



2013 National Organic Program's Year of Enforcement

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In order to constantly improve the processes, procedures and promote the integrity of organic products, the NOP has made it clear that 2013 will be a year of organic enforcement, which includes:

- All certifiers must test 5% of all their customers for pesticide, GMO & antibiotic residues.
- All certifiers are encouraged to conduct a % of unannounced inspections of their clients.
- The NOP will conduct unannounced inspections of random certifiers.
- The NOP will conduct unannounced inspections of random certified entities.

The NOP has already started unannounced inspections of certifiers and will begin random inspections of certified entities shortly.

The basis for these inspections and lab testing are found in the following organic regulations.

205.103 (4) Recordkeeping by certified operations.

(c) The certified operation must make such records available for inspection and copying during normal business hours by authorized representatives of the Secretary, the applicable State program's governing State official, and the certifying agent.

205.403 (a) On-site inspections.

(2)(i) A certifying agent may conduct additional on-site inspections of applicants for certification and certified operations to determine compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.

(iii) Additional inspections may be announced or unannounced at the discretion of the certifying agent or as required by the Administrator or State organic program's governing State official.

(3) That prohibited substances have not been and are not being applied to the operation through means which, at the discretion of the certifying agent, may include the collection and testing of soil; water; waste; seeds; plant tissue; and plant, animal, and processed products samples.

Lab testing and unannounced inspections will be based on both a risk analysis and random basis. If an inspector shows up at your door to take samples or review your operation please do NOT assume you have done anything wrong. Our inspectors will have identification affiliating them with Ecocert ICO in the coming week.

Split operations are automatically high on the risk list due to the opportunity for comingling as well as handling & processing operations that source ingredients from multiple suppliers. Corn and Soybean farmers will be on the risk list for GMO contamination as will grain buyers. Produce growers with neighbors who farm with chemicals are also on the risk matrix.

This change in regulation can also be benefit to you, as the cost of the lab testing will be the responsibility of the certifiers and we cannot pass the direct cost on to our clients. If you feel there is a need for testing, due to drift, chemical trespass, etc. please let us know.

Renewal :Organic Operating System Plan

Late fees of \$100 will apply for renewal OSPs submitted after May 1st.

Please contact our office if have a circumstance that requires an extension.

New Applications can be sent in anytime throughout the year!

Certified Operations looking for high resolution versions of our logos to use, can find them [here](#).

Please note: Unauthorized use of Ecocert ICO logos by anyone that is not certified by or without permission of Ecocert ICO is prohibited.

NEW!

TOLL-FREE NUMBER & payment via credit card

Ecocert ICO has a toll-free number to better assist our clients.

You may call us toll-free at **888-337-8246!**

We are now able to accept payment via credit card.

If you wish to submit payment by credit card, please contact our office.

Please note, the credit card payments will be charged 3% fee.

Certified Organic by Ecocert ICO LLC

70 East Main Street, Suite B
Greenwood, IN 46143

Phone: 317-865-9700
Toll-free: 888-337-8246
Fax: 317-865-9707

Email
info.ecocertico@ecocert.com

Website:
www.ecocertico.com

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!



Gluten-free Certification

Ecocert ICO and Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO) have partnered to offer a one-stop inspection for food manufacturers and food companies who process and sell both gluten-free and organic products OR who are wishing to obtain gluten-free certification alone. GFCO, a program under the Gluten Intolerance Group of North America, tests gluten-free products for quality and purity.

Under this partnership both organizations will coordinate the scheduling of a simultaneous audit for organic and/or gluten-free certifications. It will help companies save time and money by streamlining the inspection process and having one combined audit for gluten-free and organic products AND the additional audit service at Ecocert ICO for Gluten-free certification alone. This reduces the amount of audit fees and traveling expenses for operations when combined.

Who Is The Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO)?

Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO) is the first gluten-free certification program in the world that has deemed more than 14,000 certified products with 471 companies in 15 countries safe for persons with gluten sensitivity to consume. The GF logo stands for the independent verification of quality, integrity, and purity of products. Products carrying the GF logo represents unmatched reliability and for meeting strict gluten-free standards. GFCO is the leading gluten-free certification program in the world.

