

Information Sheet

Conversion of Arable and Grassland

Conversion time starts at the date of signing the inspection contract or in case of single fields with the acquisition date of the respective plot (e. g. date of contract of lease).

According to the EU Organic Regulation the status of a crop is as follows:

Arable Crops:

- **Harvested** at least 12 month after beginning of conversion?
Yes: The respective harvest is classified as in-conversion.
No: The respective harvest is classified as conventional.
- **Sowed** at least 24 months after beginning of conversion?
Yes: The respective harvest is classified as organic.
No: The respective harvest is classified as in-conversion.

Permanent Crops (e. g. wine, fruit trees):

- Harvested at least 12 month after beginning of conversion?
Yes: The respective harvest is classified as in-conversion.
No: The respective harvest is classified as conventional.
- Harvested at least 36 month after beginning of conversion?
Yes: The respective harvest is classified as organic.
No: The respective harvest is classified as in-conversion.

Grassland:

If the date of the inspection contract or the acquisition date of the respective field is **before** starting of the vegetation period the following is applicable:

- Each use in the year of beginning of conversion is classified as conventional.
- Each use in the second year is classified as in-conversion.
- Each use 24 months after starting of conversion is classified as organic.

If the date of the inspection contract or the acquisition date of the respective field is **after** starting of the vegetation period in the actual calendar year the following is applicable:

- Each use within the first 12 months is classified as conventional. However, on the certificate the harvested grassland crops have to be certified as “conventional” for 2 years.
- Each use 12 months after beginning of conversion is classified as in-conversion. However, on the certificate the harvested grassland crops can only be certified as “in-conversion” in the 3rd year of use.
- Each use from that turning of the year forth occurring 24 months after beginning of conversion (which are all uses in the 4th year of conversion) can be certified as organic.

Practical implementation in case of arable land:

If conversion is started before harvesting of a certain crop, this crop can be declared as in-conversion already in the subsequent year. Crops sown 2 years after signing the inspection contract can be marketed as organic.

Example: signing of the inspection contract on June 15, 2014:

Crops harvested in 2014 are conventional.

Harvests after June 15, 2015 are considered as in-conversion.

Crops sown after June 15, 2016 are considered as organic.