

Ariana Denley (OSB 173314)
Hutchinson Cox
940 Willamette Street
Suite 400
Eugene, OR 97401
Tel: (541) 686-9160
Email: adenley@eugenelaw.com

Bruce A. Kaser (WSBA 13532)
Vantage Law, PLLC
414 NE Ravenna Blvd.
Ste A-1243
Seattle, WA 98115
Tel: (206) 909-7928
Email: bruce@vantagelaw.net
(*pro hac vice* pending)

Attorneys for Pratum Farm, LLC

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF OREGON**

PRATUM FARM, LLC
120 95th Ave NE
Salem, OR 97317

Plaintiff

vs.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Defendant

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR RELIEF UNDER
THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
ACT (5 U.S.C. § 706)**

Plaintiff Pratum Farm, LLC (“Pratum Farm”) brings this action under the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) to challenge certain parts of Defendant United States Department of

Agriculture’s (“USDA”) final rule called “Strengthening Organic Enforcement” (“SOE”), made effective on March 20, 2023.

INTRODUCTION

1. In this action, the Court will be asked to decide the following issue as a matter of law:

When a federal statute requires an annual third party certifier inspection of every farm that is to be certified as an “organic” crops operation, can the USDA adopt a final rule that calls for limited “spot checks” of a nominal number of farms in a group of independently owned and operated farms?

2. An advance draft copy of this complaint was provided to certain trial staff at the USDA on August 31, 2023, for prefiling comment and/or to give the USDA an opportunity to dispute, deny, or correct any factual or legal allegations set forth in this complaint prior to filing in this Court.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the action arises under federal law.

4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(1) because Plaintiff resides in Marion County, Oregon. As of the filing date of this complaint, Plaintiff conducts no business activities outside the state of Oregon, other than purchasing certain equipment and supplies from out-of-state or out-of-country suppliers and using certain out-of-state institutions for financing.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Pratum Farm is a family-owned Oregon LLC located at 120 95th Ave NE, Salem, OR 97317. Pratum Farm was formed in 2004 and has operated continuously as a farm business in Marion County, Oregon, since then. Pratum Farm has been involved in the

Oregon hazelnut industry since 2004. Pratum Farm commenced transitioning to organic hazelnut operations in 2019. Pratum Farm now has approximately 55 acres of hazelnut orchards that are either certified as organic or in transition to certification.

6. Defendant USDA is a federal agency headquartered in Washington, D.C., at 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

7. The USDA administers the National Organic Program (“NOP”) under the direction of the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (“AMS”), pursuant to the Organic Foods Production Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6501 *et seq.* The AMS administers programs intended to create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. As a federal regulatory program that operates under the purview of the AMS, the NOP creates national standards for organic agricultural products sold in the U.S. The NOP also accredits third party organic certifiers to act as NOP agents and makes policies for certifying organic farm and handler operations. Last, the NOP operates in collaboration with the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB”). The NOSB is a federal advisory board staffed by 15 public volunteers that makes nonbinding recommendations to the NOP concerning organic regulations.

8. The Deputy Administrator of the NOP is the federal officer who is personally responsible for compliance with certain relief requested below, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 702.

Currently, the Deputy Administrator of the NOP is Dr. Jennifer Tucker.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The 2% Rule

9. The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (“OFPA”) requires a USDA-accredited, third-party certifying agent (“certifier”) to conduct an annual, on-site inspection of

every farm that is certified “organic.” 7 U.S.C. § 6506(a)(5) (the “OFPA inspection statute”). The relevant part of the OFPA inspection statute is set forth in ¶ 158, *infra*.

10. Ignoring the above requirement, SOE final rule-making involved amending the earlier version of 7 CFR § 205.403 to enact a new rule that uniquely favors foreign agribusinesses. The new rule calls for accredited certifiers to only do “spot check” inspections of a small percentage of foreign farms in a group of independently owned and operated farms (commonly called a “grower group”), leaving inspection of most of the farms to an unaccredited “self-inspection” by means of an honor system (“the 2% Rule”). 7 CFR § 205.403(a)(2)(iii) (paragraph (a)(2)(iii) added by SOE rule amendment). The relevant part of rule 205.403(a)(2) is set forth in ¶ 159, *infra*.

11. The 2% Rule includes “spot check” math that has built-in complications. The rule requires spot checking at least “1.4 times the square root or 2%” of the “total number of producer group members” – with the rule having new definitions in 7 CFR § 205.2 that, among other things, calls for the “producer group member” to be “an individual” who is engaged in producing agricultural products as a member of a “producer group operation.”

12. The business organization and geographical boundary lines of the “producer group operation” are intentionally left open-ended for the accredited certifier to define on a discretionary basis. It can be any nonfarmer and farmer combination of individual, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or “other entity.” *See* 7 CFR § 205.2. It can include a mixed collection of food processors, traders, marketers, regional collection warehouses or other collection sites, farmers, and other individuals or entities involved in the farm-to-processor chain – all considered to be in the same “grower group,” if a certifier chooses to define it that way.

13. Adding to the above complexities, the certifier has the discretion to decide which “individuals” within the group need to be checked, with the added discretion to focus on some more than others, according to a list of twenty (20) “risk factors.” See ¶¶ 64-69, *infra*. This means that some individuals selected for certifier inspection may work in the office of a food processor that controls the group (food processor control is a common practice), some individuals may work at a crop collection warehouse or similar collection point, some may work in other offices, and some may be individual farmers – so long as the “1.4 times the square root or 2%” numbers are collectively met according to the certifier’s way of calculating things.

14. In addition to doing the spot checking, the certifier reviews, in either the certifier’s office or at the headquarters of a food processor, a “written plan” that calls for “self-inspection” of the remaining uninspected entities of the group (*i.e.*, nearly all the farms) – based on an honor system – with the self-inspection being done by food processor employees (or other persons involved in the group) called “internal inspectors.” The certifier accepts the “written plan” for self-inspection as a proxy in lieu of the certifier visiting and inspecting farms.

15. The assumption is that, under the honor system, the “internal inspectors” go to farms and do inspections and the other things an accredited certifier is supposed to do – at the same level of expertise and thoroughness as an accredited certifier. None are accredited for organic inspections by the NOP – which violates the OFPA inspection statute.

16. The spot check/honor system described above is labeled the “Internal Control System” (or “ICS”) by the NOSB, the NOP, foreign certifiers, and others.

17. In the most common form of grower group, a food processor pays for all the organic certification costs, but at a highly discounted rate created by the 2% Rule – because the food processor does not have to pay the accredited certifier to visit and write reports on each

farm in the group (or other entities) at a paid hourly rate. The certifier issues the organic “crops” certificate to the food processor only.

18. The 2% Rule does not require group profit sharing or any kind of common or shared control – such as the shared control that is typical to a written partnership agreement, a jointly owned corporate or limited liability (“LLC”) entity, or a jointly owned marketing or trading company.

19. The 2% Rule does not require any kind of cooperative-like relationship among the farmers themselves (*e.g.*, a farmer owned cooperative entity that pays farmer dividends). All can be individual farmers who operate independently of each other.

20. For the first time, the 2% Rule partially formalizes, in a written rule, a decades-long mutation of USDA/NOP policies that have long existed outside both OFPA statutes and the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFRs”) and parallels a shift in the organic industry from farmers selling directly into the organic marketplace to agribusinesses selling “organic” into the mainstream marketplace – leading to, among other things, an expansion in the size of the “organic” section in supermarket chains.

21. As indicated above, the 2% Rule is a uniquely foreign practice. It favors agribusinesses that are largely involved in the importation of coffee, bananas, cocoa, and similar tropical crops into the United States (“U.S.”) from Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

22. Today, the 2% Rule primarily serves to (1) reduce costs for foreign and/or multi-national agribusinesses that want to use the USDA organic seal; and (2) debase the overall integrity of the U.S. organic system in the U.S. domestic market.

B. The history of “grower group” certifications leading up to the 2% Rule

23. “Grower group” certifications precede the OFPA and arose during a time period when there was no governmental control over organic certification. In that era (“the unregulated era”), organic “certifiers” were self-appointed, private organizations that operated under their own rules and set their own standards for organic certification.

24. According to a March 2019 study carried out by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (aka. “FiBL”), grower group certifications were conceived in the 1980s by unregulated certifiers who were looking to certify organic agricultural crops grown by small landowner farmers in low-income countries (“smallholders”).

25. The FiBL study states:

The initial focus was on coffee and cocoa cooperatives with very small-scale, and often illiterate, producers, each farming only several acres of land. Individual certification of each such tiny farms [*sic*], often in very remote areas was prohibitive not only in terms of costs, but also due to a lack of administrative and management skills.

See Group Certification, pp. 11-15, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) (2019) (supported by the Swiss Confederation).

26. Therefore, for reasons relating to costs and other impracticalities, there was an early belief that it was unworkable for third party certifiers to inspect each farm in an agricultural system of the above kind.

27. In the unregulated era, the certifier-developed solution to the above problem was “group certification” that involved a certifier “spot-checking” a small sampling of individual farmers who were in a designated cooperative group in the same location (*i.e.*, all in the same small town or village), rather than inspecting all of them. This purportedly enabled all the farmers in the group to pool their money to pay for the certifier, but overall certification costs were reduced because the certifier did not visit most of them. In the unregulated era, there were no

government statutes or rules that approved or disapproved of these practices. There were also no guidelines as to how many farms should be “spot checked” – leaving it to the discretion of the certifier based on the certifier’s own perception of “risk” that an uninspected farmer might use conventional commercial fertilizers or chemical sprays, in lieu of organic inputs, when no one was looking.

(1) Agribusinesses eventually dominate grower groups and make the farmers invisible

28. Self-appointed organic certification entities from the unregulated era, along with new certifier applicants, gravitated into USDA “accredited” certifier status by going through formal accreditation procedures developed by the NOP that followed enactment of the OFPA. Although the OFPA was enacted in 1990, the USDA/NOP did not begin to accredit certifiers until the 2000-2002 time frame.

29. By that time, unregulated grower group certifications had split into two discrete categories. One category (“the farm co-op model”) conceptually follows the original ideal of a farm cooperative that was purportedly created to help disadvantaged foreign farmers – that is, a self-organized group of farmers that came together to jointly market their organic produce. The other category (“the agribusiness model”) involves a nonfarmer food processor, or a nonfarmer trader, who buys from a defined list of farmers, with the processor/trader becoming a group “member” that both administrates “internal inspections” of the farmers and pays all the certifier’s charges.

30. As part of the evolution of the agribusiness model, foreign certifiers commenced the systemic practice of issuing organic “crops” certificates directly to processor food factories and marketer middlemen making them, constructively, the organic “farmers.” Details about the actual farmers were left off organic certificates – which made the farmers invisible to the public

and completely untraceable. This mode of organic certification was well-entrenched by the time the USDA/NOP formally began to “accredit” certifiers – and it continues today with little effective control by the USDA/NOP over the foreign certifiers who engage in these kinds of certification practices.

31. Also, as time passed, the original farm co-op model became minimized; and the agribusiness model became dominant – mostly by large agribusinesses operating in Latin America, Asia, and Africa – and this evolution was further guided, tacitly or not, by certain USDA/NOP officials in collaboration with certain agribusiness-friendly members of the NOSB who supported grower group certifications. The global scale is now enormous:

The most important organic crops grown under ICS systems are coffee and cocoa. However, a very wide range of products is produced under group certification, including many speciality [*sic*] crops (sugar, cotton, coconuts, bananas, pineapples, mangos, soy, rice, tropical nuts, quinoa, aromatic plants, vegetables or honey).

If we compare the total number of producers under organic group certification with the total number of organic producers worldwide (and make some rough adjustments for missing smallholders in the global statistics) it can be (very approximately) be [*sic*] estimated that about 80% of all organic producers worldwide are certified in groups.

See Group Certification, pp. 41-42, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) (2019) (supported by the Swiss Confederation).

(2) The NOSB-USDA collaboration

a. The first NOSB policy “recommendation” to the NOP concerning grower groups

32. Similar to the time it took for the USDA/NOP to begin accrediting certifiers, the first OFPA-related final rule was not written into the CFRs until the late 2000/early 2001 time frame, approximately 10 years after Congress passed the OFPA. *See* 65 FR 80547. This first final rule followed the guidelines of the OFPA inspection statute and, like all the statutory sections of the OFPA, had no provisions relating to grower group certifications.

33. Approximately two (2) years later, in October 2002, the NOSB issued its first grower group policy recommendation to the USDA/NOP. This policy recommendation was entitled, “Criteria for Certification of Grower Groups” (the “2002 NOSB recommendation”). Ignoring the OFPA inspection statute, the policy recommendation disclosed that “historically” not all grower group members’ farms are individually inspected by the certifying agent annually, which therefore required an “internal control system” to be in place. The recommendation set forth complicated and open-ended conditions for ICS self-inspection of farms in the group – those conditions to be interpreted and administrated on a discretionary basis by certifiers. The recommendation spoke only to “the certification of a group of producers whose farms are uniform in most ways,” thereby disguising what everyone involved with the NOSB/NOP process knew or should have known by that time – agribusinesses had taken over grower group certifications.

b. AMS oversight throws a wrench into the “spot check/honor” system

34. USDA/NOP officials apparently recognized the fundamental conflict between the OFPA inspection statute and the NOSB’s nonbinding policy recommendation because the USDA/NOP did not adopt the recommendation and allowed it to languish – until a problem surfaced later.

35. A few years following the NOSB recommendation, an accredited certifier refused to grant organic certification to a grower group in Mexico. The certifier’s refusal was appealed by the Mexican grower group to an AMS Administrator within the USDA.

36. The AMS Administrator affirmed the denial of the Mexican grower group’s certification in a decision dated October 27, 2006 (the “AMS decision”).

37. The AMS decision followed the requirements of the OFPA inspection statute, 7 U.S.C. § 6506(a)(5), that mandates that every farm must be inspected by an accredited certifier.

38. The AMS decision found, in part, that the use of an ICS-based (or spot check/honor) system for certifying grower groups is not consistent with U.S. organic policies.

