

**Introduction**

Imports of organic products to the EU or Switzerland need to be accompanied by a Certificate of Inspection (COI), confirming that the product has been produced in accordance with organic production rules equivalent to the EU organic regulations. It is issued by the certification body of the operator performing the last operation of preparation on a lot (preservation, processing, packaging, labeling, sealing the goods in packaging or containers). Brokers, who do not physically handle the product, are not considered as “exporters”. COIs are issued in the EU online tool Traces, and endorsed by electronic signature. The COI must be available before the consignment leaves the country of export. Consignments for which ones no COI is endorsed before the product leaves the country of export, may not be customs’ cleared as organic in the EU (Reg. (EU) 2021/2306, Article 3.2.) or Switzerland. In the EU, one COI is requested for each consignment (according to Reg. (EU) 2021/2306, Article 2(1) ‘consignment’ means a quantity of products under one or more Combined Nomenclature codes, covered by a single certificate of inspection, conveyed by the same means of transport and imported from the same third country).

The same is valid for exports to Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), but COIs are not issued in Traces, but as signed pdf file.

For organic imports to the US, there is no general requirement for COIs in the NOP. However, some importers may request it as a quality assurance tool. Further, the NOP requires it for certain products from certain countries (as described in chapter 1).

**Chapter 1, Documents needed to request a COI**

For all requests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request form 24_054, please find it on our webpage, <a href="#">Request for Issuance of a COI</a></li> <li>Sales invoice</li> <li>Delivery note (outgoing goods)</li> <li>Seal list (if applicable)</li> </ul>												
Additionally, for sales of purchased products, bought from a producer certified by bio.inspecta:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invoice (incoming goods)</li> <li>Delivery note (incoming goods)</li> </ul>												
Additionally, for sales of purchased products, bought from a producer certified by another certification body:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid certificate – supplier listed in the data sheet/OSP</li> <li>Invoice (incoming goods)</li> <li>Delivery note (incoming goods)</li> <li>Domestic Transaction Certificate (issued by the certification body of the supplier)</li> </ul>												
<p>Additionally (from 01.07.22 onwards), for exports to the EU, UK and Switzerland: for a minimum of 10% of all consignments for the following products (also valid for products originating from these countries, exported through an operator in another country to the EU):</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Country</th> <th style="text-align: left;">CN codes</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Product</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bolivia</td> <td>1207 40 90</td> <td>sesame seeds</td> </tr> <tr> <td>China</td> <td>0910 11 00 0910 12 00</td> <td>ginger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>China</td> <td>1202 41 00 1202 42 00</td> <td>peanuts</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Country	CN codes	Product	Bolivia	1207 40 90	sesame seeds	China	0910 11 00 0910 12 00	ginger	China	1202 41 00 1202 42 00	peanuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on sampling/ analysis is assessed. <b>Refer to chapter 3.</b></li> <li>The percentage is calculated for each concerned product of each concerned operator for the period between 01.07.22-31.12.22. <b>Sampling/ analysis is compulsory before the first COI after 01.07.22 is issued.</b></li> <li>Time needed between ordering sampling and receipt of analysis results is at least 2 weeks. bio.inspecta informs you once analysis results are received.</li> <li>Submit the request for COI 25_054 in time once information is available.</li> </ul>
Country	CN codes	Product											
Bolivia	1207 40 90	sesame seeds											
China	0910 11 00 0910 12 00	ginger											
China	1202 41 00 1202 42 00	peanuts											

China	1207 99 96 1207 99 97 10	pumpkin kernels
Dominican Republic	1801 00 00	cocoa beans
Ecuador	0803 90 10	bananas
Ethiopia	1207 40 90	sesame seeds
Honduras	0901 11 00	coffee
India	0910 11 00 0910 12 00	ginger
India	1302 32 90	guar gum
India	1207 40 90	sesame seeds
India	1211 90 86	psyllium husks
India	2304 00 00	soybean cake
India	0910 30 00 1302 19 70	turmeric
Kazakhstan	1204 00 90	flax seeds
Kazakhstan	1206 00 99	sunflower seeds
Kazakhstan	1201 90 00	soya beans
Paraguay	1207 99 96	chia seeds
Peru	0804 40 00 0804 40 00 10	avocado
Peru	0803 90 10	bananas
Peru	1801 00 00	cocoa beans
Peru	0910 11 00 0910 12 00	ginger
Peru	0804 50 00 0804 50 00 20	mango
Russian Federation	1205 10 90 1205 90 00	rapeseed
Sierra Leone	1801 00 00	cocoa beans
Sri Lanka	0904 11 00	pepper
Togo	1201 90 00	soya beans
Turkey	0713 40 00	lentils
Turkey	0709-0712 <i>Comment bio.inspecta: all oregano will be considered, also if CN code 091099 is being used.</i>	oregano
Turkey	0806 20 30 0806 20 90	raisins
Turkey	1207 40 90	sesame seeds
Turkey	0811 10 90 2008.80.90	strawberries
Turkey	1001 19 00	wheat durum

