

Analysis of EEC Regulation 2092/91 in relation to other national and international organic standards Areas for harmonisation, simplification and regionalisation.

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Differences in Organic Standards and Regulations - which ones are relevant?

Private Standards

National Regulations
EU-Regulation

US-NOP

IFOAM Basic Standards

Codex Alimentarius

IFOAM Criteria

(EN 45011)

(ISO 65)



Background for standards analysis

- European Action for Organic Food and farming requested to establish and maintain an **Internet database** listing the various private and national standards
- Development of a database “Organicrules” in EU project Organic-Revision (DARCOF developing and hosting the database).
www.organicrules.org
- **Objective:**
 - to analyse the differences to the EU regulation 2092/91 and
 - to identify specific areas of **harmonisation, regionalisation or simplification** in the (new) EEC Reg. 2092/91, taking into account the basic ethical values.

Database Organic Rules – www.organicrules.org

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Organic Rules website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://organicrules.org/>. The website's navigation menu includes links for Home, About, Browse, Search, Register, User Area, and Help. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains introductory text about the database, its objective, and means. The right column features a search interface with two input fields: 'Search records:' and 'Search full text:', followed by a 'Search' button. Below the search fields are links for 'Alternative search: Simple Search | Advanced Search'. The 'Browse' section lists categories such as 'Differences between other standards and EEC 2092/91', 'Other standards and national implementation rules', 'Subject areas', and 'Organic principles'. The 'Latest Additions' section includes links to 'All differences in one table by EU regulation, articles', 'All differences in one table by Subjects', 'All differences in one table by country standards', and 'All complete standards in one table'. A 'Contact Information' section is visible at the bottom of the page.

Organic Rules

Home | About | Browse | Search | Register | User Area | Help

This database refers to the EU project, **Organic-Revision**.

Objective: To improve the **EU regulation 2092/91** for organic production.

Means: Collect and publish an organic standards database on the internet with information on differences between minimum 15 European organic standards and EU regulation 2092/91.

Articles, reports etc. about European regulations on organic production must be uploaded into the **Organic Eprints database** and not here.

Find a description of national regulations and some private standards, including addresses and links [here](#) (in german)

You are encouraged to register and then upload a comment or a suggestion on how to improve the existing EU regulation for organic production

Search records:

Search full text:

Alternative search: [Simple Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#)

Browse

Browse the database by:

- [Differences between other standards and EEC 2092/91](#)
- [Other standards and national implementation rules](#)
- [Subject areas](#)
- [Organic principles](#)

Latest Additions

View items added to the database in the past week.

- [All differences in one table by EU regulation, articles](#)
- [All differences in one table by Subjects](#)
- [All differences in one table by country standards](#)
- [All complete standards in one table](#)

Contact Information

Database Organic Rules – Browse differences

Organic Rules - Browse by EEC No. 2092/91: (sorted according to original subsections): Find inf - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Organic Rules

Home | About | Browse | Search | Register | User Area | Help

Browse by EEC No. 2092/91: (sorted according to original subsections): Find information about differences to other standards and comments on improvements of the existing regulation

Please select a topic to browse from the list below. (The number in brackets is the total number of eprints within that area.)

- **EC Council Regulation No. 2092/91 (714)**
 - Preamble and principles (5)
 - Scope - Art.1.3 (5)
 - Definitions - Art.4 (1)
 - Labelling and claims - Art.5 (20)
 - Rules of production and preparation - Art.6 (14)
 - Requirements for inclusion of substances in Annex II - Art.7
 - Inspection and certification system - Art.8.9 (1)
 - Inspection schemes and general enforcement measures - Art.10 (2)
 - Import from third countries - Art.11
 - Free movement and administrative provisions - Art.12.16 (3)
 - Annex I. Principles of organic production and processing (619)
 - A.Plant and plant products (206)
 - General principles - not in EC Reg (17)
 - Conversion - Annex I A1 (38)
 - Seeds and seedlings - see Art. 6a (12)
 - Fertilizing - Annex I A2 (72)
 - Plant pests and diseases, and weeds control - Annex I A3 (13)
 - Collection of wild plants - Annex I A4 (14)
 - Production of mushrooms - Annex I A5 (5)
 - Special plant production standards - not in EC Reg (54)
 - B.Livestock and livestock products - Annex I B (294)
 - General principles - Annex I B1 (6)
 - Conversion - Annex I B2 (40)
 - Origin of animals/livestock sources - Annex I B3 (15)
 - Animal feed/Animal nutrition - Annex I B4 (70)
 - Disease prevention and veterinary treatment/health care - Annex I B5 (26)
 - Animal husbandry, management, transport, identification of livestock products/slaughter - Annex I B6 (58)
 - Livestock manure - Annex I B7, see also Annex VII (24)
 - Housing and free-range conditions - Annex I B8, see also Annex VIII (76)
 - C.Beekeeping and beekeeping products (56)
 - General principles - Annex I C1
 - Conversion period - Annex I C2 (4)
 - Origin of the bees - Annex I C3 (6)
 - Siting of the apiaries - Annex I C4 (7)
 - Feed - Annex I C5 (5)
 - Disease prevention and veterinary treatments - Annex I C6 (3)
 - Husbandry management practises and identification - Annex I C7 (9)
 - Aquaculture - not in EC Reg (12)

