Certificates Of Inspection (C.O.I) through TRACES

New EU rules announced that from October 19th 2017, organic imports from outside the EU need to be covered by a Certificate of Inspection (C.O.I.) through TRACES.

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1. Definitions

Exporter: The operator exporting the products from the country of export. The exporter is the operator performing the last operation for the purposes of preparation as defined in art 2(i) of EU Reg. 834/2007 on the products to be imported and sealing the products in appropriate packaging or containers.

Importer: natural or legal person within the EU who presents the consignment for release for free circulation into the Union, either on its own, or through a representative.

First consignee: natural or legal person where the consignment is delivered and where it will be handled for further preparation and/or marketing.

Point of entry: point of release of the consignment for free circulation (identified by the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Location, UN/LOCODE, five alphabetical letters)

2. What is TRACES ? What is its purpose?

TRACES is an IT-tool operated by the European Commission. It is an electronic database from which all Certificates of Inspection (C.O.I.) will be created for organic imports into the EU. The purpose of this new system is:

- to address concerns about **monitoring the movements of organic products** and the consistency of import checks,
- to improve the **traceability** of organic products,
- to reduce potential **fraud**,
- to reduce the **administrative burden** for operators and authorities,
- and to provide much more comprehensive **statistical data** on organic imports.

3. When will it be implemented?

From **October 19th, 2017** onwards, <u>all COI's will be issued through TRACES</u>.

4. How does it work?

A request for COI can be initiated by the **IMPORTER, the EXPORTER or the Certification body of the Exporter** of organic products into the EU through TRACES. This request will then be confirmed by the Certification Body of the **EXPORTER**, who will then create the COI. This COI will still need to be printed by the **Certification Body** and sent to the person who is responsible for the clearing of the goods to be presented to customs. At a future date, once the electronic signature has been approved by the Commission, printing will no longer be necessary and the certificate will be presented to custom through TRACES.

5. Who needs to register in TRACES?

All Importers and first consignees of organic products into the EU need to be registered in TRACES.
All exporters also need to be registered in TRACES, this can be done by their certification body.
Registration can simply be done by requesting a login at :
https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/login

6. How do I create a login for TRACES?

A login can be requested here: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/login

7. How do I know the CN code of the product I want to import/export?

CN code is an **eight digit code number** identifying the product to be imported. This can for example be looked up here: http://www.cnwebb.scb.se/?languageId=GB. You will need to know the CN code of the product you wish to import to initiate a request of COI. The CN on the COI needs to match the CN code on the Customs Declaration of the importer.

8. I am an importer certified by CERTISYS. What do I need to do?

First, you will need to request access to TRACES as an Organic Importer: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/login
For each lot you wish to import, you can initiate a request into TRACES. All boxes 1-17 will need to be completed (all yellow boxes with red asterisk need to be filled in, other boxes are not mandatory). You will need to :
- Select the **CN code** of the product you wish to import;
- Select the **Certification Body** (CB) who is responsible for the certification of the product you are importing and the country you are importing from; Take care that many Control Bodies are active in different countries, you need to select the control body with the right organic code (the first 2 letters identifying the country of activity of the Control Body, which should match the country of the exporter);
- Select the **exporter** you are buying from (you can search per country);
- Select **country of origin** of the product;
- **Country of destination**;

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- **Country of clearance/port of entry into the EU,** this is the point where custom clearance will take place, you may select the applicable point from a list;
- Details of **lot** (Trade name, Number of packages, Lot number, Net weight, container number, seal number).

Once all this has been completed, the request goes to the Certification body responsible for the product, who will complete the COI, print it and send it to the importer. You can then present the original to customs to clear your product.

9. I am an exporter certified by CERTISYS. What do I need to do?

As an exporter you can also request a COI in TRACES for the products you will be exporting to the EU.

First, you will need to request access to TRACES as an exporter:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/login

For each lot you wish to export, you can initiate a request into TRACES. All boxes 1-17 will need to be completed (all yellow boxes with red asterisk need to be filled in, other boxes are not mandatory). You will need to :

- Select the **CN code** of the product you wish to export;
- Select the **Certification Body** (CB) who is responsible for the certification of the product you are exporting and the country you are exporting from; Take care that many Control Bodies are active in different countries, you need to select the control body with the right organic code (the first 2 letters identifying the country of activity of the Control Body, which should match the country of the exporter);
- Select **the importer and first consignee** you are selling to (you can search per country);
- Select **country of origin** of the product;
- **Country of destination**;
- **Country of clearance/port of entry into the EU,** this is the point where custom clearance will take place, you may select the applicable point from a list;
- Details of **lot** (Trade name, Number of packages, Lot number, Net weight, container number, seal number).

Once all this has been completed, the request goes to your Certification body responsible for the product, who will complete the COI, print it and send it to the importer who can present it to customs.

Alongside you will still need to submit the Bill of Lading and Invoice for each lot that you are exporting into the EU. This will still have to be submitted through MyCertisys or added to the COI request in Traces.

10. I need further help. Whom can I ask?

- Helpdesk at the commission: SANTE-TRACES@ec.europa.eu
  or agri-e-coi@ec.europa.eu

- TRACES website and FAQs :
  https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/help/Content/Home.htm

- Contact CERTISYS at 081/600 377 or info@certisys.eu
  or visit www.certisys.eu>Start organic>Imports in EU - Export from EU.