Your One Stop for Organic Certification
In the World Market of Organic Certified Food

How to get yourself Organic Certified as per
International Standards
(NPOP, NOP & EU-834/2007)

Guidelines for
Organic Certification
of Crop Production

OneCert = Value

Disclaimer: These Guidelines are made for developing basic understanding
only, Cannot be used or referred as standard reference. For the standard
reference please refer to applicable standards.

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OneCert is a nationally and internationally operating Organic Certification agency accredited by APEDA, an accreditation agency under Ministry of Commerce, GOI under National Program for Organic Production (NPOP-India). OneCert Asia is a branch of OneCert Inc; US. OneCert was formed to provide understandable, affordable and efficient certification by certifying simultaneously to the India-NPOP, US-NOP and EU 834/2007 in one certification fees. This ensures adherence to the highest possible standards as well as providing the clients with certification for all the major world market of Organic produce. The name - OneCert and the logo are recognized internationally as a symbol of high integrity and quality. OneCert Certification team has experience and expertise in Crop Production as well as related aspects of crop production. Within the permitted limits, OneCert ensures all the support to its customers. As a certification body OneCert Asia may help in understanding standards, but cannot provide any consultancy to its operator.

What is Organic Certification?

Organic Certification is a procedure for verifying that products conform to certain defined/set standards. In case of Organic Products, it is primarily the acknowledgement that the products have been produced according to the applicable Organic Crop Production Standards.

Why Organic Certification?

1. Organic certification helps in building trust between consumers and organic farmers.
2. The certification mark ‘Organic’ is the only means to differentiate between certified organic and conventional foods.
3. Labels and certification marks help a consumer to easily recognise trustworthy organic products
4. Organic certification and the logo are important marketing tools.
5. Organic certification helps in getting comparatively a better price for a produce.
**Benefits of Organic Certification by OneCert Asia**

1. OneCert Organic Certification services are understandable, affordable and efficient.
2. OneCert provides NPOP-India, NOP-USDA and EU 834/2007 Certifications all in a single fee.
3. A team of young, energetic and experienced inspectors having excellent knowledge of different types of operations is deputed.
4. OneCert Logo is recognized internationally as a symbol of very high integrity and quality.
5. Customer services and other supports to the clients are at par excellence.
6. Requirements of the entire major international standards have been summarized in the OneCert International standards.
7. Understanding the values and importance of Transaction Certificates, these certificates are released within 24 hrs. Of receiving the required documents.
8. Neither hidden costs nor confusing statements.

**OneCert Asia Certification Process**

The Certification process of OneCert organic certification includes 5 steps:

**STEP-1:- Registration and Application:-**

For obtaining Organic Certification, the first step is to be registered with OneCert Asia who in turn will provide you with an application packet. The packet contains Application form, Agreement, Organic Farm plan Questionnaire (OFPQ), Organic System Plan, Farm Product and Inventory list, Field History sheet. In Organic Farm plan Questionnaire (OFPQ) and Organic System Plan information about Record keeping, Crop management, Soil fertility, Pest and disease management practices, Preventive measures taken to avoid the disease, and the methods used for prevention of contamination and commingling during the production operation are required. While submitting the Organic Farm plan Questionnaire and Organic System Plan one must attach the Farm Map and Product label presently in use or to be used in future.

*Note:* You can also download application form from our website [www.onecertasia.in](http://www.onecertasia.in)
STEP-2:- Application Review:-
Once your complete application is received, we will review the same on the basis of applicable standards. In case, any incomplete information/non compliance are noticed or any additional information is needed, we will contact you. Once required information is gathered or non compliance is over, an on site audit is planned on a mutually agreed date and time.

This reviewing of application usually takes about a couple of days based on the information provided by applicant.

STEP-3:- Inspection:-
On the prescribed date a trained Organic Inspector, familiar with your type of operation will reach your operation site. The inspector will thoroughly examine each process and documents of your operation for the verification of your plan in an accurate description of Organic standard compliance. Mean while an exit interview is conducted during which Inspector summaries his findings and asks for any additional information, if required. Inspection normally takes half a day to 3 days depending upon the complexity of operations.