Database Organic Rules – compare differences






All differences in one table - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Eiler Rediger Vis Foretrukne Funktioner Hjælp

Tilbage Søg Foretrukne Adresse <http://organicrules.org/differences.php?id=2aab> Hyperlinks

- EC Council Regulation No. 2092/91
 - Annex I. Principles of organic production and processing
 - A.Plant and plant products
 - **Conversion - Annex I A1**

[Go back to overview](#) [Go to complete documents for this section](#)

Title	Description	Difference between other standards and EEC 2092/91	Justification and Comments
Conversion period, plant production - EU Regulation 2005 <i>EEC 2092/91 rule text</i>	The conversion period lasts 2 years before sowing of the crop to be certified, or at least 3 years in case of perennial crops. (Annex 1, A. 1.1.)		
Conversion, retroactive approval - EU Regulation 2005 <i>EEC 2092/91 rule text</i>	Retroactive approval of the conversion period may occur if sufficient prove is given, that no substances not listed in parts A and B of Annex II have been used on the parcels in question. (Annex I, A, 1.2.)		
Contamination, preventing, contaminated areas - DE Bioland 2005 <i>Difference</i>	Areas that are contaminated with harmful substances from the environment or from previous use of the area cannot be used for the production of BIOLAND food products (Bioland article 3.2 Location and 7.10 Contamination tests).		The BIOLAND standard has an specific provision, which is not in the EU Regulation 2092/91, regarding the handling of contaminated areas, but there is just a general statement about the possibility for the authorities to prolonge the conversion period for certain areas taking into account the prior use. To guarantee the innocuousness of BIOLAND products.
Conversion period - CH Regulation/Ordinance 2005 <i>Difference</i>	The conversion period lasts 2 years, starting on January 1st. The Swiss Ordinance foresees the start for conversion only for January 1st of each calendar year and the application for conversion must be deposited by August 31st of the previous year (hereafter, no application of disallowed substances is allowed anymore). From January 1st of the first year of conversion, Swiss farms are allowed to market their produce with the claim 'in conversion to organic farming'		The Swiss Ordinance accepts a shorter conversion period for perennial crops than the EU Regulation 2092/91, which applies a zero year which leads to a total of 36 months in perennials and 24 months in annual crops. For reasons of credibility in the consumers eyes, the Swiss Ordinance strictly defines the beginning of conversion starting with the first year of inspection on the spot.
Conversion period - DE Naturland 2005 <i>Difference</i>	The conversion of a farm with all its farming units must be concluded at the latest five years after beginning the conversion period for the first of the units. (NL standards on production A.I.8.Approval)		The NATURLAND standard has additional requirements. There is no upward limit for the duration of the conversion period in the EU Regulation 2092/91. In order to make the whole farm conversion easier while considering the individual situation of a farm (i.e. economic viability, running contracts, crop rotation) it should not be necessary to convert the whole

Internet

Remarks to methodology I

- Source data for this analysis: 735 submissions from standards experts to the Organic Rules database
- 34 standards from 17 countries (incl. 3 Internat. Standards) End of Dec. 06 on the database;
- Description of differences by selected experts: (rule summary, the differences, justifications)
- Link to four IFOAM principles and subject area

Remarks to methodology II

- European private standards cannot be less restrictive than EU Regulation
- Implementation policies are not covered by the submissions

- ➔ Analysis focuses on production standards
- ➔ Additional sources are considered for implementation differences and impact analysis (consumer survey, etc.)
- ➔ Link to work on ethical principles/values and conflict areas (Report S. Padel et. al 2007)

Potential areas for harmonisation

What is meant by “harmonisation”?