- COIs shall accompany the goods, and shall be issued before the shipment leaves the country of origin or export (refer to administrative information below, about time needed to issue a COI).

Vietnam	0801 32 00	cashew nuts kernels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on sampling/analysis is assessed. <b>Refer to chapter 3.</b> Time needed between ordering sampling and receipt of analysis results is at least 2 weeks</li> <li>• Submit the request for COI 25_054 in time once the documents are available.</li> <li>• Phytosanitary certificate</li> </ul>
<p>Additionally, for exports to the US of <b>grain, oil seeds, and products of these (like sunflower meal)</b> from <b>Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, or Ukraine:</b></p> <p><i>Please mind that APHIS requires fumigation at the border for certain commodities. This will lead to a declassification of the products. For certain commodities APHIS prohibits the import at all. This list changes very often. Therefore bio.inspecta recommends to clarify the current situation with the buyer in the USA.</i></p>			

**Chapter 2, COI issuing procedure**

For all requests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit the request form 24_054 together with relevant documents. In order to ensure that the COI is issued before the consignment leaves the country, it may be issued based on draft transport papers (valid for COIs issued in Traces).</li> <li>• Submit original transport papers as soon as they are available, but within 10 days from the issuance of the COI and, in any case, before customs clearing in the EU or Switzerland (valid for COIs issued in Traces).</li> </ul>
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**Chapter 3, Additional requirements for countries/ products where analysis results are required**

For concerned export consignments, bio.inspecta must take a representative sample. Sampling explicitly is required to be done by the certification body (or by an independent third party surveyor contracted by the certification body respectively), not by the operator. The samples must be analysed and assessed prior to issuing the requested COI (depending on the products on different unallowed substances). The sampling needs to be done at the place in the country where the last handling (e.g. packing of big bags, loading of bulk) takes place. It needs to be done during or immediately before loading, in order to eliminate the risk of contamination after sampling. For each sales consignment, one sampling is needed.

Please note that sampling is done according to Reg. (EU) 691/2013.

The analysis result will be sent to bio.inspecta with a copy to the customer. The invoice of the sampling/ analysing institute is received by the client.

**How to request sampling and analysis:**

Request sampling at bio.inspecta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order sampling at bio.inspecta with request form 25_053, please find it on our webpage, <a href="#">Request for Export Consignment Sampling</a> (please contact bio.inspecta to chose among our partner surveyors and laboratories).</li> </ul>
If there are justified reasons, why sampling at the place of final handling is not possible, the following is required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justification why this is not feasible</li> <li>• Confirmation that the operator engages an independent third party surveyor (GAFTA member), to do additional sampling during final loading at port (aim is to have a sample available</li> </ul>

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	<p>for analysis in case there would be any finding of residues during import)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The reports of the surveyor (sampling, inspection, photo) are submitted to bio.inspecta as soon as they are received (may be after issuing the COI)</li></ul>
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**Administrative information**

All applications for COIs should arrive at international@bio-inspecta.ch.

On weekdays, COIs are issued

- the same day if complete application arrives prior 12.00am (CET)
- the next day if complete application arrives later than 12.00am (CET)
- no COIs are issued on Saturday and Sunday
- incomplete requests will be returned to sender with the request to complete

Sampling, transport of samples and analysis usually takes 10 to 14 days (depending on possible detection of substances, the laboratory's procedure may take longer). Laboratories offer express services at extra charge.

**Please provide your COI requests as timely as possible, in order to ensure that COIs are issued before the product leaves the country of origin or export, and to have sufficient time, if any clarifications are needed before issuing the COI.**