



NASAA
certified organic

AQIS and IFOAM Accredited
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INFO SHEET

OVERSEAS CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY NASAA

Thank you for your enquiry concerning NASAA Organic Certification Services. NASAA operates throughout the Asian area and into the Pacific. Our international organic inspectors have wide experience in both the crops and cultural techniques found in tropical and sub-tropical environments.

NASAA ACCREDITATIONS

NASAA maintains accreditations with the following to assist its certified operators:

- i. Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS)
- ii. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
- iii. United States National Organic Program (USNOP)

NASAA offers JAS certification through its certification partner.

NASAA product is easily accepted into products certified by IFOAM accredited certifiers through being a signatory of IFOAM's Multi-Lateral Agreement – this gives access to 32 leading certifiers across the world, and the list is growing all the time.

Australia (and NASAA) has Third Country Listed status with the EU (ISO65).

In addition NASAA's certification program has ISO65 accreditation with IOAS, the accreditation arm of IFOAM.

ALL-IMPORTANT MARKET ACCESS

As a general rule we strongly advise careful and thorough investigation of the specific requirements for the markets you intend to access.

As a guideline the following international 'rules' currently apply:

1. Product being sold as organic in the EU must be meet the EN45011 Regulation;
2. Product being sold as organic in the USA must be certified under the USNOP;
3. Product being sold as organic in Japan must be certified under JAS or deemed 'equivalent' by JAS;
4. Livestock products sold as organic in the UK must meet the EU Regulation and have received 'Prior Notification' by the UK government

New regulations are being devised by governments all the time.

NASAA CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

NASAA has worked in many Asian countries in the last decade. These include:

- i. Nepal (spices and oils)
- ii. Indonesia (spices and oils)
- iii. Sri Lanka (tea, spices, nuts)
- iv. Papua New Guinea (coffee, tea)
- v. Samoa (coconut and coconut oil)
- vi. East Timor (coconuts)

NASAA/ IFOAM

NASAA's general certification program is all IFOAM accredited. It will allow a licensee to sell NASAA certified goods into Australia, Asia and most EU countries (though each EU country has different rules and some require further information). NASAA's ISO65 accreditation (March 2004) makes it easier for our international licensees to access EU markets.

It is important to note that NASAA must have certified all elements of the chain from the producer to the storage, the processor and the exporter.

GROWER GROUP SCHEMES

Many overseas operators run grower group scheme, where a managing and marketing company organises a group of small village-based growers (where landholdings are below 5 hectares in total farm size each grower).

Such schemes must have a very well organised Internal Control Scheme (ICS), which lists and numbers growers, has individual contracts with them, visits each grower every year, manages non-compliances and is generally a documented management system.

NASAA's inspection then centres largely on the ICS and visits a proportion of growers to check the effectiveness of the ICS.

Please download and read NASAA's Info Sheet on Internal Control Systems, if you are seeking certification as a Grower Group.

USNOP and JAS

NASAA is directly accredited to provide certification under the USNOP and offers JAS certification through its certification partner.

As a guide JAS is similar in general requirements to NASAA but in addition stipulates the need for a Quality Control and a Grading system as a form of internal audit. USNOP is again similar but requires that an applicant submits a full Organic Management Plan for desk assessment prior to any inspection.

All producers and handlers in a JAS or USNOP supply chain must be separately certified.

CHOOSING ONE OR MANY CERTIFICATIONS

It is NASAA's experience that operators often find it more useful to commence with NASAA/IFOAM certification (to access general markets in Asia-Pacific and EU) and then add on United States and Japan if and when desired. This enables the operator to start on the process of certification and get systems in place (especially important with grower groups where the Internal Control System has to be created and managed) in an orderly manner. Alternatively, if desired, NASAA can offer certification across all programs immediately, provided that compliance with the different programs is in place.

WORKING OUT WHICH CERTIFICATIONS TO CHOOSE

NASAA is experienced in assisting operators to make the choices that suit them to best access those all-important markets. Please use the checksheet attached to allow us to assist you in making the best choices for your business.

HOW TO GET CERTIFIED

Visit www.nasaa.com.au to download application forms, information, organic management plans and standards for the program(s) you want.

NB Bear in mind that if the producers are a Grower Group, then the Internal Control System must be in place before inspection.

CERTIFICATION FEES

NASAA's fees combine the following elements, which are all expressed in Australian dollars.