Harmonisation was defined as a process to amend one standard or a group of standards in order to achieve equivalence among them, based on agreed common principles

Different levels of harmonisation:

- International level: EU <-> Codex, IFOAM, US
- National level: EU <-> governmental regulations for organic
- National level: EU <-> relevant private standards in Europe

When is harmonisation of organic standards on an EU level desirable?

1. When the broad consumer/public perception is negative:
2. When major competitive disadvantages do occur, this can create cost-advantages or disadvantages.
3. When organic principles are „violated“
4. When unprecise EU regulation creates insecurity and unequal implementation - rules for operators not clear => demotivation

Potential areas for simplification

What is meant by “simplification”?

In the context of this report:

The aim to reduce the wording in the EU Regulation 2092/91 to simple phrases, grouping related topics in one section, reducing derogations

Generally in the EU context it means: less detailed regulations

Potential areas for regional variation/regionalisation

What is meant by “regionalisation”?

- Possibility to simplify EU Regulation by applying organic principles adapted to local situation (consistency)
- linked to local constraints caused by geography, climate, structures or other governmental regulations as well as national support policies
- Attention to the risks:
Should not create consumer distrust, market distortion or violate the organic principles

Assumptions for analysis

- Many operators do not want more detailed or additional rules for organic production
- Harmonisation on EU level needed in fields, where the (EU internal) market does not function => principle of subsidiarity
- Harmonisation easier where many governmental regulations and private standards have already implemented stricter rules
- For private certification bodies differences are a potential for differentiation of their label!
=> conflict field with policy of EU commission

Quantitative analysis of differences related to EU Reg/country

(31. Dec. 06 www.organicrules.org)

A: EC Council Regulation No. 2092/91	714	B: Europe	619
Preamble and principles	5	Austria	46
Scope - Art.1-3	5	Czech Republic	29
Definitions - Art.4	1	Denmark	24
Labelling and claims - Art.5	20	Finland	24
Rules of production and preparation - Art.6	14	France	44
Requirements for inclusion of substances in Annex II - Art.7	-	Germany	135
Inspection and certification system - Art.8-9	1	Italy	12
Inspection schemes and general enforcement measures - Art.10	2	Norway	33
Import from third countries - Art.11	-	Poland	8
Free movement and administrative provisions - Art.12-16	-	Slovenia	11
Annex I. Principles of organic production and processing	3	Spain	12
Annex II. Permitted substances for the production of organic foods	619	Sweden	66
Annex III - Minimum inspection Requirements/precautionary measures	69	Switzerland	70
Annex IV. - Information to be notified	-	Netherlands	26
Annex V. Labelling	36	UK	78
Annex VI. Processing	2		
Annex VII. Maximum numbers of animals per ha	28		
Annex VIII. Minimum livestock surface areas indoor and outdoors	15		
	22		

In addition US NOP, Codex, IFOAM

Quantitative analysis of differences related to subject areas/principles

(31. Dec. 06 www.organicrules)

C: Subject Areas	683		D: IFOAM's principles of organic agriculture	683
Animal husbandry	248		Ecological principle	269
Collection from the wild (plants and animals)	15		Principle of care /precaution	251
Conversion	59		Principle of fairness	262
Crop production	121		Principle of health	382
Definitions	3			
Environmental care/environmental impact	87			
Fibre production	4			
General areas of Organic Agriculture	38			
Horticulture	56			
Inspection and certification	14			
Labelling provisions	22			
Perennial crops	22			
Permitted inputs (positive lists)	41			
Pollution risks/non permitted inputs	58			
Processing	48			
Renewable resources	3			
Social justice and fair trade	9			
Specific animal standards	113			

