

Accreditations & Approvals

ICS is accredited to:

NOP, ISO 65, IFOAM, and CAAQ

ICS' FVO program is approved by:

Bio Suisse

FVO program complies with: USDA NOP

ICS attains consistent EU import approval across programs



Steps to Certification:

Certification can be a confusing maze of paperwork and requirements. At ICS, we consider it part of our job to help you understand the requirements, and to guide you through the steps of certification. We custom design our services to meet the needs of our individual clients and their unique operation. Our service commitment is to do everything in our power to make your life simpler, while still providing you with a first class quality, internationally recognized, organic guarantee.

ICS offers several options to help you get started with certification. Please see "Here's How It Works" on the back of this brochure to understand the steps being referred to in the following options.

Option 1

Step 1: Certification Assessment (#1)

Step 2: Application (#2a)

Step 3: Certification Package with Production Plan (#2b and 2c)

Step 4: Review of Production Plan (#3)

Step 5: Certification Process (#4)

Step 6: Inspection Verification (#5)

Step 7: Label Review, Contract Signing, and Issuing of Certificates (#6)

Option 2

Step 1: Certification Assessment (#1)

Step 2: Application and Production Plan (#2a and 2b)

Step 3: Certification Package and Review of Production Plan (#2c and 3)

Step 4: Certification Process (#4)

Step 5: Inspection Verification (#5)

Step 6: Label Review, Contract Signing, and Issuing of Certificates (#6)

***To expedite the certification process, you may pay a small rush fee.*



1: Certification Assessment:

Complete and return the Certification Assessment to ICS. This assessment is used by our Business Development Team to determine how to best meet your needs, and to generate a cost estimate so that you know what your costs will be before you pay anything.

2a: Application:

Your application will be sent to you with your cost estimate. Complete, sign and date the application, your cost estimate, and the Certification Assessment (if you haven't already) and return to ICS with your first installment.

2b: Production Plan:

Depending on which option you choose, a tailored production plan will be sent to you either with the application or upon receipt of the application. Complete the production plan in full and return to ICS with your next payment (growers: this is the second installment listed on your cost estimate. Non-growers: send in the last installment).

2c: Certification Package:

Upon receipt of your application, a Customer Care Specialist (CCS) will be assigned to work with you. Your CCS will send you a certification package including your production plan (if you haven't already received it), the requirements and policies for certification, and an ICS Contractual Agreement, which will need to be signed and returned to ICS.

3: Review of Production Plan:

Upon receipt of your production plan, payment installments, and signed contractual agreement, your CCS will review your production plan to ensure it is complete. Note that if you need any assistance with completing any of the paperwork, please call your CCS.

4: Certification Process:

The Production Plan modules and supporting documents will be presented to our Certification Committee for review. The Certification Committee may require you to adjust your plan to comply with requirements and policies. Your plan must be approved by the Certification Committee prior to scheduling of your inspection.

5: Inspection Verification:

The next step is inspection to verify the information presented in the Production Plan. ICS may sub-contract inspections to ICS approved inspection bodies or persons. Upon verification from the inspector, the Certification Committee finalizes a decision on your operation.

6: Label Review, Contract Signing, and Issuing Certificates:

Assuming that your operation is approved, your Customer Care Specialist will review your labeling, if applicable, to make sure that it complies with regulatory and ICS requirements. Upon label approval and payment of any outstanding fees, your CCS will countersign and return your contractual agreements along with your certificates. NOP certified operators will then be authorized to market product as NOP certified and use the USDA Organic logo. If you are an FVO certified operator, you will then be authorized to issue certificates to your buyers and to use the FVO name and/or logo on your product (FVO program only). If you wish to use the IFOAM logo (FVO program only) you will need to request and sign an addendum to the Contractual Agreement.