

Logos

For further information

Organic products

They are optional

Products may include a logo on their label which shows compliance with organic farming regulations.

These logos may only be used for products which contain at least 95% organically grown ingredients.

Either the European logo or the AB logo (trademark registered by the French Ministry of Agriculture) may be used. Products may also carry logos from countries other than France.

European logo



AB logo



Organic wine?

Wine may be labelled as 'vin issu de vignes cultivées selon les méthodes de l'agriculture biologique' (wine made from vines grown using organic farming methods) or 'vin issu de raisin issu de l'agriculture biologique' (wine made from organically grown grapes), but the term 'vin biologique' (organic wine) is not permitted.

For wines, the AB logo may only be used with the clearly visible adjoining information 'vin issu de raisins de l'agriculture biologique' (wine made with organically grown grapes).

- > The DGCCRF Internet site:
www.dgccrf.minefi.gouv.fr
- > **3939 « Allô, Service Public »** (€ 0.12 per minute)
Consumer information service
- > The Directorate for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (Direction de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes) in the département
- > French National Consumer Institute (Institut national de la consommation): **www.conso.net**
- > The consumer associations in the département

This leaflet is provided for information only.

It is inevitably not exhaustive and does not replace the applicable regulations.



Direction générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation
et de la Répression des Fraudes

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**You're interested in organic products
because you think**

- they're healthier
- they're more natural
- they help to protect the environment.

**Here are some things
you need to know**

What is an organic product ?

Organic farming is a type of farming whose difference stems from the fact that it uses agricultural and livestock rearing methods which place great importance on respecting the balance of nature. For instance, only very limited amounts of fertiliser and chemical products may be used, while the use of GMOs is banned. It also promotes crop rotation.

Organic products are subject to extremely strict European regulations.

These regulations concern:

- > Unprocessed agricultural products (e.g. cereals, vegetables, fruit, flowers, cotton)
- > Livestock (e.g. pork, beef)
- > Unprocessed animal products (e.g. milk, eggs)
- > Processed plant and animal agricultural products intended for human consumption (e.g. bread, cheeses, ready-cooked meals)
- > animal feed and the raw materials from which they are made (e.g. soybean cake).

These regulations are complemented by French national regulations regarding livestock production.

All players in the organic farming sector (producers, processors, dealers, wholesalers, retailers and importers) must fulfil the following obligations:

- > register their activity with the competent authority: in France, this is the Agence BIO (French Agency for the development and promotion of organic farming)

What is an organic product ?

- > have their activity monitored by an independent outside body accredited by the State (in France: Ecocert, Qualité-France, Ulase, Agrocert, Aclave, SGS-ICS).

Any European product compliant with regulations may move freely around the European Union.

In order to have access to the European market, products from countries outside the European Union must abide by certain specific requirements.

N.B.

Products resulting from the hunting or fishing of wildlife (e.g. wild boar, sardines, etc) are not considered to be organic products. No reference may therefore be made to this in labelling or advertising.

Water and salt are not agricultural products. They may not therefore be described as 'organic'.

The French General Directorate for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes, DGCCRF) carries out two types of monitoring

- **It monitors the various players in the organic farming sector, as well as labelling and advertising claims.**
- **It ensures that effective monitoring of players in the sector is carried out by the certifying agencies.**

Labelling

Only products which contain over 95% organically grown ingredients may include the terms 'agriculture biologique' (organic farming) or 'issu de l'agriculture biologique' (organically grown) in the sales description on their labels, (e.g. 'huile d'olive de l'agriculture biologique' (organic olive oil) or 'huile d'olive, produit de l'agriculture biologique' (olive oil, organically grown product)).

For products containing from 70 to 95% organically grown ingredients, no reference may be made to organic farming in the sales description, but it may be referred to separately as 'x% des ingrédients d'origine agricole ont été obtenus selon les règles de la production biologique' (x% of the farm-grown ingredients were obtained using organic production methods).

Where there are under 70% of organically grown ingredients, no reference to organic farming is permitted.

The list of ingredients must show clearly which ingredients are organically grown. The usual practice is to follow the name of the ingredient by an asterisk which refers to the comment 'issu de l'agriculture biologique' (organically grown).

In addition, all other non-organically grown ingredients (e.g. seaweed or gelatine) and non-agricultural ingredients (e.g. additives, water or salt) in the product are specifically listed in the regulations.

In all cases, the product label must include the name and/or code number of the monitoring body.