

**Your One Stop for Organic Certification
In the World Market of Organic Food**



**Guidelines for
Organic Certification of Livestock**

OneCert = Value

Disclaimer: These Guidelines are made for developing basic understanding only, Can not be used or referred as standard reference. For the standard reference please refer to applicable standards.

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OneCert is a nationally and internationally operating Organic Certification agency accredited by APEDA under **National Program for Organic Production (NPOP-India)**. **OneCert International** is associate of **OneCert Inc; USA**. OneCert was formed to provide understandable, affordable and efficient certification by certifying simultaneously to the Certification of Livestock under **India-NPOP standards**. This ensures adherence to the highest possible standards as well as providing the clients with certification for all the major world market of Organic produce. The name OneCert and logo are recognized internationally as a symbol of high integrity and quality. OneCert ensures all the support, within the permitted limits, to its customer.

What is Organic Certification?

Organic Certification is procedure for verifying that products conform to certain standards. In case of Organic Products, it is primarily the acknowledgement that the Livestock products have been produced in accordance with the applicable Organic Livestock production standards. **Why Organic Certification?**

1. Organic certification helps in building trust between consumers and Organic farmers.
2. The certification mark 'Organic' is the only means to differentiate between certified Organic and conventional foods.
3. Labels and certification marks help a consumer to recognise trustworthy Organic products easily.
4. Organic certification and the logo are important marketing tools
5. Organic certification helps in getting comparatively a better price.

Organic Certification of Livestock

1. Livestock Identification: Each animal/ herd/ batch shall bear unique identification number. Large animals including bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine Sericulture etc shall bear individual number in the form of tag, while poultry birds and small mammals shall be identified with herd/ flock/ batch.
2. Identification devices on the animals can be printed ear tags, RFID tags, Barcodes or any other suitable tag which is clearly visible.
3. Operator must have sufficient space for animals for free movement and opportunity to express normal patterns of behavior.
4. Operator should not use any kind of genetically modified Vaccines and Feed/fodder.
5. Operator should not use any kind of prohibited material from the start of In-conversion Period throughout certification.
6. Feed: Feed produced for livestock must meet NPOP crop production requirements Appendix 1.
 - Organic feed must be provided. maximum diet should be from feedstuffs (including 'in conversion' feedstuff) produced as organic. Organic livestock must be fed a total ration composed of certified Organic feed, including pasture and forage. Only NPOP permitted feed/fodder/supplements are allowed to use. Prior permission must be taken before use. Record must be maintained.
 - The agriculture land committed to cultivation of feed / fodder crops intended to be used as feed for livestock and poultry shall be organically grown.
 - During the operations, the products shall maintain their organic status provided that livestock and poultry are fed with at least 85% for ruminants and 80% for non-ruminants calculated on a dry matter basis, feed obtained from organic sources that have been produced in compliance with these guidelines.
 - Due to reasons of animal welfare, health and productivity, if NPOP allowed supplements/Additives are to be added, it shall be permitted on advice of a qualified

veterinarian. all substances must be non-synthetic and are primarily of plant, mineral or animal origin

- Operator must provide a total feed ration composed of agricultural products, including pasture and forage that are organically produced and if applicable, organically handled. Vitamins, trace elements and supplements shall be used from natural origin. Only feed allowed in NPOP standards must be used. Prior approval must be taken from OneCert for type of feed ration.

7. Livestock Health Care Practices:

Only NPOP permitted medication are allowed to use in case there are no alternative permitted treatment or management practice exist. Prior permission must be taken before use. All vaccinations required by law of the land shall be permitted. Operator must submit the list of vaccinations given in drugs where withdrawal period is not prescribed in these guidelines, a minimum of 48 hours of withdrawal period shall be observed. Record must be maintained.

8. Livestock Living Conditions:

Minimum Surface Area Indoors & Outdoors and Other Characteristics of Housing in Different Species and Types of Production must be as per NPOP Annexure 1 of Appendix 2. Approved products for cleaning and disinfection of the buildings and installations are given at Annex 6; 9.

