



Quality Assurance International

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Client Broadcast Fax

1) ATTENTION QAI PROCESSORS who aspire to make a “100% Organic” claim, but are unaware of the challenges of such a claim.

Though the USDA’s National Organic Program as outlined under §205.301(a) provided for a “100% Organic” claim, QAI would like to remind our clients that **the “Organic” claim as described in §205.301(b) is the claim that is held as the industry icon.**

The “100% Organic” Claim is a very narrow claim, designed for those producers who grow “100% Organic” produce and for those processors who minimally process organic products without heavy reliance on processing aids and processed ingredients.

As the processing of the organic product becomes more sophisticated, the amount of documentation, paperwork and audit trail becomes much more tedious for those who attempt to make the “100% Organic” claim. Thus, QAI encourages its processors to make the “Organic” claim (the industry icon) instead of the more involved “100% Organic” claim.

2) ATTENTION ALL QAI ORGANIC HANDLERS as a reminder...

On October 21, 2002, *all* organic commodities entering the “stream of commerce” in the United States must be certified by an organic certification agency that is either accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or that has met equivalency requirements for foreign certifiers. NOP 205.500 (a-c) **NOTE: The list of foreign certification agencies that have gained USDA accreditation is extremely limited. Please visit the USDA’s continually updated website to verify that your suppliers’ certification agency is listed, or link through QAI’s website www.qai-inc.com.**

QAI offers a Joint Organic Inspection for Dual Certification Program, as a collegial alternative for our clients’ vendors whose foreign certifiers are not USDA accredited. For specific information about QAI’s Joint Organic Inspection for Dual Certification Program, please contact Amy Delp or Jorli Baker at QAI’s corporate offices: 858-792-3531 or amy@qai-inc.com; jorli@qai-inc.com.

Moreover, when you are purchasing organic ingredients, be sure to check which certification program are referenced on your supplier’s certificate. For example, some certification agencies certify to EEC Regulation 2092/91 **AND** the NOP. In those cases, you **must** verify that your supplier has been certified to the NOP standards.