

ANNEX 7-B

ORGANIC PRODUCTS

1. This Annex shall apply to a Party if that Party adopts or maintains technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures that relate to the production, processing or labelling of products as organic for sale or distribution within its territory.
2. Each Party is encouraged to take steps to:
 - (a) exchange information on matters that relate to organic production, certification of organic products, and related control systems; and
 - (b) cooperate with the other Party to develop, improve and strengthen international guidelines, standards and recommendations that relate to trade in organic products.
3. If a Party maintains a requirement that relates to the production, processing or labelling of products as organic, it shall enforce that requirement.
4. Each Party is encouraged to consider, as expeditiously as possible, a request from the other Party for recognition or equivalence of a technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures that relates to the production, processing, or labelling of products of the other Party as organic. Each Party is encouraged to accept as equivalent or recognise the technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures that relate to the production, processing or labelling of products of the other Party as organic, if the Party is satisfied that the technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures of the other Party adequately fulfils the objectives of the Party's technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures. If a Party does not accept as equivalent or recognise the technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures that relate to the production, processing, or labelling of products of the other Party as organic, it shall, on request of the other Party, explain its reasons.
5. Each Party is encouraged to participate in technical exchanges to support improvement and greater alignment of technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures that relate to the production, processing or labelling of products as organic.