



## KOREAN NOTIFICATION

### Notification regarding market access for the NASAA Certified products to Korea

Background: After being postponed twice in three years, the Korea Organic Regulations are scheduled to become mandatory on 01 January 2014 and will require all imports to be directly certified to the Korea Standards.

On 1 January 2014, new requirements for the import of processed and semi processed organic products into Korea are set to be introduced. These requirements are being introduced in accordance with Korea's amended *Act on Promotion of Eco-Friendly Agriculture and Management of Organic Products* ("the Act").

There are three avenues for market access for products certified to the National Standards for Organic and Biodynamic Produce to Korea.

#### 1. Country to Country Equivalence arrangement

The Department of Agriculture is hoping equivalence recognition arrangements will be achieved and recognised from 1 January 2014, or that the Korean Government will allow for trade to continue using the current labelling system until equivalence negotiations are finalised. The department has issued two notices (as attached) to update the certifiers on the progress of these negotiations. So far, the department has not received a confirmation from the Korean government.

#### 2. Approval by the Korean Government to NASAA Certified Organic

Any organic producer or certifying organisation that wishes to export 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 by the end of 2013.

#### 3. Certification association with Korean certification body

NCO has to create an association with one of the Korean certification bodies to facilitate the inspection and certification processes for NASAA Certified operators.

NCO has been working on all three options for the last 6 months. We started the process of direct accreditation in 2010, however could not complete the process due to forthcoming changes by the Korean Government. Unfortunately, we could not successfully establish a market access pathway. We would like to assure you that we will keep working on this persistently so that we get market access for NASAA certified products.

#### Options available to NASAA Certified Operator

1. Inform your importer of the current situation and wait until the equivalence arrangements are confirmed. AQIS/Department of Agriculture requested the following information:

- Shipments of certified Australian products will arrive in Korea on, or after, 1 January 2014. This export information might be used by the Department to facilitate access if shipments are detained on or after this implementation date.

Please send this information to the NASAA Office

2. Seek Korean market access certification through a certifier holding Korean market access.

Please let us know how you would like to progress.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. We will update you as soon as we have further updates available.

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