STEP-4:- Secondary Review:-
After submission of the inspector’s report, it is reviewed to evaluate compliance with the applicable standards. During the Secondary Review if more information is required we will contact you. After the receipt of report from the inspector, the Secondary Review generally takes 2-4 days.

STEP-5:- Certification Decision
After completion of the Secondary Review, the file is sent for the final decision where it takes 1-2 weeks. After the final decision is made, you will receive your Organic Certificate along with a covering letter citing the conditions for awarding certificate. The Organic Certificate contains name of your company, address, category of certification and list of certified organic product. The entire Certification Process may take about 4-12 weeks depending upon documents and co-operation provided.
Pre Audit: To know the status of its operation, applicant may also request OneCert to conduct a pre-audit. During the pre-audit OneCert will get the operator know about start of its operation on the basis of relevant operations.

Basic Requirements Organic Crop Production & Certification

1. Conversion Requirement: An organic Crop Production Operation requires a minimum of three years conversion period which can be reduced or extended in the light of previous status of the land. The period must equal or exceed 12 months.

A conventional farm has to undergo a conversion period, before products can be sold as organic. During the conversion time, all rules of organic production have to be kept, according to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NPOP/EU regulation</th>
<th>NOP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual crops:</td>
<td>Two years until planting</td>
<td>Three years until harvest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perennial crops:</td>
<td>Three years until harvest</td>
<td>Three years until harvest</td>
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<td>Start of conversion period:</td>
<td>NPOP 3.1.1.3 the conversion period may be calculated from the date of application of certification program or from the last date application of unapproved farm inputs provided that it can demonstrate the standard requirements have been met from the date of implementation.</td>
<td>When the farmer decides to start producing organic</td>
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<td>Accredited Certification body supervision:</td>
<td>Minimum 12 Months Supervision is required before Certification. The supervision starts from the date of</td>
<td>The farmer can record organic management him / herself; records must be detailed and</td>
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application to OneCert, or from the date of 1st Inspection. If the operator is found in compliance during the inspection the date of registration will be considered from the date of application to certification body and appropriate conversion period will be awarded to operator with effective from date of application to OneCert.

| Reduction in conversion period: | NPOP 3.1.1.6 A full conversion period is not required where de facto full standard requirements have been met for several years and where this can be verified through several means and sources. “Sufficient proofs for non use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides during the previous years are required to reduce the conversion period”. Either records by third party, plus certificate from 3rd party plus soil analysis report is required. |
| Sale of products during conversion: | From second year of conversion on, products can be labelled as “in conversion to organic farming”. Must be sold as conventional. |

2. Buffer Zone Requirement: NPOP 3.1.1.5 The organic or conventional production operation should have a clear separation by establishing some natural barrier or by maintaining buffer zone.

3. Seed & Planting Material: NPOP 3.2.1 The operator of organic crop production operation should use organically produced seeds/planting material. In case of non availability alternatives can be adopted, when certified organic seed are not available chemically untreated conventional seed can be used. Use of genetically engineered seeds, pollen, transgenic plants and plant material is not allowed.
4. Diversity in Crop Production: The operator of organic crop production operation should adopt the measures which enhance or improve the diversity in crop production; the measures may be crop rotation, cover crops, catch crops, trap crops green manuring, tree lines and hedges on boundaries.

5. Soil/Crop Fertility: The biodegradable material of microbial, plant or animal origin produced on organic farms should form the basis for fertilization of soil/crop. The measures recommended to improve the diversity in crop production should also be a part of fertilization policy. Soil erosion must be avoided, for annual crops, a wide crop rotation has to be used, including legumes to assure biological nitrogen fixation, for perennial crops, wherever possible, legumes have to planted in interrow spaces, organic manuring should be used to maintain soil fertility, Nitrogen fertilisers and superphosphate are not allowed, Rock phosphate, potassium sulphate, and single trace element fertilisers can be used, in case that soil or leaf analyses show deficiencies of the respective nutrient, Organic and inorganic fertilisation must not exceed crop requirements, Lime (CaCO₃) can and should be applied, when necessary.

The fertility practices should comply with NPOP -3.2.4 and NOP- 205.203 as per applicable standard

Note: The brought in material for fertilization must be in accordance with NPOP -Appendix I and NOP 205.601 & 205.602, as per applicable standard.

