EC Regulation 2005

Conversion period

ANNEX I
PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION AT FARM LEVEL

1.1. The principles laid down in Article 6(1)(a), (b) and (d) and set out in particular in this Annex must normally have been applied on the parcels during a conversion period of at least two years before sowing, or, in the case of grassland, at least two years before its exploitation as feedingstuff from organic farming, or, in the case of perennial crops other than grassland, at least three years before the first harvest of products as referred to in Article 1(1)(a). The conversion period shall commence at the earliest on the date on which the producer notified his activity in accordance with Article 8 and submitted his holding to the inspection system provided for in Article 9.

1.2. However, the inspection authority or body may decide, in agreement with the competent authority, to recognise retroactively as being part of the conversion period any previous period in which:

(a) the land parcels were part of a programme implemented pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2078/92 of 30 June 1992 on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside\(^1\) or Chapter VI of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and amending and repealing certain Regulations\(^2\), or as part of another official programme, provided that the programmes concerned guarantee that products not listed in parts A and B of Annex II have not been used on those parcels; or

(b) the parcels were natural or agricultural areas which were not treated with products not listed in parts A and B of Annex II. This period can be taken into consideration retroactively only under the condition that satisfactory proof has been furnished to the inspection authority or body allowing it to satisfy itself that the conditions were met for a period of at least three years.

1.3. The inspection authority or body may, with the approval of the competent authority, decide, in certain cases, to extend the conversion period beyond the period laid down in paragraph 1.1 having regard to previous parcel use.

1.4. In the case of parcels which have already been converted to or were in the process of conversion to organic farming, and which are treated with a product not


listed in Annex II, the Member State may reduce the length of the conversion period to less than the period laid down in paragraph 1.1 in the following two cases:

(a) parcels treated with a product not listed in part B of Annex II as part of a compulsory disease or pest control measure imposed by the competent authority of the Member State within its own territory or in certain parts thereof for a specific crop production;

(b) parcels treated with a product not listed in parts A or B of Annex II as part of scientific tests approved by the competent authority of the Member State.

In these cases the length of the conversion period shall be fixed taking into account all of the following points:

– the process of degradation of the plant protection product concerned must guarantee, at the end of the conversion period, an insignificant level of residues in the soil and, in the case of a perennial crop, in the plant,

– the harvest following the treatment may not be sold with reference to organic production methods,

– the Member State concerned must inform the other Member States and the Commission of its decision to require compulsory treatment.