

Industry-specific information: Organic milk processing

General legal foundations:

Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and its implementing rules, as amended and Guideline „Organic Production“, as amended and Dairy Hygiene Regulation BGBl. 897/1993, as amended.

Regulations under private law (e.g. Bio Austria, Demeter) may have stricter requirements in some areas!

Milk collection:

The company has to ensure - by requesting valid organic certificates - that all suppliers of organic milk are authorized to supply organic milk. Furthermore, a list of suppliers must be available for review at the company. The company has to ensure that their suppliers guarantee organic quality for all deliveries and inform the company if they can no longer provide organic quality (e.g. through subcontractors).

Organic milk has to be received separately from any other milk. To ensure an explicit separation of the milk, a separate route planning or separate takeover equipment is recommended. Should conventional and organic milk be collected at the same time with *one* extraction system and separate tanks, the appropriate flush volume must be used before each change between conventional and organic milk. The appropriate flush volume to avoid a mixture of both qualities during milk collection has to be proven to ABG.

If the milk collection is conducted by a freight company and not by one of the company's drivers, the company has to sign an agreement for subcontracting with the freight company to ensure that the necessary actions for the task are known and to give the inspection body the chance to inspect the freight company randomly.

Milk collection at a dairy plant / processing:

The pumping station for organic milk must be labelled. If the place of collection for organic milk changes, future collections may only be done after the pipes have been cleaned (documentation is obligatory).

During storage and processing, separation between organic and conventional milk has to be guaranteed as well. Most dairy plants have separate pipe systems to ensure this. All tanks in which the organic milk is stored during the different phases of processing must be labelled, too. The flow of the milk has to be traceable across all phases of processing from the pumping stations to the packaging and delivery.

The processing of organic milk should take place at the beginning of the daily production or after a thorough cleaning of the system.

For the production of derived or enhanced products of organic milk only conventional agricultural products in compliance with Annex IX of Commission Regulation No 889/2008 may be used (see information for processors on www.abg.at).

The rules of the Guideline „Organic production“, as amended and its subchapters apply for processing.

Additives, processing aids:

Additives and processing aids have to comply with Art. 27 of Commission Regulation No 889/2008 and Annex VIII of Commission Regulation No 1235/2008, as amended.

To color cheese, only Annatto, Bixin and Norbixin may be used whereby their use is limited to a few types of cheese (see Annex VIII).

Cultures, Enzymes, Aromas

For any cultures and enzymes used, a „Declaration that the ban on the use of genetic engineering has been complied with“ according to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and its implementing rules, as amended (Art. 7 (3)) has to be obtained (for forms, go to www.abg.at). Only natural aromas or aroma extracts may be used.

Labelling:

Apart from the specifications in the Food Information Regulation, the labelling regulations of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and its implementing rules, as amended apply.

See the info sheets on <http://www.abg.at/bio-verarbeitung/verarbeitungshandel/auslobungskennzeichnung/>

Records of quantity flow: see information for processors on www.abg.at

If you have questions regarding transitioning your company to an organic production, we are at your service and there to help you with the implementation of the EU organic regulations.

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