39. The AMS decision found, in part, that an ICS cannot be used “as a proxy for the mandatory on-site inspections by a certifying agent.”

40. The AMS decision was recognized as requiring inspection of “100 percent” of the farms in a grower group by the USDA/NOP, the NOSB, and those having stakes in the grower group certification system.

c. The AMS decision is called “an impending crisis” at NOSB meetings

41. During subsequent NOSB meetings in March 27-29, 2007 (the “March 2007 NOSB meeting”), one former NOSB member stated the following about the AMS decision:

We’re looking at an impending crisis if the entire grower group certification system is thrown out the window.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (March 27, 2007), TR p. 77, ll. 17-19.

42. In response, the chair of the NOSB, stated:

However, I appreciate you bringing it up and giving me a chance to comment on it. And I also share with you the concern for this industry, that this new, I won’t say new, but this current guideline and interpretation that certifiers have to follow. And I think it’s a major industry issue, and my committee, I’m the chair of the Certification and Accreditation Compliance Committee, is going to put it on our work plan. And we hope to come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

And needless to say, we will also, in our close collaboration with the NOP, work to ameliorate this situation, to preserve organic integrity, but also to support all of the – a number of the grower groups that are following, you know, and demonstrating organic integrity, and not have the damage to the industry that this could possible [*sic*] cause result.

So, but unfortunately, you know, this meeting is booked to the, right to the end with current 606 and other issues, so we really can’t take it up and make it a forum. But we are all aware of the issue, and we’re going to deal with it as expeditiously as possible.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (March 27, 2007), TR p. 79, ll. 13-25 & p. 80, ll. 1-8.

d. Portraying themselves as representatives of the “small farmer,” coffee industry interests and Dole Fruit ask the NOSB to continue recommending that the USDA/NOP adopt the “spot check/honor” system as formal policy

43. As part of the public comments during the March 2007 NOSB meeting, a representative of the coffee industry stated the following about the AMS decision:

I'm here to comment on the possible change and possible ban of the internal control system for grower group certification which came to light very recently in meetings in Germany and in California, NOP certifiers training sessions.

I make my comments based on my understanding that the NOP will begin to require that 100 percent of all farms within a small farmer coop to be inspected annually by independent certification agencies.

* * *

For coffee, it could essentially wipe out the organic coffee market in the United States, because the small farmers are the ones that supply the coffee.

* * *

For many years now, community grower groups have been inspected and certified based on an internal control system evaluation.

* * *

I did speak with one of the grower groups that we work with out of Nicaragua. They, it's about a 2000 member coffee cooperative. They say that their costs under this new kind of rule would be \$50,000, and those are for farmers that maybe earn an income of \$1000 to \$2000 a year. So you can see that that would just not be possible for them to pay that high cost.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (March 27, 2007), TR p. 109, ll. 1-25; p. 110, ll. 1-25; p. 111, ll. 1-25; & p. 112, ll. 1-7.

44. According to the coffee industry representative's numbers, the AMS decision would increase a 2000 member cooperative's costs by \$50,000, or an average of \$25 per member (\$50,000 divided by 2000). For members earning an income of \$1000 to \$2000 per year, each farmer's cost increase would therefore approximate a minimal 1.25% to 2.5% of revenue, assuming those extra certification costs were paid to the certifier by the farmers in the first place –

except, the farmers were apparently selling to a coffee cooperative that likely paid the certifier. Farm cooperatives generally purchase the crops of farmers who are cooperative members and then sell the crops at a profit to downstream customers – which means the farmers may or may not incur any extra certification costs at all. Cost was not the issue – the issue was that the coffee industry did not want farm inspections.

45. Likewise, adding to coffee industry comments, a representative from Dole Fruit International (“Dole Fruit”) stated:

Now, that recently the NOP has pronounced itself requesting the inspection of 100 percent of the plots of the small grower groups. This will imply a significant increase in the number of available certified inspected small grower groups, in the certification cost, and will reduce the importance of the internal control system.

This interpretation from the NOP substantially affects the operations of thousands of non-grower [*sic*] groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and substantially affects the viability of the supply of organic group certification and the supply of the organic goods produced by such groups.

Therefore, hereby, we from Dole ask the NOSB to insist that the NOSB [*sic*] adopts its recommendation from October 20, 2002 regarding the criteria for certification of grower groups in order to avoid a situation where thousands of the small farmers in the tropics will be affected by regulation and may assist only for large farms.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (March 27, 2007), TR p. 372, ll. 12-25 & p. 373, ll. 1-3.

46. Dole Fruit also questioned why the “spot check/honor” system had not been adopted as formal USDA/NOP policy, given that years had passed following the 2002 NOSB recommendation, and wanted to know what Dole Fruit could do to get it done:

And, finally, I have three questions. Number one is why hasn’t the NOSB recommendation been adopted by the NOP yet? Number two is, when can we expect that this recommendation will be adopted, and number three, what kind of actions we, the growers in the tropics, can perform or we can be doing in order to support your job as the NOSB in order to get this done? Thank you.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (March 27, 2007), TR p. 373, ll. 4-10.

47. One NOSB member later stated:

It's awfully quiet in here.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (March 27, 2007), TR p. 374, l. 22.

48. The NOSB's "Certification and Accreditation Compliance Committee," which consisted of a majority of agribusiness-friendly members, then commenced a 1.5 year collaboration with upper level officials in the USDA/NOP having the goal of bypassing the AMS decision so that foreign agribusinesses could avoid farm inspections.

e. The USDA/NOP immediately adopts the "spot check/honor" system as formal policy

49. The initial part of the collaboration involved the USDA/NOP responding to Dole Fruit's question by quickly issuing a policy statement, dated May 2, 2007, entitled "NOP and NOSB Collaboration on Grower Group Certifications" (the "May 2007 NOP/NOSB Collaboration Document"). This collaboration document ignored the AMS decision and, after a nearly 4.5 year delay, formally adopted the 2002 NOSB recommendation as official NOP grower group policy. In essence, this document was an instruction by the USDA/NOP to foreign certifiers that they could continue the "spot check/honor" system of certification for their agribusiness clients, business as usual, despite the overruling AMS decision.

f. The NOSB then calls the AMS decision "informal" – and the USDA loses record of it

50. During the following May 2008 NOSB meetings, information emerged that the NOSB's "Compliance, Accreditation & Certification Committee" (or "CACC") had drafted a new grower group recommendation with the intent of circumventing the AMS decision and continuing grower group certifications, as is. However, the draft also made the agribusiness model of group certification less disguised compared to the previous 2002 recommendation. This attracted the attention of and drew objections from U.S.-based certifiers.

51. In a letter dated October 30, 2007, the Accredited Certifiers Association (“ACA”) which, at the time, represented 34 USDA accredited certifying organizations operating in North America, objected to the CACC draft recommendation, in part, as follows:

Historically, grower group certification was developed to address small farms not located in readily accessible areas, marketing the same products. Retailers, processors and handlers are by nature in accessible locales as well as far removed from the group social tradition and do not function in ways that remote cooperatives do, and as such are not in need of the same considerations.

See ACA Letter to NOSB (October 30, 2007), p.2.

52. The California Certified Organic Farmers (“CCOF”), which is a nonprofit organization that certifies most of the organic farmland in California, objected to the CACC draft as follows:

CCOF has not and does not certify grower groups. We believe that, in order to uphold the integrity of organic and provide the oversight that consumers demand, that each grower should complete the full certification process, including an annual onsite inspection by an accredited certifier.

We believe that handlers, processors, retailers, and restaurants should not be allowed under group certification.

We do acknowledge that grower groups have been allowed, in order to enable small growers to achieve certification, which increases the amount of farmland under organic production. However, we believe that grower groups should be phased out of the NOP.

* * *

We do not believe that the proposed grower group model increases the ability to detect non-compliance. In fact, it might be easier to hide non-compliance issues if the operator wants to.

* * *

Some consumers are already questioning the integrity of organic and the organic seal. We believe that the issue of grower groups will continue to confuse or add to the confusion of consumers and will add to the loss of confidence and trust in the organic seal, which would impact the entire organic marketplace.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (May 20, 2008), TR p. 338, ll. 13-22; p. 339, ll. 1-22; p. 339, ll. 1-22.

53. Ignoring the concerns of U.S. certifiers, agribusiness-friendly members of the CACC voted to submit the CACC draft as a formal NOSB recommendation, on a motion brought by one of the committee members, Julie Weisman, who was a founder of Flavororganics. Flavororganics makes organic coffee, coconut, and hazelnut “extracts,” among other products, and stood to benefit if grower group certifications were left alone. On November 19, 2008, Weisman and other NOSB members then voted to adopt the CACC draft as a formal NOSB recommendation made to the USDA/NOP – with the formal recommendation being entitled “Certifying Operations with Multiple Production Units, Sites, and Facilities under the National Organic Program” (the “2008 NOSB recommendation”).

54. With respect to the earlier AMS decision, the 2008 NOSB Recommendation bypassed the decision by, among other things, calling it “informal”:

The key development that underpins this recommendation is an informal decision dated October 27, 2006 in which the AMS Administrator determined that a certifying agent’s policy of inspecting “only a percentage of producers” in a group instead of annual inspections of each producer in the group was inconsistent with 7 CFR § 205.403.

55. The 2008 NOSB Recommendation omitted any references to the OFPA inspection statute, and it did not address the most fundamental problem, *i.e.*, the spot check/honor system is inconsistent with the OFPA inspection statute – even though this omission was pointed out to the NOSB during earlier May 2008 NOSB meetings:

The draft from the Committee, the discussion document makes no mention of OFPA 2107(a) [*sic*], which states, “A program established under this title shall provide for annual onsite inspection by a certifying agent of each farm and handling operation that is certified under this title.”

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (May 20, 2008), TR p. 338, ll. 14-20.

56. In addition to the NOSB calling the AMS decision “informal,” the USDA/NOP now indicates that no record of it exists.

57. On June 28, 2023, the USDA/NOP received the following FOIA request:

This email is a FOIA request for a copy of an AMS Administrator’s Appeal Decision denying organic certification of a Mexican grower group (APL-011-06).

I do not have the party or administrator’s name. However, the decision was apparently issued on October 27, 2006.

I am only asking for a copy of the decision and no other documents.

58. The USDA/NOP responded to the above FOIA request on July 20, 2023, as follows:

AMS’ search began on July 7, 2023. Please be advised that our search located no records responsive to your request.

g. The USDA/NOP adopts the 2008 NOSB recommendation as policy that continues the “spot check/honor” system

59. The 2008 NOSB recommendation was adopted as USDA/NOP policy by way of a January 21, 2011, policy memorandum to “Stakeholders and Interested Parties” (the “McEvoy memo”). The McEvoy memo suggested that the NOP would be drafting guidance regarding certification of grower groups, and suggested there would be future changes to the CFRs, along with requesting public comment.

60. Concerning instructions to accredited certifiers, the McEvoy memo stated:

In the interim, accredited certifying agents should use the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations of October 2022 and November 2008 as the current policies.

61. The McEvoy memo’s suggestion of future changes to the CFRs did not occur for another 12 years – and eventually became the 2% Rule – made effective on March 20, 2023.

C. “Spot checks” under the 2% Rule are based on arbitrary “risk factors” and other impractical recommendations made by NOSB members; “1.4 times the square root or 2%” is an arbitrary standard for certifier spot check inspections

62. Accredited certifiers are agents who are empowered by the USDA/NOP to act on behalf of the NOP as part of implementing organic compliance under the OFPA. Many state agencies in the U.S. are accredited as certifiers under the OFPA. The OFPA also allows private parties to run certification operations. 7 U.S.C. § 6502(3).

63. By instructing certifiers to use NOSB recommendations from 2002 and 2008 as “current” USDA/NOP grower group policies, the McEvoy memo continued to empower accredited foreign certifiers with open-ended discretion to spot check combinations of farms and other entities as a single grower group. At present, those certifiers operate under the same instruction, subject only to the new, modified lower limit spot check requirement of the 2% Rule (*i.e.*, “1.4 times the square root or 2%”). Other than this change, USDA/NOP grower group policy guidelines largely remain the same both before and after the “SOE” – and it remains a system that is open to self-interpretation by foreign certifiers.

(1) The 20 “risk factors” developed by the NOSB

64. Regarding the above, the 2008 NOSB recommendation manufactured the concept of certifier-interpreted “Sampling and Risk Analysis.” This concept included NOSB recommendations for “sampling rates” for grower group inspections based on the certifier’s discretionary assessment of twenty (20) specific “risk” factors.

65. Depending on the integrity of the certifier, the NOSB “Sampling and Risk Analysis” made it possible for the certifier to decide that the “sampling rate” for actual farm inspections could be any number between 0% and 100%, because the certifier had the discretion to include the locations of nonfarmer group members as part of the sampling. Whether the “site”

for inspection be farm or factory, the 2008 recommendation also weakened the probability of on-farm inspections by creating its own, new definition of “site” for inspection. The NOSB recommended that “site” means the “location of *management activities* for a given production unit.” This granted corrupted certifiers the discretion to say they had inspected farm sites if they merely visit a processor’s office who was purportedly managing the activities of the farmers in the group, thereby avoiding any requirement to send certifier personnel to farms. As just discussed, this has now changed slightly under the 2% Rule, because the minimum sampling rate has been raised from 0% to “1.4 times the square root or 2%” of the sampled population. But overall, the “sampling and risk analysis” undertaken by the certifier otherwise remains subject to the same 20 risk factors along with the option to inspect “office” sites in lieu of “farm” sites.

66. The risk factors were arbitrarily invented by NOSB members. For example, the last one of the 20 risk factors involves farms “Grossing \$5000 or more in US organic sales per year.” One NOSB member described it as “the \$5000 threshold”:

I think our recommendation would not be weakened by including the 5,000 threshold as simply a risk factor, and leaving discretion in the hands of certifiers.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (Nov. 19, 2008), TR p. 99, ll. 8-10.

