



ECOCERT Transitional Program TECHNICAL STANDARD

This document is the property of ECOCERT.
All integral or partial reproduction made without the written consent of ECOCERT is illicit.

Code : TRS01	Version :01
--------------	-------------

Page **1** of **7**

CONTENTS

- I. INTRODUCTION..... 3**
- II. FIELD OF APPLICATION 4**
- III. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS..... 4**
- IV. ECOCERT CERTIFIED TRANSITIONAL STANDARD 5**
 - A. Crop Scope 5
 - B. Livestock Scope..... 6
 - C. Processing Scope..... 6
 - D. Wild Harvest Scope 7
- V. COMMERCIALIZATION AND LABELLING 7**

I. INTRODUCTION

The present reference system has as its objective the control of the following specifications:

- the conformity of products with USDA NOP regulation with some exceptions related to the period of conversion, feed requirements and product composition.
- quality insurance and its traceability in the inspected company.

These characteristics are valuable not only for the farmers and livestock owners who want to be prepared for a USDA NOP certification but also for those who want to demonstrate their commitment to their clients or who are concerned about preserving their environment and their health.

Modifications of the reference system:

ECOCERT may modify the present reference after discussion among the different interested parties and will inform applicable operators of these introduced modifications.

Respect of legislation in effect:

The legislation being likely to evolve after the validation of this document, it is agreed that, if necessary, the applicable operators and ECOCERT will take into account these evolutions for the inspection.

The modifications may notably concern the characteristics of the products, analysis methods or authorized labeling descriptions

II. FIELD OF APPLICATION

All categories of products recognized by the USDA NOP organic regulations:

- **Crops:** A plant that is grown to be harvested as food, livestock feed, fiber, or used to add nutrients to the field.
- **Livestock:** Animals that can be used for food or in the production of food, fiber, or feed.
- **Processed products:** Items that have been handled and packaged (i.e. chopped carrots) or combined, processed, and packaged (i.e. soup).
- **Wild crops:** Plants from a growing site that is not cultivated.

III. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

[Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 \(OFPA\) \(pdf\)](#).

- ⇒ The Act that established the NOP and its authority to enforce agricultural products sold, labeled, or represented as “organic” within the U.S.

USDA Organic Regulations.

- ⇒ 7 CFR Section 205 includes all USDA organic standards, including prohibited practices, requirements, and the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Materials (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>)

USDA Program Handbook.

- ⇒ This compilation of guidance documents, policy memos, and instructions is intended to clarify policies and assist those who own, manage, or certify organic operations with complying with USDA organic regulations.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/handbook>

IV. ECOCERT CERTIFIED TRANSITIONAL STANDARD

The ECOCERT Certified Transitional Standard is based solely on the Organic Foods Production Act, NOP regulation CFR 205, and associated NOP Guidance and Policy, with the following exceptions.

A. Crop Scope

A transitional certified producer must comply with CFR 205, except for the duration of the land requirement.

§205.202 Land requirements

Any field or farm parcel from which harvested crops are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “organic,” must:

(a) Have been managed in accordance with the provisions of §205.203 through 205.206;

(b) Have had no prohibited substances, as listed in §205.105, applied to it for a period of **12 months** immediately preceding harvest of the crop; and

(c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.

An individual parcel of land may be certified Transitional for a maximum period of 24 months or 2 cropping cycles, whichever is greater.

During this period, an organic certifier must be identified and the individual parcel must move into the National Organic Program. An individual parcel of land is eligible for Transitional certification for this period one (1) time while under the ownership/management of any individual.

B. Livestock Scope

A transitional certified livestock and livestock products must comply with CFR 205, except that transitional Certified Livestock operations must not feed livestock intended to be transitioned into the National Organic Program, with any feed other than that allowed by CFR 205.236(i) during the 12 month organic transition period for milk products.

Crops and forage from land, included in the organic system plan of a dairy farm, that is in the third year of organic management may be consumed by the dairy animals of the farm during the 12-month period immediately prior to the sale of organic milk and milk products.

C. Processing Scope

A processor of Certified Transitional Products must maintain NOP organic certification under CFR 205 for all facilities and processes by an accredited certifier for the National Organic Program.

Certified Transitional Products (specified ingredients or food group(s)) must be composed of Certified Transitional and/or Certified Organic agricultural products, except that:

1. “Made with” Certified Transitional Products may contain up to 30% agricultural products as allowed by CFR 205.301.
2. All Nonagricultural, Non organic, and non Transitional certified ingredients must comply with CFR 205 for product composition.
3. Transitional Certified products must be labeled according to Ecocert “TS B Guidance for Labelling – ECOCERT Transitional Program”.

D. Wild Harvest Scope

A wild crop producer must comply with CFR 205.207 except for the duration of the land requirement.

Wild-crop harvesting practice standard.

(a) A wild crop that is intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be harvested from a designated area that has had no prohibited substance, as set forth in §205.105, applied to it for a period of **12 months** immediately preceding the harvest of the wild crop.

(b) A wild crop must be harvested in a manner that ensures that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop.

V. COMMERCIALIZATION AND LABELLING

The contracted company implicitly agrees to respect the legislation in effect relative to labeling of products.

The reference to ECOCERT on the labeling or other communication supports is not authorized until the currently valid certification has been attributed and after ECOCERT validates these documents.

The ECOCERT “transitional” logo may be used on the labeling or other communication supports only if the requirements of the rules of use of ECOCERT’s marks and logos are respected (cf. “TSA Rules of Use of ECOCERT logo – ECOCERT transitional Program”).

ATTENTION: all labeling drafts or other documents making reference to ECOCERT must be submitted to ECOCERT for validation before distribution.