Transport and Slaughter:

Handling during transport and slaughter shall be calm and gentle. Transport handling must be done by trained and competent Personnel and must comply with NPOP requirement. Must follow personnel hygiene, and all desired basic amenities in slaughtering of animals. All Stress factors must be avoided. The slaughter, evisceration and packing of livestock and poultry should be conducted in such a manner as will result in hygienic processing, proper inspection and preservation for the production of clean and wholesome meat and meat products. Hygiene standards must comply the requirements laid down by the FSS Act with the exception that the chemicals not allowed under these rules shall be replaced with the substances allowed under these rules. Separate rooms must be provided Livestock recurring/holding, Washing/disinfection, Slaughter/Bleeding, Feather removal, Evisceration/Chilling/packing, Inedible product room. Activities such as stunning, bleeding, scalding, plucking, feet removal, evisceration and chilling, draining, grading etc. shall be done in accordance with the applicable rules framed for the purpose.

Testing requirement For Bovines/Cattles production and processing: Antibiotic and residue testing of milk is mandatory on quarterly basis at farm level and half yearly for Processing/ Handling level.

10. Documentation:

All activities including purchase, Breeding, Feeding, Sanitation, medication and gestation details etc. has to be documented in written accounts and supported by labels and invoices.

For the detailed requirements please consult OneCert International for NPOP-India regulations. Above standards can be downloaded from our website www.onecertasia.in.

11. Special Conditions for different category of Animal rearing: A. Special conditions for Mammals:

- All mammals shall have access to open-air exercise or resting area, paddock, pen or run which may be partially covered and/or shall have space for protection from rains and hot sun.
- Prior Permission should be taken from OneCert in case for exceptions for the access of males or bulls to open areas to avoid mixing with female animals for controlled breeding
- Other animals may also not have access to open-air exercise area or run during the heavy rain period, harsh winter/ summer or the final fattening phase
- Livestock shed shall have properly laid and smooth floor, although not slippery. The floor shall not be entirely of slatted or grid construction



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- The housing conditions shall aim at providing comfortable, clean and dry laying/rest area of sufficient size, consisting of a solid construction. Wherever possible, straw bedding shall be provided;
- The calves may be housed separately and never in the adult animal shed;

B. Special conditions for Poultry

- Housing of poultry in cages shall not be permitted;
- Water fowl/duck shall have access to a stream, pond or lake whenever the weather conditions permit;
- Poultry house floor shall be of solid construction covered with litter material such as straw, wood shavings, sand or turf. In case of layers, the floor area must be large enough to permit dropping collection. Perches/ higher sleeping areas of a size and number commensurate with the species and size of the group and of the birds shall be provided. For outdoor access appropriate exit/entry holes of adequate size must be provided;
- In the case of laying hens, manipulation of day length may be permitted through the use of artificial lights;
- Poultry shall have access to open area as specified in Annex 1 and shall have freedom to move freely between indoor and outdoor area;
- Open air areas for poultry shall be mainly covered with vegetation and be provided with protective facilities and permit birds to have easy access to adequate numbers of drinking and feeding troughs;
- Where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of provincial legislation they shall permanently have access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material in order to meet their ethological needs;
- Multi-level aviary systems for layers shall have no more than three levels or tiers above ground level. Total floor space shall meet minimum indoor and outdoor surface area requirements specified in Annexure I. In all such cases access to the open air run, needs to be ensured under all-in and allout system to avoid the mixing of birds among flocks;
- Buildings shall be emptied, cleaned and disinfected, between flocks, and runs shall be left empty to allow the vegetation to grow back.
- Pigs must be kept in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period. Piglets may not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages. Exercise areas must permit dunging and rooting by the animal. Breeding boars may be kept separately.

