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Good Afternoon Valued QAI clients,

Are you or your customers shipping organic product to Taiwan? If so, please read this important bulletin.

An agreement has been reached between the USDA and the Taiwan Council of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA) in which Taiwan has recognized the National Organic Program (NOP) as an equivalent organic standard to its own. Going forward, products exported to Taiwan will need to be accompanied by a TM-11, an export document that QAI is already issuing for clients utilizing the USDA/MAFF Export Arrangement to send products to Japan.

Clients who wish to export their products to Taiwan will need to be aware of the following:

- Products may only be shipped from companies located in the United States.
- Products must have been produced in the United States. Traders and Distributors will need to provide QAI with additional information regarding product origin.
- Only products making an Organic or 100% Organic claim may be shipped to Taiwan.

Handlers/Producers:

- The National Organic Program has confirmed that no additional verification is required for NOP certified products being shipped to Taiwan, with a minor exception for livestock/dairy products (see below).
- A TM-11 document must be approved by QAI and supplied to your importer. In the remarks section of the TM-11 you must include the statement: "Organic agricultural products and organic processed products, accompanied by this certificate, were produced or processed using zero prohibited substances."

Livestock/Dairy Products:

- QAI certified producers need to know that there is an extra requirement for livestock/dairy products shipped to Taiwan: they are more stringent on the use of painkillers and analgesics. For clients interested in exporting NOP certified livestock products to Taiwan, you and your ingredient/product suppliers will need to complete an additional affidavit confirming that pain killers and analgesics are not systemically used before a TM-11 can be signed by QAI. This affidavit is available on the QAI website and through your Certification Project Manager.



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- In the remarks box of the TM-11, you must include both of the following statements:
 - “Organic livestock products, accompanied by this certificate, were managed and produced without the systemic use of pain killers or analgesics, including the use of Lidocaine or Procaine.”
 - “Organic agricultural products and organic processed products, accompanied by this certificate, were produced or processed using zero prohibited substances.”

Questions have been raised about potential testing of product once it reaches Taiwan because the Taiwan residue tolerance level is 0 while the NOP has a pesticide residue tolerance of less than 5% of the EPA tolerance level. The USDA has issued the following statement regarding the compliance remarks required on the TM-11: “Compliance statements on the TM-11 Export Certificates are simply to clarify for Taiwan that NOP prohibited substances were not used in the production of the processed products and crops, and for livestock, the use of systemic analgesics like Lidocaine and Procaine were not used. In fact, certifiers are simply assuring that the product was produced to the NOP standards.”

Prior to shipping product to Taiwan, please submit the following documents to QAI for review and approval:

- Export Certificate Cover Sheet along with supporting documentation requested
- TM-11 form
- If applicable, signed affidavits from you and your direct supplier for livestock/dairy products being shipped.

If you are not shipping product directly to Taiwan but your customer is, your QAI NOP certificate is sufficient documentation except that you may be required to complete the QAI Taiwan Livestock/Dairy Products Affidavit if applicable and supply it to your customer.

Additional information about the NOP and Taiwan equivalency agreement and TM-11 document can be found on the NOP website (insert this link)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&toPNav=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPEXPORTARRANGEMENTSTAIWAN&description=Export%20Arrangements%20with%20Taiwan&acct=nopgeninfo>

QAI recommends you work closely with your importer in Taiwan. They may have special labeling requirements for you depending on how the product is packaged when it is shipped.

If we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact your QAI Certification Project Manager.