For more Information on combined organic/gluten-free inspection contact us at ecocert.ico@gluten.net, or (317) 865-9700 Ext. 202

Learn more about organic certification [here](#).

Learn more about GFCO gluten-free certification only [here](#).

Contact GFCO's Director of Industry Programs,
[Channon Quinn](#)
Call GFCO at their Auburn, WA offices (253) 218-2956

Certified



Gluten-Free



Additional Services and one-stop inspections

Global Organic Textile Exchange (GOTS)



Ecocert ICO provides inspection services for Ecocert/the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).

This standard integrates the textile processing stages, from fiber to the finished product: the raw fiber must be produced on certification organic land and all manufacturing processes involved must be inspected.

The aim of this standard is to guarantee the traceability and consumer's health in mind, to ensure quality system, a reduction of energy and respect social criteria.

For further information, [contact our office](#) or [click here](#).

Organic Cosmetics—Ecocert Cosmetics

Ecocert ICO performs inspection service according to Ecocert Cosmetic Standards individually, or combined with the USDA National Organic Program regulation.

Ecocert was the very first certification body to develop standards for « natural and organic cosmetics ».

Introduced in 2003, the specification was drawn up in conjunction with all stakeholders in the value chain, i.e. experts, suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, consumers and development organizations.



Ecocert currently supports and guides more than 1,000 companies through their cosmetic certification processes which use the Ecocert logo to the left.

For further information, [contact](#) the Ecocert ICO office, and more information can be found [here](#).

Other additional services...

Ecocert Group obtains VCS accreditation

Ecocert SA obtained VCS* (Verified Carbon Standard) accreditation in December 2012. This accreditation now enables the Group to check CO2 emission reduction projects in the following three sectors:

- Energy (renewable and non-renewable)
- Waste treatment and disposal
- Agriculture, reforestation and land use

The validation and verification of projects according to the VCS standard enables the generation of carbon credits of high environmental and socio-economic value for the communities involved.

VCS carbon credits are funded by companies in a deliberate effort to compensate for their emissions and fight poverty and climate change in a transparent manner.

For more information on carbon services, please contact [Ecocert ICO](#) for further information

**VCS is a program aimed at checking projects for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide and issuing carbon credits in voluntary markets. This program was launched in 2008 by environmental companies and leaders who identified the necessity for a greater guarantee of quality in voluntary markets. The founding partners - the Climate Group, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) - bring together a team of experts of the world carbon market to draft and develop the VCS requirements. VCS accreditation is issued by ANSI (the American National Standards Institute) in accordance with the ISO 14 065 standard.*

ECOCERT launches a new version of its former Fair Trade “EFT” Standard

What’s new?

The mainstays of sustainable development are strengthened, integrating the ISO 26000 structure (international norm for Corporate Social Responsibility).



- An improved evaluation system is in place that allows any company to assess its level of performance (Commitment, Mastery, and Excellence) and encourages ongoing progress.
- The standard broadens the approach to North – North (domestic) fair trade, for products from developed countries.
- In addition to the Organic, the scope now includes eco-products (detergents, home perfumes), and handicraft.

Companies wishing to commit to the ECOCERT corporate social responsibility and fair trade certification program can now benefit from a double recognition:

- "Ecocert Sustainable & Responsible", for any organization wishing to promote its good practices in the social and envi-

ronmental spheres and assess the sustainability of its sourcing policy. The organization will value its commitment through its corporate communication.

- "Ecocert Fair Trade", for any organization wishing to demonstrate its commitment in Fair Trade supply chains. The organization will value its commitment through product labeling. Products can now combine ingredients from the South and the North.

If you are interested in obtaining Fair Trade Certification, please contact [Ecocert ICO](#).

Input Attestation—Approved list



Ecocert ICO provides one-stop inspection for Ecocert input attestation, which involves an independent review/approval (materials/inputs/fertilizers, etc.) intended for use in certified organic production, handling, and processing operations to aid in searching for products by organic growers, manufacturers, and suppliers.

Ecocert ICO provides inspection services for products against the National Organic Program standards, Acceptable products receive attestation from Ecocert, allow the use of the logo above and appear on a list which is used by 23 offices and subsidiaries in over 80 countries.

This provides assistance in searching for a product suitable for use on a certified organic operations, locally, regionally or globally. For more information on this program, [click here](#).

