

ICEA	L.0501ES	GUIDELINES FOR PRODUCT LABELING IN THIRD COUNTRIES	Ed.02 Rev.00 of 28.05.10
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## I. SCOPE

This document represents the reference guidelines, and defines the procedures for the application of EC Reg. 834/07 and EC Reg. 889/08 (modified by EC Reg. 271/10), specifically to labels indicating the organic farming production method of products obtained in conformity with the above mentioned regulations, coming from Third Countries and imported into the EU. That document is applicable also in those Third Countries where there's no specific norm in force about organic.

The present guideline is at the public's disposal, it may be requested to ICEA, and can be found on the web site, [www.icea.info](http://www.icea.info)

## II. REFERENCE

- EC Reg.834/07 and EC Reg. 889/08 as amended
- “ACB (Accredited Certification Bodies) Equivalent European Union Organic Production & Processing Standard for Third Countries

## III. DEFINITIONS

«preparation» means the operations of preserving and/or processing of organic products, including slaughter and cutting for livestock products, and also packaging, labeling and/or alterations made to the labeling concerning the organic production method (*ref. art 2, lett.i of the EC Reg. 834/07*)

«labeling» means any terms, words, particulars, trade marks, brand name, pictorial matter or symbol relating to and placed on any packaging, document, notice, label, board, ring or collar accompanying or referring to a product (*ref. art. 2, lett.k of the Ec Reg. CE 834/07*)

«pre-packaged foodstuff» shall mean any single item for presentation as such to the ultimate consumer and to mass caterers, consisting of a foodstuff and the packaging into which it was put before being offered for sale, whether such packaging encloses the foodstuff completely or only partially, but in any case in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging. (*ref .art. 1, § 3, let. b, of the Directive 2000/13/CE*)

«advertising» means any representation to the public, by any means other than a label, that is intended or is likely to influence and shape attitude, beliefs and behaviour in order to promote directly or indirectly the sale of organic products (*ref.art. 2, lett.m of the Ec Reg CE 834/07*)

«Ingredient» shall mean any substance, including additives, used in the manufacture or preparation of a foodstuff and still present in the finished product, even if in altered form. Where an ingredient of the foodstuff is itself the product of several ingredients, the latter shall be regarded as ingredients of the foodstuff in question. (*ref. art. 6, § 4, lett. a, b, of the Directive 2000/13/CE*)

## 1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

For vegetable and animal farm products, and more generally, food products, labels may be presented as indicating organic farming production methods only if:

- a) the product was obtained in conformity with the norms of organic farming or was imported from third countries within the application of EC Reg. 834/07 and EC Reg. 889/08;

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- b) the products have undergone a conversion period of at least twelve months before harvesting;
- c) the product was obtained or imported from an operator controlled by the measures provided for by EC Reg. 834/07 and EC Reg. 889/08
- d) the person who affixes the label and sells the product, received prior authorization from a recognized CB;
- e) the ingredients not from agricultural origin (additives, flavourings, preparations of micro-organism, salt, etc.) and the technological adjuvants used in product preparations all belong to the group of products indicated in art 27 and listed in Annex VIII of the EC Reg. 889/08;
- f) the product and its ingredients are not subjected to treatment with manufacturing means and technological additives other than those indicated in Annex VIII;
- g) the organic raw material was not mixed with the same from conventional origin;
- h) the product and its ingredients were not subjected to treatment by ionizing radiation;
- i) the product was obtained without the use of genetically modified organisms and/or products derived from such organisms during the whole product cycle.

In the labeling and advertising of live or unprocessed agricultural products terms referring to the organic production method may be used only where, in addition, all the ingredients of that product have also been produced in accordance with the requirements laid down in EC Reg. 834/07 and 889/08, see abovementioned ref. e), f), h) and i).

The labels of products obtained from organic farming must however comply with all the legislative directives governing the labeling of food products in the destination countries.

## 2. INDICATING THE ORGANIC FARMING METHOD OF PRODUCTION

The EC. Reg. 834/07 guarantees throughout the Community the term “Organic”, “Bio”, “Eco” as any equivalent term and suffixes in the official languages in all different member states.

Those terms can be showed in trademarks, brand names, advertising material, images or product correlated symbols just if the product is obtained in accordance with the rules laid down in EC Reg. 834/07 and EC Reg. 889/08. Bearing those terms in the label and/or in the transport documents, the seller is responsible in front of the law to guarantee the conformity of the product itself to the abovementioned regulations.

