

October 14, 2024

Dear entrepreneur,

On 16 July, we informed you that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LVVN), the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA), the Quality Control Bureau (KCB), the Customs Administration of the Netherlands and Skal will be phasing in changes to the import control of organic consignments in the coming period to align with EU laws and regulations. We wish to inform you that this month we are initiating the first phase for managing concurrent consignments.

What are concurrent consignments?

Concurrent consignments involve Skal checking the organic status while NVWA assesses the consignments for food safety and/or plant and animal health.

Important for importers and logistics service providers managing concurrent consignments

Formally, as of 28 October 2024, the sequence of inspection steps in concurrent consignments will change. The COI will have to be completed before the CHED, after which both documents will be automatically linked in Traces.

How will these changes affect you?

1. As of 28 October, you will be required to state the document code C644 and your COI number with your advance declaration in VGC and/or CLIENT.
2. While you were already required to provide and update the full COI during the import process, as of 28 October Skal will start checking this **earlier in the process** and **more thoroughly** than you were previously accustomed to.

This new working method requires you to ensure accurate record-keeping. To avoid delays in your logistics process, we urge you to update your internal work processes by 28 October and inform your colleagues and logistics service providers accordingly.

Please note: If you NEVER need to declare your consignments in VGC and/or CLIENT then – at this stage – only point 2 is relevant for you.

Working instructions

Brief instructions along with additional information are provided in the annex. If you have any questions, please email them to Skal's Import Department at **import@skal.nl** or call **+31 (0)38-426 81 65**. Further relevant information for you and your colleagues can also be found on the websites of Skal, NVWA and the Customs Administration of the Netherlands.

Next steps

Several additional modifications to the import controls on organic consignments are planned for the coming period. We will ensure you are regularly updated on the next steps and our assessments of potential problems and opportunities. Please do not hesitate to contact Skal's Import Department if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Henk Tolman
Manager Import



Working instructions for concurrent organic consignments

Step 1: Updated and full COI in TRACES

A consignment can only leave a third country as an organic consignment if the inspection body in that third country has issued a COI.

Before submitting the advance declaration to the NVWA in CLIENT and/or VGC, you must ensure the information in the [COI is correct](#). As of 28 October, the COI will be processed earlier in the process, highlighting the importance of timely COI completion.

Step 2: COI number with organic document code in advance declaration to NVWA

In your advance declaration to NVWA in CLIENT and/or VGC, be sure to enter the COI number and the organic document code C644 (organic product certificate of inspection). NVWA will create a message to Skal upon receipt of the advance declaration. Skal can then endorse the COI before NVWA finalises the CHED in TRACES.

Please include the COI number and document code in your CLIENT and/or VGC advance declaration, just as you currently would.

Step 3: Declaration for Release for Free Circulation with COI number and document code

Once the COI has been endorsed by Skal and the CHED finalised by NVWA, you can submit the declaration for release for free circulation to the Customs Administration. Make sure when submitting the declaration for release for free circulation to follow the standard procedure for declaration, i.e. by including document code C644 and the COI number.

Please note that it is no longer possible to alter the COI once it has been endorsed in box 30. As a result, among other things box 24 can no longer be altered, meaning the consignment cannot be divided into extracts. The first consignee also can no longer be altered.

Please note: The NVWA checks whether there is an endorsed COI upon completion of the CHED inspection. Has the COI not yet been endorsed? In that case, the COI will still be reviewed by the Customs Administration *after* completion of the CHED, provided that the code C644 has been passed on to the Customs Administration.

In this way, the organic status is maintained and delays in the process are avoided.

Explanation of terms used	
Review	Verification of COI
COI	Certificate of Inspection
CHED	Common Health Entry Documents (CHED)
Concurrent consignment	Consignments where both organic and food safety and plant and animal health inspection take place