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Morocco's Legal Framework for Organic Products

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Report Highlights:

Morocco's Law #39-12 sets forth the legal framework for organic products, including all stages of production, preparation, and marketing. This also includes rules for the control and labeling of organic products. The Law is implemented through two GOM Decrees and several following Ministry of Agriculture Orders. Article 27 of Law #39-12 and Article 12 of Decree #2-13-359 specifically address the conditions and requirements for imported organic products to be sold in Morocco while Ministry of Agriculture Order #2110-17, published November 2017, specifically addresses equivalency.

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Introduction

Morocco's [Law #39-12](#) (January 16, 2013), published in [Official Bulletin #6128](#) (February 21, 2013) sets forth the legal framework for organic products, including all stages of production, preparation and marketing of such products. This also includes rules for the control and labeling of organic products. The law is implemented through two GOM Decrees and several Ministry of Agriculture Orders:

- GOM [Decree #2-13-358](#) (March 10, 2014) fixing the composition and function of the National Commission for Organic Production, published in [Official Bulletin #6240](#) (March 20, 2014)
- GOM Decree #2-13-359 (March 10, 2014) implementing Law #39-12 on the organic production of agricultural and aquatic products, published in [Official Bulletin #6240](#) (March 20, 2014)
- MinAg Order #269-15 (January 29, 2015) approving the rules and procedures of the National Commission of Organic Production, published in [Official Bulletin #6414](#) (November 19, 2015)
- MinAg Order #270-15 (January 29, 2015) on the approval of organic production control and certification bodies, published in [Official Bulletin #6414](#) (November 19, 2015).
- MinAg [Order #271-15](#) (January 29, 2015) approving and publishing the standard specifications for the organic production of plant products, published in [Official Bulletin #6484](#) (July 21, 2016).
- MinAg Order #1066-15 (March 31, 2015) fixing the model of visual identification or “logo” to be affixed to organic products, published in [Official Bulletin #6414](#) (November 19, 2015)
- MinAg [Order #2110-17](#) (August 18, 2017) on the modalities of recognizing equivalent modes of organic production, of the control measures of operators, and of the documents certifying the products obtained from modes of organic production in a third country, published in [Official Bulletin #6622](#) (November 16, 2017).

Article 27 of Law #39-12 and Article 12 of Decree #2-13-359 specifically address the conditions and requirements for imported organic products to be sold in Morocco while MinAg Order #2110-17 specifically addresses equivalency. MinAg orders relevant to animal products, aquaculture, and processed food have not yet been published.

The U.S. does not have an equivalence agreement in place pursuant to MinAg Order #2110-17. U.S. companies wishing to export organic products to Morocco must work with importers to obtain approval on a product by product basis. Conditions of which are described in Article 12 of Decree No. 2-13-359

Unofficial translations of Law #39-12 and Decree #2-13-359 follow.

Law No. 39-12 on the Organic Production of Agricultural and Aquatic Products, promulgated by the Dahir No. 1-12-66 of 4 rabii I 1434 (16 January 2013).

(BOX No. 6128 of 21 February 2013, page 1338)

In regards to the Constitution, in particular Articles 42 and 50,

It is promulgated and will be published in the Official Bulletin, following the present Dahir, Law No. 39-12 on organic production of agricultural and aquatic products, as adopted by the House of Representatives and the House of Counselors.

Law No. 39-12 on the Organic Production of Agricultural and Aquatic Products

Chapter I: General provisions

Article 1: The purpose of this law is to:

- 1 - Encourage the upgrading of agricultural and aquatic products as well as collected products or collected species of wild flora;
- 2 - Contribute to sustainable development through the improvement of producers' incomes interested in organic production;
- 3 - Participate in the conservation of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity;
- 4 - Respond to consumer demand by guaranteeing a quality specific to agricultural and aquatic products derived from the organic production method.

To this end, this law lays down the rules for the production, preparation and agricultural products and aquatic products derived from organic production and determine operators who intend to give their products the name of “organic product”.

Article 2: Organic production of agricultural and aquatic products shall mean the production, which complies with all the rules laid down by this Law, at all stages of production, preparation and marketing of such products, including rules for the control and labeling of these products.