BG: биологичен	LT: ekologiškas,
ES: ecológico, biológico,	LU: biologesch
CS: ekologické, biologické,	HU: ökológiai
DA: økologisk,	MT: organiku,
DE: ökologisch, biologisch,	NL: biologisch,
ET: mahe, ökoloogiline,	PL: ekologiczne
EL: βιολογικό,	PT: biológico
EN: organic,	RO: ecologic
FR: biologique,	SK: ekologické, biologické
GA: orgánach,	SL: ekološki,
IT: biologico,	FI: luonnonmukainen
LV: bioloģiskā,	SV: ekologisk

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## 2.1 Loose items without packaging (e.g. grains, oil, milk, fruit in bins, cases, etc.)

The products from organic farming may be sold, delivered, transferred as loose products (in containers or vehicles that are not closed and sealed) only to final consumers or to operators that are subject to the control system.

In all other cases, packaging, containers or vehicles must be closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damage of the seal and provided with a label and/or transportation document indicating the information required by general norms and provisions regarding organic farming.

In the documents accompanying the goods (Transport Document, accompanying Invoice or other operator's certificates correlated to the transaction) the following must be specified:

- correct indication of the method of production ("bio", "eco", "organic", "organic farming" or "in-conversion to organic farming"), in conformity with what established by the EU and national norms in force.
- CB code (**AB BIO 625**), where AB=ISO code of the Country where the last preparation took place, 625= ICEA recognition code in Third Countries (valid until 2012)
- Operator code (ESXXX). That code is not compulsory according to the EU regulation, but ICEA decided to make it compulsory in order to respect art 27, point 13 of the EU Reg. 834/07 regarding traceability.

In countries where there's no defined norm, the labeling specifications (EU CB code included) can be used also on products sold on the local market

In EU countries where ICEA is accredited and recognized, the CB code is the one assigned by the local Competent Authority.

The operator subject to control, must always request ICEA and supply the client with the certificate of conformity and/or equivalence (M0511) and, if requested, the accompanying document related to product lot under transaction.

## 2.2. Packaging and labeling of food items

Regarding the products that are packed and labeled, on the label the following has to be specified:

- correct indication of the method of production ("bio", "eco", "organic", "organic farming" or "in-conversion to organic farming"), in conformity with what established by the EU and national norms in force.
- CB code (**AB BIO 625**), where AB=ISO code of the Country where the last preparation took place, 625= ICEA recognition code in Third Countries (valid until 2012)
- Operator code (ESXXX). That code is not compulsory according to the EU regulation, but ICEA decided to make it compulsory in order to respect art 27, point 13 of the EU Reg. 834/07 regarding traceability.

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In EU countries where ICEA is accredited and recognized, the CB code is the one assigned by the local Competent Authority.

**ATTENTION!** The EU 834/07 certification allows to trade products also in different non EU countries. Up to now, there are many countries where the European certification is not sufficient and another certification is needed, according to specific organic regulations (ex: USA; Japan, Canada and China) . For info contact [export@icea.info](mailto:export@icea.info).

All the labels, tags, primary and secondary packaging accompanying the products up to the consumer, make up the “label”, therefore the specifications regarding the organic farming production method on those kind of supports must respect the provisions of EC Reg. 834/07 and EC Reg. 889/08 and need to be expressly authorized by ICEA.

Only the packaging not reaching the consumer, used to transport and store the product, may just contain simple indications for identification purposes and do not need ICEA authorizations.

### **2.3 In conversion products of plant origin**

In-conversion products of plant origin may bear the indication ‘product under conversion to organic farming’ provided that:

- a) a conversion period of at least 12 months before the harvest has been complied with;
- b) the specifications in question must not deceive the buyer as to the nature of the product compared to those obtained from organic farming not in conversion;
- c) the indication “product under conversion to organic farming” shall appear in a color, size and style of lettering which is not more prominent than the sales description of the product, and the entire indication shall have the same size of letters;
- d) the product contains only one crop ingredient of agricultural origin;

### **2.4 Livestock products ( eggs, meat, etc. etc.)**

Especially when dealing with livestock products, it’s necessary to specify that art. 17 of the EC Reg. 834/07 does not allow the labeling of animal products in-conversion. This is due to the fact that as long as the conversion period has not been completed, the product is to be considered of the “conventional” type.

### **2.5 Multi ingredients products**

According to the EU community regulation, the indications to the organic method of production have to be differentiated based on the percentage of organic agricultural ingredients from plant or animal origin used in the processing activity.