67. According to the above risk factor, if a single farm in a grower group grosses less than \$5000 in revenue, then it could be “low risk” for being out of organic compliance, or cheating. If the same farm grosses above \$5000 the next year, then it could be “high risk,” if the certifier optionally chooses to see it that way, depending on the certifier’s discretionary evaluation of the other 19 risk factors. Then, if the same farm grosses less than \$5000 in the following year, it again becomes “low risk.”

68. The USDA/NOP cannot provide any reasonable basis for determining that a farm moves between “low” and “high” risk categories for organic compliance based on a \$5000 threshold in farm revenue.

69. The USDA/NOP likewise cannot provide any reasonable basis for determining a farmer’s “risk” of organic compliance or noncompliance, as the case may be, for any of the other 19 risk factors.

(2) The USDA/NOP “slide show” for training certifiers to do grower group certifications

70. Based on the 2008 NOSB recommendation, the USDA/NOP developed a slide show presentation for training certifiers on how to certify grower groups. The slide show, dated February 10, 2015, was designed to help those certifiers engaged in group certifications to “[U]nderstand the current NOP Grower Group certification policy.”

71. The slide show sets forth illusory group requirements that an ordinary person would find very difficult to deal with or manage, which means it is unlikely any group follows them in actual practice – but that does not matter, so long as the group’s “written” plan for self-inspection (*i.e.*, the “internal control system”) parrots the NOSB’s 2008 recommendation in print, somewhere.

72. For example, the slide show trains certifiers to review a group’s written plan to confirm that the plan states a checklist of USDA/NOP/NOSB guidelines relating to the following “minimum” group record keeping requirements:

Minimum recordkeeping requirements



- ✓ The Organic System Plan
- ✓ Contractual arrangements with individual members
- ✓ Description and location of the parcels and the facilities
- ✓ Production plans
- ✓ Records of inputs used, such as seeds and soil amendments
- ✓ Records of pest management materials and practices
- ✓ Internal inspection reports
- ✓ Records of products harvested
- ✓ Records of production, processing, sales, and inventory

See USDA AMS/NOP Presentation (Feb. 10, 2015), p. 8.

73. Concerning the above record keeping requirements, in the slide show, the USDA/NOP states that the highest concentration of grower groups are located in Latin America and Asia, but the largest grower groups are located in Africa. The USDA/NOP states that the “Smallest groups have a few members; the largest groups have thousands.”

74. Regardless of what a group’s “written plan” states, the USDA/NOP cannot produce reliable evidence that establishes that grower groups in Latin America, Asia, or Africa are doing the above “minimum record keeping requirements” in actual practice.

75. The slide show also sets forth unmanageable checklist guidelines for the qualification of so-called “ICS Personnel”:

ICS Personnel



- ✓ Fluent in language used by group.
- ✓ Able to read and write in language.
- ✓ Well-versed in USDA organic regulations.
- ✓ Familiar with local production methods.
- ✓ Familiar with organic practices.
- ✓ Competent in ICS procedures.

See USDA AMS/NOP Presentation (Feb. 10, 2015), p. 13.

76. The USDA/NOP cannot produce reliable evidence that establishes that certifiers are engaging in actual, detailed examinations of the individuals who are the so-called “ICS personnel” to ensure that the above checklist factors are met. In particular, the USDA/NOP cannot produce reliable evidence that establishes the “ICS personnel” for the grower groups in Latin America, Asia, and Africa are “Well-versed in USDA organic regulations” as per the above, critical checklist requirement. It is also unlikely the USDA/NOP can produce copies of USDA organic regulations that have been translated into all the required local languages; or that translated copies of the 2% Rule exist for all the local languages; or that translated copies of the lists of substances that are allowed or prohibited for organic use (which are regularly reviewed and sometimes updated) exist for all the local languages so that all local ICS personnel can be “well versed.”

77. The slide show also sets forth certifier training “exercises” for developing spot check “sampling rates” based on “risk assessment.” The intent of these exercises was to replace farm inspections according to the NOSB’s 2008 recommendation: “it is possible that proper multi-site inspection may be achievable through risk assessment and sampling rather than through

direct observation of every member of the producer group every year.” However, these exercises are beyond reasonable comprehension and, therefore, unlikely to be followed by any certifier.

The USDA/NOP has no reliable evidence that this situation has been changed, improved, or “strengthened” by the 2% Rule.

78. In Federal Register comments, the USDA admits that the above system is a broken one – although the USDA is unwilling to admit that it cannot be fixed:

Through certification audits and field visits, USDA has witnessed many of the common problems created by the lack of a codified producer group standard. The most common, and difficult to address, challenge is lack of a well-functioning ICS.

* * *

As a result, NOP audits have uncovered issues such as application of prohibited synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, mixing of conventional and organic products, decentralized storage that causes mixing and contamination, and poor or nonexistent recordkeeping that makes traceability and verification of integrity difficult. These issues sometimes persist because the current regulations lack ICS responsibilities and NOP therefore has no mechanism or basis for citing noncompliance.

* * *

Often, ICS personnel are relatives or friends of the members and may withhold or obscure evidence of noncompliance or fraud. In other cases, the influence of a buyer or exporter will lead members to compromise organic integrity in order to meet specific quality or volume targets.

In addition to the ICS, the lack of general criteria that producer groups must meet creates challenges for certifying agents. This is most often seen as an absence of critical information about the producer group and its members. Producer groups often do not provide certifying agents with basic information, such as accurate maps, location of plots, acreage, and production practices and inputs. During inspection, certifying agents commonly cannot locate members, plots, boundaries, or central distribution points, making it difficult to complete basic audit techniques such as yield analysis or mass balance.

The unique conditions of producer group production mentioned above, when combined with poor oversight and enforcement mechanisms at the ICS level, create an environment where loss of organic integrity and organic fraud are more likely to occur.

See Federal Register (Vol. 88, No. 12), p. 3593 (underlining added).

79. In essence, the above USDA comments are a summary of what consumers have been getting for decades when they buy “organic” bananas bearing the USDA seal in supermarket chains: “prohibited synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, mixing of conventional and organic products” and “decentralized storage that causes mixing and contamination.”

80. Because the NOSB/USDA/NOP and agribusinesses did not like it, the USDA “forgot” that the AMS decision demonstrates that mechanisms have long existed for dealing with organic noncompliance issues. Instead, the USDA suggests in the above Federal Register comments that it has been witnessing a broken system for a long time as a bystander with hands tied. But now that the words “internal control system” have finally found their way into written regulations, the problem is “fixed” – that is, the USDA has been unbound and called to action; the certifiers will get the information they need and can accurately identify where the farms are located, for the first time; and agribusinesses will no longer use their influence to compromise organic integrity. In reality, the only significant change the 2% Rule makes from before is “1.4 times the square root or 2%.” The fix is in.

(3) The USDA has no evidence that a minimum sampling rate of “1.4 times the square root or 2%” is reliable

81. First, writing into the final rule “1.4 times the square root or 2%” for inspection of “producer group members” is an arbitrary standard that is based on random choice rather than something that is evidence-based to show reliability.

82. Second, the new rule’s definitions section now defines “producer group member,” for the first time, in a way that is designed to enable corrupted certifiers to game the system, if they want to:

Producer group member. An individual engaged in the activity of producing or harvesting agricultural products as a member of a producer group operation.

37 CFR § 205.2 (underlining added).

83. Introduction of the word “individual” in a rule definitions section that is coupled to an undefined “producer group operation” that is left for a certifier to define, at the certifier’s discretion, leaves things open-ended. It enables the certifier to “count” individuals who work in food factory, trucking, and warehouse settings, in addition to farms, if the certifier chooses to call them all one “producer group operation.” This gives corrupted certifiers the discretion to give disproportionate weighting of spot checks to “individuals” who are nonfarmers as part of meeting the “1.4 times the square root or 2%” spot check requirement. And given that the USDA/NOP has never altered the NOSB’s recommended definition of “site,” discussed above, a corrupted certifier could count individuals in a processor’s offices as farm managers and inspect that site (*i.e.*, the office) as the farm, depending on how the certifier sees the “risk factors.” In the case of Turkey (*See* ¶¶ 91-115), as an example, it is easier to access individuals in an agribusiness processing facility compared to individuals on farms more than 100 road miles distant, in another province. *See, e.g.*, Ex. A, (Bates Nos. PF0000013-15) .

84. Using jargon like “Internal Control System” in lieu of calling it what it is, and contrary to recent Federal Register comments, both the USDA/NOP and NOSB have long touted the spot check/honor system to be “reliable” and “strong.”

85. The USDA/NOP and NOSB have, for a long time, intentionally sought to bypass the OFPA inspection statute by promoting the “Internal Control System” as “one governing compliance scheme that may reduce the need for direct observation by inspection of each unit or site.” A scheme it is.

DAMAGE/STANDING

86. Congress did not accept grower group certification practices when it enacted the OFPA – which is why the OFPA inspection statute requires inspection of every farm – not “spot checks” of some farms. As discussed above, the AMS agreed.

87. Grower group certifications have lurked under the radar of general public awareness for decades – probably because these certification practices largely apply to tropical crops that have never significantly competed with U.S. organic farmers. Hazelnuts are a unique exception because foreign hazelnuts are grown in temperate climates at latitudes similar to those in North America.

88. Because grower group certifications are a uniquely foreign practice, if asked, U.S. organic farmers and handlers are generally unaware of them and how they work. On the other hand, certain members of the NOSB, the NOP, foreign certifiers, some U.S. food manufacturers who want low cost foreign agricultural products that bear the USDA seal, and the tropical-crop agribusinesses have long been aware of them.

89. Moreover, both NOSB members and the NOP have long known about the legal problems that attach to grower group certifications, with NOSB meeting transcripts showing NOSB members using terms like “train wreck” and “an attorney would drive a semi right through this thing” multiple times during back-and-forth grower group discussions that were on-record:

No, what I’m talking about is the public relations semi truck train wreck that could occur on this thing when it comes out in the New York Times that product selling in the United States from someone in China making over \$10,000 a year is not being inspected, when a grower in Vermont making 5,000 and 1 is having to.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (Nov. 19, 2008), TR p. 69, ll. 11-18.

* * *

Again, the fear that seems to be driving – and you have expressed it clearly, it’s fear – we are afraid of a scandal, we are afraid of a train wreck, and all that sort of thing. And if you try to over-regulate, I guarantee you people, you will cause the train wreck by overprescriptive [*sic*] – and I think we are seeing that happen.

See Transcript of NOSB meeting (Nov. 19, 2008), TR p. 70, l. 1; & p. 71, ll. 1-7 (*see also* TR p. 64, ll. 19-22; p. 65, ll. 4-7; p. 65, ll. 9-21; p. 77, ll. 3-14; p. 92, ll. 11-20; p.111, ll. 21-22; & p. 112, ll. 1-3).

90. Grower group certifications have also divided the certifiers who work within the organic certification system into two categories: The good ones who refuse to certify grower groups because they recognize the problems; and the corrupted ones who are willing to do it.

A. This Complaint arose because “organic” Turkish hazelnut imports, made via “grower group” certifications, are being sold at negligible organic premiums in the U.S.

91. In 2022, an employee of a local Oregon processor orally informed Pratum Farm that Turkish hazelnut processors were selling “organic” hazelnut kernels in the U.S. at negligible organic premiums over Turkish “conventional” hazelnut kernels.

92. At that specific time, organic hazelnut farmers in Oregon were receiving a significant organic premium over conventional prices, because Turkish conventional imports were driving down conventional Oregon prices to historical lows.

93. Organic premiums paid to farmers are based on lower organic yields, certification costs (*i.e.*, certifiers charge farmers, and others, time-based fees for organic inspections), and the willingness of U.S. consumers to pay higher prices for healthy and environmentally sound farm products.

94. The business math of organic premiums means that any processor/buyer who purchases an organic farmer’s crop must recapture the cost of the farmer’s organic premium and other related costs incurred by the processor (*e.g.*, the processor’s own certification costs). This

directly results in the processor also having to charge an organic premium to the processor's customers. See ¶¶ 147-150, *infra*.

95. Therefore, negligible organic premiums for Turkish hazelnut kernel imports sold into the U.S. market indicate two things: (1) organic certification costs are being bypassed in the farm-to-table chain in Turkey; and (2) Turkish farmers are being paid little or no organic premiums.

(1) The USDA had no record of certified organic hazelnut farms in Turkey

96. After receiving word of negligible Turkish organic premiums, Pratum Farm first reviewed publicly available import records and discovered that Turkish processors are causing the import of substantially greater quantities of "USDA-certified" organic hazelnut kernels into the U.S. compared to the local domestic production of organic hazelnuts by U.S. farmers. From these records, Pratum Farm identified five (5) Turkish processors who, along with related entities or U.S. importers, were causing these imports.

97. Available information also indicated that all five (5) of the Turkish processors were industrial agribusiness or food factory complexes – one owned by a multi-billion dollar international agribusiness conglomerate.

98. The USDA requires accredited certifiers to input information about the organic operations they certify in a public database called "Integrity." The USDA describes the "Integrity" database as follows:

The Organic INTEGRITY Database is a certified organic operations database that contains up-to-date and accurate information about operations that may and may not sell as organic, deterring fraud, increases supply chain transparency for buyers and sellers, and promotes market visibility for organic operations.

<https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/organic-integrity-database>

99. The USDA instructs the public that “You can find a certified organic farm or business...” by using the “Integrity” database. See <https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/organic-integrity-database>.

100. While all Oregon organic hazelnut farmers known to Pratum Farm were identifiable in “Integrity,” there were no identifiable records in “Integrity” of a single certified organic operation in Turkey that is just a hazelnut farm.

101. With respect to the above 5 processors, at the time, “Integrity” identified some as certified organic “handlers,” only, and some as “handlers” that appeared to also hold a “scope” of certification for “crops.” However, the latter were processors, only, and not farmers. None were identified as “grower groups” in Integrity’s grower group search category at that specific time. It was later learned that the USDA does not require certifiers to identify “grower group” certifications in “Integrity” – therefore, most foreign certifiers do not do it.