Also considered as organic production are:

1 - Picking or gathering of plants or parts of wild plants, pushing spontaneously in natural areas, forests and agricultural areas provided that:

- For a period of at least three years prior to the picking of those plants, these areas have not been subjected to treatments with products other than those which have been authorized for use for organic production;
- This gathering or collection does not affect the stability of the ecosystem or the preservation of the species of wild fauna and flora of the areas considered.

2 - Fishing or harvesting of algae or parts of wild marine algae developing naturally provided that:

- The maritime waters in which the fishing or collection takes place are safe, in accordance with the regulations in force;
- This fishery or collection does not affect the stability of the marine ecosystem or the maintenance of species in the waters under consideration.

Article 3: For the purposes of this Law and the texts adopted for its application, the following definitions shall apply:

- 1 - Production unit: all the resources implemented in a sector of production, such as plots, pastures, continental hatcheries, aquaculture ponds, hatcheries, livestock buildings, preparation, storage and storage facilities for plant products and products of plant or animal origin, ingredients or other inputs useful for the production concerned;
- 2 - Operator: any natural or legal person who produces, picks, collects, prepares or markets the products referred to in Article 4 of this Law;
- 3 - Preparation: any processing, preservation, storage, packaging, presentation or labeling of agricultural products or aquatic animals;
- 4 - Marketing: The placing on the market of agricultural and aquatic products such as defined in [Law No. 28-07 on Food Safety](#), as well as import, export and delivery of such products;
- 5 - Genetically modified organism (GMO): any plant or animal organism, or microorganism, with the exception of humans, whose genetic material has been altered from one which does not occur naturally by multiplication and / or by natural recombination;
- 6 - Hydroponic culture: any technique that consists in placing the roots of the plants in inert substrates other than soil and to which is added a solution of mineral elements nutrients;
- 7 - Processing aids: any substance which is not consumed as an ingredient as such and is used deliberately in the preparation of foodstuffs or their ingredients to meet a certain technological objective and the unintentional but technically unavoidable presence of residues of that substance or its derivatives in the final product, provided that such residues do not present any risk to human or animal health and have no technological effect on the finished product.

Article 4: This Law applies to the following agricultural and aquatic products:

- 1 - Unprocessed plants, animals and products of plant or animal origin, including aquaculture products and marketed without the use of commercial preparations for their preservation other than refrigeration;
- 2 - Products of plant or animal origin intended for human consumption which have the purpose of preparation;
- 3 – Animal feedstuff, compounded or not, not covered by (1) of this Article, including ingredients, additives and other substances that are intended for animal feed by the oral route;
- 4 - Non-food products such as certain marine algae and aromatic plants and medicinal products and their derivatives;
- 5 - Seeds and seedlings used in agriculture;
- 6 - Yeasts intended for human or animal consumption.

The provisions of this Law shall not apply to fishery products and hunting of wild animals.

Article 5: Only the term "organic product" may be used on their labeling, in the advertising made to them, or in the accompanying commercial documents, processed or unprocessed agricultural or aquatic products or their ingredients obtained in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Chapter II: Conditions for the production, preparation and marketing of agricultural and aquatic biological products

Section 1: General conditions of organic production

Article 6: Any operator wishing to produce, prepare or market products agricultural or aquatic products according to the organic method shall comply with conditions of production, preparation, marketing, control and labeling of the said products laid down by this Law and comply with the requirements of the specifications type applicable to the production under consideration.

Article 7: Any operator who produces, collects, collects, prepares or markets agricultural products or aquatic products derived from the organic production method must reserve places separate from those in which non-organic products are found.

This operator must ensure the identification of organic products at all stages of their preparation in such a way as to avoid mixing with non-organic products and / or any contamination by substances not authorized in the organic production method.

For this purpose, the operator shall keep records in accordance with the model set by regulation on which the products are identified and record all operations performed.

Article 8: An operator practicing an organic production method may be authorized by the administration in the forms and modalities laid down by regulation, after obtaining the opinion of the National Commission referred to in Article 19 below, to maintain certain previously identified units of production in non-organic production.

In this case, it must separate the organic production units and the products that come from non-organic production units and their products. It does the same for sites aquaculture products and the products thereof. For this purpose, each operator must keep a register to ensure this separation.

The terms of separation of the production units, the model of separation register of these units and the specific requirements to be met in each of them shall be set by regulation.

In the event of non-compliance with the rules for the separation of production units, the aforementioned authorization is withdrawn and no product from these units can benefit from the term "organic product".

