



Dear NCO Operator,

The April 2020 NASAA Certified Organic Technical Communique contains a range of information designed to assist you in navigating your certified organic requirements. Please take the time to peruse the articles below and if you would like further information on any area covered please do not hesitate to contact the [NCO office](#). We are always pleased to assist you and welcome any feedback.

Should your certified operation be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, please don't hesitate to contact the office. We will do our best to support you through this unprecedented time.

Best wishes for the health of you and your families.

Tammy Partridge
General Manager
NASAA Certified Organic

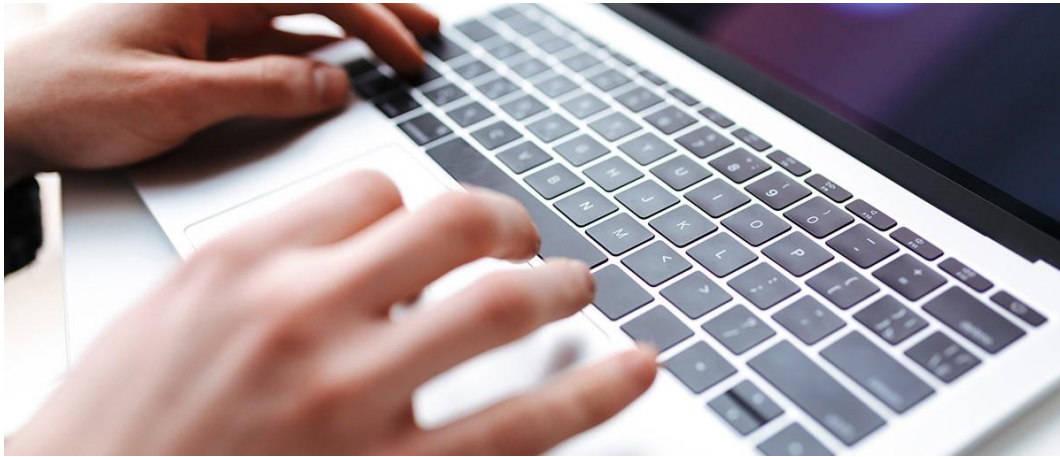


Export News

NCO as of the 1st of February updated their Guidelines for Exporters due to changes to the EU Regulations.

EU exporters please take note that COI's are required to be signed prior to departure of the shipment that has been in place as of 1st of February 2020. Any COI request received by NCO after the shipment has departed will not be approved and this will mean that shipment is downgraded to conventional. Please note that exporters have 10 days after NCO approves the request to modify Boxes 14, 15, 16, 17 and to add accompanying documentation which must be done through NCO.

If there are any further questions or queries in regards to the new guidelines or you are unsure if you have a current copy of the Guidelines for Exporters please contact the exports staff at the NCO office on 08 7231 7700 or exports@ncocertifiedorganic.com.au.



Virtual Audit Tips

1. Allow 3 hours for the virtual audit to be completed.
2. Update your Organic Management Plan to allow for complete verification of each section
3. Email files to the office (melanie.trigg@ncocertifiedorganic.com.au) to upload to the system for verification before and after the virtual audit
4. Use the phone to complete most of the audit and only use a platform like Zoom or GoToMeeting for the parts of the audit the inspector wants to view (for example, the sheds, the produce or stock as well as the storage places).
5. Send requested paperwork through as quickly as possible to avoid delays in the report and review process, which can result in non-compliances.
6. Make sure all of your records are up to date and accessible. Your inspector will need to carry out their normal mass balance and trace-back. Not having these available will automatically mean a second inspection when inspectors are able to travel.



Post-Harvest Treatments of Agricultural Produce

NCO operators are reminded that any substance used as a post-harvest treatment, must be listed in the NASAA Organic Standard (NOS) or the National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce (NS).

The use of un-listed substances will result in the loss of organic/ biodynamic status.

Further information can be found in NS Appendix F Substances permitted as post/ harvest storage treatment and NOS Substances & Methods Permitted for Pest Control in Storage and Transport Units.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NCO Certification team the compliance of any post-harvest treatment that you may wish to use.

Examples of prohibited post-harvest treatments:

Grain – treatment with any grain protectant chemical or fumigant including: methyl bromide, phosphine or pyrethrum (NOS 10.1.2)

Fruit, vegetable & herbs - Synthetically formulated fungicidal dips, fruit waxing, Sulphur dioxide (with exception of grapes for wine making), fruit waxing (except for approved waxes where necessary for export) and ethylene inhibitors (1 MCP, Smart Fresh) (NOS 10.2.2)



JAS Organic Regulation Change

Japanese authority, MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), has changed the livestock regulation and JAS certification (JAS mark) will be mandatory for all organic livestock products and its processed foods to be sold in Japan from July 17th 2020. Currently, Australian and Japanese government are under discussion about the equivalency of organic standards of livestock products, however, its process is expected to be delayed due to Corona-virus situation.

This includes the following types of livestock products:

Unprocessed and processed product **containing more than 5% livestock materials**. Examples include (but are not limited to) meat, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, chocolate and ice-cream.

This requirement is applicable to producers, slaughterers and processors.

Under the current Corona-virus emergency situation, MAFF announced that annual inspections can be either delayed for six months or conducted by virtual audits. But any new applications require on-site inspections which means certification can be offered only after when on-site inspections can be conducted. This is the current decision and NCO will keep updating if there are further changes.

Please find further information in the following links:

[DAWE - MAFF equivalence arrangement - Livestock](#)
[JAS Marks - Livestock](#)

Please contact Haruyo Sakai, JAS Liaison Officer, if you have any questions.
haruyo.sakai@ncocertifiedorganic.com.au.



NASAA Label

As it has been 12 months since the release of the new NASAA Label, it is timely to remind you of the 24 months implementation phase. The new label is to be in use on all products and marketing in 12 months' time, so if you are about to reprint or redesign labels it's a good time to incorporate it. If you would like to have the files with the new label images resent, please get in touch with the office.