Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

National Agricultural Products
Quality Management Service

Dear EU equivalency team,

I am writing to inform you of follow-up on the email I sent on Jun 18, 2019.

NAQS notified countries concluded equivalency arrangement with Korea of the update of NAQS import certificate and its implementation date of July 1, 2019. We understand that EU has not enough time to comply with the requirements as NAQS announced the sudden changes of NAQS import certificate.

We would like to explain that this change is made to address complaints from exporters/importers so as to facilitate inspection of organic imports. As a result, it makes EU update its system to comply with new certificate and we would like appreciate and ask for your understanding.

With regard to the implementation of the new NAQS certificate, on July 1, 2019, a 3-month transitional period will be started during which current certificate and new certificate will be accepted. Therefore, when a control body issues previous NAQS import certificate, there will be no problem in exporting products. As of Sept. 30, 2019, only new certificate will be valid.

Apart from that, we received a feedback from a certification body of EU and would like to modify an instruction on 'No. 2 Import Certificate Number' to make it clear. You can find the instruction in the attachment on this letter.

If you have any questions on this letter, please feel free to ask us.

Best regards,