Article 9: In units reserved for organic production, the storage and holding of Products not authorized for this method of production by the applicable standard specification to the production concerned are prohibited.

When an operator practices both an organic production method and a non-organic production, products not authorized in organic production and used for non-organic production must be separated from those permitted in organic production. For this purpose, each operator must keep, in the forms and methods laid down by regulation, a register to ensure this separation.

Article 10: Products resulting from organic production must be transported, whatever their destination, in packages or containers which are closed in such a way as to prevent the substitution of their contents or avoiding mixing with non-organic. They shall be labeled in accordance with the provisions of Chapter V of this Law.

Article 11: In the organic production method, the following products and practices are prohibited:

1 - Products or derivatives of the following products:

- (A) genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or products obtained therefrom;
- (B) products, feed or their ingredients which have undergone ionizing radiation treatment;
- (C) products derived from hydroponic production;

2 - The following practices:

- (A) the attachment or isolation of livestock, except where such measures relate to individual animals and if for a limited period and veterinary or safety;
- (B) the raising of animals exclusively above ground;
- (C) the destruction of bees on shelves as a method associated with the harvest of bee products;
- (D) ill-treatment of animals;
- (E) forms of artificial propagation such as cloning and embryo transfer;
- (F) the use of growth hormones and synthetic amino acids;
- (G) the use of mineral fertilizers and synthetic pesticides.

Article 12: Transition from non-organic production of an agricultural or aquatic product to organic production of this product requires a transition period called "conversion period".

During this period, which begins no earlier than when the operator declares his activity to the control and certification body referred to in Article 22 below, that operator shall comply with the provisions of this Law and the texts adopted for its application as well as the requirements of the standard specifications applicable to the production under consideration.

Article 13: It is forbidden to affix the labels and the logo referred to in Articles 28 and 29 below on agricultural or aquatic products obtained during the conversion period referred to in Article 12 above. Similarly, no advertising using the words "organic product" shall be made in respect of such products during that period.

At the end of the conversion period, products may benefit from the planned certification in Chapter IV below, if they meet the conditions laid down in this Chapter.

Section 2: Provisions relating to the standard specifications for organic production

Article 14: The administration shall, in consultation with the professional organizations or the inter-professional organizations concerned, a standard specification for each category of products it submits, in the prescribed form and manner, to the opinion of the National Commission for organic production referred to in Article 19 below.

Any standard specifications established for the organic production of an agricultural or aquatic product must indicate the category to which the product concerned belongs and indicate for that product, in particular:

- 1 - rules of production and / or preparation;
- 2 - the duration of the conversion period referred to in Article 12 above;
- 3 - authorized inputs, in particular fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary products, growth promoters, feed, feed ingredients, and compound feedstuffs;
- 4 - food additives, feed additives and authorized processing aids;
- 5 - products authorized for the cleaning and disinfection of premises, installations and means of transport used in the production and preparation of the products concerned;
- 6 - the environmental constraints required, if necessary;
- 7 - the mode(s) of storage, packaging, storage and preservation of the quality of the product.

Any specific requirements for each category of agricultural or aquatic product the subject of organic production must be included in the standard corresponding specification.

Article 15: Standard specifications are published in the "Official Bulletin".

Section 3: Miscellaneous provisions

Article 16: To be considered as an "organic product", at least 95% of a processed agricultural or aquatic product must consist of products or ingredients obtained in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 17: The administration may, exceptionally and for a limited period, authorize, following the opinion of the National Commission referred to in Article 19 below, the use of certain unauthorized inputs into organic production for a fixed period, when this use is necessary for climatic, sanitary, phytosanitary or commercial considerations.

In this case, special rules for production and preparation, fixed by taking into account the conditions for obtaining the product concerned, must be applied by the operator under the control of the control and certification body referred to in Article 22 below.

Article 18: In places reserved for the marketing of organic products and for the means of transport of the said products, it is prohibited to use cleaning and disinfection procedures other than those authorized in the standard specifications referred to in Article 14 above.

Chapter III: The National Commission for Organic Production

Article 19: There is hereby established a "National Commission for Organic Production" hereinafter referred to as the "National Commission" composed of representatives of the State, and representatives of the National Institute for Agricultural Research, the National Institute for Fisheries Research, of the National Office for Food Safety, the Autonomous Establishment of Export Control and Coordination, the National Agency for Aquaculture Development, the Agency for Agricultural Development, the National Agency for the Development of the Oasis Zones and the Argan Tree, the Association of Chambers of Agriculture, the Federation of Maritime Fisheries Chambers, and four representatives of the professional organizations and inter-professional organizations concerned.

