

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** July 23, 2021

**Report Number:** MX2021-0041

**Report Name:** Updated WTO Notification for Mexico Organic Product Law -LPO- Enforcement

**Country:** Mexico

**Post:** Mexico City

**Report Category:** Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports, WTO Notifications, Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

Mexico has updated its organic products law (LPO by its Spanish acronym) enforcement notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) from the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures to the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). Trading partners and domestic/international stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to Mexico on this notification within 60 days of June 28, 2021. U.S. exporters of organic products to Mexico are reminded bulk/raw material, as well as processed products, are subject to enforcement of the LPO and other applicable Mexican laws.

Since [publishing changes in December 2020](#) to its import procedures for organic product imports under the Organic Products Law (LPO by its Spanish acronym), Mexico has notified [the Measure](#) first to the World Trade Organization’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee under “[G/SPS/N/MEX/230/Add.3](#)” and now to the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee under “[G/TBT/N/MEX/497](#)”. Trading partners and domestic/international stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to Mexico on this notification within 60 days of June 28, 2021.

A professional translation of [the Measure](#) and background information can be found in FAS GAIN [MX2021-0023](#). U.S. exporters and certifiers of organic products – raw/bulk material as well as processed – who intend to commercialize their product as organic in Mexico are reminded of their responsibility to comply with Mexican laws.



G/TBT/N/MEX/497

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: Spanish

**NOTIFICATION**

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1.	<b>Notifying Member:</b> <u>MEXICO</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> <i>Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)</i> Av. Municipio Libre No. 377, Col. Santa Cruz Atoyac, Alcaldía Benito Juárez, C.P. 03310, Ciudad de México. <b>Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:</b>
3.	<b>Notified under Article 2.9.2 [ ], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other [X]:</b> Notification for transparency purposes
4.	<b>Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Food and products described as organic; Animals, goods of animal origin or foodstuffs for animal consumption; aquatic species, their products and by-products, and biological, chemical, pharmaceutical or food products for use or consumption by such species
5.	<b>Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:</b> <i>Acuerdo que modifica al diverso que establece las mercancías cuya importación está sujeta a regulación por parte de la Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, así como la emisión del certificado de origen para la exportación de café</i> (Decision amending the decision establishing the goods the import of which is subject to regulation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the issuance of the certificate of origin for exporting coffee) (1 page, in Spanish)
6.	<b>Description of content:</b> On 26 December 2020, the Decision amending the decision establishing the goods the import of which is subject to regulation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the issuance of the certificate of origin for exporting coffee, Article 7 of which sets out the requirements to be submitted by importers at the point of entry in the country, with regard to goods entering the country that are described or labelled as "organic", "biological" or "ecological", or with the prefix "bio" or "eco", listed in subparagraphs (b) to (f) of Annex I of the Decision, was published in the Official Journal.  In light of the challenges of the pandemic faced at the global level, the need for certification and the ongoing equivalence discussions with other countries, it is necessary to amend the Fourth Transitional Article of the aforementioned Decision, to maintain exports of organic products from other countries to Mexico, maintain the trade flow and strengthen the development of the domestic production sector, and to facilitate and sustain trade in organic agricultural products of countries in the process of negotiating

	<p>equivalence agreements with the Mexican Government, to support those involved in the organic product chain.</p> <p>Consequently, the Fourth Transitional Article of the Decision establishing the goods the import of which is subject to regulation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the issuance of the certificate of origin for exporting coffee, published in the Official Journal on 26 December 2020, has been amended and reads as follows:</p> <p>"FOURTH.- The provisions of Article 7 shall enter into force as from 1 January 2022."</p>
7.	<p><b>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</b> Reducing trade barriers and facilitating trade</p>
8.	<p><b>Relevant documents:</b></p> <p><i>Acuerdo que establece las mercancías cuya importación está sujeta a regulación por parte de la Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, así como la emisión del certificado de origen para la exportación de café</i>, Official Journal, 26 December 2020.</p> <p><a href="https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5608829&amp;fecha=26/12/2020">https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5608829&amp;fecha=26/12/2020</a>  <a href="#">G/SPS/N/MEX/230/Add.3</a> y <a href="#">G/SPS/N/MEX/230/Add.4</a></p>
9.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption</b> 17 June 2021</p> <p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> 17 June 2021</p>
10.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> Not applicable</p>
11.	<p><b>Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:</b></p> <p><i>Secretaría de Economía</i> (Ministry of the Economy)  <i>Subsecretaría de Industria, Comercio y Competitividad</i> (Under-Secretariat of Industry, Trade and Competitiveness)  <i>Dirección General de Normas</i> (Directorate-General of Standards)            Contact person: César Osvaldo Orozco Arce            Pachuca 189, Colonia Condesa,            Demarcación territorial Cuauhtémoc,            Ciudad de México, 06140            C.P. 53950            (+52 55) 5729 91 00; Ext. 13247; Ext. 13264</p> <p><a href="mailto:cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx">cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx</a>; <a href="mailto:tania.fosado@economia.gob.mx">tania.fosado@economia.gob.mx</a>  <a href="https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5621410&amp;fecha=16/06/2021">https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5621410&amp;fecha=16/06/2021</a>  <a href="https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/MEX/21_4330_00_s.pdf">https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/MEX/21_4330_00_s.pdf</a></p>

If not already certified to the LPO, U.S. organic certifiers and organic exporters to Mexico must continue working with SADER to become certified to the LPO standards well in advance of January 2022. For questions and concerns regarding Mexico's organic certification and commercialization, contact SADER staff by email at [info.orgánicos@senasica.gob.mx](mailto:info.orgánicos@senasica.gob.mx) or by telephone at (+52) 55 5905 1000 – ext. 51509, 51523, or 51532. For presentations and other resources on Mexico's organics program please visit [SENASICA's website](#).

**Disclaimer:** SADER SENASICA is solely responsible for the implementation of [the Measure](#) and the [LPO](#). USDA provides this and other GAIN reports on organics only as a summary of public information provided by Mexico. All questions regarding the LPO should be directed to SADER SENASICA using the contacts listed above.

#### Attachments:

No Attachments.