NASAA/IFOAM

The fees of our basic NASAA/IFOAM program are:

INITIAL COSTS

- i. application fee (AUD275)
- ii. inspection at cost (currently AUD\$850 day rate + expenses flight/accommodation etc) (NASAA has one contract per recognisable grower group, which is usually organised along village or nearby villages lines. It is related to how the control system of a grower group is managed)
- iii. travel and report-writing costs based on AUD\$450/day
- iv. post-inspection fee covering report assessment fee and tests

ONGOING COSTS

- i. annual fee 1 July (AUD\$600) + AUD \$600 (for each additional contract where operator has multiple contracts);
- ii. annual reinspection at cost (as above)

NOP ADD-ON FEE

If an operator certified by NASAA also wants NOP they are charged an "add-on" fee:

- i. application fee (AUD\$275)
- ii. inspection at cost
- iii. annual fee 1 July (AUD600)

ADDITIONAL JAS FEES

NASAA organizes the inspection for JAS when doing the NASAA inspection. Annual fees comprise:

- i. NASAA inspection costs;
- ii. Certification partner's JAS fee: apply to NASAA for details

JAS/NOP ONLY

Sometimes an operator only wants JAS and/or NOP certification - this is unusual, but it does occur. Apply to NASAA for an estimate of costs.

NASAA INSPECTION COSTS

- ◆ Inspection Costs include accommodation, airfare and internal travel costs. These are usually apportioned in relation to the number of inspection days involved for each client. It is possible to be more precise once we know how many clients are involved in a particular inspection schedule, their location, the urgency of the certification and whether or not grower groups are involved.
- ◆ We always try to plan inspection visits to keep costs to a minimum for all clients. If your need is for an immediate inspection, all costs would be allocated to you.
- ◆ Costs can be lowered if accommodation and local travel is organised by the client, and this is what usually happens.
- ◆ As a guide, if an inspection takes one day, allow half a day for report writing, but this will vary depending on the complexity of your operation and the degree of organic management in place.
- ◆ Associated costs such as soil or tissue residue testing and certification costs which will be in the region of \$300.00AUD in most cases.
- ◆ Some EU governments require a larger percentage of growers to be inspected by NASAA than others, and this can impact on cost

Attachments:

a) NASAA Concise Standards for Grower Groups; Overseas Checksheet

NASAA CONCISE STANDARDS

THESE STANDARDS ARE SUITABLE FOR TRANSLATION INTO LOCAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES BY GROWER GROUPS AND OTHERS REQUIRING A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.

IT IS STILL THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GROWER GROUP HEAD LICENSEE TO ENSURE THAT ALL GROWERS MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMPLETE NASAA STANDARDS.

FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION, OR FOR DETAILS OF THE NASAA STANDARDS ADDITIONAL TO THESE CONCISE STANDARDS, PLEASE CONTACT THE NASAA OFFICE.

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WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?

Organic farming means growing food or fibre crops in a way that copies natural systems as much as possible. The use of chemical fertilisers or pesticides is not allowed. Weeds are controlled by hand, slashing, or by mulching the ground. No genetically modified organisms, (GMOs) are permitted in organic farming.

THE SOIL

The soil used for growing organic food or fibre must be kept fertile by using compost, mulch and good rotations of plants. It is good to grow different plants together to help to replace soil nutrients as the plants drop leaves and eventually die. Leguminous trees and annual plants help to provide nitrogen, which is needed for good growth. Weeds and prunings and some animal manures can be composted together for a few months before applying to the soil. Worms are encouraged by the application of organic material, which is essential for a healthy growing system.

Soil testing for nutrients is necessary to understand what deficiencies may exist, in order to correct them.

CROP ROTATIONS

Rotations are needed to maintain diversity in the soil. The same type of crop cannot be grown again each year in the same place. For instance, corn should be followed by a different crop, such as beans. It is always good to have legumes following crops that take a lot of nutrients from the ground. No crop can be grown more than twice in the same ground in five growing cycles. All seeds and planting material must be organic. For perennial crops, such as coffee or tea, the spaces between the trees should be planted with legumes or food crops to assist in maintaining diversity.

WEEDS, PESTS and DISEASES

Weeds can take nutrients from the crop, so they may need to be controlled. On organic farms, the weeds may be pulled out, slashed or mulched to stop them growing. The weeds may be composted, or simply left to rot back into the soil. No synthetic herbicides may be used to control weeds. Burning of weeds and other unwanted growth causes nutrients to be lost, and is not recommended.

Pests will usually flourish if the plant is weak. Mixtures of plants and good soil management will help to keep plants strong. Predators of pests should be encouraged by growing plants that attract the predators. No chemical pesticides are allowed to be used.

Diseases may occur in certain climates, and it may not be easy to get rid of them. It is acceptable to take diseased plants and to burn them, but chemicals may not be used to control diseases. Strong and healthy plants have a resistance to diseases, and diversity helps to stop diseases spreading.

For some fungal diseases there may be organically acceptable methods of control, but these may also affect natural predators as well. Caution should be used if using a control method may upset the natural balance.

CONTAMINATION FROM CHEMICALS

Organic farms must be protected from chemicals. This means that all neighbours must be aware of the status of the organic farm, and if chemicals are used nearby, there must be protection from any spray drifting onto the organic area. If chemicals are used next to organic crops, there will be a buffer zone, where the harvest may not be sold as organic.

