



## Guidance

### Products in the “Made with Organic \*\*\*” Labeling Category

*Links Updated March 20, 2024*

#### 1. Purpose and Scope

This guidance describes the requirements for products in the “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” labeling category. Specifically, this guidance clarifies the following aspects of products in this labeling category, referred to as “made with organic \*\*\*”:

1. Composition;
2. Compliant organic labeling claims;
3. Organic and nonorganic forms of the same ingredient;
4. Percentage of organic ingredients statements; and
5. Ingredients or food groups in the “made with organic \*\*\*” claim.

This guidance applies to all products sold, labeled, or represented as “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

#### 2. Background

Operations that grow, handle, or process organic products that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “made with organic \*\*\*” must be certified organic ([7 CFR 205.100\(a\)](#)).

Exceptions to this rule are explained in [7 CFR 205.101](#). The USDA organic regulations specify the required composition of products in the “made with organic \*\*\*” category, and compliant labeling claims for these products ([7 CFR 205.304](#)).

Accredited certifying agents (certifiers) review product labels in the following labeling categories to verify compliance: “100 percent organic;” “organic;” “made with organic \*\*\*;” and livestock feed. Certifiers and the organic trade have asked the NOP to clarify the requirements for “made with organic \*\*\*” products.

#### 3. Policy

The following specifications apply to products in the “made with organic \*\*\*” labeling category:

##### 3.1 Composition

“Made with organic \*\*\*” products:

- Must contain at least 70 percent organic ingredients, excluding salt and water ([7 CFR 205.301\(c\)](#));
- May contain up to 30 percent nonorganic ingredients. Any nonagricultural ingredient in a “made with organic\*\*\*” product must be allowed by the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances ([7 CFR 205.605](#));



- Must not contain any ingredient that was produced using excluded methods, such as genetic engineering, sewage sludge, or ionizing radiation ([7 CFR 205.105](#)).

### 3.2 Labeling Claims

If a product meets all the composition requirements of the “made with organic \*\*\*” labeling category ([7 CFR 205.301\(c\)](#)), then:

- Labels may include the statement, “made with organic (insert up to three ingredients, food groups, or combination of ingredients and food groups).” The statement, “made with organic ingredients” is not allowed. For restrictions on this statement, see section 3.4 below.
- If the “made with organic \*\*\*” statement is used, labels may also include the percentage of organic ingredients of the finished product. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable versions of the percentage of organic ingredients statement include:

- *Acceptable*

- 70 percent organic\*;
- 99% organic ingredients\*; and
- Contains 92% certified organic ingredients\*.

\*If ingredient-specific claim such as “made with organic corn” is also on the label.

- *Unacceptable*

- 100% organic spices;
- 100 percent organic grapes; and
- Made with 75% organic ingredients (“made with” claim can only apply to organic ingredient- or food group-specific claim).

Additional requirements:

- All words in the “made with organic \*\*\*” and percentage of organic ingredients statements must be in the same format without highlighting, and be no more than half the size of the largest text on the panel.
- The USDA organic seal cannot be used anywhere on the label or package.
- The statement, “certified organic by \*\*\*,” must be included below the identified final handler or distributor. The certifier’s logo may be present anywhere.
- The label cannot represent the finished product as organic.
- The ingredient statement must identify certified organic ingredients as organic.

### 3.3 Organic and Nonorganic Forms of the Same Ingredient

If a product contains both organic and nonorganic forms of the same ingredient, the ingredients must be identified separately in the ingredient statement. For example, the ingredient statement for sugar cookies labeled “made with organic flour and sugar” could state: “organic flour, organic sugar, organic butter, nonorganic butter....”



These requirements apply to variants and derivatives of the same ingredient in a product, such as organic tomatoes and nonorganic tomato paste, or organic spearmint leaves and nonorganic spearmint oil. These also must be identified separately in the ingredient statement.

### 3.4 Ingredients or Food Groups in the “Made With Organic \*\*\*” Claim

The “made with organic \*\*\*” claim may include a combined total of three ingredients, food groups, or combination of ingredients and food groups. For example, a product could be labeled, “made with organic grains, pistachios, and cranberries.” Specific guidance on ingredients and food groups is provided below.

If an ingredient is identified in the “made with organic \*\*\*” statement, it must be a truthful claim. This means the product can only contain organic forms of that specific ingredient or any further processed form thereof.\* For example, if the label states:

- “Made with organic corn”: all raw and processed corn-based ingredients, such as blue corn, corn oil, and corn starch, must be certified organic.
- “Made with organic flour”: all flour, including enriched wheat flour, almond flour, or whole durum wheat flour, must be certified organic. Other ingredients that are precursors to the flour ingredients, however, such as almonds or whole wheat berries, could be used in a nonorganic form.
- “Made with organic beets”: any ingredient derived from beets, such as beet color extract, must be certified organic.
- “Made with organic chicken”: all ingredients derived from chicken, such as chicken meat, chicken liver, or chicken broth, must be certified organic.\*
- “Made with organic chicken broth”: all chicken broth must be certified organic, but other ingredients derived from chicken, such as chicken meat or chicken liver, do not have to be certified organic.
- “Made with organic milk”: all milk-based products, such as yogurt, cheese, or whey powder, must be certified organic.
- “Made with organic cheese”: all ingredients derived from cheese, such as cheese curds or whey powder, must be certified organic. Additional ingredients derived from a dairy animal, such as added milk and yogurt, do not have to be certified organic.

*\*Pet food.* Ingredients used in pet food must meet the definitions of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). For example, AAFCO defines “poultry” as clean flesh and skin, and doesn’t include other ingredients derived from poultry, such as chicken meal or chicken broth. Therefore, if an organic pet food label states, “made with organic chicken,” all chicken must be certified organic. Other ingredients derived from chicken, which have separate definitions under AAFCO, would not have to be certified organic. This exemption applies only to animal products, as more narrowly defined by AAFCO, used as ingredients in pet food.

If a food group is identified in the “made with organic \*\*\*” statement:



- Only the following may be listed as food groups: beans, fish, fruits, grains, herbs, meats, nuts, oils, poultry, seeds, spices, sweeteners, vegetables, or processed milk products. The USDA organic regulations do not allow any other food group to be listed. (See [7 CFR 205.304](#)).
- It must be a truthful claim; all raw and processed forms of ingredients in that category must be certified organic. For example, if a product states, “made with organic\*\*\*”:
  - Fruits – any ingredient derived from a fruit, such as mango nectar, key lime juice, or banana chips, must be certified organic.
  - Vegetables – any ingredient derived from a vegetable, such as carrot juice, kale chips, or celery, must be certified organic.
  - Grains – any ingredient derived from a grain, such as enriched wheat flour, corn oil, or oats, must be certified organic.

#### 4. References

##### **USDA Organic Regulations ([7 CFR Part 205](#))**

7 CFR 205.100 What has to be certified.

7 CFR 205.101 Exemptions from certification.

7 CFR 205.105 Allowed and prohibited substances, methods, and ingredients in organic production and handling.

7 CFR 205.301 Product composition.

7 CFR 205.304 Packaged products labeled “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

7 CFR 205.605 Nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

##### **National Organic Standards Board Recommendation**

[Recommendation for Rule Change Concerning Made With Organic Ingredients](#), 2005.

##### **Other Laws and Regulations**

Association of American Feed Control Officials

<https://www.aafco.org/>

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