

GUIDANCE FOR MATERIAL REVIEW

1- General information

This information is being sent to you as guidance to help you choose materials (products) which are allowed for use in organic production. We realize that it is difficult to choose materials and inputs and that there are many claims of organic approval that are fraudulent and misleading.

It is essential to carefully read this document and to fill in the mentioned forms correctly and completely to obtain ECOCERT ICO approval.

It is your responsibility to be familiar with current organic regulations. **Sections 205.600 to 205.606 of the NOP regulation are the National List** of Approved and Prohibited Substances and will help you evaluate the materials before using them.

At this time ECOCERT ICO does accept OMRI approved materials. On the website <http://www.omri.org/omri-lists>, you can find products or substances approved by OMRI.

2- Instructions

a. When to ask for a material/input approval?

At the beginning of the year, when you update your **Organic System Plan**, you must include a list of **all inputs** that you intend to use in the year for which you are applying. You should follow the instructions below.

During the year, ECOCERT ICO will handle requests on a first-come, first served basis. So, think ahead and apply for approval well in advance. Using a prohibited material can create serious problems with your certification. **Send in your Materials Use Request Form PRIOR to using them so that mistakes are not made.**

In the case of an emergency situation, such as a livestock health crisis, be sure to use a medication that is approved for use. Your Livestock **Organic System Plan** should contain your health care plan as well as a list of materials you intend to use in case they are needed. This way there is opportunity to review them before the emergency happens. Your veterinarian and sometimes your buyer may be able to help guide you in emergency instances.

b. Steps to follow

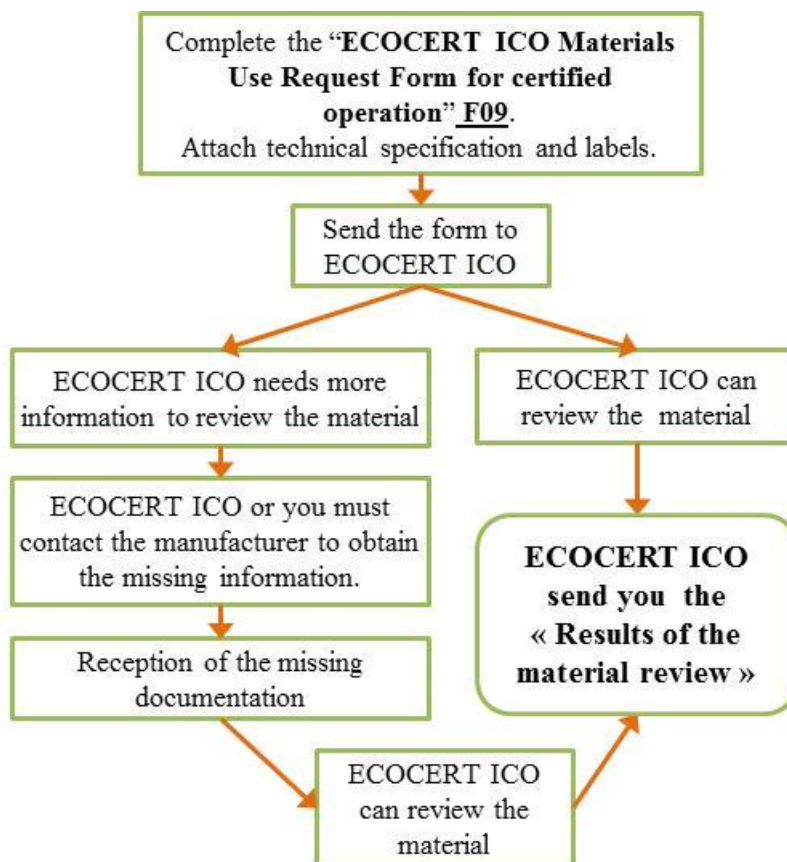
Requests for materials determinations must be made on an **individual basis** and will be performed only for products that an ECOCERT ICO client intends to use.

Whenever you wish to add a material to your Organic System Plan, you must first request approval from ECOCERT ICO.

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Below is the process you must follow:



IMPORTANT NOTE: Usually the manufacturer will refuse to tell you what is in a product. That is why ECOCERT ICO also requests the documents directly from the manufacturer. However, if they also refuse to give ECOCERT ICO adequate information, the product cannot be reviewed and therefore will be considered as prohibited.

3- Timeframe

ECOCERT ICO attempts to review materials promptly upon receipt of a Materials Use Request. Our ability to do a timely and thorough review depends on:

1. The completeness of the information submitted
2. Whether or not the material has been previously approved and determined to be acceptable by ECOCERT ICO, OMRI or another contracted certifying agency.
3. The response time of the manufacturer, if applicable

In many cases it can **take 60 days** or more to adequately collect, review and respond about a material that has not been previously reviewed.

Moreover, for the quickest results, check the most recent OMRI list for already approved materials. **However, you will still need to add a complete description (minimum is a legible copy of a label) of these products in your OSP (section 7: Inputs).**

4- Review Costs

The cost to review an Input is described in ECOCERT ICO fee schedule (**T01**).

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5- Limitations

ECOCERT ICO is not a materials review agency and reviews materials only for the purposes of assuring ECOCERT ICO Clients' compliance with CFR 205.

ECOCERT ICO cannot:

- Recommend materials for use
- Make determinations without complete information
- Make determinations based on information received only in phone calls.
- Consult with clients regarding materials use.

ECOCERT ICO reserves the right to refuse to perform or delay materials reviews whenever:

1. Insufficient information is presented for performing the review.
2. The client has not demonstrated sufficient need for the input.
3. Previously reviewed and approved materials are available for the specific use and application requested in the client's OSP.
4. The input has been previously refused approval by ECOCERT ICO and/or another certifier or OMRI.

ECOCERT ICO's determinations are made based on the information received from the applicant. ECOCERT ICO takes no responsibility or liability for decisions made based on falsified information from the ECOCERT ICO Client or input manufacturer or dealer.

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