6. Pest, Disease and Weed Management: Pest, Disease and Weed should be controlled by adoption of preventive techniques or use of management practices which minimize the pest, disease and weed attack. Product prepared at the farm from local plants, animals and microorganism can be use for Pest, Disease and Weed control. Synthetic herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides are not allowed, Pests and plant diseases must be prevented, using adapted species and resistant varieties, adequate crop rotations, and promoting natural enemies, After having taken these measures, only those natural or mineral substances may be used, which are mentioned in annex ii (EU-Regulation) and/or the national list (NOP); some of these substances can be applied only after approval by the certifier, NOP restricts not only the active substance, but also the inert ingredients of
natural pesticides, **Weeds** must be controlled by mechanical or thermal means, through adequate soil tillage and crop rotation.

*The Pest, Disease and Weed Management practices should be in accordance with the NPOP - 3.2.5 and/or NOP - 205.206 as per applicable standard.*

*Note: The material used for Pest, Disease and Weed Management must be in accordance with NPOP -Appendix II and NOP 205.601 & 205.602 as per applicable standard.*

7. **Contamination Control:** Relevant measures should be adopted to minimize or avoid the contamination from outside or within the farm during the each stage of production.

8. **Soil and Water Conservation:** Relevant measures should be taken to prevent soil erosion, salination of soil, excessive or improper use of water and the pollution of ground or surface water.

9. **Storage, Transportation & Marketing:** During the Storage, Transportation & Marketing of product organic integrity of product should be maintained by adopting appropriate measures.

10. **Parallel Production:**

    If a farm is engaged in parallel production:-

    1. Buffer zones are maintained for demarcation.
    2. Crops are clearly distinguishable
    3. The crops are harvested in such a way that there are reliable methods to verify the actual harvest of the respective crop.

    OneCert do not allow cultivation of same type of conventional and organic crop in same farm.

    *Note: The above guidelines are provided for developing the basic understanding. For the more details, Please refer relevant standards.*

**Cost of Organic Certification by OneCert**

OneCert provides efficient certification services simultaneously for the India-NPOP, US-NOP, and EU 834/2007 standards in One
Certification fees i.e. One Certification fee for all three regulations. The fees may vary depending upon the time required for different activities such as processing of application, review/s, inspection/s, report writing, decision making and number of products/crops applied for Organic Certification etc. Including above mentioned followings are considered base for deciding the certification fee.

1. Farm site
2. Crops Cultivated
3. Intensity of the operation.
4. No. of Operation sites
5. Size of operation.
6. Complexity of operation.
7. Records maintained and information provided by applicant.

The Fees for the different categories of Operators may be within in the range of Rs.100/- per acre to Rs. 2,500/- per acre depending on the land holding of Farmer.

1. Cost of Scope Certificate:-Rs.1,000/- per certificate.
2. Cost of Transaction certificate:-Rs.750/- for Domestic and Rs. 1,500/- for Export plus cost of courier for Destinations other than India.
3. Cost of sample testing as per actual billing by the designated Laboratory.

Note:
1. Taxes as applicable will be extra.
2. Cost of traveling (To & from Jaipur to the site of inspection), lodging and boarding of the auditor will be borne by the applicant.
3. To know the actual cost of your operation, please contact OneCert Asia office.

Documents & Records Required:-
1. Map of all the land requested for certification
2. OSP approved by OneCert
3. Field History Form
4. Invoices for purchase of fertilisers, pesticides, seeds, etc., must be filed.
5. Residue analysis report (if applying for reduction in conversion period.
6. Farm Product inventory

Approved by: Sandeep Bhargava
7. Water test report if applicable.
8. Soil and plant tissue test, if applicable.

Time taken by OneCert Asia for Organic Certification

The complete certification process may take 4 to 12 weeks depending upon the provision of information, support by the applicant and conversion period decided by OneCert for a particular operation.

Complaint & Appeal

Under the provisions of OneCert Certification Procedure (OCA-111) any decision taken in respect of granting withholding, renewal, suspension or cancellation of certification under the NPOP, NOP & EU 834/2007 can be appealed against. An operator may also lodge the complaint.

For the Procedure and Guidelines for making an appeal and complaints, contact

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