C. In case of sheep rearing in wild area,

- Permission letter needed from the concerned forest department/ Authority. Identification of sheep in flocks through tag must be maintained and recorded.
- The acceptance of sheep rearing in forest sites is contingent on the assurance to maintain the health of both sheep and wildlife.
- All sheep must be identified with a specific flock./owner identification and individual animal identification. Sheep with more than two ear-tags in one ear will not be accepted for certification. Extra ear-tags must be removed. Record all individual animal identifications and have them sorted in alphanumeric order to expedite the inspection process.
- Sheep Health Protocol must be developed. The protocol is intended to maximize the health of sheep and minimize the risks of disease to participating flocks and wildlife, predation, and welfare concerns. Only sheep meeting the criteria set out in the Sheep Health Protocol will be permitted. A system of "on-farm" inspections will ensure that animals intended for these areas meet these standards.
- Individual sheep identification records, paint brands and branding paint should be provided to the authorized veterinarians, who will then become responsible for their care.



- All sheep shall be inspected on the farm of origin and certified by an OneCert according to the Sheep Health Protocol.
- If smaller producers are moving sheep to a shared location for the flock certification, the inspecting veterinarian must ensure that all sheep on the original farm have been examined for Sheep Footrot (SFR) and other clinical disease that would result in the entire flock being denied certification.
- One legible copy of the Health Certificate, Individual Sheep Identification Record and Livestock Manifest must accompany the sheep to the project area, and be retained on the site. A copy of the Livestock Manifest(s) must accompany all sheep to the site.
- Exclusion of Physical Condition:
 - Sheep over the age of four years must have all their incisors and must not have incisor or molar attrition. Sheep that do not meet these requirements will not be certified.
 - Sheep with impaired vision will not be certified.
 - Sheep with pendulous udders or active mastitis will not be certified.
 - Sheep with deformities that result in an abnormal gait and difficulty feeding will not be certified.

D. Special conditions for Silkworms :

- In case of Sericulture (Silkworm Rearing done under both open and domesticated conditions. Under open situations worms are reared on host plants either in wild or under cultivated conditions. In both cases the host plants shall be certified under wild harvest collection or under crop production as specified under Appendix 1 of these rules.
- Under domestic rearing situations housing shall be clean and ventilated with adequate space for movement between rearing trays. Multilayer rearing system can also be adopted provided adequate space is kept between trays and arrangements are made to ensure that trays do not get contaminated with falling excreta of worms in above layers.
- Adequate housing and rearing conditions shall be made keeping in view of the conditions required according to the species used and the local condition. Permission shall be taken from OneCert in such condition of rearing.

E. Special conditions for Rabbits:

- The keeping of rabbits in cages shall not be permitted. If required for comfort and safety rabbits may be temporarily confined, for example overnight, in cages or hutches. Continuous confinement is prohibited;
- Rabbits shall have space to run, hop and dig, and to sit upright on their back legs with ears erect. The minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements are shown in Annex 1.

12. **Conversion period for Animal Production** : Simultaneous conversion of livestock and poultry and land used for raising feed/fodder within the same unit should be a preferred approach. Land for production of feed, fodder, pasture, grazing etc shall be certified organic as per the provisions in NPOP Appendix 1 under Chapter 3. The conversion period shall be accounted from the date of first inspection.

Following will be the conversion period requirement:

When a livestock production unit, with entire herd, or flock of sheep/ goat or batch of poultry birds or small mammals such as rabbits, is in transition to organic production	pasture and feed produced on the land undergone a minimum period of 12 months of conversion period may be considered organic for feeding to organic livestock