Anyway, the product needs to be made mainly with agricultural ingredients ( more then 50% in weight out of the total ingredients). In contrary, no reference to the organic method of production can be showed in the label.

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### **Products containing 95% or above of organic certified ingredients from agricultural origin**

In this case, the wording “organic/bio/eco” can appear, with a good visibility, in the sales description of the product (without any specific conditions about style of lettering, size and color) provided that:

- The organic ingredients are clearly identified in the list of ingredients ( ex: with an asterisk referring to \* organic)
- The ingredients that are not from agricultural origin ( additives, natural flavourings, technological adjuvants etc. etc.) must be expressly mentioned in the EC Reg. 889/08, art 27 and annex VIII;
- the agricultural ingredients not from organic agriculture must be expressly authorized in the Annex IX of the EC Reg. 889/08 (usually those are products not available from organic agriculture in the EU).

### **Products containing less than 95% of organic certified ingredients from agricultural origin**

In this case the reference to organic agriculture may appear only in the ingredient’s list (ex: with an asterisk referring to \* organic), together with the percentage of organic ingredients related to the total amount of agricultural ingredients.

The terms and the indication of percentage referred to organic ingredients shall appear in the same color, identical size and style of lettering as the other indications in the list of ingredients.

The products have to be anyway obtained in conformity with art. 19 §1 and §2, lett a, b, d of the EC Reg. 834/07 ( general rules of production of processed food). The ingredients not from agricultural origin (additives, natural flavourings, technological adjuvants etc. etc.) must be expressly mentioned in the EC Reg. 889/08, art 27 and Annex VIII)

Indeed, any restriction is foreseen regarding the use of conventional ingredients ( annex IX EC Reg. 889/08).

The only exception is applicable for products where the main ingredient is a product of fishing or hunting that cannot be other than conventional, considering that those products are not in the field of application of the EU Reg. In those products, it’s possible to indicate the organic method of production in the same visual field of the as the sales description, provided that all the other ingredients are organic. An example is “Tuna fish in organic extra virgin olive oil”.

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### 3. USE OF THE COMMUNITY LOGO

While for products coming from EU Member States, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010, all the organic products packaged, labeled and sealed in single sales unit, that contain an organic percentage of agricultural ingredients higher or equal to 95% (or are mono-ingredient), MUST bear on the label the specific EU logo as described in annex XI of the EC Reg. 889/08, for the products coming from Third Countries, the use of the logo is voluntary.

The logo is forbidden on products under conversion to organic farming and in multi ingredient products with less than 95% of organic ingredients from agricultural origin. When the Community logo is used, an indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been produced MUST be indicated. That indication shall appear in the same visual field as the logo and shall take one of the following forms, as appropriate:

- 'EU Agriculture', when the agricultural raw material has been farmed in the EU,
- 'non-EU Agriculture', when the agricultural raw material has been farmed in third countries,
- 'EU/non-EU Agriculture', when part of the agricultural raw materials has been farmed in the Community and part has been farmed in a third country.

The above mentioned indication 'EU' or 'non-EU' may be replaced or supplemented by a country (ex: "Thailand") in the case where all agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed in that country.

For the abovementioned 'EU' or 'non-EU' indication, small quantities by weight of ingredients may be disregarded provided that the total quantity of the disregarded ingredients does not exceed 2 % of the total quantity by weight of raw materials of agricultural origin.

ATTENTION! The operators must implement their traceability system getting from their suppliers information and declarations useful to prove the origin declaration shown on the label.

All the operators want to use the logo according to all the technical characteristics ( size, colors etc. ), as in Annex XI of the EC Reg. 889/08, modified by EC Reg. 271/10 attached below.

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## ANNEX XI

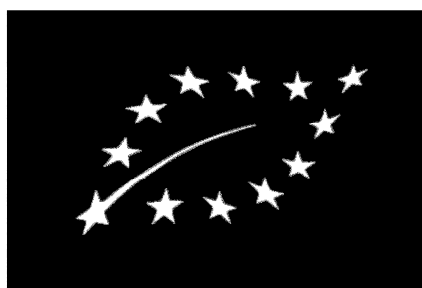
### A. Organic logo of the EU, referred to in Article 57

1. The Organic logo of the EU shall comply with the model below:



2. The reference colour in Pantone is Green Pantone No 376 and Green (50 % Cyan + 100 % Yellow), when a four- colour process is used.

3. The Organic logo of the EU can also be used in black and white as shown, only where it is not practicable to apply it in colour.



