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CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS

Global Organic Alliance (GOA) provides organic certification services for the National Organic Program (NOP) and compliance to terms of trade arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and International Trade Partners. It is important to discuss your compliance needs with your buyers. Note: Additional fees may apply for some programs or services. Please refer to the GOA Schedule of Fees (W004). A brief description of the NOP certification and International trade Arrangements follow. Please refer to W006 – Labeling Guidelines for guidance on labeling criteria and seal use.

Import Documentation: Health Inspection. Shipments must include permits, sanitary certificates (animal products), and phytosanitary certificates (plant products) to ensure the product is healthy and free from pests requiring quarantine.

Note: Meat, Poultry, and Processed Egg Products. The USDA only allows imported meat, poultry, and processed egg products from countries with inspection standards equivalent to U.S. standards.

Program	Type	Description
National Organic Program (NOP)	Certification	Program authorized by the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.). Operations are required to be certified to the NOP by an accredited certifying agent before products may be sold, labeled, or represented as organic in the United States. Operations located in Canada may not be certified to the NOP. Products must be certified to the NOP regulations to be eligible to market organic product under trade arrangements made with international trade partners. See W006 – Labeling Guidelines for label and seal requirements.
Canada Equivalence Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope. The equivalence arrangement includes all USDA organic products, whether they are produced and certified in the U.S. or around the world. USDA-authorized certifying agents may not certify Canada-based operations to USDA organic standards.</p> <p>Requirements for Exports to Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops may not be grown using Chilean/sodium nitrate. • Crops may not be produced using hydroponic or aeroponic methods. • Livestock (except ruminants) must be produced in compliance with the indoor and outdoor stocking rates set out in CAN/CGSB-32.210. <p>Requirements for Imports from Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics shall not be marketed as organic in the United States. <p>Labeling. Must be compliant with the labeling regulations of the destination country. May display the Canadian organic logo as well as the USDA organic seal. No 100% organic claims for US product going into Canada.</p> <p>Use of Chilean/sodium nitrate on a crop will exclude that crop from being eligible for US/Canada compliance for that crop year. Compliance is granted on a crop basis, not on a field-by-field basis. To be approved, all of the crop must be produced in compliance with the terms of the trade arrangement.</p> <p><i>All products must be accompanied with an organic certificate from the certifier that states “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US/Canada Equivalence Arrangement.” Products without this accompanying documentation may be refused entry into Canada.</i></p>
European Union (EU) Equivalence Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope. Beginning June 1, 2012, the equivalence arrangement only covers products exported from and certified in the United States or the European Union. Products must be either produced or have had final processing or packaging occur within the US or the EU.</p> <p>Requirements for Exports to the EU</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crops (apples/pears) produced using antibiotics (streptomycin for fire blight control in apples and pears) may not be exported to the EU. <p>Requirements for Imports from the EU The following EU organic products may not be exported to the U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics. Aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish). <p>Exports – Wine may not contain nonorganic grapes and be produced using practices and substances in EU Organic Regulations EEC 203/2012. As of 19 October 2017, the EU requires electronic export certificates (Certificate of Inspection or eCOI). Export certificates are issued online through the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), administered by the EU.</p> <p>Imports – Product must be accompanied by a <u>NOP Import Certificate</u> completed by an EU-authorized certifying agent.</p> <p>Labeling Requirements. For retail products, labels or stickers must state the name of the U.S. or EU certifying agent and may use the USDA Organic seal or the EU organic logo. Exported products must meet the labeling requirements in the destination country.</p>
India Recognition Agreement <i>Importing</i>	Compliance	<p>Recognition Agreement ended by the USDA. By 12 July 2021 to continue to export to the United States, current organic operations in India will need to have applied for certification with a USDA accredited organic certifier. After 12 July 2022, USDA organic certification will be required to import organic products from India to the United States. By mid-March 2021, USDA certifiers will be able to list these applicants for organic certification in India in the Organic Integrity Database, to help US buyers verify that a farm or business in India has applied for NOP certification.</p> <p>Scope. Agreement covers all USDA organic products produced in India and certified by an Indian government-accredited certifying agent.</p> <p>Production Requirements. USDA organic regulations</p> <p>Documentation. Organic certificates must be issued by the certifier from Tracenet (since June 2010). A Transaction Certificate issued by the certifier from Tracenet must accompany each shipment (since November 2014). Standard import documentation (i.e. shipment records, purchase records - purchase order, invoice)</p> <p>Labeling. Products produced under the agreement must meet all USDA organic labeling requirements.</p>
Israel Recognition Agreement <i>Importing</i>	Compliance	<p>Scope. Agreement covers all USDA organic products produced in Israel and certified by a Israeli government-accredited certifying agent.</p> <p>Production Requirements. USDA organic regulations</p> <p>Documentation. Standard United States import documentation.</p> <p>Labeling. Products produced under the agreement must meet all USDA organic labeling requirements.</p>
Japan Equivalence Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope. The equivalence arrangement is limited to organic products that are produced within the U.S. and Japan, or products for which final processing or packaging occurs in the U.S. or Japan may access either market. This includes product processed or packaged in the US or Japan that contain organic ingredients from third countries that are certified to the USDA or Japan organic standards. Products covered under the arrangement: Crops, Wild Crops, Livestock, Processed Products of plant origin. Other USDA-certified organic products, such as meat, dairy products, honey, and alcoholic beverages, continue to have access to both markets.</p>

