



مؤسسة الإمارات للمواصفات والمقاييس
Emirates Authority For Standardization & Metrology



EMIRATES ORGANIC FOODS CERTIFICATION SCHEME



BOD Resolution Number (6)/ Year 2012 Date 27/02/2012

EMIRATES ORGANIC FOODS CERTIFICATION SCHEME

Article (1)

This Scheme called Emirates Organic Foods Certification Scheme, issued under:

- Federal law no. (5) Year 2009 for Organic Foods and their inputs.
- Federal law no. (28) Year 2001 for establishing ESMA and its modifications.
- Ministerial resolution no. (84) Year 2012 for an implementing regulation of the federal law no. (5) Year 2009 for Organic Foods and their inputs.
- Emirates conformity assessment scheme issued under ESMA board of directors resolution no. (8) Date 04/06/2009.

Article (2)

This scheme covers:

1. Terminologies and Definitions
2. Scope.
3. Certification requirements
4. Procedures of Conformity Assessment and Certification.
5. Extending the Scope of Certification.
6. The Organic food Mark Rules.
7. Labeling Rules.
8. Market surveillance and Products Inspection in Border.
9. Suspension, Withdrawal and Cancellation of the Certification.
10. Fees.
11. Liability.
12. Appeals.
13. Effective date.
14. Violation and Penalties.
15. Annex (1): Design of Emirates mark for organic foods and its identification code.

Article (3)

For the purpose of this Document, the following definitions shall apply:

- Country: United Arab Emirates.
- Ministry: Ministry of water and environment.
- Authority: Emirates Authority for standardization and Metrology (ESMA).
- Law: Federal law no. (5) Year 2009 for Organic Foods.
- Standard: Document approved by a recognized body, that provides rules, guidelines or characteristics for product or material or service or what are subject to measurement or level of quality and the requirements for safety. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, testing methods, sampling, packaging, marking or labelling requirements.
- Approved Standard: refers to a Standard approved by ESMA and denoted by the symbol (UAE.S).
- Product: organic food products and their inputs, which are produced locally or imported, and that not less than the proportion of organic ingredients for 95% of the components of the product excluding preservatives, such as salt and water.
- Organization: Any farm/factory/place of canning/packaging/processing, or companies and establishment of import or export of organic food products and their inputs.
- Mark: UAE Mark of organic food products, this mark approved by the ministry, it is granted for organic food products which comply with relevant Mandatory Requirements.
- Conformity assessment Body: a competent body accredited by ESMA, and registered in Ministry, which is responsible to carry out inspection/testing/conformity of local and imported products- in the law called an authentication body- .
- Conformity Assessments: Any activity to determine directly or indirectly, that a process, product or service meets relevant standards and fulfills relevant requirements such as inspection/testing/standardization or conformity certification and the Approved standards -which called in the law: authentication - .
- Organic System: Quality Control system which is agreed between conformity assessment body and Organization to insure Continuity of conformity to the mandatory approved standards and commitment of the establishment to the specific requirements.

- Inspector: Representative who is signed by the conformity assessment body to carry out inspection according to this Scheme.
- Inspection: the activity which is done by qualified inspection body, wither regular or unannounced Inspection for certified Organization to ensure implementation of the scheme and complying with the relevant requirements. The authorized establishment to use the mark should make sure the safety of using the mark and should commit supervision and monitoring agreed with the inspection and conformity assessment bodies and continuing using the mark in accordance with the scheme.
- License: certificate issued by the conformity assessment body for the organization to use UAE Mark of organic foods for the products which comply with relevant mandatory requirements of organic food scheme.

Article (4): Scope

Emirates Organic foods Scheme cover organic foods and their inputs which are produced locally or imported products. It includes:

- Fresh /chilled /frozen fruit and vegetables.
- Canned food products.
- Fresh and canned juices.
- Meats and fish.
- Egg.
- Milk, dairy, and cheese.
- Honey.

Article (5): Certification Requirements

In addition to any mandatory requirements from official body in the country, ESMA approved standard, and ESMA technical regulations, the producer/processor is required to comply with the following requirements:

1. All requirements required by the law and any changes in this law and regulations.
2. All requirements in this Scheme.
3. All requirements related to the products which mentioned in the approved standard and specified by ESMA.

Article (6): Procedures of Conformity Assessment and Certification

1. Organization shall submit application with all required documents for conformity assessment body, which is registered in the Ministry and accredited by ENAS or any recognized body by ESMA.
2. Conformity assessment body will review and assign an inspection body to audit and inspect the producer/processor to be sure that it is complying with Mandatory requirements.

Producer/processor must provide inspection body with all necessary services/data required to carry out the inspection any time.

3. Inspection body will submit inspection report and recommendations to the conformity assessment body. The conformity assessment body will inform the producer/processor with the inspection results.
4. The producer/processor shall take the necessary action to close the non-conformance and findings of inspection body in the agreed time period as decided by conformity assessment body.
5. Upon closing the non-conformance in accordance with inspection body reports, the Conformity assessment body will issue certificate of organic food, license to use of the Emirates Organic food Mark and identification code for the Mark.

The producer/processor should be committed to use Emirates Organic Food Mark and its identification code and labeling- according to Annex (1) - for certified products before displaying in the market.

The producer/processor shall pay all necessary cost related to application process, testing, inspection, and evaluation activities/services that related to assessment process and certification.