4. If the background colour of the packaging or label is dark, the symbols may be used in negative format, using the background colour of the packaging or label.

5. If a symbol is used in colour on a coloured background, which makes it difficult to see, a delimiting outer line around the symbol can be used to improve contrast with the background colours.

6. In certain specific situations where there are indications in a single colour on the packaging, the Organic logo of the EU may be used in the same colour.

7. The Organic logo of the EU must have a height of at least 9 mm and a width of at least 13,5 mm; the proportion ratio height/width shall always be 1:1,5. Exceptionally the minimum size may be reduced to a height of 6 mm for very small packages.

8. The Organic logo of the EU may be associated with graphical or textual elements referring to organic farming, under the condition that they do not modify or change the nature of the Organic logo of the EU, nor any of the indications mentioned at Article 58. When associated to national or private logos using a green colour different from the reference colour mentioned in point 2, the Organic logo of the EU may be used in that non-reference colour.

9. The use of the Organic logo of the EU shall be in accordance with the rules accompanying its registration as Organic Farming Collective Mark in the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property and in the Community and International Trademark Registers.EN

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ATTENTION! The EU Commission has published a specific manual available on the website [www.organic-farming.eu](http://www.organic-farming.eu) and [www.icea.info](http://www.icea.info)

#### 4. REFERENCE TO ICEA CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION

ICEA provides to the operators that have the license, a specific graphic layout (ICEA trading stamp) that can be used for the correct indications of the EU logo, of the conformity declarations and of the control codes foreseen by the law in force.

For the cases foreseen, the trading stamp can indicate the ICEA logo that has to be used respecting the Regulation for the use of the ICEA logo and certification publicity (annex II, MO). The graphical layout can be in black and white or green colored (pantograph n.348). The size can not be smaller than 1 cm for the side and 1,5 cm for the diameter.

The use of the ICEA trading stamp is optional, the operator that has the license may show in the label only the indications for the control foreseen by the European and national law in force.

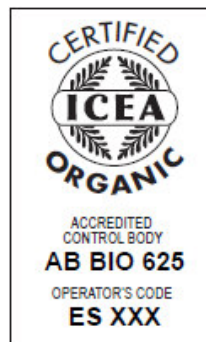
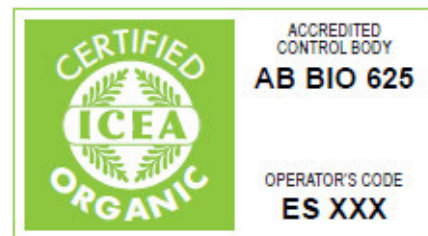
#### A) EU logo together with ICEA logo and control wordings

Only for Organic Mono-ingredient products, multi-ingredient products containing at least 95% of organic agricultural ingredients



### B) EU logo separated from the ICEA logo and control wordings

Only for Organic Mono-ingredient products, multi-ingredient products containing at least 95% of organic agricultural ingredients. This version of the EU logo (code IT BIO 006+agricultural raw material origin) can be considered enough for products intended exclusively for the foreign markets

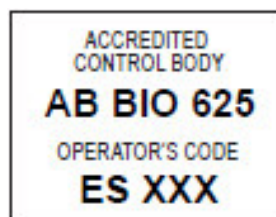


### C) EU logo together with control wordings (\*)

Only for Organic Mono-ingredient products, multi-ingredient products containing at least 95% of organic agricultural ingredients



### D) Only control wording



For mono-ingredient products under conversion to organic farming, and multi-ingredient products with a % of organic agricultural ingredients lower than 95%. Can be combined with the EU logo as in case B) for organic products with a % of organic agricultural products lower than 95%.

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## **5.SPECIFYING ORGANIC FARMING METHODS FOR WINES AND OTHER WINE PRODUCTS**

The EC Reg. 889/08 doesn't include yet specific production rules for wine production with organic method; the wine is not yet into the application scope of annex VIII of the EC Reg. itself.

Waiting for the introduction of the specific provisions regarding wine production and other product for the oenological industry, the organic method of production, both in labels and accompanying documents, has to be clearly connected with the raw material ( grapes)

The specification according to the directives in the notes of Mi.PAF 1663 of September 30,.1999, must not appear in the same sector of the label, nor in the same visual field where the obligatory specifications of general norms appear.

The EU logo cannot appear in the label of wine industry products (wine, musts for wine making processes, etc.) given that such productions do not fall under the application scope of Annex VIII of EC Reg.889/08.