Staff News

Ecocert ICO Staff Inspector, Allen Moody, (pictured below) spent two weeks at an orphanage in Africa volunteering to teach organic practices. Staff Inspectors, Luella Mozingo & Allen Moody have achieved qualification for Gluten-free inspection.

Ecocert ICO Education and Policy Manager, Jessica Ervin, was requested to serve on the Indiana NRCS State Technical Committee to represent organics and traveling to Washington D.C. in May 2013 to support the organic community.

Certification Manager, Dave DeCou, represented the organic community in April at the National Organic Standards Board Spring meeting.



Updated Policies of the National Organic Program

The National Organic Program (NOP) issues policy statements and guidance to the organic industry whenever they complete the process of determining a clear position on an issue. Over the last few months they have issued documents concerning: the use of kelp in organic livestock feed, the requirements needing to be met when using non-organic seeds or non-organic planting stock on an organic farm, details on the allowed ingredients and sources of vitamins and minerals for organic livestock feed, unannounced inspections, technical assistance to organic operations, and the labeling of organic alcoholic beverages.

Kelp used in organic livestock feed

All kelp added to organic livestock feed must be certified organic no later than March 4, 2014.

Seeds, seedlings, and planting stock used for organic crop production

Must be organic, unless lack of commercial availability is demonstrated by records showing efforts to source organic seeds (etc.) from at least three organic sources.

The basis for non-availability must be Form, Quality, or Quantity. On-farm trials may be used to demonstrate availability (or lack) of equivalent varieties. All growers, including those contracted by processors for specific varieties are responsible to use organic seed or demonstrate lack of commercial availability. Contracted growers should inform their buyers of the need to use organic seed unless they are not commercially available.

See [NOP Policy 5029](#) for full details.

Allowed ingredients and sources of vitamins and minerals in organic livestock feed

All vitamins must be listed by the FDA or the American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) Official Publication, all vitamins must be from Non-GMO sources. All agricultural ingredients listed on the ingredient label used when blending a premix must be organic. Premixes may be blended in non-organically certified facilities but the ingredients must be reviewed by a certifier for use by a certified livestock producer. Minor ingredients in a mineral or vitamin, such as carriers; do not need to be reviewed as long as the vitamin or mineral is AAFCO approved. See [NOP Policy 5030](#) for full details.

Unannounced Inspections

The NOP is recommending that organic certifiers conduct unannounced inspections of 5% of their clients each year. The selection of the operations for unannounced inspection may be random, risk based, or the result of a complaint of investigation. An unannounced inspection may fulfill the

requirements of an annual inspection if the inspector is able to perform a full inspection at that time. See [NOP Policy 2609](#) for full details.

Technical Assistance

Certifiers are required to provide an operation enough information to comply with the regulation but must also prevent conflict of interest, either real or perceived, by not giving advice or providing consulting to operations. To be able to meet these sometimes thought of conflicting requirements certifiers and inspectors are only allowed to provide general information to operators, such as educational materials, information provided in the NOP Program handbook, etc. Specific detailed information not meeting that description will be considered consulting. Inspectors may provide technical assistance by asking and answering questions, collecting information, and explaining the regulations. Inspectors may provide information on well-known alternatives for overcoming problems, provided that the information is available to everyone and are not specific or proprietary to a single operation. Remember to ask questions when you have an inspector present but think of the limitation that they might have.

For further details see [NOP Policy 2614](#).

Labeling of alcoholic beverages

There are updated details of the requirements for labeling organic alcoholic beverages. All labels must be approved in written form by the operations certifier prior to being submitted to TTB for approval. See [NOP Policy Memo 11-3](#) for full details and resources.

Some stats about organic !

New impulses for continued growth: FiBL and IFOAM present latest statistics on organic farming worldwide at Bio-Fach, organic sales now top 60 billion US dollars for the first time, to read more click [here](#).

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) [report](#) of top ten countries with the largest markets for organic food in retail sales includes United States at the top of the list.

According to the [USDA NOP list of certified operations](#) from 2011 to 2012, there has been a 2.7% growth in the number of organic operations in the United States.

According to the December 2012 [Pricewaterhousecoopers report](#), local and organic products are valued by 1 in 2 customers. 46% want organic products and will pay a 4% premium for them.