Type of differences in plant production

Differences between selected standards and EU Reg. 2092/91 – in plant production

DIFFERENCES	No. diff.	Description of main differences	Main differences on which level:			Main Justification
			Int. (3)	Nat. Gov (10)*	Nat. priv (21)*	
MAIN AREAS		Issues:				
Labelling	20	- No 70%-95 category - Non-food labelling	= 0/+	= 0	+ +	Consumer
Conversion plant production	37	- Conversion period - Full farm conversion	- =	= +	++ ++	Consumer
Seeds and seedlings	12	- Database, derogation system - No hybrids in cereals	- =	+ =	+ +	Trade Principle
Fertilising	70	- Fertilisation intensity - Manure - Crop rotation - Restrictions for certain fertilisers	- = = =	= + = =	++ + ++ ++	Principles, national legislation

Abbreviations: Int. International (Codex, IFOAM) * no. of countries

More detailed or stricter/new rule: + few countries ++ several countries (3-4)

+++ many countries (>5) = rules are similar to EU Regulation 2092/91 - means less detailed or less requirements means not covered No. diff Number of differences (Dec 2006)

Type of differences plant production II

Differences between selected standards and EU Reg. 2092/91 – in plant production

DIFFERENCES	No. diff.	Description of main differences	Main differences on which level:			Justification
			Int. (3)	Nat. Gov (10)*	Nat. priv (21)*	
MAIN AREAS		Issues:				
Pest and disease control	13	- Steam sterilisation - Restricted or forbidden substances	= =	= ++	++ ++	Principles, National legislation
Collection of wild plants	14	- More detailed requirements	+	=	+++	Ecological principles
Greenhouse and perennials	54	- Use of energy in greenhouses - Soil coverage,	= =	= =	+ ++	Ecological principles

Abbreviations: Int. International (Codex, IFOAM) * no. of countries

More detailed or stricter/new rule: + few countries ++ several countries (3-4)

+++ many countries (>5) = rules are similar to EU Regulation 2092/91 - means less detailed or less requirements
0 means not covered No. diff Number of differences (Dec 2006)

Type of differences in livestock area

Differences between selected standards and EU Reg. 2092/91 in the area of livestock

DIFFERENCES	No. diff.	Description of main differences	Main differences on which level:			Main justification
			Int. (3)	Nat. Gov (10)*	Nat. priv (21)*	
IN MAIN AREAS		Issues:				
Conversion animals	40	Conversion period Full farm conversion	= =/+	= +	+++ +++	Credibility
Animal origin	15	Brought in animals	=	=	+	Risk of BSE
Animal feed/Animal nutrition	70	Conventional feed Roughage requirement Feed additives Milk for off-springs	= = = =	= = = =	+++ ++ + +	Precaution Ecology Precaution Ecology
Livestock housing/behaviour	58	Housing Physical operations Transport	= = +	= + +	++ ++ ++	Animal welfare Animal welfare Animal welfare
Aquaculture	12	Specific fish standards	-	+	+++	Animal welfare
Processing	9 28	Methods Additives	+ ++	= +	+ +	Care Principle Precaution

Abbreviations: Int. International (Codex, IFOAM) * no. of countries

More detailed or stricter/new rule: + few countries ++ several countries (3-4)

+++ many countries (>5) = rules are similar to EU Regulation 2092/91 - means less detailed or less requirements
0 means not covered No. diff Number of differences (Dec 2006)

Qualitative analysis of the justifications for differences

- 1. Specific national legislation, support policies**
- 2. Specific concerns of consumer or other stakeholder groups (public perception)**
- 3. Livestock area: possibility to have differing stricter rules based on EU Regulation**
- 4. Specific regional/national circumstances**
 - Climate, Market development stage,
 - historical reasons how standards developed
- 5. Issues which are not exactly defined in the EU regulation (lack of criteria)**
- 6. Areas, which the EU regulation 2092/91 does not cover at all**

Potentials for harmonisation, simplification & regionalisation I

Differences between selected standards and EU Regulation 2092/91, their impact and potential for harmonisation, simplification and regionalisation (End of December 2006)

DIFFERENCES	No. of differences	Impact on/conflicts with:			Potential for:		
		Cons.	Trade	Org Princ.	Harm	Simp	Reg
IN MAIN AREAS	(No of countries, total 17)						
Labelling	20 (7)	++	++	+	yes	yes	no
Conversion plant prod.	37 (11)	+	++	+	yes	yes	yes
Seeds and seedlings	12 (3)	-	++	++	yes	yes	yes
Fertilising	70 (11)	+	++	++	yes	yes	yes
Pest and disease control	13 (7)	++	++	++	yes	no	yes
Collection of wild plants	14 (7)	++	+	++	yes	no	no
Greenhouse / perennials	54 (7)	-	++	+	yes	no	yes