The National Commission may be assisted by any person known for its experience and competence in the field of organic production. It may set up specialized technical committees to deal with specific issues.

Article 20: The National Commission is responsible for giving its opinion on:

- 1 - the approval of the standard specifications for organic production;
- 2 - the approval of the logo to be affixed to organic products;
- 3 - the granting or withdrawal of the approvals of the control and certification bodies referred to in Article 22 of this Law;
- 4 - the complaints referred to in article 26 below concerning the refusal of certification;
- 5 - the recognition of the equivalence of the organic method of production and the control measures for the operators and the documents certifying the obtaining of the products according to an organic production method of the countries of export referred to in Article 27 below.

The opinions of the National Commission shall be given within two (2) months from the date of its seizure by the administration. However, as regards the approval of the standard specifications for organic production, the Commission shall have six (6) months to give its opinion.

After the abovementioned deadlines and in the absence of a reply from the National Commission, a favorable opinion is supposed to have been given.

Article 21: The method of operation, the composition and the number of members of the National Commission shall be fixed by regulation.

Chapter IV: The system for the control and certification of organic products

Article 22: Any operator who wishes to produce, pick, collect, prepare or market agricultural or aquatic products according to the organic production method must undertake to comply with the requirements of the standard product specification applicable to the organic production of its product and obtain, in the prescribed form and manner, the certification of the product from an control and certification body approved by the administration after notification of the National Commission referred to in Article 19 above.

This certification shall be granted only to agricultural or aquatic products obtained under the conditions laid down by this Law.

Article 23: In order to be authorized as a body for the control and certification of organic products, the applicant, a legal person governed by public or private law, must meet the following conditions:

- 1 - offer all guarantees of impartiality, independence and objectivity vis-à-vis the operators subject to its control and certification;
- 2 - to meet the requirements set by the administration for technical competence and human and material capacity necessary for the exercise of control and certification in the standard specifications for organic production.

Article 24: When one or more of the conditions laid down in Article 23 above for the issue of an authorization cease to be fulfilled, this authorization shall be suspended for a period which may not exceed six (6) months, laid down in the suspension decision and intended to enable the recipient of the said authorization to comply again with the required conditions.

After this period and if the required conditions are not fulfilled, the approval shall be withdrawn, after the opinion of the National Commission referred to in Article 19 above.

If the conditions are met once again, the suspension of the approval shall be terminated.

Article 25: The detailed rules and forms in accordance with which authorizations of control and certification bodies are issued, suspended or withdrawn, and the manner in which the suspension measure is terminated shall be laid down by regulation.

Article 26: Any operator whose certification of a product is refused may, within two (2) months from the date of the refusal, request the administration to examine its claim.

The administration must rule on the complaint within a maximum of one month from the date of the National Commission's opinion on the complaint.

Article 27: An imported product may be placed on the national market as an organic product provided that:

- 1 - this product comes from an organic production method practiced under conditions of production equivalent to those fixed by this law;
- 2 - operators in the country of export are subject to control measures equivalent to those provided for in this Law;
- 3 - this product shall be accompanied by a document certifying that it has been obtained according to the organic production method issued by a competent authority in accordance with the laws and regulations of the exporting country and recognized as equivalent by the administration to the certificate referred to in Article 22 Above. The importer must keep this document at the disposal of the authorities responsible for the investigation and detection of infringements in accordance with Article 31 below for a period of one year from the expiry date of consumption of the product concerned.

The methods for recognizing the equivalence of the organic method of production, the control measures for the operators and the documents certifying the obtaining of the products according to an organic production method are fixed by regulation.

Chapter V: Labeling of organic products

Article 28: Any agricultural or aquatic product resulting from the organic production method must, when marketed as an organic product, include the following information in its labeling:

- 1 - the words "organic product" and the logo indicated in article 29 below;
- 2 - the name and references of the control and certification body;
- 3 - the reference of the certificate issued by the control and certification body.

