



Strengthening Organic Enforcement: Electronic NOP Import Certificate Update

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

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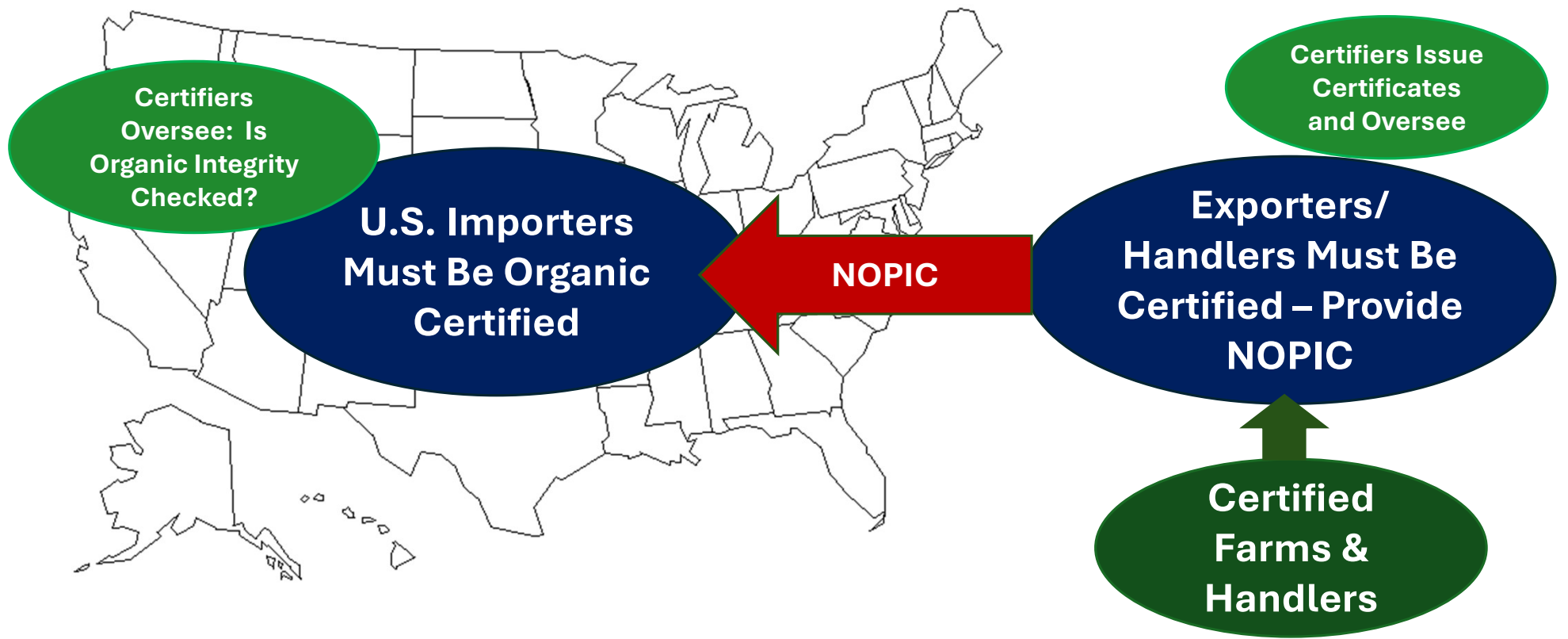
National Organic Program

October 2024

New Organic Rules: Better Organic Oversight

- After 14 months of outreach, new organic rules went into compliance phase March 19, 2024; regulatory discretion ended September 19, 2024.
- Brokers have already been an essential part of success in communicating and implementing our rule. Thank you!







13 Key Points:

1. Organic imports into the United States must have an NOP Import Certificate number (21-character code).
2. **49,555** NOP Import Certificates have been logged in ACE (March 19 – October 4) – approximately 1,700 per week.
3. **85%** of Import Certificates in ACE match certificates in NOP Import Certificate system.
4. NOP has followed up with non-compliant exporters and importers with **>1,000** warning letters and calls.
5. The rule is protecting organic integrity – brokers are a key part of this success by turning away non-compliant product.



13 Key Points:

6. If there is no NOP Import Certificate, do not allow it in as organic! It must be relabeled, reexported, or destroyed.
7. We had established a “999” code to facilitate market access when organic status could be confirmed – this is no longer allowed. Please do not use this temporary code.
8. We have established special filing codes (OR-2):
 - American Certified Organic Goods Returned: 333-550-R
 - Non-Retail Sales/Donations: 333-800-E
 - Personal Goods/e-Commerce: 010-737-M
 - Goods Subject to Reconditioning: 010-420-L

13 Key Points:



9. NOP has established a Continuity of Operations Plan to allow certificates to be issued during outage (9-character code ends with C - file under OR-1).
10. Lots of product can be organic! However:
 - Since January 2024, AMS has eliminated over 800 HTS Codes that were flagged in ACE
 - By December 2024, 1700+ more HTS flags will be eliminated
 - 1500 more codes will be reviewed for removal in early 2025



13 Key Points:

11. Some items do not qualify for NOP Import Certificates: seafood, finished textiles, uncertified product with organic ingredient.
12. We are using a broad set of tools to oversee imports: Trademark Protections, One-Government Surveillance, Certifier Oversight, Trade Partner Collaboration, Supply Chain Audits, Enforcement.
13. Lots of information at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/strengthening-organic-enforcement>

•Thank you for your support!

ORGANIC



Protected
by law

Inspected
by experts

Traced
from farm to store

Shaped
by public input

