

Canada Organic Regime (COR) Certification Application Info



COR CERTIFICATION WITH NCO

NASAA CERTIFIED ORGANIC Pty Ltd is recognised by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to offer COR certification to operators compliant with the Canadian Organic Regime (COR).

Applicants must demonstrate compliance with COR. This information sheet is a guide to NCO COR certification. The COR system is based on both ISO 65 and the Canada Quality Management System Manual. For this reason, **applicants must also be certified under the NCO NASAA (IFOAM) and/or AQIS Programs which have been assessed as equivalent.** The NCO COR Program is an add-on to these standard programs which incorporate ISO 65 and many other COR requirements.

1. SCOPE OF CANADIAN ORGANIC REGIME

1.1 STANDARDS

All operators must obtain and review the National Standard of Canada known as **Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards**. These are available for download from the NCO website.

This must be accompanied by the **Organic Production Systems Permitted Substances List**. As a general principle, the Canadian and the NASAA Standards are similar, however there are some minor differences. Whichever standard is the higher will take precedent. NCO has reviewed the Canada Standards and identified which aspects differ from NASAA requirements.

1.2 CATEGORIES OF CERTIFICATION

The categories of certification available under the NCO COR Program are:

- Crops including mushrooms, sprouts & glasshouse
- Livestock and Apiculture (bees)
- Livestock Feed
- Wild Harvest Crops
- Processing & Handling

Note that Grower Groups have not been formally included at this time under COR. Parallel Production of indistinguishable species/varieties is not allowed.

2. LABELLING

The COR certification logo must be accompanied by the certifier's name. NCO also requires the operator registration number to be shown underneath the NCO name. Operators are not permitted to use the COR logo or otherwise market product as organic in Canada until being granted permission by the accredited certifier (NCO). A black and white version may be used.

All labelling must be approved by NCO before use. The NASAA logo can be used also.

A minimum one year Precertification period is required unless covered by derogation as per NASAA Standards. There is no Conversion label under COR.

In the unusual case of intention to contract to produce &/or manufacture and package organic products for another company with the other company's own name/brand and a certification label, where the other company is not certified under the COR, operators must reveal beforehand to NCO. Such an arrangement may only be approved after inspection and where the product(s) under such contractual arrangements are in the final retail pack, consumer ready. The certified operator must require the company it is producing such products for, to maintain a register of all products so labelled noting quantities received and quantities distributed and sold. In addition, the certified operator must require the other company to permit the certifier (NCO) to be able to inspect the register when it requires, and that records be kept that allow product movement to be traced from the supplier through sales. This is a requirement of the Canadian Organic Regime. The label must include reference to NCO and the certified operator's Reg number as in the paragraph above.



COR Certification Information Pack

3. EXPORT TO CANADA

3.1 OPERATORS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

Products produced in Australia for export to Canada as organic must comply with the COR and be certified by an recognised accredited Certification Body.

Exporters from Australia must obtain an Export Declaration (Organic Produce Certificate) from their certifier to verify that the specified product has been produced in accordance with the Australian National Standard in addition. Operators must therefore currently be certified in the NCO NASAA (IFOAM) and/or AQIS Programs in addition to the COR Program. The OPC declaration must accompany the goods.

3.2 OPERATORS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA

Operations outside Australia intending to export organic product to Canada must also be certified under the NCO NASAA (IFOAM) &/or NCO Australian Program. Export Certificates are not required, but exporters must check the importing country requirements.

4. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Applicants must obtain the current Canadian Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards, along with the Canadian Organic Production Systems Permitted Substances List (available from NCO or the website).

5. NCO COR APPLICATION PACK & APPLICATION FORMS

Application Pack:

- COR Application Form
- COR Certification Information Pack
- NCO Fee Schedule.

Once a completed application form has been returned to NCO with payment, you will be sent an:

- NCO COR Organic Management Plan (Producers) or
- Organic Handling Plan (Processors) template form for completion. On-farm processors must also complete this form.

6. CHECKLIST: ARE YOU READY FOR COR?

1. Have you read the Canadian Standard and Permitted Substances List?
2. Have you developed an Organic Management Plan (Producers) &/or Organic Handling Plan (Processors) and does it specifically address COR requirements?
3. Have you prepared all the necessary materials to attach to your application?

7. PROCESS OF BECOMING COR CERTIFIED BY NCO

7.1 Application

All applications made to NCO for COR certification which will be dealt with in a fair and objective manner. The certification evaluation must concern a productive system that is currently operational (ie being actively managed).

Once we receive your application and Organic Management &/or Handling Plan, this will be checked against the relevant COR requirements. If extra information is required you will be notified of this. If NCO is unable to accept your application we will inform you of the reasons for this. The application will not proceed to inspection until all information has been submitted and approved.

7.2 Inspection

Once the OMP/OHP has been fully finalized, NCO will allocate an inspector to visit your operation and we will write to you to tell you the name of the inspector and the estimated costs of the inspection. All NCO inspectors are subcontracted individuals. In the interests of efficiency, NCO may subcontract the inspection task to another certification body, however any certification decision arising from the report will be made solely by NCO. Consent for this is required on the Application form.

Timing of inspection must occur at the following times under COR:

- a) agricultural operations: during the production season (ie seeding through packaging of harvested product on site);

b) split production: when visual determination of what is being planted/grown in all cultivated fields (ie, simultaneous production of certified and non certified or different stages of certification on the same unit);

c) split/parallel processing: when the products that are targeted for certification are being processed (this may be part of the whole process where production involves sequential operations such as wine making).

d) processing: dedicated organic (ie fully organic) applicants may be inspected at any time of the year. For operations where organic and non-certifiable products are manufactured at the same facility, inspection must be carried out when the products that are targeted for certification are being processed.

Inspection and document review may include any non organic units operated by the applicant.
Certification will not be granted until inspection of the functional system has occurred.

7.3 Certification Decision

Once NCO receives the inspector's report we will send you a copy (if requested) and request any further details if needed. Once the report is finalized, qualified NCO staff will make a certification decision and communicate that in writing. If NCO determines that you need to correct non-compliances with COR, these will be supplied for action. If NCO needs to reinspect your operation to check the implementation of these changes you will be notified of this requirement in writing.

If NCO decides that your operation is compliant with COR, NCO will send you a Contract, or License Agreement which covers the rules and obligations of both parties and governs the use of the certification label. A certificate under the COR Program will be issued that specifies the certified facility, the operator and the products.

8. NCO COR FEES

NCO fees are set out in the NCO Fee Schedule as applicable to the type of operation (Producer, Processor etc). Applicants may withdraw at any time upon written request to NCO. Applicants/operators are liable for the costs of services provided up to the point of withdrawal. The Application Fee is non refundable.

For more information contact NCO P/L

T: +61 8 8370 8455 F: +61 8 8370 8381 E: enquiries@nasaa.com.au W: www.nasaa.com.au;