In case of silkworm rearing	No requirement for conversion period, provided the larva are fed with organic feed grown in compliance of these rules for a minimum period of 12 months for their entire lifespan period
Where the land and livestock and poultry conversion to organic status is not simultaneous and the land alone has reached organic status and the livestock and poultry from a non-organic source is introduced these must be reared according NPOP standards for at least the following compliance periods before their products are sold as organic:	
<u>Bovine including buffalo</u>	Meat products: Twelve (12) months and at least 3/4th of their life span is spent in the organic management system Calves for meat production: Six (6) months when brought in as soon as they are weaned and less than six (6) months old Milk products: Six (6) months
Ovine and caprine (Sheep & Goat)	Meat products: Six (6) months Milk products: Six (6) months
Pig	Meat products: Six (6) months.
Small mammals (such as Rabbits)	Meat products: From the second week after their birth to the entire life span as determined by the accredited Certification Body.
Poultry	Meat products: from the second day of hatching to the entire life span as determined by the accredited Certification Body; Eggs : Six (6) weeks.

Additional requirements for Organic Certification of Livestock under GG

Other than above points following should be followed for livestock rearing under Grower Group Management:

1. Minimum & Maximum number of farmer under Group for livestock rearing certification should be 25 & 500 respectively. The area must fall under same geographical range/district.
2. The GG must have internal control system as per NPOP GG requirements and organic livestock requirement Appendix 2. (Develop ICS manual having policy and procedures for dealing with management of livestock, conduct risk assessment, internal inspection and internal approval, and maintain all concerned records and documentation required for certification decision as per NPOP GG guidelines-Chapter 5.



The Certification Process

The Certification process of OneCert is divided into 5 steps

STEP-1:- Registration and Application:-

For obtaining Organic Certification the first step is to be registered with OneCert International who in turn will provide you with an application packet. The packet contains **Application form, Contract, Organic Livestock Production Plan, Fodder/feed product plan (OSP Crop), and Farm Product and Inventory list, GG Questionnaire, Equipment List, IASR etc.** In Organic livestock Plan (OLP) information about Animal management detail and in OSP Crop: feed /fodder production detail should be included. If the land having fodder/feed already certified, certificate and approved product list need to be enclosed. Feed ration detail must be submitted per animal nutritional requirement in compliance with Organic standards. While submitting the Organic livestock plan, one must attach the Facility Map and Product label presently in use or to be used in future.

STEP-2:- Application Review:-

Once your complete application is received, we will review the same on the basis of applicable standards. If any incomplete information/non compliance is found or any additional information is needed, we will contact you. Once required information is gathered or non compliance is over, an on site audit is planned on a mutually agreed date and time.

This reviewing of application usually takes about a couple of days based on the information provided by applicant. **STEP-3:- Inspection:-**

On the prescribed date a trained Organic Inspector, familiar with your type of operation will reach your facility. The inspector will thoroughly examine each process and documents of your operation and facility for the verification of your plan in an accurate description of Organic standard compliance. During an exit interview he will summarize his findings and ask for any additional information, if required. Inspection normally takes 1 day to 3 or more days depending upon the complexity of operations and sampling risk.

STEP-4:- Secondary Review:-

After submission of the inspector's report, it is reviewed to evaluate compliance with the applicable standards. During the Secondary Review if more information is required we will contact you. After the receipt of report from the inspector, the Secondary Review generally takes 2-4 days. **STEP-5:- Certification Decision**

After completion of the Secondary Review, the file is sent for the final decision where it takes 1-2 weeks. After receiving the final decision you will receive your Organic Certificate along with a covering letter citing the conditions for awarding the certificate. The Organic Certificate contains name of your company, address, category of certification and list of certified Organic product. The entire Certification Process may take about 4-12 weeks depending upon documents and cooperation provided.

Applicable standards for Livestock production under GG Requirements :

- ✓ NPOP Chapter 3: Appendix 1-Crop Production
- ✓ NPOP Chapter 3: Appendix 2 -Livestock, Poultry & Products
- ✓ NPOP Chapter 5: Guidelines for Certification of Grower Group

Instructions For Filling Livestock under GG Forms

If you are new to organic certification, you will quickly learn that certification requires thorough record keeping. OneCert International has questionnaires and forms that will aid you in providing the documentation required for organic certification. OneCert International staff is available to answer your questions about the forms and record keeping requirements. **Please fill in the forms as completely as you can and then contact us with any questions.** Make sure you write clearly and check all boxes necessary on the forms. You may contact us via email or phone.

