

IOFGA Labelling Guidelines

Getting food labelling correct is technical and time consuming. But when labels on retail products are printed incorrectly there can be enormous financial and legal implications, regardless of whether the product is being sold at a farmers market or in a large retail chain. However, the main concern is that all information about the food is clearly legible to ensure that the consumer can make an informed choice regarding the items they purchase and that they are not misled in any way.

As an IOFGA licence holder you are only permitted to market and sell organic products covered by your IOFGA licence. It is the policy of IOFGA to exercise control over the ownership, use and display of licences, certificates and the IOFGA logo/symbol. No operator is permitted to use the IOFGA logo on any packaging/labelling until they receive full organic status. All labels/packaging must be forwarded to IOFGA for prior approval. Licence holders shall only make use of claims regarding certification in respect of the scope for which certification has been awarded, as specified on the certificate. On applying to IOFGA the new applicant is requested to sign a certification agreement. The IOFGA Logo remains the property of IOFGA at all times and may only be used by valid licence holders.

This document aims to help IOFGA licence holders ensure that their products are labelled in compliance with European organic legislation and the **IOFGA Organic Food and Farming Standards in Ireland**.

- In the first instance, all food processors should consult and become familiar with the most up to date general food labelling and food information legislation. This is available from the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, www.fsai.ie, and their various Labelling Guidelines documents can be obtained (in hard copy or by download) free of charge. *You should be aware that the EU Food Information to Consumers Regulations (Regulation 1169/2011) are applicable since 13th December 2014.* Some of the new requirements of this Regulation include the introduction of a minimum font size for mandatory information, allergen labelling for foods sold unpackaged, labelling requirements regarding foodstuffs sold via the internet, country of origin labelling and it also introduces mandatory nutrition labelling for many pre-packaged foodstuffs. The link below will direct you to the appropriate web location.
https://www.fsai.ie/legislation/food_legislation/food_information_fic/food_information-fic.html
- Secondly, all operators labelling their produce and/or involved in food/feed processing should consult section **6.03** of the **IOFGA Organic Food and Farming Standards in Ireland**. Here you will be given detailed instruction on the conditions for labelling organic food and feed products, including the use of the EU organic logo, its size and colour and additional compulsory indications. The EU logo can be downloaded from the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/downloads/logo/index_en.htm
- Clients are **required** to send drafts of all new labels/packaging to IOFGA for approval prior to going to print (Standard Ref. 6.02.05) – this will help reduce the chance of costly errors. You will receive communication in writing as to the status of your label review. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that your labels comply with the general labelling legislation. When IOFGA approve a label, they are merely stating that the organic section of the label is in compliance with the IOFGA Standards and IOFGA cannot be held responsible for any costs incurred by you in the printing of errant labels nor for any breaches of labelling legislation on your part.
- We have generated some helpful examples of retail food product labels to demonstrate the requirements set out in section 6.03 (although these examples do not necessarily incorporate all of the requirements of the general labelling legislation such as storage instructions, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine approval numbers, nutritional information etc.).

Example 1.

Here are two **correct** sample labels for the same product. This product is not 100% organic, and the ingredients come from different parts of the world. However, the packer is licenced by IOFGA. The dried raspberries are not available as organic and are listed in paragraph 6.05.22 of the IOFGA Standards as being permitted for use as conventional.

Irish Homes Organic Muesli

Ingredients: Organic **Oat** Flakes (**gluten**), Organic Jumbo **Oats** (**gluten**), Organic Sultanas, Organic Raisins, Organic Malted **Barley** Flakes (**gluten**), Organic Dried Banana Flakes, Organic Sugar, Organic Palm Oil, Organic Chopped Apricots, Dried Raspberries, Organic Ground Spices, Salt.

500g
Irish Home Products, 1 Main Street,
Newtown, Co. Westmeath.



IE-ORG-02
EU/Non-EU Agriculture



Licence No. 9999
Certified Organic

Irish Homes Organic Muesli

Ingredients:
***Oat** Flakes (**gluten**), ***Jumbo Oats** (**gluten**), ***Sultanas**, ***Raisins**, ***Malted Barley** Flakes (**gluten**), ***Dried Banana** Flakes, ***Sugar**, ***Palm Oil**, ***Chopped Apricots**, **Dried Raspberries**, ***Ground Spices**, **Salt**.
***Certified Organic Ingredients**

500g
Irish Home Products, 1 Main Street,
Newtown, Co. Westmeath.



IE-ORG-02
EU/Non-EU Agriculture



Licence No. 9999
Certified Organic

Example 2.

These two **correct** labels are for the same product. The only ingredient is tea which is not of agricultural origin in the EU and hence the use of the EU organic logo is optional, even though the product is packed in the EU (i.e. in Ireland).

Irish Homes Organic Tea

Ingredients: Organic Tea Leaves
Product of India
500g
Packed in Ireland by Irish Home
Products, 1 Main Street, Newtown,
Co. Westmeath.



IE-ORG-02
Licence No. 9999
Certified Organic

Irish Homes Organic Tea

Ingredients: Organic Tea Leaves
Product of India
500g
Packed in Ireland by Irish Home
Products, 1 Main Street, Newtown,
Co. Westmeath.



IE-ORG-02
Non EU Agriculture



Licence No. 9999
Certified Organic

Example 3.

This sample milk label is 100% Irish and so the agricultural origin under the EU organic logo can be stated as “Ireland Agriculture”. However, it could also be stated as “IE Agriculture” or “EU Agriculture” without misleading the consumer in any way.

Irish Homes Fresh Organic Milk

Ingredients: Milk

500ml
Irish Home Products, 1 Main Street,
Newtown, Co. Westmeath.



IE-ORG-02
Ireland Agriculture

Licence No. 9999
Certified Organic

Example 4.

This product contains some organic ingredients, but not enough to enable it to be labelled organic in its product description or name (i.e. the percentage organic ingredients is <95%). The additives used are permitted (they are listed in paragraph 6.05.21 of the IOFGA Standards) and hence the reference to organic production of the relevant ingredients can be made. Note that neither the IOFGA logo nor the EU organic logo can be used in this instance, but the certification body code for IOFGA (IE-ORG-02) must be used to demonstrate that the product and processor are subject to inspection and are not making unsubstantiated claims regarding the organic status of their ingredients.

Irish Homes Wholemeal Bread

Ingredients:
*Wholemeal **Wheatflour (gluten)**,
*White **Wheatflour (gluten)**,
Buttermilk (milk), Raising agent –
bicarbonate of soda, salt.
*Certified Organic Ingredients, total
50%

500g
Irish Home Products, 1 Main Street,
Newtown, Co. Westmeath.

IE-ORG-02
Licence No. 9999

Example 5.

Although fish products are produced under what is termed Aquaculture, the origin is still stated as Agriculture. In this instance, the fish has been farmed in Ireland hence the term “Ireland Agriculture”. Although the sea salt has not come from Europe, it is not of agricultural origin and hence no reference to its origin is required.

Irish Homes Organic Smoked Salmon

Ingredients: Organic Atlantic **Salmon**
(*Salmo salar*) (**fish**), sea salt.

Organically farmed in Ireland.

500g
Irish Home Products, 1 Main Street,
Newtown, Co. Westmeath.



IE-ORG-02
Ireland Agriculture

Licence No. 9999
Certified Organic