



## **NOP – National Organic Program**

The NOP facilitates trade and ensures integrity of organic agricultural products by consistently implementing organic standards and enforcing compliance with the regulations throughout the world. The mission of NOP is to ensure the integrity of USDA organic products in the United States and throughout the world.

### **Regulations**

The NOP regulations are available electronically on the Webpage of the USDA:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification>

### **General**

NOP expects knowledge of the standard to be present at certified entities. Necessary documentation is laid down in [§205.103 Record keeping](#).

### **Product Categories**

The NOP standard defines the following 4 different label categories for products with organic ingredients:

- 100% organic
- organic
- made with organic (specified ingredients or food groups)
- Products with less than 70% organic ingredients

### **Production and Handling**

There is no "in conversion" status for farming operations according to NOP. The operation has to confirm that no prohibited substances (as listed in "The National List", §§205.600 ff of the [NOP](#)) were applied for a period of 3 years immediately preceding harvest of the crop. Inputs must be OMRI-listed ([www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org)) or assessed by you certifying body. For the assessment 100% of the ingredients have to be known (active and inert substances).

Requirements are to be found in [§§205.200 to 205.290](#)

### **NOP inspection and certification**

Projects or operators applying for certification according to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Final Rule need to undergo a separate organic NOP certification process with formal application for certification, separate checklists, reports, certification letters and certificates.

Based on the information given by the applicant, i.e. on the filled in Organic Production and Handling System Plan OSP and on the signed application form, bio.inspecta will evaluate the situation according to the following criteria:

- Screening of the information available on the production and handling activities
- Searching for possible problematic areas
- Verifying that the operation is not exempted from certification

The interested party is applying for NOP certification by signing our form "Registration for services".

The requirements and the process are laid out in [NOP Handbook 2601](#).

**Change of certification body**

In case you want to change your certification body, please follow the [NOP Handbook 2604](#). In this case you are obliged to maintain your current certification, including submitting annual updates, allowing timely inspections, and payment of all required fees to your current certifying agent until the certification process for the new certifying agent (bio.inspecta AG) is complete and a new certificate has been issued if you continue to produce or sell products as organic; and you are obliged to return your prior certificate along with a written notice of surrender to your prior certifying agent only after the new certification process is complete.

**Costs for a NOP inspection and certification**

On a request we gladly prepare quote based on the submitted information. Our calculations are based on our current price list ([Switzerland](#) or [International](#)).

**Contact**

For further questions please contact our office:

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