

Public Record

FILE NOTE

Exemption request – Prepared or preserved tomatoes, exported to Australia from Italy

Record of email correspondence between the Anti-Dumping Commission and Food and Wine Connection Pty Ltd

Response from Food and Wine Connection Pty Ltd dated 12 February 2015:

Sorry in the delay of your request,

In response to your email see below.

All organic agricultural products on the market must comply with strict safety criteria.

That "organic certification" guarantees that a tomato during cultivation and the production process, have been complied with the various laws and regulations:

(e.g. that have not been used synthetic fertilizers or pesticides.) One of the explicit goals of organic farming and the preservation of Biodiversity.

The total cost of the organic tomato that corresponding to the conventional tomato is 27% more (because of the lower yield of 81%) with an added cost for certification, that takes place annually. Chemical feritizers have a "significant impact on humans and on the environment, that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions with a global warming potential 296 times, greater than that of CARBON DIOXIDE, contributing to climate change.

Customers only other option if organic is not available in cans, will be to purchase/grow fresh organic produce.

The shelf life is the same as the canning procedure is the same for conventional and organic, however all certified organic canned products have cans that are BPA free lining that the conventional do not have.

The Certification criteria is as the Australian, Certifications are accepted by Australian Standards to be allowed into the country.

Examples of Criteria for certification:

Cultivated land that has been free from prohibited synthetic chemical inputs(e.g. fertisizers,pesticides,sewage sludge etc. for a number of years (often, three or more); Extensive paperwork is required, detailing cultivation history and current set-up, and usually including results of soil and water tests.

Written, day-to-day production and marketing records, covering all activities, must be available for inspection at any time.

An annual inspection and certification fee .

It's every consumer's right to buy products that best suits their needs. We take pride in being able to offer specialised organic products that give every day Australians choice, quality and value for money.

Public Record

From the Anti-Dumping Commission:

Further to your correspondence of 1 November and 23 December 2014 and SPC Ardmona's (SPC) response to the Exemption Application, can you please provide some additional information:

Organic tomatoes –

- Please describe the production process for organic tomatoes and how this is different to non-organic tomatoes
- commercial substitutability of organic tomatoes with non-organic tomatoes ie will customers switch to non-organic tomatoes if organic tomatoes were unavailable for purchase?
- if organic tomatoes are preservative and additive free, then is their shelf life shorter?
- purpose and end use of organic tomatoes as opposed to SPC's canned tomatoes
- please advise of the criteria to be met for the certification process for organic tomatoes
- I note that your organic tomatoes are certified "for quality and compliance with strict European Union standards" ? Are they also certified to Australian standards? Are the standards similar?

Your earliest responses are much appreciated.