

Industry-specific information: Organic milk processing

General legal basis:

Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848 and its implementing regulations, as amended and relevant national regulations as amended.

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

Milk collection:

The company has to ensure that all suppliers of organic milk have the right to deliver organic milk by obtaining the latest organic certificates. 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. via supply contracts).

Organic milk has to be taken over separately from any other milk. To ensure an explicit separation of the milk, a separate route planning or separate takeover equipment on the collection truck is recommended. If conventional and organic milk is collected on the same route with one extraction system and separate tanks, the appropriate rinsing volume must be used before each change between conventional and organic milk. The appropriate rinsing volume to avoid a mixture of both qualities during milk collection has to be proven to ABG/BG. 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.

Taking in of milk at a dairy plant / processing:

The pumping station for organic milk must be labeled. If organic milk is taken in alternately at different pumping stations, organic milk may only be taken in after clearing of the takeover line has been carried out (documentation is required).

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 organic milk is stored during the different stages of processing must also be labeled. The milk flow has to be traceable from the pumping station throughout all stages of processing and packaging/delivery.

The daily production should start with the processing of organic milk or must start after an intermediate cleaning.

In the processing of secondary products of organic milk only conventional agricultural ingredients in compliance with Annex IX of Commission Regulation No. 889/2008 may be used (see information for processors on our web page).

Additives, processing aids:

Additives and processing aids have to comply with Commission Regulation No. 2021/1165, Annex III as amended.

Only Annatto, Bixin and Norbixin may be used for coloration of cheese, which are additionally restricted to a few specific types of cheese (see Annex V).

Dairy cultures, enzymes, flavourings

For any micro-organism and enzyme used in processing of organic products the vendor declaration according to Part IV Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848 and its implementing rules, as amended, has to be in place at the dairy (for forms go on our web page).

Only natural flavorings or flavoring compounds (extracts) may be used.

Labeling:

Apart from the requirements of the European Regulation for Food Information for Consumers, the labeling requirements of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848 and its implementing rules, as amended, apply.

See the info sheets on [our web page](#)

Records of mass balance: see information for processors on our web page

If you have questions regarding the conversion of your company to an organic production unit I am at your service and would like to help you with the implementation of the Organic Regulation of the EU.