Here is a list of required documents for your initial application to OneCert International:

- OneCert Initial Application Form
- OneCert Certification Contract
- Organic System Plan- Livestock under GG
- Organic GG Livestock Questionnaire
- Group Members organic production and Animal Data Record
- Farm Product Inventory List
- IASR-Livestock under Grower Group
- Submit Farm & Facility Maps (Overview Map)
- Equipment List
- Transport record, All transaction (Inward & Outward record), Product reconciliation

You must have copies of the standards under which you will be certified. These may be electronic or paper copies, but you must be able to show them to the inspector during any on-site inspection. You will need a copy of the *NPOP Regulations*. You may refer OneCert Guidelines for Livestock management requirement under GG scheme.

NPOP Regulations require that records be maintained for at least 5 year. Your records must disclose all activities and transactions of your operation and demonstrate compliance with the NPOP Rule. Organic products must be tracked back to the field/location where they were produced and harvested. Your recordkeeping system must be appropriate to your operation. The following records must be accessible to the inspector. Here is a list of records that may be applicable to your operation:





- ICS legal documents
- Livestock Inventory
- Livestock feed/fodder production/management Record
- Feed Record that show percentage of dry fodder, green fodder and concentrates Feed Supplement / Additives, Feed / fodder storage in compliance with NPOP standards.
- Health Care & Vaccination Record
- Pest Control/ sanitation Record
- Breeding Record
- Individual Milk/Egg/ Meat Production Record
- Test Reports as applicable
- Equipment & Transportation Record
- ICS management, Internal inspection, Internal approval, Training, Farm and animal records
- Transaction Certificates/Traceability record/Product reconciliation
- Sanctions/Complaint log
- Other records specific to your operation/ Records of all Livestock farmers need to be maintained separately and in compiled way.

Our goal at OneCert International is to make the certification process as clear and straight forward as possible. Your suggestions and questions will be used to help identify areas for improvement.

Cost of Organic Certification by OneCert:-

OneCert is formed to provide understandable, affordable and efficient certification. The fees may vary depending upon the time required for different activities such as processing of application, review/s, inspection/s, report writing, decision making etc. Fees of a Livestock operation depend upon:

1. No. farmers under GG Livestock Production
2. No. and kind of products applied for Organic Certification.
3. Intensity of the operation.
4. No. of Operation sites or Offices.
5. Size of operation.
6. Complexity of operation.
7. Records maintained and information provided.
8. Support provided by applicant.

The Fees for the different categories of Operators may be within in the range of prescribed fee component structure. For more details please write to OneCert International Office

with brief description of your operations. The Certification validity and fee will be annual. This need to be renewed annually for continued compliance.

Time taken by OneCert International for Organic Certification

The complete certification process may take 8 to 12 weeks depending upon the submission and compliance of information and support by the applicant.

Benefits of Organic Certification by OneCert International

1. OneCert Organic Certification services are understandable, affordable and efficient.
2. A team of young, energetic and experienced inspectors, having excellent knowledge of different types of operations is deputed.
3. OneCert Logo is recognized internationally as a symbol of very high integrity and quality.
4. Customer services and other supports to the clients are *par excellence*.
5. Requirements of the entire major international standards have been summarized in the OneCert International standards.
6. Fully understanding the values and importance of Transaction Certificates, these certificates are released within 24 hrs. of receiving the required documents.
7. Neither hidden costs nor confusing statements.

Complaint & Appeals

Under the provisions of OneCert Certification Procedure (OCA-111a) any decision taken in respect of granting withholding, renewal, suspension or cancellation of certification under the NPOP can be appealed against. An operator may also lodge the complaint.

For the Procedure and Guidelines for making an appeal and complaints, contact

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