Your One Stop for Organic Certification in the World Market of Organic Food

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

Guidelines for Organic Certification of Bee Products as per Livestock/Animal Husbandry Standards

OneCert = Value

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

OneCert Asia Agri Certification (P) Ltd.
H-08, Mansarover Industrial Area, Mansarover,
Jaipur – 30 20 20, Rajasthan, India
Phone No. +91 141 6541882 & Fax No: +91 141 2395481
E-mail: info@onecertasia.in; Website: www.onecertasia.in
OneCert is a nationally and internationally operating Organic Certification agency accredited by APEDA under National Program for Organic Production (NPOP-India). OneCert Asia is a branch of OneCert Inc; USA. OneCert was formed to provide understandable, affordable and efficient certification by certifying simultaneously to the India-NPOP, US-NOP, European Union-EU 834/2007, 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 food production, processing, transportation, distribution and bee products. OneCert ensures all the support, within the permitted limits, to its customer.

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

Why Organic Certification?
1. Organic certification helps in building trust between consumers and organic bee keepers.
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 recognise trustworthy organic products easily.
4. Organic certification and the logo are important marketing tools
5. Organic certification helps in getting comparatively a better price.
The Certification Process

The Certification process of OneCert is divided into 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 System plan, Livestock farm plan questionnaire, Product Profile. In Organic System plan information about Record keeping, Production detail, detail of Input Use (for Feeding, pest and disease management), Preventive measures, and the methods used for prevention of contamination and commingling are required. While submitting the Organic System farm plan and Livestock farm plan questionnaire one must attach the Facility Map, Honey test report, Product label presently in use or to be used in future.

STEP-2:- Application Review:-

Once complete application is received, it is reviewed on the basis of applicable standards. If any incomplete information/non compliance are found 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 facility. The inspector will thoroughly examine each process and documents of your operation and facility for the verification of your plan in an accurate description of Organic standard compliance. During an exit interview he will summarize 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 receiving the final decision 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 products. The entire Certification Process may take about 4-12 weeks depending upon documents and co-operation provided.

Basic Requirements for Organic Certification of Bee Keeping

1. Hives and Surrounding Area:-
   - Hives shall be situated in organically managed fields and/or wild natural areas. Hives shall not be placed close to fields or other areas where chemical pesticides and herbicides are used.
   - Each beehive shall primarily consist of natural materials. Uses of construction materials with potentially toxic effects are prohibited.
   - Collection areas must be large enough to provide adequate and sufficient nutrition and access to water.
   - The sources of natural nectar, honeydew and pollen shall consist essentially of organically produced plants and/or spontaneous (wild) vegetation.
   - The hives shall consist basically of natural materials presenting no risk of contamination to the environment or the bee products.
   - When bees are placed in wild areas, consideration should be given to the indigenous insect population.
2. Feed:-

- Feeding shall only take place after the last harvest before the season when no foraging feed is available.
- Persistent materials may not be used in beehives where there is a possibility of permeation of the honey and where residues may be distributed in the area through dead bees.
- At the end of the production season hives must be left with reserves of honey and pollen sufficiently abundant for the colony to survive the dormancy period.
- The feeding of colonies can be undertaken to overcome temporary feed shortages due to climatic or other exceptional circumstances. In such cases, organically produced honey or sugars should be used if available. However the certification body or authority may permit the use of non-organically produced honey or sugars. Time-limits should be set for such derogations. Feeding should be carried out only between the last honey harvest and the start of the next nectar or honeydew flow period.

3. Sitting of hives

- Hives for beekeeping shall be placed in areas where cultivated and/or spontaneous vegetation comply with the rules of production.
- The official certification body or authority shall approve the areas which ensure appropriate sources of honeydew, nectar and pollen based on information provided by the operators and/or through the process of inspection.

4. Origin of bees

- Bee colonies can be converted to organic production. Introduced bees should come from organic production units when available.
- In the choice of breeds, account must be taken of the capacity of bees to adapt to local conditions, their vitality and their resistance to disease.
5. Health of the bees

The health of bee colonies should be maintained by good agricultural practice, with emphasis on disease prevention through breed selection and hive management. This includes:

- The use of hardy breeds that adapt well to the local conditions;
- Renewal of queen bees if necessary;
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of equipment;
- Regular renewal of beeswax;
- Availability in hives of sufficient pollen and honey;
- Systematic inspection of hives to detect any anomalies;
- Systematic control of male broods in the hive;
- Moving diseased hives to isolated areas, if necessary; or
- Destruction of contaminated hives and materials.

For pest and disease control the following are allowed:

- lactic, oxalic, acetic acid,
- formic acid,
- sulphur,
- natural etheric oils (e.g. menthol, eucalyptol, camphor),
- Bacillus thuringiensis and
- Steam and direct flame.

The health of bees should be based on prevention such as adequate selection of breeds, favourable environment, balanced diet and appropriate husbandry practices.