## **6. BRAND DISTRIBUTING COMPANIES**

According to art 28 of EC Reg. 834/07, letters a) and b) § 1, the brand distribution activity needs to be considered as subjected to the EU control system.

The brand distributors, as responsible for the change of the labels, can be considered as processors, and therefore they need to indicate their own code on the label because they are owner of the product certification.

In case the distributor wants to use on the label the codes of the supplier, he's obliged to write the whole name as indicated in the EC Reg. n.889/08 art.31 § 1, letter a).

## **7. TRANSITIONAL MEASURES**

(as a consequence of the implementation of the EC Reg. 271/10).

1 Stocks of products produced, packaged and labelled before 1 July 2010 in accordance with either Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 or Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 may continue to be brought on the market bearing terms referring to organic production until stocks are exhausted.

2 Packaging material in accordance with either Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 or Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 may continue to be used for products placed on the market bearing terms referring to organic production until 1 July 2012, where the product otherwise complies with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

## 8. EXAMPLES OF LABELS

### 8.1 Mono-ingredient products

Organic indications	Trade marks, brand names, sales description
Composition	Only mono-ingredient (no mix organic+ under conversion)
EU logo	Yes, compulsory
Origin indication	Yes, compulsory
ICEA Logo	Yes, optional


All the operators that do a conditioning activity, have to be registered at the National Database of Fruits and Vegetables operators (B.N.D.O.O).

## Organic Oranges

VARIETY: Navel  
ORIGIN: TURKEY  
CAT: II  
CALIBER: 80-90  
WEIGHT: 5 kg


**The Hawthorn Ltd**  
Country street 12  
Istanbul (TR)

**All other indications required by the general law regarding agro-food products**




TR BIO 625  
non EU Agriculture





1 39020 67143 9



ACCREDITED CONTROL BODY  
**TR BIO 625**  
OPERATOR'S CODE  
**12345678**

Oil coming from other EU MS (ex. Spain)\*



Mix of oils coming from different countries, EU and non EU (ex. Spain, Turkey)



Oil coming from non EU countries (Turkey)\*



In case the product comes from one single country, it's possible to use the term "Agriculture Spain" and "Agriculture Turkey"

100% ITALIAN



ORGANIC BRAND

ORGANIC EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL



All the other compulsory indications

ACCREDITED CONTROL BODY  
**TR BIO 625**  
**TURKEY**



OPERATOR'S CODE  
**12345678**



## 8.2 Products under conversion to organic farming

Organic indications	Sales description “ product under conversion to organic farming”
Composition	Restriction for additives and carriers Restriction for technological adjuvants Only natural flavourings
EU logo	NO
Origin indication	Not requested
ICEA Logo	NO (just sentence regarding control)



### 8.3 Multi ingredient products with organic agricultural ingredients ≥ 95%

Organic indications	BIO, ORGANIC, ORGANIC FARMING, in the trade marks, commercial names, sales description. Ingredient list (* organic or * organic farming) NO indication of the %
Composition	Restriction for conventional ingredients (ann. IX, EC Reg. 889/08) Restriction for additives and carriers (ann. VIII sec. A, EC Reg. 889/08) Restriction for technological adjuvants (ann. VIII sec. B, EC Reg. 889/08) Only natural flavourings
EU logo	YES, compulsory
Origin indication	YES, compulsory
ICEA Logo	YES, optional



The law in force excludes the pre-packed products, showing the sanitary stamp, from indicating the address of the processing factory. Anyway, it's not forbidden to write it as optional.

1) The indication of the processing and packaging factory address, or just only of the packaging factory, can be left out if:

- the processing or packaging factory has one single plant, at the same address as the legal company;
- products coming from other countries to be sold as they are in Italy;
- products to be sold in other countries (usually the indication to be written is "Made in Italy").

2) In case the company owns more than one factories, it's allowed to put on the label all the factories at the condition that the effective one is highlighted with a punching or other marks.

3) In case of a company that distributes or sells products not showing on the packaging the name or legal company, or deposited brand and address of the processing or packaging factory, the full address of the plant, needs to be indicated, or, in case this is not available, an indication that helps to find out the location.