Anyone harvesting, transporting and storing organic produce must make sure that it does not get contaminated with chemicals or dirt, and it must not get mixed with produce that is not organic.

RECORDS

The farmer must keep a record of major activities on his farm. Things such as plantings, harvesting, and any use of treatments for pests and diseases must be recorded. Sales of produce must also be recorded. The farmer must know how much land there is, and how many trees or plants there are on the farm or garden. In a grower group, the head licensee may assist with keeping some of these records. The records must be available for inspection.

PARALLEL PRODUCTION

Parallel production is when a farmer grows both Organic and Conventional or Organic and In Conversion crops of the same type on the same land. This is not permitted because it can lead to mistakes and mixing of produce. For most small growers, this will not be applicable, but larger farms may convert their operations gradually to organic production, and must make sure that parallel production does not occur.

LIVESTOCK

These Concise Standards exclude livestock certification, but the following applies to animals kept as part of the farm system.

Animals are encouraged in organic farming systems. Animals should be fed on organic feed or natural vegetation and their manures may be composted. Chicken manures must always be hot composted before use on organic areas. Animals that are treated with prohibited substances are not allowed to graze or walk on organic farms for three weeks.

All livestock must be allowed to practise natural behaviour as much as possible. During the day, animals must not be locked up, and must be allowed to graze on vegetation. Animals must have shelter from extremes of climate according to the needs of the animal.

Animals brought onto the organic farm must also spend three weeks in the quarantine area before mixing with the existing animals unless they are from another organic farm.

For further details about livestock and slaughtering requirements, please see the full NASAA Standards.

PROCESSING, PACKAGING, STORAGE and TRANSPORT

Simple processing may be carried out on or near the farm. This includes things such as pulping coffee cherry, washing, hulling or husking of nuts, drying and packing into bags or sacks. All these processes must be kept clean and birds and animals must be kept away from the organic produce. There must be no mixing of organic with non-organic goods.

All equipment must be carefully cleaned first before organic produce is processed. This means washing all pulp and other material from the equipment if it is a wet process, and brushing and scraping all equipment if it is a dry process.

Any bags or boxes used for temporary storage of carting must be new or very clean, and there must be no residues from previous loads. Final packaging of processed goods must be in new bags or boxes. Each bag or box used for storing organic goods must be labelled 'organic'.

All organic storage must be clean, dry, and free from other goods. There must be no chance that organic goods can be mixed with non-organic goods. All organic storage must be easy to clean, without cracks and holes. If wet cleaning is done, all chemicals must be washed off with clean water.

Organic storage must have signs that say 'organic only'. No chemical pest controls are allowed.

Any transport vehicle must be thoroughly clean. Organic produce must not be carried with other goods that may contaminate the organic goods. Contamination by mixing with other goods, by splashing with liquids or by strong smells is not permitted.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE CONCISE STANDARDS ARE ONLY A SUMMARY. FOR SITUATIONS NOT COVERED BY THESE CONCISE STANDARDS, PLEASE CONSULT THE FULL NASAA PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING STANDARDS, OR THE NASAA OFFICE.

OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES CHECKSHEET

To assist NASAA in advising operators on the services best suited to their needs, please complete the following questions:

NAME

PHONE/FAX/EMAIL

DATE

1. ELEMENTS INTENDED FOR CERTIFICATION

Please tell us in the matrix below ALL elements from producers to processors, packers, handlers and exporters in your supply chain:

EXAMPLE:

Type	Number	Product/Service	Location	Other Info
Producer Grower Group	450 growers	Green Bean Coffee	400kms north east of Colombo, Sri Lanka	Certified 5 years ago by CertCo
On farm Processor	n/a	Parchment	On farm, same location	
Packing factory	n/a	Packing	Colombo	
Export	n/a	Export to Australia and Japan	Colombo	
Factory	n/a	Roasting	Brisbane	Certified
Export	n/a	Export	Brisbane to USA	
Factory	n/a	Roasting	Tokyo	

Type	Number	Product/Service	Location	Other Info

Type	Number	Product/Service	Location	Other Info

Type	Number	Product/Service	Location	Other Info

2. GROWER GROUP

If the producers in your operation are a Grower Group, please tell us some detail about it: eg how this is organised, who manages it, how geographically near to each other are the growers etc

3. DESIRED DESTINATIONS FOR PRODUCT

EXAMPLE

PRODUCT	DESTINATION	LABEL REQUIRED
Parchment	Brisbane	NASAA
	Tokyo	JAS
Roasted Coffee	USA	USNOP

4. EXISTING CERTIFICATIONS

Please outline whether any of the elements in No 1 are certified and, if so, by whom?

Type	Certification

5. TIMELINES

Please indicate below your timelines, your priorities for markets you want to access and anything else you can tell us which will enable us to give you a better answer to your requirements:

6. ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR INFORMATION

SIGNED

DATE

PLEASE RETURN TO NASAA LIMITED, PO BOX 768, STIRLING, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5162
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