(2) The USITC investigation

102. Because “Integrity” showed no identifiable evidence of certified organic hazelnut farms in Turkey, but import records showed a substantial quantity of organic hazelnut kernel imports coming into the U.S. from Turkey, Pratum Farm filed a complaint with the U.S. International Trade Commission (“USITC”) requesting that the five (5) processors be investigated for false advertising of the USDA organic seal. The USITC granted Pratum Farm’s investigation request (“the USITC investigation”). See *“In the Matter of Certain Hazelnuts and Products Containing the Same,”* USITC Investigation No. 337-USITC-1337.

103. The USITC investigation subsequently revealed that all the processors were using the USDA organic seal by directly or indirectly taking advantage of the grower group certification

system, with organic certificates being issued by five (5) different foreign certifiers under different variations of the agribusiness model described above.

104. The USITC investigation also resulted in the production of evidence from the processors that showed substantial fraud and noncompliant practices by both certifiers and processors in connection with issuing organic certifications. And the investigation revealed that USDA/NOP administration of the OFPA was the root cause of these problems.

105. The USITC has limited jurisdiction and no power or authority to administrate organic certifications on behalf of the USDA, or usurp the USDA's authority to administrate the organic certification program, or cancel organic certificates issued under circumstances that involve fraud. Therefore, when the USITC investigation revealed that the Turkish import problems were attributable to USDA/NOP administrative practices, Pratum Farm dismissed the USITC action without prejudice.

106. The USITC investigation nevertheless resulted in the production of information and documents that revealed (1) Turkish processors and traders do not bother complying with self-inspection or "internal inspector" requirements under the grower group spot check/honor system (*see, e.g.*, Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF000006-12 & PF0000019)); (2) fraudulent buy/sell documentation relating to organic hazelnuts (*see, e.g.*, Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF000008 & PF0000052)); (3) fraudulent farmer lists (*see, e.g.*, Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF0000016-18 & PF0000083-91)); (4) "production units" that produced "crops" from Turkish urban neighborhood and residential apartment buildings – far from any farms (*see, e.g.*, Ex. A. (Bates Nos. PF0000020 & PF0000022)); (5) "crops" certificates issued to a large scale urban food factory complex (Nimeks) that included laundry lists of wide varieties of unrelated "certified" crops and processed foods that no reasonable person would believe are coming from "a group of producers whose

farms are uniform in most ways” – with the certificates having been issued by a certifier who USDA auditors found to “not consistently demonstrate during the audit an adequate understanding of the USDA regulations and NOP policies” – and after Nimeks had been cited on certain organic noncompliance issues that resulted in an August 2019 settlement agreement with the USDA/NOP (*see, e.g.*, Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF0000022-26 & PF00000164-167)); (6) ineffective USDA control over foreign certifiers who are engaged in grower group certification practices (*see, e.g.*, Ex. A. (Bates Nos. PF0000020-21 & PF0000022-23)); and (7) most importantly, no traceability to purported Turkish “organic” hazelnut farms (*see, e.g.*, Ex. A. (Bates Nos. PF000006-26)).

107. The USITC investigation also caused the production of evidence that confirmed what Pratum Farm had been told: Turkish “organic” hazelnut kernels are being imported into the U.S. at negligible organic premiums over Turkish “conventional” imports. One Turkish processor/exporter of organic hazelnut kernels (Arslanturk) was selling organic kernels out of Turkey at an approximate 3% premium over conventional prices for crop year 2022. *See* Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF000005 & PF0000040). Arslanturk is a large Turkish agribusiness/factory complex that collaborated with a foreign certifier, Ecocert SAS (“Ecocert”), to obtain organic certificates as a “grower group.”

(3) The USDA/NOP also refused to investigate grower group fraud called to the attention of the USDA/NOP by the USITC

108. Based on information received during the USITC investigation, Pratum Farm earlier delivered to the USDA a private party complaint, dated July 20, 2023, directed against the five (5) foreign certifiers who were responsible for the above certifications (the “July complaint”). The July complaint requested the USDA to revoke the accreditation of all five (5) of the certifiers.

The July complaint also put the USDA on notice that grower group certifications that use the spot check/honor system are illegal under the OFPA.

109. Additionally, the July complaint alleges that upper level USDA/NOP personnel impeded investigation of *prima facie* fraudulent farmer list documents that Arslanturk alleged had been properly issued by Ecocert. *See* Ex. A (Bates Nos. 0000018-19).

110. Ecocert has an international track record of noncompliant practices in connection with organic certification that includes, among other things, an October 2018 settlement agreement with the USDA/NOP that involved alleged violations of organic regulations by Ecocert's staff in Izmir, Turkey.

111. Based on Arslanturk's allegations, the USITC investigation revealed that, following Ecocert's settlement agreement with the USDA/NOP, Ecocert's Izmir staff caused the creation of fraudulent grower group farmer lists on organic "annex" certificates that consisted of approximately 1400 unusable, 10-digit farmer ID "codes." These codes appear on the face of the certificates as out-of-sequence, randomly generated numbers. Based on Arslanturk's allegations about the source of the certificates, documents produced by Arslanturk, and other related evidence, Ecocert's Izmir staff generated these documents as superficial "farmer lists" for the purpose of giving Arslanturk an organic certificate for "crops" that Arslanturk could show to its customers as justification for using the USDA organic seal. *See* Ex. A. (Bates Nos. PF0000016-18). Ecocert's primary certification business in Turkey involves issuing grower group certificates to Turkish businesses.

112. The July complaint describes that USITC staff agreed that the 10-digit farmer ID codes appeared to be fraudulent and referred the issue to the USDA for further investigation, only

to be informed that upper level USDA/NOP personnel impeded thorough investigation of the Arslanturk farmer lists.

113. Given Ecocert's earlier track record of noncompliant practices in Turkey, and given that the USITC investigation revealed new Ecocert certification activities that may or may not have raised issues of breach of the earlier USDA/Ecocert settlement agreement, upper level USDA/NOP personnel were obliged to pursue rather than impede a thorough investigation of Ecocert.

114. Because the above involved a potential act of agency wrongdoing (*i.e.*, USDA/NOP refusal to investigate possible fraud by an agent (Ecocert) of the USDA/NOP), the July complaint was also submitted to the USDA's Office of Inspector General ("OIG") for review.

115. The July complaint is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated as part of this complaint. Receipt of the July complaint was acknowledged by the USDA/NOP, but not the OIG.

B. The 2% Rule destroys the integrity and "goodwill" of the USDA organic seal - which harms the Plaintiff as an authorized user of the seal

116. In a USDA publication entitled, "Is certified organic right for your farm?" the USDA states:

Food labeling can be confusing and misleading, which is why certified organic is an important choice for consumers.

Consumers are willing to pay a premium for food that carries the USDA organic seal, or that contains organic ingredients.

117. The USDA organic seal (the "seal") is an official certification mark ("mark") that is owned by the USDA and controlled by the NOP. The USDA has registered the seal as a certification mark with the U.S. Trademark Office (U.S. Reg. No. 6,452,285).

118. Farmers who produce certified organic products that comply with organic regulations are authorized (or “licensed”) to use the seal pursuant to regulation. 37 CFR 205.303(a)(4). Likewise, the USDA publicly states, “Certified farms and businesses are authorized to use the seal to identify their products as organic.”

119. Pratum Farm is certified to the USDA organic regulations and holds an organic crops certificate for hazelnuts issued by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (“ODA”). Pratum Farm’s NOP Operation ID No. is 7270001707 and related ODA Certification No. is AG-C0001707C.

120. Therefore, Pratum Farm is authorized and licensed to use the USDA organic seal.

121. Pratum Farm presently uses the seal, as a licensee, in connection with sales of organic hazelnuts to a local Oregon processor and direct sales of hazelnut kernels to the public in a local farmer’s market under the assumed business name “Frankie’s Oregon Organic Hazelnuts” (Oregon Bus. Reg. No. 2055622-91, registered by Pratum Farm, LLC):



122. A mark is fundamentally a symbol of “goodwill” that creates an expectation of, among other things, consistent quality of goods or services provided in connection with the mark.

123. A mark’s “goodwill” represents the quality or characteristics of goods or services that keep customers coming back.

124. As indicated above, the USDA publicly states that “certified organic is an important choice for consumers” and consumers “are willing to pay a premium for food that carries the USDA organic seal, or that contains organic ingredients.” Therefore, as a certification mark licensee, Pratum Farm benefits from the reputation of the seal and the fact that consumers will choose to pay a premium for Pratum Farm’s hazelnut products that are sold in connection with Pratum Farm’s use of the seal.

125. For the USDA organic seal to function properly as a certification mark, the quality or characteristics of goods or services provided under the mark must be consistent. In other words, the quality of “certified organic” or the characteristics of “certified organic” must be consistent.

126. Dr. Jennifer Tucker, the current deputy administrator of the NOP, has made claims similar to the above in public recordings:

The USDA organic seal is the gold standard around the world and the reason is because all farms and businesses around the world, *they’re all part of a shared global control system* that makes sure that the system is working around the world to protect the standards, protect the farmers, and protect the seal. (emphasis added)

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QL-4tSb6GY> @1:00.

127. However, the 2% Rule is not part of a shared global control system – the rule is a separate and different system that has long been applied in other countries. This means that the quality or characteristics of “certified organic” are not globally consistent – but are different for agricultural products that originate from U.S. farmers versus agricultural products that originate

from overseas. That difference degrades and damages the integrity of the USDA seal and those who rely on it to “keep customers coming back” as licensees authorized to use the seal. The USDA has largely hidden these differences from the U.S. public.

(1) The 2% Rule also contradicts USDA claims that inspections by accredited certifiers are “vital” to organic integrity

128. In instructions to all accredited certifiers concerning their hiring of certifier employees as organic inspectors, the USDA claims that farm inspections by accredited inspectors are “vital” to the integrity of the organic system:

Organic inspectors play a vital role in ensuring organic integrity. Their visits to organic farms and processing facilities are often the most direct contact that certifiers have with organic operations. It is important for certifiers to appropriately assess the inspector’s level of expertise and ability, both during the hiring process and as part of regular performance evaluations.

See NOP Instruction “The Organic Certification Process,” September 13, 2018, page 5 of 9 (NOP 2601 The Organic Certification Process Rev03 09 13 18).

129. The USDA also publishes a series called “Organic 101” that explores different aspects of USDA organic regulation. In the eighth installment of the “Organic 101” series, the USDA explains farm inspections by accredited certifiers as follows:

Every operation that applies for organic certification is first inspected on site by a certifying agent. These *comprehensive top-to-bottom inspections* differ in scope depending on the farm or facility. For example, for crops they include inspection of fields, soil conditions, crop health, approaches to management of weeds and other crop pests, water systems, storage areas and equipment. For livestock, they include inspection of feed production and purchase records, feed rations, animal living conditions, preventative health management practices (e.g., vaccinations), health records, and the number and condition of animals present on the farm. At a handling or processing facility, an inspector evaluates the receiving, processing, and storage areas used for organic ingredients and finished products. (emphasis added)

130. Moreover, on its website, the USDA explains that *accredited* certifiers are the ones who maintain the integrity of the organic system:

Certifying agents are accredited by the USDA and are responsible for making sure USDA organic products meet all organic standards.

131. Although the USDA calls farm inspections by an *accredited* third-party certifier a “vital” requirement for maintaining organic integrity, the USDA makes certifier farm inspections a less-than “vital” requirement under the 2% Rule.

132. At the same time, the USDA touts to the U.S. public that “every operation” undergoes inspections by accredited certifiers, on a worldwide basis, thereby suggesting that *all* organic farms across the world are visited by certifiers. The truth is that there is a large segment of foreign farms that do not undergo a “comprehensive top-to-bottom” inspection by an accredited certifier, but instead, the certifier looks at a written plan for “internal inspection” in someone’s office. And then, a food factory employee may or may not visit a farm, somewhere.

(2) The 2% Rule breaks the USDA’s “organic promise” of farm traceability

133. Reasonable traceability to the farms from which organic crops are sourced is key to maintaining the overall integrity of the organic system.

134. In the third installment of the USDA’s “Organic 101” series, the USDA states:

Organic certification requires that farmers and handlers document their processes and get inspected every year. Organic on-site inspections account for every component of the operation, including, but not limited to, seed sources, soil conditions, crop health, weed and pest management, water systems, inputs, contamination and commingling risks and prevention, and record-keeping. *Tracing organic products from start to finish is part of the USDA organic promise.* (emphasis added)

135. “[I]mproving farm to market traceability” is also one of the stated goals of the USDA as part of recent SOE (strengthening organic enforcement”) rule-making. The 2% Rule does the opposite.

136. During the Fall of 2022, Pratum Farm delivered its first certified organic hazelnut crop (in-shell hazelnuts) to a commercial dehydrator in Eugene, Oregon, for the purpose of having

the crop washed and dried (*i.e.*, dehydrated for preservation) – which is common practice in the hazelnut industry. The commercial dehydrator is also a certified organic handler that is required to keep organic hazelnuts separate from conventionally grown hazelnuts during the course of handling these products. In order to recapture its certification costs, the commercial dehydrator charged Pratum Farm \$.15 cents a pound for the service of washing/drying Pratum Farm’s organic crop. Pratum Farm has been customarily charged close to \$.05 cents a pound, on average, by dehydrators who handled Pratum Farm’s conventional hazelnut crops in the past.

137. After retrieving the crop from the commercial dehydrator, Pratum Farm later sold nearly all of it to a local processor in Albany, Oregon, except for a small portion reserved for local farmers market sales. The Albany processor is a shelling operation that purchases in-shell organic hazelnuts from farmers and then sells shelled nutmeats (“kernels”) to downstream customers. The processor likewise goes through its own certification/inspection procedures, at a certain cost to the processor, to ensure its shelling operation does not intermingle organic with the conventional hazelnuts it also shells.

138. The commercial dehydrator required Pratum Farm’s organic “crops” certificate documentation before it would wash/dry the crop as “organic.” Likewise, the Albany processor required Pratum Farm’s organic certificate documentation before the processor would purchase from Pratum Farm as “organic” – including documentation that demonstrated to the processor that Pratum Farm had used the certified commercial dehydrator in Eugene. Consequently, when the processor introduces kernels into the marketplace, the processor has, in addition to its own certification documentation as a handler, a reasonable string of documentation, for the processor’s customers, that can be used to demonstrate that the processor can make a reasonable trace of farm origin back to Pratum Farm and other local Oregon organic farmers who sell to the processor.