These mentions must be apparent, easily legible and indelible. They shall be affixed to the product or to its packaging, as the case may be, without prejudice to any other indication provided for by the legislation in force concerning the labeling and presentation of food products and, where appropriate, under any other special provisions applicable to the product concerned.

Article 29: The affixation of an "organic product" or an associated logo on an agricultural or aquatic product shall indicate that the product is obtained in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

The logo, whose model is defined by regulation, is deposited by the administration under the conditions laid down by [Law No. 17-97 on the Protection of Industrial Property](#), as amended and supplemented.

Article 30: For the designation or advertising of an agricultural or aquatic product, it is forbidden to use a logo or terms, including a trademark, or a design suggesting that the product or one of its ingredients is an organic product if it has not been obtained under the conditions laid down by this Law.

Chapter VI: Research and reporting of violations and sanctions

Article 31: The investigation and detection of infringements of the provisions of this law shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of [Law No. 13-83 on the Repression of Merchandise Fraud](#).

Article 32: Without prejudice to the provisions of the Criminal Code, a fine of 20,000 to 100,000 dirhams shall be imposed:

- 1 - whoever engages in the certification of the products referred to in Article 22 above without obtaining the authorization provided for that purpose or who pursues the said certification when his approval has been suspended or withdrawn;
- 2 - any person who uses, for the description or advertisement of his agricultural or aquatic product, the particulars or logo referred to in Article 29 above or misleads the consumer by suggesting that his product is "an organic product", while the said product has not been obtained under the conditions laid down in this Law. The products on which are affixed said mentions or logo must be removed from the market at the expense and risk of their owners.

Article 33: Without prejudice to any other penalties provided for by [Law No. 13-83 on the Repression of Merchandise Fraud](#), by [Law No. 17-97 on the Protection of Industrial Property](#) as amended and supplemented, and by [Law No. 28-07 on Food Safety](#), shall be punished with a fine in the amount of 10,000 to 50,000 dirhams, who, in breach of the provisions of Article 28 above, uses:

- 1 - for the labeling of a product, a logo, a term or a trademark likely to create confusion in the mind of the consumer and to make him believe that the product is derived from organic production when he has not been obtained under the conditions laid down in this Law;
- 2 - for the name under which the product is sold or for advertising, a statement which is liable to mislead the consumer as to the nature or characteristics of the product or to undermine the reputation of the organic production method or organic products.

Chapter VII: Final Provisions

Article 34: This law comes into force from the date of publication in the Official Bulletin of the texts adopted for its application.

----- *END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION* -----

Decree No. 2-13-359 of 8 jomada I 1435 (March 10th, 2014) implementing Law No. 39-12 on the Organic Production of Agricultural and Aquatic Products.

THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT,

Having regard to Law No. 39-12 concerning the organic production of agricultural and aquatic products promulgated by Dahir No. 142-66 of 4 Rabii I 1434 (January 16, 2013);

After deliberation in the Council of the Government convened on 7 January 1435 (9 January 2014),

DECREES:

ARTICLE I. The Administration referred to in Law No. 39-12 on the organic production of agricultural and aquatic products referred to above is the Government authority responsible for agriculture.

Chapter I: General conditions of organic production

ART. 2.- The registers provided for in articles 7, 8 and 9 of the aforementioned Law No. 39-12 shall be established taking into account each category of products and annexed to the specifications provided for in Article 14 of said law.

ART. 3. - The standard specifications for each category of products, drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of the above-mentioned Law No 39-12, shall be forwarded by the competent services of the Ministry in charge of agriculture to the National Commission for Organic Production (CNPB) accompanied by any record or document allowing him to give his opinion.

The standard specifications are approved and published by order of the government authority in charge of agriculture.

ART. 4. - The authorization referred to in Article 17 of Law No 39-12 mentioned above, shall be issued at the request of the operator concerned, on presentation of a file containing an administrative part intended to identify the applicant, to locate the places of organic production and the products concerned, and a technical part justifying the use of unauthorized inputs and the special rules of production or preparation which will be used for climatic and health reasons, phytosanitary or commercial.

These special rules of production and preparation are laid down by order of the Minister responsible for agriculture after the opinion of the National Commission for Organic Production referred to in Article 19 of the aforementioned Law No. 39-12.

The authorization is issued for a fixed period of time which may not exceed twelve (12) months, determined according to the type of input concerned and mentioned in said authorization.