### 8.4 Multi-ingredient product with organic agricultural ingredients < 95%

Organic indications	Only in the ingredient list (* organic) with indication of the %
Composition	Restriction for additives and carriers (ann. VIII sec.A, EC Reg. 889/08) Restriction for technological adjuvants (ann. VIII sec. B, EC Reg. 889/08) Only natural flavourings No restriction for the use of conventional ingredients
EU logo	NO
Origin indication	Not requested
ICEA Logo	NO (just sentence regarding control)

## Apple Yogurt

INGREDIENTS: whole milk yogurt, apple cream (sugar cane\*, apple purée \* 4,2% of the total, natural flavourings, gelling agent: pectin).  
\* Organic (10%)

Produced for **Biotrademark ltd** Mexico City (MX), by Biodairy Ltd, Morelia ( MX).  
**All other indications required by the general law regarding agro-food products**




ACCREDITED CONTROL BODY

MX BIO 625

OPERATOR'S CODE

12345678



In that case the name of the processor has been hidden but the full address (vat included) is indicated to allow anyway an identification of the location.

Operator's code of the processor or brand distributors (if notified). In the future, the brand distributor code has to be indicated, because it will be compulsory for those operators to be controlled.

Organic ingredients/ ingredients from agricultural origin (water, salt, additives, natural flavourings are excluded).

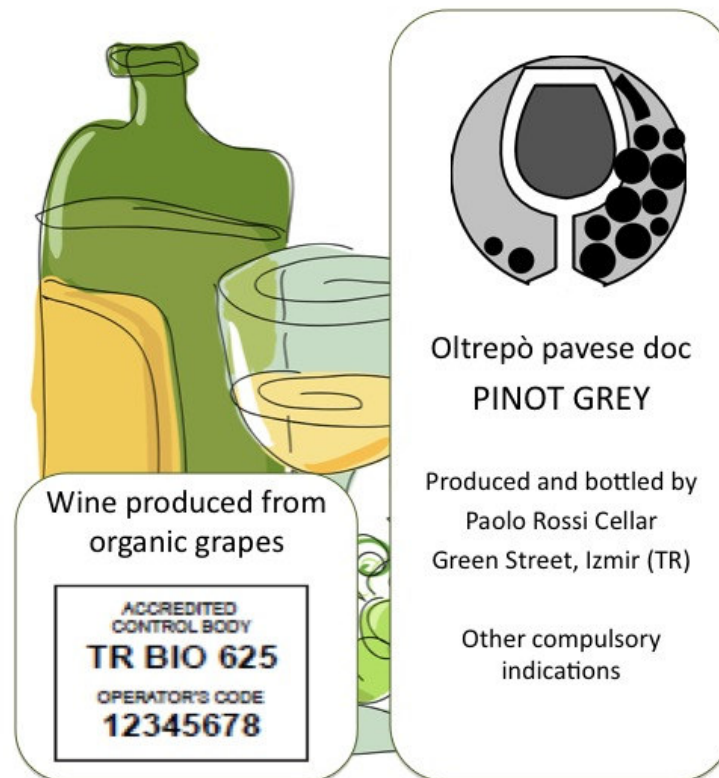
## 8.5 Multi ingredient products made with products of hunting or fishing

Organic indications	Same visual field of the sale description Ingredient list (* organic) with indication of the %
Composition	Restriction for additives and carriers (ann. VIII sec.A, EC Reg. 889/08) Restriction for technological adjuvants (ann. VIII sec. B, EC Reg. 889/08) Only natural flavourings All other ingredients from agricultural origin have to be organic
EU logo	NO
Origin indication	Not requested
ICEA Logo	NO (just sentence regarding control)



## 8.6 Vino ed altri prodotti dell'industria enologica

Riferimenti Biologico	“Wine made with organic grapes” or “Wine made with grapes from organic agriculture”, have not to be in the same part of the label neither in the same visual field as the compulsory indications according to the general law in force.
Composizione	No restrictions foreseen compared to the general law
Logo UE	NO
Indicazione origine	Non requested
Logo ICEA	NO (just sentence regarding control)



## 9. NATIONAL LOGOS AND PRIVAT CERTIFICATION BRANDS.

National and private Logos and can be used in labeling, advertising and commercial material of products obtained in accordance with the rules laid down in EC Reg. 834/07 and EC Reg. 889/08.

In some countries, (ex. Germany and France), after having requested/registered to the competent governmental agency, National brands are allowed to be used freely by all operators (also foreigners), that have a conformity certificate according to EU. Reg. 834/07. Moreover, there are other private brands that can be used only if the operator is subjected to a voluntary certification system based on more restrictive standards then the EU. For more information please consult the ICEA webpage regarding “Voluntary Certification”.

**Germany**  
[www.biosiegel.de](http://www.biosiegel.de)



**France**  
[www.agencebio.org](http://www.agencebio.org)