139. Pratum Farm’s name and address appears on the USDA “Integrity” database, which makes it possible for any member of the public to drive down a gravel road and see that Pratum Farm’s orchard floor is not sprayed out to bare dirt with herbicides like the neighbor’s orchard on the other side of the road. Unknown to Pratum Farm at the time, and because it was Pratum Farm’s first organic crop, Albany processor personnel did a drive-by of Pratum Farm’s orchards to look for signs of herbicide and synthetic fertilizer use. Likewise, unknown to Pratum Farm at the time, the Eugene dehydrator later made inquiries of the Albany processor concerning whether the processor had checked on Pratum Farm.

140. When the ODA inspector recently visited Pratum Farm to inspect it for organic compliance for the upcoming 2023 crop, among other things, he walked through the orchards; viewed equipment and materials in barns; saw storage totes that are proprietary for organic production; reviewed written records of Pratum Farm’s organic yields; and reviewed documents between Pratum Farm and the foregoing entities specifically for the purpose of tracing Pratum Farm’s crop from harvest field to the processor.

141. All of the foregoing is in accordance with the USDA’s “organic promise” of farm traceability. Among other things, the reason U.S. farms meet the USDA’s “organic promise” is because the very first organic certificate issued in the farm-to-table chain is issued to the farmer.

142. In stark contrast to the above, when Pratum Farm attempted to trace purportedly “organic” hazelnuts to Turkish farmers during the course of the USITC Investigation discussed above, the attempt to trace dead-ended at car shops, factory complexes, and urban apartment/street buildings. *See* Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF000006-26). One of the reasons for this is that “grower group” certifications simply skip the farms – and because the USDA allows the very first organic certificate to be issued to a food processor or trader.

143. In its July complaint to the USDA/NOP, Pratum Farm told the USDA/NOP:

With the help of staff from the U.S. International Trade Commission (“USITC”), we tried to trace organic hazelnuts to farms in Turkey. We learned two things: (1) the organic certification of hazelnut farms in Turkey is unreliable because of “grower group” certification practices; and (2) no one can trace to Turkish farms.

* * *

Among other things, the investigation revealed that foreign grower group certifications set up barriers that make farm traceability opaque.

See Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF000001-2).

144. The 2% Rule breaks the USDA’s “organic promise” of “Tracing organic products from start to finish” by making foreign farms untraceable. The way the rule actually works also contradicts the USDA’s public representations concerning “strengthening organic enforcement”:

What does the rule do?

SOE protects organic integrity and bolsters farmer and consumer confidence in the USDA organic seal by supporting strong organic control systems, improving farm to market traceability, increasing import oversight authority, and providing robust enforcement of the organic regulations.

See USDA Jan. 18, 2023 press release.

145. Summarizing the above, the 2% Rule harms the integrity of the USDA organic seal; harms the reputation and goodwill of the seal; and, therefore, harms Pratum Farm as a U.S. farm enterprise that is licensed to use the seal.

C. The 2% Rule also creates economic harm

146. The 2% Rule also creates an uneven economic playing field in the marketplace that harms or is likely to harm Pratum Farm.

147. The U.S. hazelnut industry (conventional and organic) is small, consisting of approximately 1000 family farms that are mostly found in Oregon. Turkey dominates world

hazelnut production and, likewise, dominates the U.S. domestic hazelnut market. U.S. hazelnut farmers produce less than 10% of Turkish production.

148. Consequently, in the conventional market (which is much larger than the organic market), the prices buyers pay for conventional Turkish kernels directly influence and are used to leverage U.S. farmer prices. As one example, when selling their crop each year against Turkish competition in the conventional hazelnut industry, U.S. hazelnut processors (who buy farmers' hazelnuts locally and resell them as kernel products) are often faced with selling to a large international corporate buyer (Ferrero - the maker of Nutella) that leverages Turkish market prices for kernels against the prices the buyer is willing to pay for U.S. hazelnuts. The U.S. organic hazelnut market has been able to maintain organic farmer premiums because of smaller buyers that value organic integrity – which operate as a subset of a greater buyer market. However, as of the date of this complaint, the type of Turkish leverage just described is pressuring Pratum Farm's primary buyer (the Albany processor described above) to pay lower farmer prices for organic hazelnuts for the upcoming crop year.

149. As discussed above, the USITC investigation produced evidence that a Turkish processor/exporter of "organic" hazelnut kernels sold organic kernels from Turkey at a 3% premium over Turkish conventional prices (*See Ex. A (Bates Nos. PF000005 & PF0000040)*) for crop year 2022. A Turkish processor cannot charge a 3% organic premium unless the processor pays little or no organic premium to upstream farmers and has insignificant costs for obtaining organic certificates.

150. For crop year 2021, two local Oregon processors were paying approximately \$1.65 per pound, in-shell, to organic hazelnut farmers. At that time, Pratum Farm was receiving approximately \$0.95 per pound as the "conventional" farmer price on Pratum Farm's "in-

transition” orchards. The difference between \$1.65 and \$0.95 is an approximate 70% organic farmer premium that is a significant and direct cost increase for processors as they sell into the downstream organic market – that can only be recaptured by the processor if the processor can likewise charge a significant organic premium to the processor’s customers. Therefore, if an Oregon processor has to compete with a Turkish processor who is charging a 3% organic premium over conventional prices in the marketplace, based on the Turkish processor’s use of the USDA organic seal, the Oregon processor is under significant pressure to likewise meet the Turkish processor’s organic price – which reduces the prices the processor can pay to local Oregon organic farmers like Pratum Farm. As indicated above, this is what is happening in the current marketplace as of the filing date of this Complaint.

151. In the above traceability description of Pratum Farm’s crop passing to the Albany processor, there were multiple levels of certification costs in the chain – that is, Pratum Farm, the commercial dehydrator, and the Albany processor each have to pay a certain amount for organic certification that involves inspections by a third-party, accredited certifier. In the agribusiness model of group certification described above, the processor pays for all the certification costs in return for being the first in the chain to receive the organic “crops” certificate. No one knows how much. However, an agribusiness would independently incur significant “internal control system” costs if it actually hired sufficient numbers of personnel to meet the numerous laundry list requirements and criteria set forth in the USDA’s training slides (*see* ¶¶ 70-80, *supra.*). The USITC investigation indicated that Turkish agribusinesses are not doing it. More likely than not, foreign agribusinesses in collaboration with certain corrupt certifiers game the “internal control system” to avoid multiple layers of certification costs for foreign agribusinesses that U.S. farm businesses are paying along the entire farm-to-table chain. It is also a system that makes it very

possible for some of these agribusinesses to buy local farmer crops without disclosing to the farmer that the crop is being sold as “organic.”

152. In the name of “strengthening organic enforcement,” the USDA/NOP has now written a corrupted organic certification scheme, that harms U.S. farmers, into the Code of Federal Regulations. The new rule is clearly inconsistent with the requirements of the OFPA inspection statute.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

153. Pratum Farm re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

154. A person suffering legal wrong because of agency action, or adversely affected or aggrieved by federal agency action within the meaning of a relevant federal statute, is entitled to judicial review thereof. 5 U.S.C. § 702.

155. The OFPA did not address grower group certifications when it was enacted in 1990; there have been no statutory amendments to the OFPA since then that address grower group certifications; and the OFPA inspection statute has never changed.

156. Rules specific to grower groups (*i.e.*, the 2% Rule, and other related new rules specific to “grower group” certifications) were written into the CFRs, for the first time, as part of SOE rule-making that was made effective on March 20, 2023.

157. It is the stated purpose of the OFPA “to establish national standards...to assure consumers that organically produced products meet a consistent and uniform standard.” 7 U.S.C. § 6501(2).

158. The OFPA inspection statute states, in pertinent part:

A program established under this chapter shall—

* * *

(5) provide for annual on-site inspection by the certifying agent of each farm and handling operation that has been certified under this chapter;

7 U.S.C. § 6506(a)(5).

159. The new regulation that embodies the 2% Rule states, in pertinent part:

(a) *On-site inspections.*

* * *

(2) Inspections of a producer group operation must:

(i) Assess the internal control system's compliance, or ability to comply, with the requirements of [§ 205.400\(g\)\(8\)](#). This must include review of the internal inspections conducted by the internal control system.

(ii) Conduct witness audits of internal control system inspectors performing inspections of the producer group operation.

(iii) Individually inspect at least 1.4 times the square root or 2% of the total number of producer group members, whichever is higher. All producer group members determined to be high risk by the certifying agent must be inspected. At least one producer group member in each producer group production unit must be inspected.

7 CFR § 205.403(a)(2) (underlining added).

160. Therefore, the 2% Rule, 7 CFR § 205.403(a)(2) (and related rules that are new), creates an inconsistent standard that is an exception to the farm inspection requirements of the OFPA inspection statute, 7 U.S.C. § 6506(a)(5), without any statutory basis for making the exception. After calling farm inspections by an accredited certifier “vital” for the organic certification of U.S. farmers, the USDA/NOP has developed policies, and now rules, that inspections are “not vital” for foreign agribusiness interests. After making an “organic promise” to the U.S. public that organic food products can be traced directly to farms, the USDA/NOP has developed policies, and now written rules in the CFRs, which make foreign farms untraceable.

161. The 2% Rule circumvents the intent of the OFPA inspection statute and the OFPA's general goal of assuring U.S. consumers that organically produced products meet a consistent and uniform standard. 7 U.S.C. §6501(2).

162. The 2% Rule is "in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right" and "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law" in violation of the OFPA and the APA. 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A)&(C).

RELIEF REQUESTED

163. WHEREFORE, Pratum Farm respectfully requests that the Court:

164. Declare that the USDA's 2% Rule (7 CFR § 205.403(a)(2)) is unlawful under the OFPA;

165. Declare that any related new regulations, written as part of SOE final rule making for the purpose of carrying out the 2% Rule, are unlawful under the OFPA;

166. Declare that any organic certifications issued under the 2% Rule, or similar grower group certification policies, are unlawful under the OFPA;

167. Order the USDA and the NOP Deputy Administrator to instruct accredited certifiers to immediately discontinue the practice of issuing organic certificates for "crops" to any party that is based on the 2% Rule or any equivalent grower group certification practice or policy;

168. Award Pratum Farm reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated with this litigation; and

169. Grant such further and additional relief as this Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

Dated: October 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Pratum Farm, LLC

/s/ Ariana Denley

Ariana Denley (OSB 173314)

Tel: (541) 686-9160

Email: adenley@eugenelaw.com



PRATUM FARM, LLC
120 - 95TH AVE NE
SALEM, OR 97317

BRUCE A. KASER
bruce@pratumfarm.com

PHONE: (206) 909-7928

Complaint Against Certain Foreign Organic Certifiers

This is a complaint against the following five (5) foreign certifying agencies (“certifiers”):

BIO.INSPECTA AG (“Bio.Inspecta”)
Ackerstrasse, Frick, CH-5070,
SWITZERLAND
(Accreditation No. USDA-43-21)

ECOCERT SAS (“Ecocert”)
Lieu dit Lamothe Ouest BP47, L'Isle Jourdain,
32600, FRANCE
(Accreditation No. USDA-67-22)

BIOAGRICERT (“Bioagricert”)
Via dei Macabracchia 8, Città Metropolitana
di Bologna, 40033, ITALY
(Accreditation No. USDA-49-19)

LETIS (“Letis”)
San Lorenzo 2261 1 "A", Rosario,
ARGENTINA
(Accreditation No. USDA-13-18)

CCPB SRL (“CCPB”)
Viale Angelo Masini 36, Bologna, 40126,
ITALY
(Accreditation No. USDA-20-21)

I. Introduction

“[I]mproving farm to market traceability” is one of the stated goals of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (“USDA”) recent “Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule” (“SOE”).¹ This goal recognizes that traceability to organic farms is fundamental to use of the USDA organic seal.

With the help of staff from the U.S. International Trade Commission (“USITC”), we tried to trace organic hazelnuts to farms in Turkey. We learned two things: (1) the organic certification of hazelnut farms in Turkey is unreliable because of “grower group” certification practices; and (2) no one can trace to Turkish farms.

¹ See USDA Summary of SOE (<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/strengthening-organic-enforcement>).



II. Background

A. Certified Turkish “organic” hazelnuts are being sold in the U.S. at negligible organic premiums compared to Turkish “conventional” hazelnuts

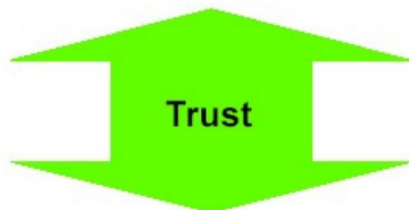
We are a certified organic hazelnut farm located in Oregon. Last year, a local hazelnut processor informed us that Turkish “organic” hazelnut kernels were being sold, wholesale, in the United States (“U.S.”) at negligible premiums above Turkish “conventional” prices. *See page 5, infra.* Compared to current organic/conventional price differentials for hazelnuts grown in the U.S., negligible Turkish organic premiums indicate that something is wrong:

Why is organic certification needed?

The consumer requests healthy and environmentally sound products



and is willing to pay a higher price for them.



The farmer produces according to defined organic standards



and can sell his products at a higher price.

Ex. 31, p.1 of 9 (IFOAM Training Manual on Setting Up and Harmonising [*sic*] Internal Control Systems [for grower groups]).

We later complained to the USITC that small Turkish organic premiums were caused by unfair practices that involved certain Turkish hazelnut processors not following the same organic compliance rules that we are required to follow. The USITC saw sufficient problems to order an investigation. *See “In the Matter of Certain Hazelnuts and Products Containing the Same,”* USITC Investigation No. 337-USITC-1337.

Among other things, the investigation revealed that foreign grower group certifications set up barriers that make farm traceability opaque.

