must be visible which ingredients are organically certified and which are not
- Products with less than 70 % organic ingredients may not refer to organic on the front or a dominant location on the packaging but may specify organic ingredients as such on the ingredient list
- “Organic-in-conversion” labelling may only be used for single-ingredient plant products.

Water and salt are not included in the percentage calculations of organic ingredients.

Labels must also identify the following:

- the person or company legally responsible for the product
- the body that assures conformity to the applicable organic standard.

Please be aware that this is only a selection of essential requirements of the organic standards, meant as an introduction. The operator, of course, has to learn about and meet all requirements of the respective standard.



Namibian ORGANIC – producers with full organic status may use this mark on their products. They achieve this after 2-3 years of organic farming and assessment according to the NOA standards.



After 1 year of organic farming and an assessment according to the NOA standard, approved farmers can use the Organic in Conversion mark.



Certified processed products are labelled clearly showing which ingredients are from Namibian certified organic production. Processing is not certified.



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