

Information Sheet

Parallel production

2018/848, Article 9

General farm production rules

The entire agricultural holding shall be managed in compliance with the requirements applicable to organic production.

However, in accordance with specific conditions from article 9.7 a holding may be split up into clearly separated units or aquaculture production sites which are not all managed under organic production. As regards animals, different species shall be involved. As regards aquaculture the same species may be involved, provided that there is clear and adequate separation between the production sites. As regards plants, different varieties that can be easily differentiated shall be involved.

Where, in accordance with the second subparagraph, not all units of a holding are used for organic production, the operator shall keep the land, animals, and products used for, or produced by, the organic units separate from those used for, or produced by, the non-organic units and keep adequate records to show the separation. Preventive and precautionary measures shall be taken at every stage of production, preparation and distribution in accordance with the conditions from the article 28 of the Regulation.

Non organic livestock may be present on the holding provided they are reared on units where the buildings and parcels are separated clearly from the units producing in accordance with the organic production rules and a different species is involved.

2018/848, Article 9.8

Parallel production

Producer may run organic and non-organic production units in the same area:

(a) in the case of the production of perennial crops, which require a cultivation period of at least three years, where varieties cannot be easily differentiated or the same variety, provided the following conditions are met:

(i) the production in question forms part of a conversion plan in respect of which the producer gives a firm undertaking and which provides finishing of the conversion of the last part of the area concerned to organic production in the shortest possible period which may not in any event exceed a maximum of five years.

(ii) appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the permanent separation of the products obtained from each unit concerned.

(iii) the control authority or control body is notified of the harvest of each of the products concerned at least 48 hours in advance.

(iv) upon completion of the harvest, the producer informs the control authority or control body of the exact quantities harvested on the units concerned and of the measures applied to separate the products.

(v) the conversion plan and the control measures have been approved by the competent authority; this approval shall be confirmed each year after the start of the conversion plan.

(b) exception: requirements concerning different species and varieties from the article 9.7.(a)(b) of the Regulation do not apply in following case's:

- research and educational centers,
- plant nurseries,
- seed multipliers
- breeding operations

In practice, this means following for plant production:

Annual crops and those with a cultivation period of less than 3 years:

Overlap the same culture is permitted if:

- the land with the consent of the authority for agricultural research or formal education (schools)
- seed production, vegetative propagating material and transplants

In permanent crops, the varieties must not overlap. That is for example the case of apples may not have Gala in the organic and the conventional part. Exceptions: conversion plan, where conversion of the last plots has to finish in maximum period of 5 years and only upon government approval.

Special cases: arable crops on the organic part, grassland on the conventional part; due to crop rotation fodder is cultivated on arable land. This overlap is tolerated, however, classified the conventional fodder.

Examples of unacceptable overlap:

winter wheat/summer wheat, winter barley/summer barley, winter oat/summer oat, chamomile autumn cultivation/spring cultivation, grain maize/silo maize, pasture/fodder, yellow oat/black oat.

Examples of permitted cases:

Fodder/alfalfa, fodder/red clover, intensive fruit/orchard - if they are different varieties.

2018/848, Annex II, part III***Simultaneous production of organic and non-organic aquaculture animals***

Organic and non-organic production units shall be adequately separated in accordance with the minimum separation distances set by Member States, where applicable. Such separation measures shall be based on the natural situation, separate water distribution systems, distances, the tidal flow, and the upstream and the downstream location of the organic production unit. Algae and aquaculture production shall not be considered as organic when practiced at locations or in areas designated by Member State authorities as locations or areas which are unsuitable for such activities.

2018/848, Article 38***Additional rules on official controls and on action to be taken by the competent authorities***

1. Official controls performed in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 for the verification of compliance with 2018/848 Regulation shall include, in particular:

(a) the verification of the application by operators of preventive and precautionary measures, as referred to in Article 9(6) and in Article 28 of 2018/848 Regulation, at every stage of production, preparation and distribution; L 150/42 Official Journal of the European Union 14.6.2018 EN

(b) where the holding includes non-organic or in-conversion production units, the verification of the records and of the measures or procedures or arrangements in place to ensure the clear and effective separation between organic, in-conversion and non-organic production units as well as between the respective products produced by those units, and of the substances and products used for them; such verification shall include checks on parcels for which a previous period was recognised retroactively as part of the conversion period, and checks on the non-organic production units;

(c) where organic, in-conversion and non-organic products are collected simultaneously by operators, are prepared or stored in the same preparation unit, area or premises, or are transported to other operators or units, the verification of the records and of the measures, procedures or arrangements in place to ensure that:

- operations are carried out separated by place or time
- that suitable cleaning measures and, where appropriate, measures to prevent substitution of products are implemented
- that organic products and in-conversion products are identified at all times and stored, before and after the preparation operations, separated by place or time from each other;