After the set deadline and if the operator continues to use the said inputs, no product from the production units concerned may benefit from the mention "organic product".

Chapter II: The control and certification system for organic products

ART. 5.- The control and certification bodies provided for in article 22 of the aforementioned Law No. 39-12 are approved by order of the Minister in charge of agriculture.

A control and certification body may be approved for the certification of one or more categories of products covered by the standard specifications concerned.

The requirements for technical and human competence to be met by control and certification bodies are laid down by the Minister for Agriculture, in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the above-mentioned Law No 39-12.

ART. 6.- In the case where a control and certification body uses another body for the performance of certain technical operations, the organization's body or bodies must be mentioned in its application file which one(s) are used. The organization(s) called upon to carry out operations must be approved in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the aforementioned Law No. 39-12.

ART. 7.- The accreditation is granted for a period of three years. It is renewed, at the request of the beneficiary, under the same conditions as those prevailing upon its issue.

The terms and forms of issuing, suspending and withdrawing approval of control and certification bodies shall be determined by order of the Minister in charge of agriculture, in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of the aforementioned Law No. 39-12.

ART. 8.- The approved control and certification bodies shall keep at the disposal of the competent departments of the Ministry of Agriculture any document enabling them to check their operation, the regularity of their actions and the effectiveness of the checks they carry out.

To do this, they give access to their premises, facilities and documents to representatives of the relevant departments of the Ministry of Agriculture.

They communicate to these services any modification of the conditions of execution of their activities. They send the annual report of their activities to the Minister of Agriculture.

ART. 9.- The control and certification bodies must:

- 1 - communicate annually to the competent departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, their program of work with operators whose products are certified "Organic Production" and for which they provide control in accordance with the standard specifications concerned;
- 2 - take the necessary measures to ensure that the information and data they acquire as a result of their control actions are not divulged outside the operator concerned and the competent services of the Ministry of Agriculture;
- 3 - transfer, not later than 31 January of each year, to the competent services of the Ministry of Agriculture, the list of certified products broken down by operator, which they control in accordance with the standard specifications concerned;
- 4 - to inform the competent departments of the Ministry of Agriculture of any finding of an irregularity or of an infringement relating to the implementation, by one of the operators under their control, of provisions relating to the method of organic production.

In the event of non-compliance with one or more of the above-mentioned commitments, the approval shall be suspended in accordance with Article 24 of the abovementioned Law No. 39-12.

ART. 10.- The control and certification bodies are inventoried in a register kept for this purpose by the competent departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and made available to the public.

ART. 11.- The operator shall provide the control and certification body access to all parts of the production unit for inspection purposes and to the relevant records and supporting documents. The operator must give this body all the information necessary for the purposes of control and certification.

ART. 12.- Pursuant to Article 27 of Law No. 39-12 mentioned above, the importer of an organic product must submit a file including:

- the original certificate of conformity certifying that the product is obtained according to the organic production method; issued by a control and certification body approved or recognized by the competent authority of the country of origin;
- the name of the product, the quantity, the origin of the product and the specimen of the label;
- the name and address of the first recipient of the imported product;

- the obligation of the importer to inform the control and certification body of each imported batch by providing him with any additional information concerning the product in question.

ART. 13.- The procedures for recognizing the equivalence of organic production methods, operator control measures and documents certifying products obtained by organic production in a third country are set by order of the Minister in charge of agriculture after consultation of the National Commission of Organic Production.

Chapter III: Miscellaneous

ART. 14.- The model of visual identification sign or "Logo", provided for in article 29 of the aforementioned Law No. 39-12, attesting that the product is obtained in accordance with the provisions of said law, is fixed by decree of The government authority responsible for agriculture.

The competent departments of the Ministry responsible for agriculture shall deposit and register this logo in the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property in accordance with the provisions of [Law No. 17-97 on the Protection of Industrial Property](#), as amended and completed.

ART. 15.- From the date of publication in the Official Bulletin of the standard specifications referred to in Article 3 above, whoever uses for the sales denomination, labeling or advertising of an agricultural or aquatic product including its trade mark the mention "organic product" or any other similar mention suggesting that this product comes from a mode of organic production while it does not benefit from the corresponding certification, has a period of 3 months to change this name or this labeling or advertising.

After this period, the provisions of Articles 32 and 33 of the aforementioned Law No. 39-12 shall apply.

----- *END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION* -----