



MARKET ACCESS ADVICE

Reference Number: MAA 2013-03
Date of Issue: 18 December 2013
Date of Effect: Immediate

Title: Republic of Korea – Status of equivalence negotiations

Attention	Industries	Approved Certifying Organisations Organic Operators	
Affected Markets		Republic of Korea	
Further Information		Name: Steven Martin Email: Steven.Martin@daff.gov.au Phone: 02 6272 3101	Name: Lynda Hayden Email: Lynda.Hayden@daff.gov.au Phone: 02 6272 5910
OR Please contact exports@daff.gov.au if you have any queries.			

Further to MAA2013-02, the Department of Agriculture (the department) provides the following update on the status of equivalence negotiations with the Republic of Korea in relation to new requirements being implemented on 1 January 2014 for the import into Korea of processed and semi processed certified organic products:

While the department has provided an equivalence submission to Korea in accordance with Korean requirements, we understand it is unlikely that an equivalence determination will be achieved prior to 1 January 2014.

To alleviate trade disruptions in the event equivalence recognition is not achieved prior to 1 January 2014, the department has, on several occasions, requested trade be allowed to continue using the current labelling system until equivalence negotiations are finalised. Despite follow up, a response to these requests has not been received.

In the absence of equivalence recognition arrangements or an agreement to continue to use the current labelling system, any organic producer or certifying organisation that wishes to export processed and semi processed organic food to Korea on or after 1 January 2014 will be required to be approved by the Korean Government through an individual (commercial level) conformity assessment arrangement..

The department continues to seek clarification on the status of market access negotiations and on the scope of products which may be affected. Industry will be kept informed of any further progress on this matter as a matter of priority.

Please direct any enquiries regarding this matter to the contacts listed above.

The information provided above is current at the time of writing and is intended for use as guidance only and should not be taken as definitive or exhaustive. The Commonwealth endeavours to keep information current and accurate, however, it may be subject to change without notice. Exporters are encouraged to verify these details with their importers prior to undertaking production/exports. The Commonwealth will not accept liability for any loss resulting from reliance on information contained in this notice.