		<p>Exports – Products covered under the scope of the agreement must be shipped with <u>Export Certificate (TM-11)</u> completed by GOA. The export certificate must include the statement: “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Japan Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”</p> <p>Organic meat, dairy products, honey and alcoholic beverages certified to the NOP may be exported to Japan and they do not require the export certificate.</p> <p>An alcoholic beverage exported to Japan that is labeled with the word “organic” in the Japanese language should be accompanied with a certificate issued by a certification body that includes the name of the certified alcoholic beverage, the name and address of the certified operation and the name and address of the operator, number and date of certification, country of origin, and the name and address of the certifying body. The alcoholic beverage may display the USDA organic seal if it is compliant with USDA organic labeling requirements.</p> <p>Imports – Products covered under the scope of the agreement must be shipped with a <u>NOP Import Certificate</u> completed by the Japan certifying agent. Organic meat, dairy products, and alcoholic drinks may be imported from Japan provided they are certified to the NOP and do not require an export certificate.</p> <p>U.S. Labeling Requirements. Products produced under the arrangement must comply with the USDA organic regulations for the use of the term “organic” and the USDA seal.</p> <p>JAS Labeling Requirements. Products exported under the arrangement must comply with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries requirements for the use of the JAS seal.</p> <p>JAS seal may be displayed on the US product by a USDA-NOP certified operation that has a JAS labeling contract with a JAS certified importer. The US organic product may display the USDA organic seal. The US organic product is expected to be imported into Japan by a JAS certified importer.</p>
Korea Equivalency Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope. Beginning July 1, 2014, the arrangement covers products which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are certified to the USDA or Korean organic regulations • Are “processed foods” as defined by the Korean Food Code • Contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients • Have their final processing (as defined in the Korean Food Code) occur in the U.S. or Korea • U.S. products: do not contain apples or pears produced with the use of antibiotics • Korean products: do not contain livestock products produced with the use of antibiotics <p>Documentation – U.S. Organic Products. Products exported to Korea under the arrangement must be accompanied by the <u>NAQS Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods</u> issued by GOA.</p> <p>Documentation – Korean Organic Products. Products exported to the U.S. under the arrangement must be accompanied by a <u>NOP Import Certificate</u>, issued by a Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA)-accredited certification body.</p> <p>U.S. Labeling Requirements. Korean products processed under the terms of the arrangement must be labeled according to USDA organic labeling requirements and may display the USDA organic seal and/or Korean organic food label.</p> <p>Korean Labeling Requirements. U.S. products produced under the arrangement must be labeled according to MAFRA’s organic labeling requirements and may display the Korean organic food label and/or USDA organic seal.</p>