B. Grower groups

The USDA’s National Organic Program (“NOP”) allows for the organic certification of “grower groups.” In original concept, a grower group consists of organic farmers who collectively seek

certification via a type of farmer's cooperative ("co-op") – through which the farmers agree to market their organic crops.

Traditional farm co-ops are owned and controlled by farmers. However, USDA organic policies have allowed grower groups to evolve into confusing, mongrel variations of the traditional co-op model. These policies mutate the "farmers only" version of a co-op by allowing non-farmer entities (*i.e.*, processors, certifiers, and other private parties) to purportedly administrate and control organic compliance of the farmers in the group. The USDA allows the certifier to issue organic "crops" certificates directly to the processor (or another non-farmer) instead of directly to the group farmers. The processor then makes first use of the seal in the organic food-to-table chain – rendering the farmers invisible.²

The farmers in the group are supposed to operate under an organic "internal control system" ("ICS") that the certifier oversees. In concept, the ICS enables the certifier to "delegate," to an internal group manager or "controller," the heavy lifting of organic compliance (*i.e.*, required annual on-site inspection of each farm in the group, record keeping and contracts for each farm, training for each farmer, obtaining farmer acknowledgements that the farmer has read NOP rules, etc.).

With respect to annual, on-site farm inspections, the certifier inspects only a small percentage of the farms in the group while ICS controller personnel, who may not be accredited or certified by the USDA for organic inspections, "carry out at least one annual direct observation and review of each individual operator, including visits to fields and facilities." *See, e.g.*, Secs. III.(D.)(1.) and III.(D.)(2.)(i.), *Formal Recommendation by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to the National Organic Program (NOP)* ("2008 NOSB Recommendation"). Ex. 29.³ *See also* Ex.

² It also appears to be common practice for certifiers to issue the organic "crops" certificate directly to food processors without any clear public identification that a grower group is involved – which makes it difficult to track the extent that grower groups factor into present-day U.S. agricultural imports. *See* fn. 6.

³ Grower group certifications are an agency creation that arose from an earlier practice that was certifier-created in the unregulated era that preceded the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 ("OFPA"), codified at 7 U.S.C. § 6501 *et seq.* The OFPA does not mention grower groups or include statutes that allow the current NOP policies for creating and certifying grower groups. Likewise, prior to the recent SOE, the Code of Federal Regulations ("CFRs") contained no clear rules that applied to the regulation of grower groups. Grower group certification policies apparently originate from National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB") "recommendations" to the NOP that were made in 2002 and 2008. *See* Exs. 28-29. At the time, it appears the NOSB referenced ICS training manuals created by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements ("IFOAM") as guidelines for the NOSB's grower group recommendations. *See, e.g.*, Exs. 31-34. In 2011, Miles McEvoy, the then Deputy Administrator of the NOP, wrote a policy memo calling for certifiers to use the NOSB recommendations as the current grower group certification policy. *See* Ex. 35. The NOSB policy recommendations were, in general terms, eventually written into the CFRs as part of recent SOE rule-making. *See also* fn. 9.

32, pp. 16-17 & 32 of 32; and Ex. 33, pp. 6-10 of 15 (IFOAM training manuals on evaluation and setting up a grower group ICS).

The USITC investigation resulted in the production of grower group certification documents that indicate there are two versions of grower groups operating in Turkey.

In one version, which appears to be the most common one, a non-farmer hazelnut processor is identified as the “crops producer.” In conjunction with this, the certifier may wear two hats at the same time: one hat in the role of outside certifier of the group; the other in a confusing and complicated role as the apparent group controller that administrates the group’s ICS for the hazelnut processor – for a fee. *See* pp. 12-19 (the Ecocert/Arslanturk example); and pp. 27-30 (discussing the practical consequences of 2002 and 2008 NOSB policy recommendations). The processor pays the certifier for this service in return for receiving the organic “crops” certificate that designates the processor, not the farmers, as the “crops producer.”

In the other version, a middleman serves as both the group designee and group controller. The middleman then receives and holds the organic certificate as the “crops producer” in connection with arranging farm crop sales to downstream processors.

The certifying agencies complained about here are all “for profit.” Our farm sells organic hazelnuts from Oregon that are certified organic by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (“ODA”). We intentionally use the ODA because, as a state agency, it is nonprofit and also not sales-driven.⁴

C. Damage caused by grower group certifications

The U.S. hazelnut industry (conventional and organic) is small, consisting of approximately 1000 family farms that are mostly found in Oregon. Turkey dominates world hazelnut production and, likewise, dominates the U.S. domestic hazelnut market. U.S. hazelnut farmers produce less than 10% of Turkish production. Consequently, the prices buyers pay for conventional Turkish kernels directly influence U.S. farmer prices. *See, e.g.*, Ex. 2.

When selling their crop each year against Turkish competition, U.S. hazelnut processors (who buy farmers’ hazelnuts locally and resell them as kernel products) are often faced with selling to large international corporate buyers that leverage Turkish import prices against the prices they are

⁴ For example, in August 2022, a “Sales Officer” in Ecocert’s U.S. office (one of the certifiers identified in this complaint) sent us the following unsolicited email that states, in part:

“Interested in a fast, free, no hassle quote for organic certification?”

If you’d like to receive an estimate for NOP certification, you can [click here](#) to build your own custom quote – takes 5 minutes or less.”

Ex. 1.

willing to pay for U.S. hazelnuts. This and other factors have recently driven down U.S. grower prices (for conventional hazelnuts) to levels not seen in decades.

As indicated above, in today's U.S. hazelnut market, there is evidence that Turkish processors are now causing unfair imports of Turkish "organic" kernels that are being priced at insignificantly low organic premiums over Turkish conventional kernels. For example, during the USITC investigation, one Turkish processor (Arslanturk, discussed later) disclosed that organic kernels were being sold out of Turkey (wholesale) at approximately \$7/Kg. In the same time frame, Arslanturk reported conventional kernels selling for as high as \$6.82/Kg. (wholesale). *See* Ex. 3. This information (a 3% organic premium) is consistent with local processor information that we received earlier.⁵

Unlike conventional growers, the "Oregon organic" growers can, so far, maintain a significant organic premium price compared to the small Turkish organic premium described above, because Oregon growers currently sell into small, high integrity markets that demand a reliable standard of record keeping and individual on-farm inspections by accredited certifiers. Buyers know that Oregon organic hazelnuts can be traced directly to farms like us. In Turkey, one cannot trace beyond the processors. Oregon farm traceability, compared to no traceability to Turkish farms, provides a marketing advantage for sellers who are concerned about the organic integrity of the products they sell.

Notwithstanding the above, the public is being deceived by certifier-enabled, Turkish processor misuse of the USDA organic seal. If this misuse continues in the long term, it will damage Oregon organic hazelnut farmer prices and the Oregon organic hazelnut industry – as a byproduct of the damage being done, right now, to the integrity and goodwill of the USDA seal as a certification mark.

The USITC investigated certain Turkish processors because it recognized that small Turkish organic premiums are both suspicious and threaten our domestic organic hazelnut industry. However, the USITC is a small federal agency that has no jurisdiction to investigate the operations of other federal agencies like the USDA.

Therefore, we reached an agreement with USITC staff: if, during the investigation, a Turkish processor disclosed certifier-issued organic certificates that "looked right" on their face, even if the disclosure revealed questionable underlying practices, we agreed to address the problems in other forums outside the USITC. *See, e.g.,* Ex. 4, p. 2 of 2 (*yellow highlighting added*).

⁵ Those who understand the market also understand that prices fluctuate. This means the marginal size of an organic premium will also fluctuate. However, the narrow margin described above (3%) immediately suggests two things: (1) Turkish processors are using certifiers who are willing to reduce certification fees by cutting corners; and (2) Turkish farmers are not receiving a significant organic premium, if any. *See* pp. 26-31, *infra*.

We honored our agreement, with no prejudice, when the investigation revealed problems that centered on little-known, but USDA-sanctioned, grower group certification practices.⁶

What follows is a summary of what was discovered, on a certifier-by-certifier basis:

III. The Certifier Problems

A. Bio.Inspecta – tracing to certified organic farms dead-ends at car shops

USDA “corrective action” reports identify Bio.Inspecta as a “for profit” certifier that issues organic certificates in Afghanistan, Albania, Iran, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Tanzania, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. Bio.Inspecta is headquartered in Switzerland but has an affiliated office on the southwest coast of Turkey (in Izmir). See www.bio-inspecta.com.tr.

Our USITC complaint alleged that a multi-national organization’s Turkish affiliate, Progida, used Progida’s USDA organic certification as a “handler” to piggyback the USDA organic seal onto untraceable upstream hazelnut kernels that were sold to a Colorado company.

In response, Progida claimed that the Colorado transaction was *bona fide* and traceable to a certified grower group, called Yilmaz, which is situated in a hazelnut growing region in Turkey.

According to an explanation given by Progida’s attorneys, the Yilmaz group sold hazelnuts to an independent Turkish processor called Ozyilmaz. Progida bought the hazelnuts from Ozyilmaz –

⁶ As discussed in fn. 3, the concept of certifying grower groups is missing in the OFPA statutes and has been missing in underlying (pre-SOE) regulations. Grower group certifications appear to have stayed out of the public eye because they are exclusively (or nearly so) a foreign practice. Moreover, it is difficult to identify from public records whether organic certificates issued to agribusinesses for “crops” clearly involve underlying grower group certifications. For example, one USDA “corrective action” report on Ecocert (one of the certifiers complained about here), dated May 11, 2022 (“NOP-33-21 CA Ecocert SA 05/11/2022”), states that Ecocert certifies “over 600 grower groups with over 10,000 members.” Yet, if a member of the public does an advanced search in the current version of the USDA “Integrity” database for worldwide grower group certifications (*i.e.*, “Integrity” permits an advanced search that limits output data to only “Grower Group” as a service or business type), approximately 800 records appear, but with no indication that Ecocert is a grower group certifier. The reason “Integrity” does not identify Ecocert as a grower group certifier is unknown. One explanation is that the USDA appears to make it “optional” for certifiers to identify grower groups in “Integrity.” “Integrity” otherwise currently connects Ecocert to approximately 45 certification records in Turkey. Of these, approximately 75% certify Turkish entities for both organic “crops” (all kinds) and “handling” at the same time. Like the Arslanturk example discussed later on pp. 12-19, this data suggests that the majority of Ecocert’s certification business in Turkey involves certifying food processors as “farmers.” See Ex. 36 (condensed Excel output from “Integrity”).

and Progida then exported the hazelnuts from Turkey to Colorado, all with a line of farm-to-Colorado organic certificates generated by Bio.Inspecta.

Progida produced (1) an organic operations certificate for Yilmaz (the “Yilmaz operations certificate”); (2) a spreadsheet for the farmers in the Yilmaz grower group (the “farmer list”);⁷ and (3) a “Certificate of Inspection for Domestic Sales” (the “inspection certificate”) memorializing the sale of 162 metric tons of organic hazelnuts from Yilmaz to Ozyilmaz. Exs. 5 - 7. There were underlying problems with these documents.

First, the Yilmaz farmer list indicates that about one-third of the farms were inspected by the ICS group controller.⁸

Federal law requires that every farm (100%) in the group be inspected, on-site, and on an annual basis, by an accredited certifier:

“A program established under this chapter shall—

* * *

(5) provide for annual on-site inspection by the certifying agent of each farm and handling operation that has been certified under this chapter;”

7 U.S.C. § 6506(a)(5).⁹

⁷ The last footnote on the bottom of the farmer list (Ex. 6, p. 4 of 4) indicates the grower group is controlled by Bio.Inspecta under contract with Yilmaz. The redactions and yellow highlighting were on the document when we received it.

⁸ The list indicates the ICS group controller visited about 35% of the farms (*see* “Fields visited” column on the right-hand side of the “Onsite inspection/Remote inspection” column). Ex. 6.

⁹ The plain language of the statute requires an on-site inspection of *each* farm by the *certifying agent*. “Certifying agent” is defined in the OFPA statutes as a person or entity who is *accredited by the USDA* for the purpose of certifying an organic farm. *See* 7 USC § 6502(3)(A). Contrary to grower group policies and the SOE, the statute does not allow an *accredited* certifying agent to delegate inspection to a *non-accredited* grower group controller, or a *non-accredited* “ICS personnel team” (*see, e.g.,* Ex. 29, p. 9 of 11). This issue is discussed further in pages 27-30, *infra*. It may be a neutral issue with respect to Bio.Inspecta, because Bio.Inspecta (an agency accredited by the USDA) appears to operate as both the certifier and ICS group controller at the same time. However, as the group controller of the Yilmaz farmer list, Bio.Inspecta nevertheless violated both the above statute and NOP policy by not carrying out “at least one annual direct observation and review of each individual operator, including visits to fields and facilities.” *See also* p. 3, *supra*.

Next, the inspection certificate (part of which is shown below) had problems:

CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION FOR DOMESTIC SALES

1. Issuing body or authority (name and address) bio.inspecta AG Ackerstrasse CH- 5070 Frick TR-BIO-161	2. Serial number of the certificate of inspection YI-011-T21
3. Seller (name and address) Yılmaz Fındık Entegre San. ve Tic. A.Ş. Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 381/A Çarşamba SAMSUN TÜRKİYE	4. Producer or processor of the product (name and address) Yılmaz Fındık Entegre San. ve Tic. A.Ş. Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 381/A Çarşamba SAMSUN TÜRKİYE
5. Control body or control authority (name, address and code) bio.inspecta AG Ackerstrasse CH- 5070 Frick TR-BIO-161	6. Country of origin TURKEY
7. Country of sale TURKEY	8. Buyer (name and address) Özyılmaz Fındık San. Ve Tic. A.Ş. Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No:283/Z01 Çarşamba SAMSUN TÜRKİYE

Ex. 7 (*highlighting added above*).

As part of confirming the sale and transport of hazelnuts from seller to buyer, as per Progida’s representations, the above “seller’s” address on the inspection certificate is necessarily the same as the one on the Yılmaz operations certificate issued by Bio.Inspecta (Ex. 6).¹⁰

One red flag on the face of the inspection certificate is the close street location of the purported “buyer” (Ozyılmaz) relative to the “seller” (Yılmaz) along with the high volume (162 metric tons) of transported hazelnuts between seller and buyer as shown on the certificate. This might make sense if an independent farm co-op is operating in the same small town as a buyer/processor – but that is not what was happening here.