Abbreviations: Cons. = consumers; Trade = Trade distortion; Org Princ. = Organic Principles Harm = Harmonisation; Simp = Simplification; Reg = Regionalisation

Impact on /conflicts with: - none + minor ++ strong

Potentials for harmonisation, simplification & regionalisation II

Differences between selected standards and EU Regulation 2092/91, their impact and potential for harmonisation, simplification and regionalisation (End of December 2006)

DIFFERENCES	No. of differences (countries no. ,total 17)	Impact on/conflicts with:			Potential for:		
		Cons.	Trade	Org Princ.	Harm	Simp	Reg
Conversion animals	40 (11)	-	+	+	yes	no	no
Origin of animals	15 (6)	+	+	+	partly	no	no
Animal feed/nutrition	70 (12)	++	++	++	yes	yes	yes
Animal husbandry transport	58 (10)	+	+	+	no	no	no
Aquaculture	12 (8)	+	+	+	yes	no	no
Processing	32 (10)	++	++	+	yes	no	yes
Soil and water conservation	13 (8)	+	+	++	yes	no	yes
Biodiversity / landscape	16 (6)	+	++	++	yes	no	yes
Contamination	15 (8)	++	++	++	yes	no	yes

Abbreviations: Cons. = consumers; Trade = Trade distortion; Org Princ. = Organic Principles Harm = Harmonisation; Simp = Simplification; Reg = Regionalisation

Impact on /conflicts with: - none + minor ++ strong

Feedback to recommendations I

- **Labelling**

- simplification by deleting the of 95-70 % ingredients category
- already foreseen in the new draft EU Reg

Seed

- Harmonisation of authorisation system and reporting (comparable data) within EU
- problems in third countries with availability, regional flexibility rules to be applied?

Feedback to recommendations II

- **Fertilization**
 - simplification by limiting overall intensity
 - EU level and regionalisation issue
- **Collection of wild plants**
 - more precise sustainability criteria for collection
- **Brought in animals**
 - 10 % rule for breeding instead of 20 %
- **Housing details, free range**
 - No clear picture from database, Specific recommendations of the SAFO network (www.safonetwork.org)

Feedback to recommendations III

- **Feeding:**

- Feeds listed in Annex II C further restrictions
- limititit derogation to some high value protein sources – more transparency (data) needed
- Derogations handled on Member state level (clear rules, common report criteria)

- **Processing**

- Harmonisation of list of additives and processing on EU level and worldwide.
- Processing methods only minimal principles – left to the private sector (recommendation EU QLIF Project)

Feedback to recommendations IV

- **Biodiversity (and other natural resources):**
 - Harmonisation: minimum criteria as a frame for different regional implementation
- **Contamination with pesticides/GMO**
 - Harmonisation of prevention measures
 - Common monitoring procedures

Conclusions I

- Variations between EU-Reg and other standards
 - not in basic/fundamental requirements
 - in technical details
 - in implementation (due to flexible/soft criteria)
- Regionalization
 - allows more precise and adapted provisions
 - risk of too strong variations (e.g. seeds, feed, fertilization)
 - Has to be counterbalanced with clear criteria
- Simplification
 - Better structure/wording is possible
 - reducing derogations (e.g. conversion period on one place)

Conclusions II

- **Harmonization**
 - **Codex, IFOAM**
 - usually more general due to its nature as basic standard/guideline
 - indications for simplification
 - e.g. conversion period
 - **private regional/national standards**
 - indications for potential to reduce derogations
 - e.g. seed, feed
- **US NOP**
 - different concept
 - conflict with organic principles and private European standards

Final Remarks

- **Focus more on fields** where consumers and the public has high expectations: food quality, GMO biodiversity, environmental orientation, social standards.
- **Not primarily more rules** are necessary but supporting activities to avoid differences in implementation
- **Equivalence** and **sustainability** should be the two main goals, rather than identical rules and standards.

New EU regulation – the challenge to find the right balance!



Thank you for your attention

Thanks to EU commission and Swiss Government for support + experts

Time plan

- **Discussion of results at Biofach February 2007**
- **Feedback to draft report until 25th of February 2007**
- **Final official report End of February 2007**

More information: see Websites:

www.organic-revision.org

And

www.organicrules.org