Where preventative measures fail, veterinary medicinal products may be used provided that:

- preference is given to phytotherapeutic and homeopathic treatment, and
- If allopathic chemically synthesised medicinal products are used, the bee products must not be sold as organic. Treated
hives must be placed in isolation and undergo a conversion period of one year. All the wax must be replaced with wax which is in accordance with these Guidelines, and

- Every veterinary treatment must be clearly documented.

The practice of destroying the male brood is permitted only to contain infestation with Varroa jacobsoni.

7. Management

- The foundation comb shall be made from organically produced wax.
- The destruction of bees in the combs as a method of harvesting of bee products is prohibited.
- Mutilations, such as clipping of the wings of queen bees, are prohibited.
- The use of chemical synthetic repellents is prohibited during honey extraction operations.
- Smoking should be kept to a minimum. Acceptable smoking materials should be natural or from materials that meet the requirements of these Guidelines.
- It is recommended that temperatures are maintained as low as possible during the extraction and processing of products derived from beekeeping.

8. Record Keeping

The operator should maintain detailed and up-to-date records as follows. Maps should be maintained depicting the location of all hives.

All hives should be identified individually. Written and/or documentary accounts should be kept to enable tracking of bee colonies within the system at all times and to provide adequate trace back for audit purpose. The operator should maintain detailed and up-to-date records of:

- Breeding and/or origins of bees;
- Registration of any purchases;
- The health plan to be used in the prevention and management of
disease, injury and reproductive problems;

- All treatments and medicines administered for any purpose, including quarantine periods and identification of treated hives;
- Feed provided and the source of the feedstuffs;
- Stock movements within the unit and hive movements within designated forage areas as identified on maps;
- Transportation, slaughter and/or sales.
- Extraction, processing and storing of all bee products.

9. Pest management

For pest management and control the following measures, in order of preference, should be used:

- Preventative methods, such as disruption and elimination of habitat and access to facilities by pest organisms, should be the primary methodology of pest management;
- If preventative methods are inadequate, the first choice for pest control should be mechanical/physical and biological methods;
- If mechanical/physical and biological methods are inadequate for pest control, pesticide substances be used provided that they are accepted for use in handling, storage, transportation or processing facilities by the competent authority and so that contact with organic products is prevented.

Pests should be avoided by good manufacturing practice. Pest control measures within storage areas or transport containers may include physical barriers or other treatments such as sound, ultra-sound, light, ultra-violet light, traps (pheromone traps and static bait traps) controlled temperature, controlled atmosphere (carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitrogen), and diatomaceous earth.

10. Processing

Processing methods should be mechanical, physical or biological (such as fermentation and smoking) and minimize the use of non-agricultural ingredients and additives as according to standards.
11. Packaging

Packaging materials should preferably be chosen from bio-degradable, recycled or recyclable sources.

12. Storage and transport

Product integrity should be maintained during any storage and transportation and handling by use of the following precautions:

- Organic products must be protected at all times from co-mingling with non-organic products; and
- Organic products must be protected at all times from contact with materials and substances not permitted for use in organic farming and handling.

Where only part of the unit is certified, other product not covered by these guidelines should be stored and handled separately and both types of products should be clearly identified.

Bulk stores for organic product should be separate from conventional product stores and clearly labelled to that effect.

Storage areas and transport containers for organic product should be cleaned using methods and materials permitted in organic production. Measures should be taken to prevent possible contamination from any pesticide or other treatment not listed in standards.

For the detailed requirements please consult OneCert International Standards, USDA-NOP, NPOP-India & EU 834/2007 regulations. Above standards can be downloaded from our website www.onecertasia.in.

Cost of Organic Certification by OneCert:-

OneCert is formed to provide understandable, affordable and efficient certification simultaneously for the India-NPOP, US-NOP, and European Union-EU 834/2007 standards in One Certification fees i.e. One Certification fee for ALL. 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 etc. Fees of an Organic Crop & Livestock operation depend upon:

1. Total land holding applied for Organic Certification.
2. No. of products applied for Organic Certification.
3. Intensity of the operation.
4. No. of Operation sites or Offices.
5. Size of operation.
6. Complexity of operation.
7. Records maintained and information provided.
8. Support provided by applicant.
9. No. of man days are required

The Fees for the different categories of Operators may be within the range of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/-. For more details please write to OneCert Asia Office with brief description of your operations.

**Time taken by OneCert Asia for Organic Certification**

The complete certification process may take 4 to 12 weeks depending upon the providence of information and support by the applicant.

**Benefits of Organic Certification by OneCert Asia**

1. OneCert Organic Certification services are understandable, affordable and efficient.
2. We provide NPOP-India, NOP-USDA and EU 834/2007 Certification all in one 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 *par excellence*.
6. Requirements of the entire major international standards have been summarized in the OneCert International standards.
7. Fully 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.
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 & EEC 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

Sandeep Bhargava
Chief Executive Officer
OneCert Asia Agri Certification (P) Ltd.
H-08, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Mansarovar,
Jaipur – 30 20 20, Rajasthan, India
Phone No. +91 141 6541882 & Fax No: +91 141 2395481
E-mail: info@onecertasia.in; Website: www.onecertasia.in