The inspection certificate address locates the Yılmaz “operation” among the car dealer and car repair shops (collectively “car shops”) shown below:



The Yılmaz location identified by the certifier (*i.e.*, the “seller”)¹¹

¹⁰ Bio.Inspecta’s “Easy-Cert” website (which is referenced on the operations certificate) also locates Yılmaz at the same address shown above. See <https://www.easy-cert.com/htm/suchresultat-detail.htm?id=b510b936-afc2-4b8f-9290-97d48df075e1&db=bio>. (Search for Operation ID TR-185, which corresponds to Yılmaz). Moreover, the USDA’s “Integrity” database locates Yılmaz at that address. See fn. 15.

¹¹See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 41°12’18.29”N 36°42’24.29”E (certificate street address: Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 381/A Carsamba Samsun Turkey).

Next, it turns out that the up-the-road Ozyilmaz address is a gas station:



The Ozyilmaz location identified by the certifier (*i.e.*, the “buyer”)¹²

In fact, “Yılmaz” and “Ozyilmaz” are next-door to each other, as part of an integrated agribusiness complex in another part of town:¹³



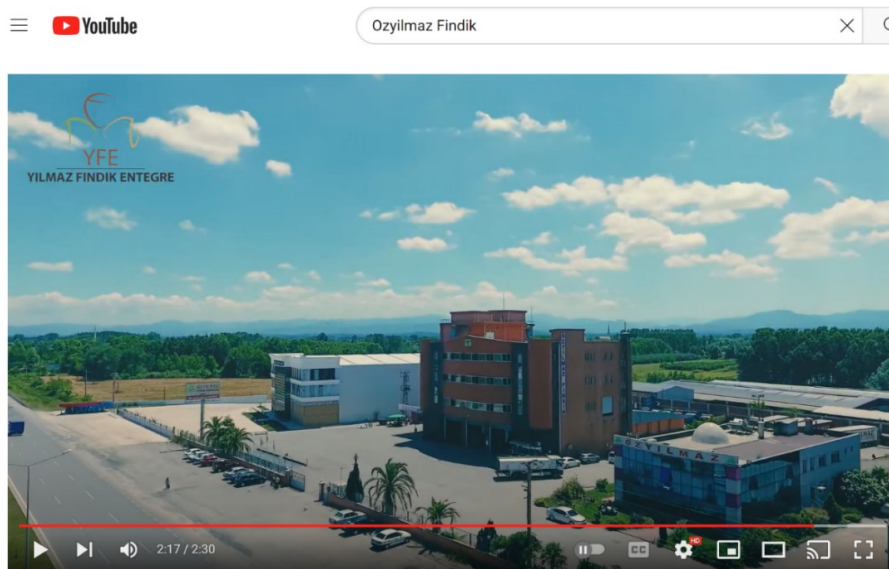
“Oz” is a Turkish prefix to “Yılmaz,” so it should not surprise that “Yılmaz” and “Ozyilmaz” are part of the same family-owned agribusiness, not independent “seller” and “buyer.”¹⁴ The Ozyilmaz website identifies Ozyilmaz as an agribusiness originally founded by two brothers,

¹² See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 41°12'26.79"N 36°41'28.79"E (certificate street address: Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 283/Z01 Carsamba Samsun Turkey).

¹³ See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 41°12'52.88"N 36°40'24.41"E (no address for this location is given in Bio.Inspecta records).

¹⁴ See <https://www.ozyilmazfindik.com>. Yılmaz does hazelnut cracking (“shelling”) as part of the integrated business. See also <https://www.yfe.com.tr>.

Azmi and Mustafa Yilmaz. *See* Ex. 37, p. 2 of 4. “Yilmaz” was later created as an Ozyilmaz-owned brand. *Id.* An Ozyilmaz email address has been used as a contact for Yilmaz regarding USDA organic certification records. Ex. 38, p. 1 of 2.¹⁵



Yilmaz Hazelnut Integrated

Aerial view of the Yilmaz/Ozyilmaz integrated facility¹⁶

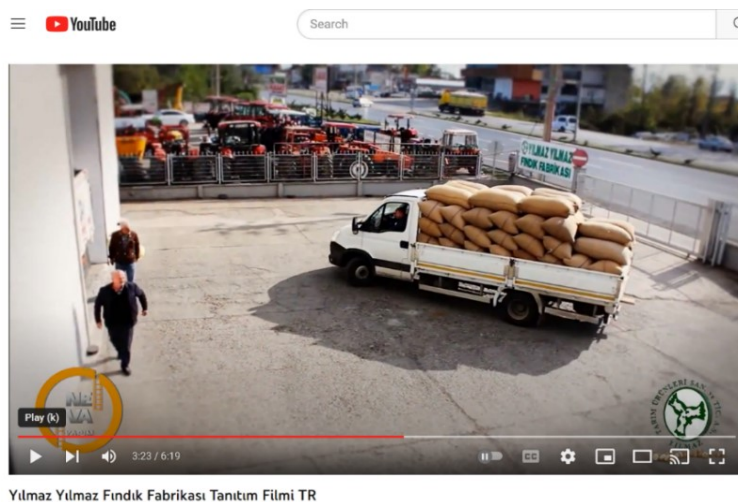
Those with knowledge of how hazelnuts are harvested in Turkey will describe that the crop is hand-picked in a farmer’s field; dried in the sun near the field; co-mingled with hazelnuts from numerous other farmer fields as the hazelnuts are accumulated and sacked; and then loaded onto trucks that deliver the hazelnuts to a buyer/processor like the above Yilmaz/Ozyilmaz agribusiness.¹⁷ And truckloads of processed hazelnuts (generally, nut kernels after shelling) are then shipped from the agribusiness to downstream customers.

Yilmaz posted a YouTube video that helps explain the above:

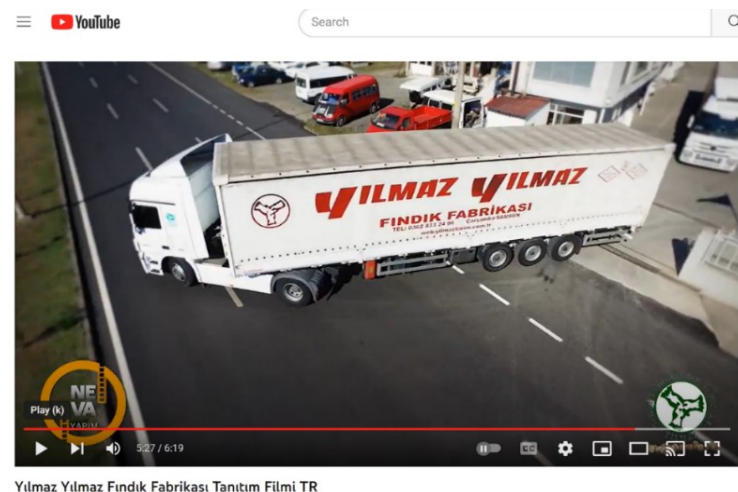
¹⁵ According to the USDA’s “Integrity” database, Ozyilmaz is independently certified organic as a processor. As an interesting sidenote, the USDA’s “Integrity” database also identifies the car shop and gas station locations as the current Yilmaz and Ozyilmaz business locations. “The Organic INTEGRITY Database is a certified organic operations database that contains up-to-date and accurate information about operations that may and may not sell as organic, deterring fraud, increases supply chain transparency for buyers and sellers, and promotes market visibility for organic operations.” *See* <https://data.nal.usda.gov/dataset/organic-integrity-database>.

¹⁶ *See* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpKNf5pSnH4> @ 2:17.

¹⁷ Turkish hazelnut farms are small compared to U.S. farms.



Sacked hazelnuts arriving at Yılmaz/Ozyılmaz, accumulated from the farms¹⁸



Shelled hazelnut kernels leaving the agribusiness¹⁹

Bio.Inspecta certified that it *inspected* the buy/sell and transport, by road vehicle, of 2025 sacks of hazelnuts weighing 161,943 Kg. (162 metric tons) moving between Yılmaz and Ozyılmaz in a “sale” between Yılmaz and Ozyılmaz. Ex. 7. To put this amount in perspective, and depending on truck size, for that stated weight Bio.Inspecta certified that it inspected many, many truckloads of hazelnut sacks that were sold and transported to Ozyılmaz from Yılmaz. How does this make

¹⁸ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVACZYw-x40> @ 3:20.

¹⁹ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVACZYw-x40> @ 6:19.

sense, given that Yilmaz is part of the Ozyilmaz integrated agribusiness, in side-by-side buildings?

It makes sense if Bio.Inspecta issued a fraudulent inspection certificate to make things “look right” for downstream buyers of “organic” hazelnuts before the hazelnuts were shipped out of Turkey.²⁰

Yilmaz is a shelling factory, not a group of farmers. However, Yilmaz’s organic certificate showing that it is a producer of organic “crops” provided Progida with a safe harbor against USDA-issued penalties under current USDA enforcement policy.

Farm fields that violate federal law because they were not inspected, a seller-buyer transaction between side-by-side buildings in the same agribusiness facility, addresses on a certificate of inspection (and on the certifier’s website – and on the USDA’s database) that locates the seller and producer of “crops” at car shops and the buyer at a gas station, no longer matter.

However, a Colorado company has been selling certified “USDA organic” hazelnuts to the U.S. public sourced from the above transaction.

B. Ecocert – tracing to certified organic farms dead-ends at a factory complex that uses untraceable, randomly generated farmer codes

Ecocert is a privately owned, multinational “for-profit” certifier with headquarters in France, shown below:

²⁰ Leaving aside the logistical problems of tracking small lots of hazelnuts as they are accumulated from many farms, the geographical distance between the ICS controller, Bio.Inspecta, and Yilmaz/Ozyilmaz raises other questions: Bio.Inspecta’s Turkish office is in Izmir, Turkey. Yilmaz/Ozyilmaz is in Carsamba, approximately 700 miles away by road. The inspection certificate is signed by an administrator who works in Bio.Inspecta’s Izmir office. Ex. 8, p. 1 of 3. Bio.Inspecta’s price sheet indicates Yilmaz/Ozyilmaz was probably charged 45 Euros for the inspection certificate. Ex. 8, p. 2 of 3 (*yellow highlighting added*). Who was the Bio.Inspecta ICS control person who visited only 35% of the farmers on the Yilmaz farmers list? For 45 Euros, how long was the Bio.Inspecta inspector in Carsamba looking at trucks moving 2025 sacks of hazelnuts from the car shops to the gas station, or between side-by-side buildings, as the case may be? These factors imply that someone was issuing certificates from a distant office for a fee, but no one was properly following NOP policies.



See <https://www.flipsnack.com/996AC799E8C/csrreport2022/full-view.html>

1. Ecocert – the outside “certifier” and ICS group “controller”

During the USITC investigation, a Turkish processor and exporter, Arslanturk, identified Ecocert as both the certifier and ICS controller for two Arslanturk grower groups: one in Turkey’s Artvin province; the other in Trabzon province.²¹ See Ex. 9, pp. 1-2 (*yellow highlighting done by USITC staff*).

In a letter to the USITC, Arslanturk stated, in part:

“This organic project is conducted by Ecocert S.A. as a certification body. They (Ecocert S.A.) audit our farmers and companies every year and they may confirm or not at the end of the audit. Records of all information about our registered farmers and their orchards are kept by Ecocert S.A. in their system.”

Ex. 10 (*yellow highlighting added*).

Arslanturk volunteered certain organic certificates in support of the above. The certificates consisted of, first, a certificate for Arslanturk’s processing factory in Arakli, Turkey; followed by

²¹ Ecocert’s Turkish office is in Izmir, Turkey, about 900 miles from Arslanturk by road. See also fn. 30 regarding a requirement, violated here, that all grower group members be in close geographic proximity.

a set of two certificates that identified organic crops produced at “sites” corresponding to each respective grower group;²² and finally, another set of two “Annex to the certificate” documents that listed individual farmer member “codes” for the two grower groups (the “farmer annexes”). Exs. 11 - 13.

All the addresses on these documents point to the Arslanturk processing facility in Arakli:



Street view entrance to the Arslanturk factory²³

²² The “site” identified for the Artvin group is a single-town, called Borcka (pop. 11,000), on Turkey’s border with Georgia. Ex. 12, p. 4 of 8. The Trabzon group’s farmer “sites” are towns named Arakli, Arsin, Surmene, and Yomra. Ex. 12, p. 8 of 8. Other than town names, no further “site” details are given.

²³ See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 40°54’57.26”N 40°02’43.61”E (Arslanturk certificate street address: Ozgen Mahallesi Ova Mevkii Bayburt Yolu Uzeri 3. Km Arakli, Trabzon Turkey).



Aerial view of the Arslanturk factory²⁴

USITC staff had the following exchanges with Arslanturk concerning the certificates:

USITC: *“Just to confirm, all of the farms that Arslanturk sells product from are under these certificates?”*

ARSLANTURK: *“Yes, correct.”*

USITC: *“Does Arslanturk use third-party suppliers?”*

ARSLANTURK: *“Sometimes. But only for EOS(EU) and the domestic market.”*
“For NOP, we only use our own grower group.”

See Ex. 14, p. 1 of 4.

With respect to identifying the ICS “controller” of the Artvin and Trabzon grower groups, Arslanturk told USITC staff:

²⁴ See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 40°54'55.42”N 40°02'41.18”E (Arslanturk certificate street address: Ozgen Mahallesi Ova Mevkii Bayburt Yolu Uzeri 3. Km Arakli, Trabzon Turkey).

“As you know, all farmers available in the certificate annexes are controlled by Ecocert and certified according to the NOP regulation. Therefore, in line with the certification requirements, they have been certified as a result of all the documentation and external controls requested for the farmer groups.”

Ex. 9, p. 2 of 7 (underlining added).

