**GB import controls for organic turmeric imported from India**

The information below is taken from guidance issued by Defra to GB certification bodies.

Following a review of recent irregularity cases, Defra has concluded that increased control and reporting measures are necessary for certain imported products before export and on arrival in Great Britain.

Defra is implementing additional controls on organic turmeric (in fresh, dried or powdered form) imported under CN codes 0910 30 00 for 12 months starting from 18 March 2024. This will apply to shipments arriving in GB after 18 March 2024.

Defra will continue to monitor the irregularity notifications and take further action if deemed appropriate, including extending the duration of the additional controls if required.

This guidance note sets out the additional official control measures for turmeric and how it will be implemented in Great Britain (GB).

In instances where the product is downgraded by the certification body in the country of origin, the product must be downgraded in Great Britain. Defra cannot override this decision.

**Action:**

Sampling of organic turmeric product will be initiated by Ports on arrival at the Border Control Post (BCP). Ports will take samples of the imported consignment and organise testing.

The BCP will only endorse the Certificate of Inspection to allow these consignments to be put on the market as an organic product when the sampling and testing has been concluded with satisfactory results.

The cost of sampling will be borne by importers.

**Sampling and analysing for presence of pesticide residues**

Sampling shall be done by using the methods described in Retained Commission Regulation EU (No) 691/2013 on the sampling methods to be used for official control of feed and RetainedCouncil Directive2002/63/ECestablishing methods of sampling for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin**.**

Analysis of these samples for the presence of pesticide residues shall be conducted in a laboratory accredited to the analytical methods used. A broad range of pesticides should be tested for.

All contaminated turmeric products must be placed on hold pending the outcome of a CB-led investigation to establish the origin of the contamination and a decision on maintenance of the product’s organic status.

Contaminated turmeric products may only be used or placed on the market after a CB-led investigation has determined the contamination is below the MRL and was technically unavoidable. However, the product may be placed on the market without indication referring to the organic production method if it is compliant with the relevant other horizontal legal requirements. The importer shall immediately inform the control body or authority if any irregularities are detected.

**Action to take by Control bodies:**

Where non-permitted substances are detected the lot must be placed on hold and an investigation initiated.

Control Bodies must ensure that all products contaminated shall be downgraded, including all positive results above the limit of quantification (LOQ) of pesticides; unless the CB-led investigation has concluded the contamination was technically unavoidable.

Information on cases of irregularities or infringements are to be immediately communicated between the control bodies, competent authorities and countries concerned. The control body must inform Defra of the details.

Products having results above Maximum Residue Level (MRL) must be reported to CRDEnforcement@hse.gov.uk, Chemicals Regulation Division, Health & Safety Executive for advice. Please note that if an analysis result indicates the MRL has been breached, goods must not be marketed.

**Action on outcome of test results**

Once the importer obtains the test results from the laboratory, they must report the results to their control body for approval to release the product for use or for sale as organic, or where contamination is detected for further action.

When pesticide residues or other substances not permitted for use in organic production are detected, the lot must be placed on hold and an investigation shall be started by the importer’s control body and Defra should be informed.

The CB will not allow any part of the product to be marketed as organic pending the satisfactory outcome of a CB-led investigation. The cost of removal and/or redistribution of the product will be the responsibility of the importer.