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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 scope indicates what products are eligible for trade under the arrangement.</p> <p><u>To be eligible, USDA certified organic products must:</u> Be raised in the United States; Have final processing or packaging occur within the United States; or Be produced or have the final processing or packaging occur within a third country compliant with Canada's requirements under equivalence.</p> <p><u>To be eligible, COR certified organic products must:</u> Be raised in Canada; Have final processing or packaging occur within Canada; or Be produced or have the final processing or packaging occur within a third country that complies with the terms of this arrangement. Product categories allowed under equivalence: Crops, Wild Crops, Livestock, Processed Products.</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-32.210-2006. • The U.S.-Canada equivalence arrangement does not extend to the USDA recognition agreements with Israel and New Zealand. USDA organic products certified by India, Israel and New Zealand accredited certification bodies are for direct export to the U.S. only. See the Government of Canada website for more information. • Aquatic plants are eligible for USDA organic certification under the crop standards (Policy Memo 12-1) and may be sold or marketed as organic in Canada.

		<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>Trade Documentation. 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.</p> <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. All retail product labels for USDA exports to Canada must be in English and French.</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>European Union (EU) Equivalence Arrangement</p>	<p>Compliance</p>	<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</p> <p>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). The COI must be issued before shipments leave the US port of origin. 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>
<p>India Recognition Agreement for <i>Importing</i> ENDED 11 January 2021</p>	<p>Compliance</p>	<p>Recognition Agreement ended 11 January 2021 with the USDA. As of 12 July 2022, NOP organic certification by a USDA accredited certification agent is required to import organic products from India to the United States. An operation’s status as “Certified” can be verified in the Organic Integrity Database.</p> <p>Scope. Must be NOP certified by a USDA accredited certifying agent.</p> <p>Documentation.</p> <p>Products imported to the US from India must be accompanied by a NOP Import Certificate (NOP 211-10) issued by a USDA accredited certifying agent. Operations and certifiers are responsible for verifying the organic integrity of all shipments imported from India, which includes ensuring compliance with the NOP Import Certificate requirement.</p> <p>NOP Organic Certificate issued by a USDA accredited certification agent.</p>

		<p>TraceNet certificates issued by the certifier are required by the Government of India for all applicable exports from India. Operations and certifiers are responsible for ensuring compliance to all additional Government of India requirements.</p> <p>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. This equivalence arrangement is limited to country-to-country trade. For U.S. exports: It is limited to products certified to the USDA organic regulations that are produced or have had their final processing occur within the U.S. For Japan exports: It is limited to products certified to the Japan organic regulations that are produced or have had their final processing occur in Japan.</p> <p>Allowed product categories: Crops, Wild Crops, Livestock, Processed Products.</p> <p>Exports – Products covered under the scope of the agreement must be shipped with <i>Export Certificate (TM-11)</i> 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>The equivalence arrangement for plant and plant-based processed products became effective January 1, 2014. Equivalence for livestock products and processed products containing livestock ingredients is effective as of July 16, 2020, for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant or plant-based products. The arrangement includes organic plant, including fungi, and plant-based processed products of U.S. or Japanese origin. • Livestock products. The arrangement includes organic livestock products and processed products containing livestock ingredients of U.S. or Japanese origin. Livestock products or processed products containing livestock ingredients sold, labeled, or represented as organic in the U.S. must be derived from animals that have not been treated with antibiotics. • Other organic products. Alcoholic beverages and other products not regulated by the JAS law can enter the Japanese organic market. <p>Export certificates are not required for organic products not regulated by the JAS law, such as alcoholic beverages. However, alcoholic beverages labeled with the word “organic” in the Japanese language must be accompanied by an organic certificate that includes the name of the certified alcoholic beverage, the name and the address of the certified farm or brewery, the number and date of certification, the address and name of the operator, the country of origin, and the address and name of the certifying body.</p> <p>Imports – Products covered under the scope of the agreement must be shipped with a <i>NOP Import Certificate</i> (NOP 2110-10) completed by the Japan certifying agent. Products within JAS law (plant-based products, livestock products and processed products containing plant and livestock ingredients) must be certified to JAS organic standards. Alcoholic drinks may be imported from Japan provided they are certified to the NOP and do not require an export certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics may not be exported to the United States as certified organic. <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. This equivalence arrangement is limited to country-to-country trade.</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 • Have their final processing within the U.S. or Korea • Contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients • 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 and must include the following statement: “Certified in compliance with the terms of the U.S.-Korea Organic Equivalency Arrangement.” Beginning January 1, 2022, the NAQS Import Certificate must be issued by Korea’s e-NAQS Import Certificate System.</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>, (NOP 2110-10) issued by a Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA)-accredited certification body must include the following statement: “Certified in compliance with the terms of the U.S.-Korea Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”</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 Importing	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. NOP organic certified and a <i>NOP Import Certificate</i> (NOP 211—10) for all organic products imported under the agreement completed by the accredited certifying agent must be obtained. Standard shipping and import documentation.</p> <p>Labeling. Products produced under the agreement must meet all USDA organic labeling requirements.</p>
Switzerland Equivalence Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope. 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</p>

		<p>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> (NOP 211—10) for all Swiss organic products imported 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. This equivalence arrangement is limited to country-to-country trade. For U.S. exports: It is limited to products certified to the USDA organic regulations that are produced or have had their final processing occur within the U.S. For Taiwan exports: It is limited to products certified to the Taiwan organic regulations that are produced or have had their final processing occur on Taiwan.</p> <p>Allowed product categories: Crops, Wild Crops, Livestock, Processed Products. The following products may not be exported to the United States as certified organic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics. • Aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish). <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 (NOP 2011-10) 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 country. Use of Taiwan's organic mark is restricted for use only by Taiwan businesses and may NOT be applied to USDA organic products.</p>
United Kingdom Equivalency Arrangement	Compliance	<p>Scope – 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. • 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.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wine must be labelled according to the organic regulations of the destination country. <p>Exports of USDA Organic Products</p> <p>To the UK-Great Britain – GOA must issue a paper Certificate of Inspection (COI) before products leave the US and send electronically to the UK Port Health Authority (PHA)/Local Authority (LA). 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.</p> <p>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 (NOP 2110-10) 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>Mexico <i>Importing and Exporting</i></p>	<p>Compliance</p>	<p>Importing Organic Products from Mexico. Organic products imported to the U.S. from Mexico must be certified to the USDA organic regulations by a USDA Accredited Certifying Agent. Nearly 20 USDA-accredited certifiers operate in Mexico and there are more than 2,500 USDA-certified organic operations within Mexico's borders.</p> <p>Exporting Organic Products from the US. As of 1 January 2022, all US organic products exported to Mexico must be certified to Mexico's Organic Products Law (LPO) by a organic certification agent approved by Mexico's National Service for Animal and Plant Health, Food Safety and Quality (SENASICA)</p> <p>Mexico's Organic Products Law (LPO) & Certification. In December 2020, Mexico announced that organic imports must be certified to Mexico's LPO or a standard recognized as equivalent beginning June 26, 2021. Mexico has not recognized the USDA organic standards as equivalent, meaning U.S. organic products going to Mexico must be certified to LPO.</p> <p>Mexico Labeling Requirements. U.S. organic products imported into Mexico must be labeled according to Mexico organic labeling requirements. These products may display the USDA organic seal as long as they are certified to the USDA organic regulations and/or the Mexico organic seal as long as they are certified to Mexico's LPO.</p>