New Zealand Recognition Agreement <i>Importing</i>	Compliance	<p>Scope. Agreement covers all USDA organic products produced in New Zealand and certified by a New Zealand government-accredited certifying agent.</p> <p>Production Requirements. USDA organic regulations</p> <p>Documentation. Standard United States import documentation.</p> <p>Labeling. Products produced under the agreement must meet all USDA organic labeling requirements.</p>
Switzerland Equivalence Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope. Beginning July 10, 2015, the arrangement covers products which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are certified to the USDA or Swiss organic regulations • Have their final processing occur in the U.S. or Switzerland • Swiss products may not contain livestock products, or any ingredient used in such products, produced with the use of antibiotics • Organic wine must be produced and labeled to the regulations of the importing country. <p>Documentation – U.S. Organic Products. A USDA-accredited certifying agent must complete a Swiss Certificate of Inspection for all USDA organic products traded under the arrangement.</p> <p>Documentation – Swiss Organic Products. A Swiss-accredited certification body must <i>complete a NOP Import Certificate</i> for all Swiss organic products traded under the arrangement.</p> <p>U.S. Labeling Requirements. Swiss organic products imported into the U.S. must be labeled according to USDA organic labeling requirements and may display the USDA organic seal.</p> <p>Swiss Labeling Requirements. U.S. organic products imported into Switzerland must be labeled according to Swiss organic labeling requirements and may display the USDA organic seal.</p>
Taiwan Equivalence Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope. The equivalence arrangement is limited to USDA organic products that are grown and produced in the United States or Taiwan or have their final processing or packaging in the United States or on Taiwan. This includes product processed or packaged in the US or on Taiwan that contain organic ingredients from third countries that are certified to the USDA or Taiwan organic standards. The equivalence arrangement only covers products exported from and certified in the United States or on Taiwan. Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics and aquatic animal products may not be exported to the United States as certified organic.</p> <p>Documentation - USDA Organic Products. Products exported to Taiwan that fall under the scope of the arrangement (crops, wild crops, livestock, processed products) must be accompanied by an export certificate, also known as a TM-11. The TM-11 export certificate must be signed by a USDA-accredited certifying agent and must include the following statement: "Certified in compliance with the terms of the AIT/TECRO-NOP/AFA Organic Equivalence Arrangement."</p> <p>Documentation - Taiwan Organic Products. A certifying agent supervised by Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA) and accredited in compliance with Taiwan organic regulations must complete the NOP Import Certificate for all organic products traded under the arrangement. The NOP Import Certificate must be signed by the Taiwan accredited certifying agent and must include the following statement: "Certified in compliance with the terms of the AIT/TECRO-NOP/AFA Organic Equivalence Arrangement."</p> <p>Labeling. For retail products, labels or stickers must state the name of the US or Taiwan certifying agent and may use the USDA organic seal. Exported organic products must meet the labeling requirements in the destination</p>

		country. Use of Taiwan's organic mark is restricted for use only by Taiwan businesses and may NOT be applied to USDA organic products.
United Kingdom Equivalency Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope – Effective January 1, 2021, the United States has an equivalence arrangement with the United Kingdom which includes Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales) and Northern Ireland. Organic products certified to either the USDA or UK organic standards may be sold in both countries, as long as the products meet the terms of the arrangement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to organic products that have been raised within the US or UK, or products for which the final processing or packaging occurs within the US or UK. The equivalence arrangement only covers products certified in and exported from the US or the UK. • Allowed product categories: Crops, Wild Crops, Livestock, Processed Products. • Wine must be labelled according to the organic regulations of the destination country. • Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics and Aquatic animals (e.g., fish, shellfish) may NOT be exported to the US as certified organic. <p>Exports of USDA Organic Products To the UK-Great Britain – GOA must issue a paper Certificate of Inspection (COI) before products leave the US and send to the UK Port Health Authority (PHA)/Local Authority (LA), usually by courier. The PHA/LA can endorse a copy if the original hasn't arrived in order to clear the goods, though the original will need to be endorsed within 10 working days for the consignment to be sold on as organic. To the UK-Northern Ireland – Pursuant to the Northern Ireland/Ireland Protocol, the EU organic regulations will remain applicable in Northern Ireland. Exports from the U.S. to Northern Ireland will continue to adhere to the EU procedures and will continue to require an EU COI. A USDA-accredited certifying agent must complete an electronic Certificate of Inspection (COI) through the European Union's Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) before the product leaves the U.S. Certain edits to the COI may only be made within 10 days of issuing the original COI.</p> <p>U.S. organic businesses that encounter issues with USDA organic exports arriving in the UK are encouraged to work with their UK importer. You may also email the UK authorities at Organic.Imports@defra.gov.uk.</p> <p>Imports of UK Organic Products - A certifying agent supervised by the UK's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and accredited in compliance with the UK's organic regulations must complete a U.S. National Organic Program (NOP) Import Certificate, Form 2110-1, for all UK organic products traded under the arrangement whether originating from Great Britain or Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Labeling - Exported products must meet the labelling requirements in the destination country. For UK retail products destined for the U.S., the labels must state the name of the UK certifying agent.</p> <p>Visit the Government of the UK website for more information about labelling. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-and-labelling-organic-food-from-1-january-2021.</p>