



# A CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO TRANSITIONAL CERTIFICATION

## FAQ



### Year 1

Farmers immediately discontinue the use of prohibited synthetic pesticides and fertilizers and begin the process of rebuilding healthy soil biology.



Land must be farmed without the use of GMOs or sewage sludge.

Becoming familiar with the organic standards is critical for success. These include seed and planting stock requirements, soil fertility and crop nutrients management, cover crops and crop rotations, disease and pest management and recordkeeping to name a few.

A self-assessment is completed by the operator and QAI assesses the production systems being implemented and opportunities for improvement.

### Year 3

By year 3, the farm has successfully implemented all requirements of the transitional protocol. The farmer has worked diligently to reach this milestone of sustainability.

An inspection has occurred each year to verify the farm was successfully implementing the transitional requirements.



Three years after the last prohibited substance was applied, the land is eligible for organic certification!

### ABOUT TRANSITIONAL

Transitional is an on-going cycle of shifting conventional farmland into an organic management system until it qualifies to be certified organic.

Retailers and farmers marketing their certified transitional products may use the QAI transitional certification mark.



Handlers are also eligible for transitional certification once they have secured a certified transitional supply chain. They must also take care to protect the integrity of each commodity, preventing co-mingling and contamination with prohibited substances including gmOs and irradiation.

### Year 2

Education is the key. QAI's protocol mandates on-going education to learn the necessary tools and techniques for sustaining a farm utilizing organic practices.

Farmland must be managed organically throughout the entire transition period.



The farmer fine tunes the transitional system production plan implementing best practices that maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.

Crops may be sold as certified transitional in year 2 when harvested after completing the 1st year of transition.






For more information about Transitional Certification, contact [qai@qai-inc.com](mailto:qai@qai-inc.com).



PERMITTED CLAIMS AND LOGO USAGE GUIDELINES  
FOR TRANSITIONAL CERTIFICATION



Labeling

Transitional Content	<p><b>70% or more</b> <i>(multi-ingredient products)<sup>1</sup></i></p>	<p><b>51% or more</b></p>	<p><b>25% - 50.9%</b></p>
Principle Display Panel Claim	<p><b>"Certified Transitional"</b> and <b>"Made with Transitional X, Y, Z"</b></p>	<p><b>"Made with Transitional X, Y, Z"</b></p>	<p><b>"Contains transitional"</b> <b>&gt;25% may declare total percent of transitional content in product</b></p>
Principle Display Panel Logo Use			<p><b>No</b></p>
Back of Package Statement	<p><b>"Transitional Content Certified by QAI"</b></p>	<p><b>"Transitional Content Certified by QAI"</b></p>	<p><b>"Transitional Content Certified by QAI"</b></p>
Sample			

<sup>1</sup> Single ingredient transitional products must be 100% Transitional

For more information about Transitional Certification, contact [gai@gai-inc.com](mailto:gai@gai-inc.com).

