



AUS-QUAL Pty Ltd, ABN 87 087 555 940
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AUS-QUAL Organic Program Introduction

AUS-QUAL offers certification to the National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce and is accredited to perform certification activities on behalf of USDA under the National Organic Program (NOP).

Organic certification allows a Processor or Producer to market their product or service as Organic in Australia and most export destinations. Primary Producers and Consumers alike are very much aware of the benefits of sustainable organic production principles in relation to their own health and that of the environment. Primary Producers and Processors / Product Handlers are also becoming increasingly aware of marketing opportunities in regards to certified Organic product.

Unfortunately, they are also aware of the complexities and cost associated with having several audits and dealing with more than one Certification Body to meet the requirements for Food Safety and customer and regulatory requirements.

AUS-QUAL offers a one-stop-shop and ties Organic certification to other Food Safety Programs under one certification and licensing agreement. A team of trained auditors has been approved to undertake certification services under the Organic program. Although Organic and Food Safety Programs are offered, either may be progressed independently. AUS-QUAL does not charge levies or royalties. AUS-QUAL recognises existing organic certification through other Certification Bodies.

AUS-QUAL was formed in 1998 as a Certification Body, providing conformity assessment services for quality management and food safety (HACCP) based systems, as well as Product Certification services for the wider Australian and New Zealand Agricultural, Horticultural and the Secondary Processing Sector. AUS-QUAL is widely regarded as the leader in on-farm certification with 70% of all fresh fruit and vegetable certification; greater than 80% of livestock auditing; and a growing share of food processing audits in Australia.

Other services offered include Certification to; BRC, SQF 1000, SQF 2000, GLOBALGAP, LPA-QA, Freshcare, Retail Quality Assurance Programs (WQA, Coles) , B-Qual, HACCP, ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 22000.

For certification enquiries please contact 1800 630 890.

Ian King
Managing Director
AUS-QUAL Pty Ltd

Steps to Organic Certification

1. Send to AUS-QUAL a completed Organic Program Certification Enquiry Form. Alternatively, an enquiry can be made through the 1800 630 890 free call line. Upon receipt of an enquiry, AUS-QUAL may need to make contact to further discuss services for Organic and other Certification Programs as required.
2. AUS-QUAL will forward a written Quote that includes an Application for Certification, which is completed and returned to AUS-QUAL.
3. On receipt of the completed application form, AUS-QUAL will undertake an Application Review prior to accepting the application. AUS-QUAL will confirm the application with a completed Services and Licence Agreement which will include agreed terms of the contract. The client will sign the Services and Licence Agreement and return to AUS-QUAL.
4. The client then prepares their Organic Handling Plan (OHP) / Organic Management Plan (OMP) / Quality Manual as required and submits to AUS-QUAL for Document Review. The OHP applies to Processors / Product Handlers and documents all procedures and records required to meet the requirements of the relevant Organic standard. The OMP applies to Primary Producers and serves the same purpose. AUS-QUAL has OHP / OMP templates and guidance documents available to assist with this process as well as a 1800 support number, 1800 630 890.
5. If the AUS-QUAL Organic Certification Mark is to be used on Certified Organic Product, an additional Licence Agreement is completed and signed by the client and sent to AUS-QUAL. All proposed labels bearing the AUS-QUAL Organic Certification Mark need to be reviewed and approved prior to use.
6. An auditor will then contact the client to organise a suitable date and time for an on site audit. Should any Corrective Actions be identified at the audit, they will need to be closed out prior to progressing with certification.
7. Once the audit has been finalised, and the auditor has recommended certification, the audit report undergoes a Certification Review. Once the audit report has been reviewed and the Certification Review Committee has agreed that all requirements as per the relevant Organic standard have been met, certification can progress. A certificate is forwarded to the client, which includes the client's Organic status.
8. An on site audit is then undertaken annually. Unannounced audits are also carried out as required by the National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce. Clients receive an updated certificate yearly upon satisfactory completion of the annual audit.

Time Frames for Certification

Primary Producers

For a Primary Producer, the minimum total time taken to reach Organic Certification is three (3) years. This includes one (1) year of Precertification (which starts from when the application is received), and then a further two (2) years for Organic in Conversion certification. If there is sufficient evidence that the property has met the requirements of the Organic Standard, then it may be possible to fast track the Precertification process. For Primary Producers who are currently certified with another Certification Body, consideration will be given to a direct transfer of equivalent certification.

Processors

For Processors, once the Services and Licence Agreement has been received, the Organic Handling Plan / Quality Manual has been completed and a successful audit has been completed (Corrective Actions closed), a certificate will be forwarded within two (2) weeks.

Fact Sheets available from AUS-QUAL

- Certification Program Flow Diagram
- Types of Certification
- Allowed Inputs
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Organic Management Plan (OMP) / Organic Handling Plan (OHP) Overview
- Disputes and Complaints
- Organic Farming and Other Organic Industry Information
- Derogations to an Organic Standard
- Sanctions and Non Conformances
- Organic Product Information Records (OPIR's)
- Product Testing
- Making changes to the scope of the Certification / OMP / OHP / Quality Manual
- Parallel Production
- Application for Changes to the National Standard
- Use of the Certification Mark, Labelling and Advertising
- Inputs and Ingredients which are certified through another Certification Body
- Exporting to Japan and Taiwan
- USDA NOP Certification
- Exporting Organic Product and Organic Produce Certificates
- Fees, charges and associated costs (available on request)

An Information Kit is available free of charge on CD. The Information Kit contains all Fact Sheets, Template Documents, the Organic Management Plan Guidance Document, the Organic Handling Plan Guidance Document and other resources and information.

A hard copy is available from AUS-QUAL for a cost of \$50.00 + GST.



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AUS-QUAL Organic Program Certification Enquiry

Company / Organisation: _____

Organisation Representative Name: _____

Location Address:

Street: _____ Town: _____ State: _____ Post Code: _____

Postal address: (if different to Location Address): _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Type of Organisation: Company: Partnership: Sole Trader:

ACN and/or ABN: _____

How would you prefer to receive a Proposal; Email Fax Mail

Type of Operation: Include if you are a Processor / Handler or Primary Producer and include some brief details.

Are you interested in or would you like any information for the following certification programs that AUS-QUAL offers:

BRC: SQF 1000: SQF 2000: GLOBALGAP:
LPA QA: Freshcare: Retail Quality Assurance Programs:
HACCP: ISO 9001:2000: ISO 22000: B-QUAL:

Once completed, please fax to 07 3361 9222 or post to PO Box 3403, Tingalpa DC Qld 4173 or email to organic@ausqual.com.au