6. In case Conformity assessment body rejects to certify the organization, the Conformity assessment body shall inform the organization in writing the reasons of rejection within two weeks of receiving inspection body report.
7. For imported products, the organization must provide valid organic food certificate issued by conformity assessment body recognized by ESMA. This certificate must show that this product is complying with organic food scheme requirements.

8. Conformity assessment body and organization will agree on the Organic system plan. Inspection body will carry out the initial inspection, regular inspection, and unannounced inspection to ensure continues compliance with the organic system plan.
9. Conformity assessment body shall provide ESMA with list of certified organizations and products. ESMA will publish the list in a suitable way.
10. License to use the organic food logo will be valid for three years; it will be renewed for another three years depending on the request of the organization (producer/processor), on the result of surveillance assessment, making sure that the products are continually complying with all mandatory requirements in this scheme, and payment of the renewal fees.

Article (7): Extending the Scope of Certification

The licensee can extend the scope of certification to other products. In such cases, the licensee shall submit an application to conformity assessment body. This application will be treated in accordance with Article (5).

Article (8): Emirates Organic Food Mark Rules

1. The mark shall be according annex 1.
2. The mark should not used in a misleading way / or for non certified products.
3. The Mark shall be reproduced exactly the same color and shape with annex 1.
4. The mark shall be used with identification code for the certified product as mentioned in annex 1.
5. The mark must be un-removable and clear. If there is no adequate space at the product / or there is no chance to put it at the product directly, the licensee can print / engrave / glue the mark to the packaging or any other way approved by the conformity assessment body.
6. It is not allowed to use the mark in case of expiration of certification.
7. The organization has the right to use the mark in advertising a product of various advertising Media during validity of the Certificate.

Article (9): Labeling Rules:

In addition to the Mandatory labeling requirements, labeling must include the following information in both Arabic and English languages:

- Input name / Inputs name.
- Organic Production process.
- Percentage of input contents and organic product contents.
- In case of organic inputs, it should be stated that this input is organic and it is allowed to use in organic agriculture.

Article (10): Market Surveillance and Products Inspection in Border

Inspection for products in border will be carried out by Ministry, and authorized body by ESMA.
Market surveillance will be carried out by Ministry and authorized body by Ministry.

Article (11): Suspension, Withdrawal and Cancellation of the Certification

10-1 License Suspension:

1. The Conformity assessment body has right to suspended license if market surveillance / inspection / testing and evaluation shows non-conformance with the mandatory requirements of such nature that immediate withdrawal is not necessary such as Defects/nonconformities detected in the product caused by temporary disturbance in the production process.
2. The organization has the right to suspend the license based on its special requirements.
3. The suspension shall be lifted upon satisfactory implementation of the corrective action(s).

10-2 The license cancellation:

1. The Conformity assessment body has the right to Cancel the license under the following conditions:
 - a. The non-conformance was not corrected within the agreed limited time which was decided by Conformity assessment body.
 - b. The Emirates Organic Foods Mark is being used for non-conforming products.
 - c. The Emirates Organic Foods Mark is being used in violation of the scheme.
 - d. If the licensee could not comply with the new requirements which may be required by the changes in the laws and regulations.
 - e. Failure of the licensee to settle financial obligation.
2. The licensee who has cancelled license can apply a new application in accordance with article (5). In such case like this the organization will not be certified until making sure again that it complies with all mandatory requirements in this scheme.

10-3 The License withdrawn: The licensee can request the conformity assessment body to withdraw the license at any time for whatever reason.

10-4 Upon suspension, withdrawal or cancellation of the License, the licensee shall not use Emirates Organic Foods Mark on the products and on promotional or advertising materials.

10-5 If it's found out that product not complies with requirements, the conformity assessment body has the right to demand the licensee to withdraw the non-conformance products in the period limited time. The conformity assessment body should inform the Ministry.

10-6 The conformity assessment body shall inform both ESMA and the licensee with its decision related to suspension, withdrawal or cancellation in official way or agreed way between the Conformity assessment body and licensee. ESMA should inform the Ministry.

Article (12) fees:

1. The applicant shall pay all necessary fees in accordance with Cabinet resolution No. (2) Year 2003 and its modifications.
2. Paid fees are not refundable.
3. The applicant shall bear all the costs necessary for the transportation, accommodation and travelling of ESMA personnel or ESMA representative.

Article (13) Liability:

1. The Licensee is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the product meets the mandatory requirements in the country, if the conformity assessment body confirms the compliance for the product or not.
2. ESMA shall not be held responsible for any action (legal or otherwise) raise by any party against the licensee on matters resulting from the implementation of this scheme and using of the Emirates organic food mark.

Article (14) Appeals

The Licensee may appeal a decision taken by conformity assessment body by writing to the Ministry within (30) days from receiving the decision. Ministry decision will be considered as a final decision.

Article (15) Effective date

This scheme will be affected by date of publishing in gazette.

Article (16) Violation and Penalties

The conformity assessment body has to take proper action -like suspension or cancellation for certification- against the licensee in case of any violation for this scheme which may affect consumer rights/ health / safety/ environment/ misleading use mark for non-conforming products.

The conformity assessment body should inform the Ministry regarding this action, and the Ministry will take the legal action against the Licensee in accordance with laws and regulations in UAE.

Annex 1

Emirates Organic Food Mark



Identification code