With respect to public availability or distribution of the Arslanturk farmer annexes, Arslanturk stated *“there is no obligation to open it [the annexes] to the general public”* and *“Ecocert sends us them via email.”* See Ex. 9, p. 1 of 7.

2. The farmer annexes with random number “codes”

The Artvin group farmer annex alone lists over 900 farmer codes:²⁵

MEMBERS

Farmer codes of members, see below table

12910634084	16567511484	31567012274	14071594696
31615010276	25210223490	14068594760	16297520428
13585610908	21517346672	28009130092	16570511310
14761571686	25375218126	22321319890	28741105648
31858002502	26146192898	15709540528	21070368524
31867002210	13756605160	15037562650	28351119448
10054729222	63415175800	24139259016	29467081568
29575078610	31798004406	27514146550	20599377024
28786104354	28621109728	17368484922	20809370098
29704073530	29242089062	29467082244	21052361932
25186224774	16270521824	25525213308	25336219438
28207124220	17506480304	16498513748	10243722270
17185490892	22210323588	21811336836	15682541192
20086394114	30373051620	24211263832	13384618228
10981698080	13132626666	26557178832	17704473788
12571644606	28969098258	27454153472	16861501648
21763345382	10690710486	23974264940	23386284444
14224589678	10213723368	15532546124	13447615584
16789504066	18295453838	25942199056	15667541780
20215089860	14749572022	20031062354	20371384806

Ex. 13, p.1 of 9.

As best understood, as the ICS controller of both Arslanturk groups, Ecocert is presumably (1) giving each farmer a code that “confirms” the farmer to be in organic compliance (e.g., Ecocert

²⁵ Based on the number of codes listed on both farmer annexes, there are approximately 1400 organic hazelnut farmer members, collectively, in the Artvin and Trabzon groups. See Ex. 13.

controlled an inspection of each farm as well as other things required by the ICS), so that the farmer can provide the code when the farmer delivers hazelnuts to Arslanturk; and (2) emailing the list of codes to Arslanturk, along with corresponding farmer names and addresses, so that Arslanturk (who is, effectively, the grower group certificate holder), or someone under Arslanturk's control, can check the farmer's delivery of hazelnuts against the list.²⁶

But, for someone holding a clipboard and a checklist of numbers, consider the logistical problems that attach to finding one organic farmer's 10-digit code on an emailed list of over 900 numbers that, if not randomly generated, are certainly randomly organized – no easy task because of the random organization of the numbers.

The farmer annexes look false, on the face of the documents, because no one keeps track of things that way. Numerical lists are usually organized in sequence from low to high number, to make it easy to locate numbers on the list.

Arslanturk made things look worse by later producing “updated” farmer annexes for both groups:

“The grower certificates which I sent you before were not updated. Please find attached the updated ones which belong to the 2022 season.”

See Ex 9, p. 1 of 7.; and Ex. 15.

If one looks past the first column of farmer codes and compares the updated Artvin annex to the earlier one, Ecocert re-randomizes the codes from one year to the next. *Compare* Ex. 13, p. 1 of 9 to Ex. 15, p. 1 of 8. Consider being the person with the clipboard trying to determine what

²⁶ According to grower group training manuals, the ICS “buying officer” should be able to carry out the following tasks:

- Check farmer's identification.
- Weigh or count product.
- Assess that the product has reached the agreed quality standards.
- Check that the quantity of product presented for sale falls within the farmer's yield estimate as it is recorded in the farmers list/buying record and deal with problems if they arise.
- Keep the related documentation well.
- Issue receipts, etc.
- Handle the payments.

See Ex. 34, p. 14 of 15 (IFOAM training manual on setting up ICS personnel [for grower groups]). See also Ex. 29, p. 10 (2008 NOSB Recommendation referencing IFOAM training manuals).

farmers were added or removed from the prior year's list of 900 randomly organized code numbers.²⁷

The farmer annexes are useless – with one exception: one could draw an inference that Ecocert generated an opaque list of “confirmed” organic farmer “codes,” for the purpose of creating a certification document that Arslanturk can show to downstream customers, if necessary, while explaining that the “codes” were generated by a USDA-accredited certifier, Ecocert. Arslanturk's comment below is informative:

“We are a certified company in direction of the rules of NOP organic therefore there is nothing to share except for the organic certificates.”

Ex. 14, p.4 of 4.

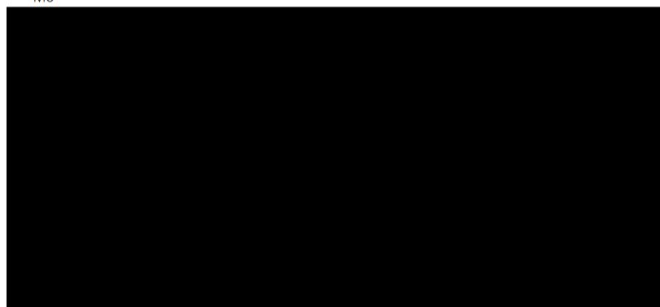
Arslanturk has the certificates to show. But concerning the hazelnuts that pass through Arslanturk's factory gate, it is unlikely Arslanturk can identify what comes from where vis-à-vis the farmer codes.

3. The USDA refuses to question the random number farmer “codes”

USITC staff saw the problems with the random number codes. Ex. 16. We asked USITC staff to take the above directly to the USDA, with a good faith belief that the USDA would ask questions and do what it is supposed to do. The gist of the USDA's official, written response to us was made unreadable by USDA-directed redactions:

May I pass this correspondence to the Complainant? I can redact your email addresses if that is preferred.

Thanks,
Mo



Ex. 17.

²⁷ There were other discrepancies on the face of the farmer annexes: Referring to the first farmer annexes produced by Arslanturk (Ex. 13), these documents lacked pagination and footers like other Ecocert documents. These problems were corrected when Arslanturk provided “updates.” See Ex. 15. We provided the worst looking annex to Ecocert's U.S. Sales Officer (*see* fn. 4) and asked if Ecocert would confirm that it was legitimate. There was no response.

This is what happened behind the redactions, as we understood it from conversations with the USITC: USITC staff that was liaising with USDA staff called the USDA’s attention to the above problems. Rather than investigate, the USDA merely asked Ecocert if the farmer annexes were legitimate – and Ecocert responded that they were. Ex. 17, p. 1 of 2. No other questions asked.²⁸

Meanwhile, Arslanturk is likely to be the largest exporter of “USDA organic” hazelnut kernels from Turkey – at the 3% organic premium described above.

C. BioAgriCert – tracing to certified organic farms dead-ends in an urban street in Izmir

BioAgriCert is a privately owned organization headquartered in Bologna, Italy.

The USITC investigated a Turkish processor, Farmeks, who claimed that it exported organic hazelnuts from Turkey into the U.S. that was sourced from an organic grower group certified by BioAgriCert. Exs. 18-20. The grower group was represented and controlled by a private entity named “Ekotar.”

In addition to organic certificates, Farmeks produced an ICS group controller spreadsheet (Ex. 20) that showed that either BioAgriCert or Ekotar, or both, violated federal law by not inspecting any of the approximately 600 farmers in the group:

Ekotar Company Farmer List

Köy/ Mahalle / Village	Ada no / Plot No	Parsel no / Title deed no	Toplam Tapu Alanı (ha) / Title deed acreage total	Kullanım Alanı (ha) / product/ÇKS area (ha)	Ürünün Adı / Crop	Kontrol Tarihi / Inspection Date	Kontrolör / Inspector	Geçiş başlangıç tarihi / Date of starting Transition period	Tahmini Taze Hasat ton / Estimated Fresh Yield ton	Tahmini Kuru Hasat ton / Estimated Dry Yield ton	Arazi Statüsü(2022) /Field Status (2022)
YOKUŞLU	1471	47	0.0582	0.0287	HAZELNUT						Organic
YOKUŞLU	1471	14	0.2178	0.0720	HAZELNUT						Organic
YOKUŞLU	1471	12	0.2008	0.0290	HAZELNUT						Organic
YOKUŞLU	1471	13	0.2017	0.0667	HAZELNUT						Organic
YOKUŞLU	1471	5	0.0422	0.0207	HAZELNUT						Organic
YOKUŞLU	1470	2	0.3845	0.1915	HAZELNUT						Organic

Ex. 20, p. 1 of 16 (yellow highlighting added above).²⁹

²⁸ USITC staff told us that lower-level USDA staff also recognized the problem. However, upper-level agency personnel impeded looking into it.

²⁹ There are no farmer names and addresses on the Ekotar list because, according to Farmeks’s oral representations, providing this information violates Turkish law.

EkoTar's grower group certificate shows one street address for its headquarters in Izmir, Turkey. Ex. 19, p. 1 of 2. The certificate also shows that Ekotar has another "operative office" somewhere in Trabzon province, but states only that it is "in Arsin" with no other particulars provided.³⁰

Ekotar's Izmir headquarters location is shown below:



Ekotar's headquarters³¹

Farmeks's use of BioAgriCert organic certificates, derived from farmers that were not inspected for organic compliance, has caused the sale of USDA-certified organic hazelnut kernels in U.S. retail outlets, at prices that meet or are even below the prices of conventional hazelnut kernels.

D. Letis – tracing to certified organic farms dead-ends at an apartment complex in an Izmir neighborhood

Letis is a privately owned, for-profit certifier headquartered in Argentina.

Letis does organic certification in Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Hong Kong, The Republic of Moldova, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Letis has a satellite office in Turkey. Ex. 21, p. 3 of 6.

The USDA recently found, in part:

“LETIS-Turkey personnel did not demonstrate an adequate understanding of the USDA organic regulations and NOP Policies.”

³⁰ NOP grower group policy indicates that growers in a group should be in close geographic proximity. See Ex. 28, p. 1 of 7. Ekotar lists approximately 600 farmers that are spread across different provinces in Turkey – in some cases, hundreds of miles apart. See Ex. 20.

³¹ See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 38°19'53.41"N 27°07'37.94"E (Ekotar certificate street address: Irmak Mah. 38/7 Sk. 14 A - Gaziemir - 35410 Turkey).

* * *

“A NOP review of supply chain documents for a vessel of organic corn from Turkey showed that LETIS issued multiple transaction certificates to a Turkish handler who purchased crops from uncertified subcontractors.”

Ex. 21, pp. 4-5 of 6.

The USITC investigation included a Turkish processor, Balsu, who explained that it obtained organic hazelnuts from a Turkish grower group called Udex. Letis certified Udex.

Balsu produced a Letis “annex” document where Letis confirms that Udex ships “100% organic” hazelnuts from Udex’s production facility:

Unit Production/Facilities:

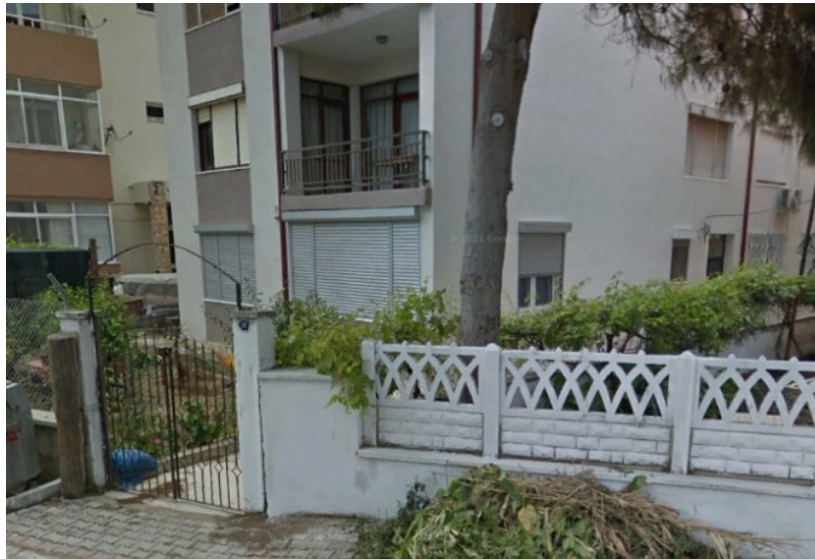
UNIT PRODUCTION/FACILITIES NAME	ADDRESS	SCOPE
Udex Organik Gıda Tar. Ürün. Rek. San. Tic. Ve Ltd. Şti.	35310 Siteler mah. 241 Sk. No:47/B Güzelbahçe/İzmir	Crops

Products:

PRODUCT	LABELING CATEGORY	PRESENTATION
Hazelnut Shelled	100% Organic	80 KG JUT BAG/25 KG CRAFT BAG/5-10-20 KG VACUUM BAG HAZELNUT KERNEL

Ex. 22, p. 2 of 2.

Based on the Letis-identified address of the Udex production facility, Letis certified that Udex was shipping hazelnut crops from an apartment complex in a seaside neighborhood of Izmir:



Street view of the Udex hazelnut production facility³²

Meanwhile, it is believed that Balsu continues to ship “certified” organic hazelnut kernels into the U.S.

E. CCPB SRL – tracing to certified organic farms dead-ends at a factory complex in Izmir

CCPB SRL (“CCPB”) is another “for-profit” certifying agency with headquarters in Bologna, Italy. It certifies operations in Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Tunisia, Egypt, China, Lebanon, and Turkey. Ex. 23, pp.2-3 of 5.

In the USDA’s most recent assessment of CCPB, USDA auditors found, in part:

“CCPB personnel did not consistently demonstrate during the audit an adequate understanding of the USDA regulations and NOP policies (i.e. NOP Handbook). The following are examples:

- a. Inspectors did not consistently discuss and reference USDA organic regulations, including NOP Instruction, Guidance, and Policies (i.e. NOP Handbook) during inspections and exit interviews with operators.*
- b. Inspectors, certification reviewers, and decision makers (identified by assessing certification records) were unaware of processes required in the USDA organic regulations, such as: the*

³² See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 38°22’21.54”N 26°51’29.78”E (Udex certificate street address: Siteler Mah. 241 Sk. No. 47/B Guzelbahce, 35310, Izmir, Turkey).

OSP requirement for operations to monitor their compliance (205.201(a)(3)); the Crop rotation practice standard and its application to perennial crops (205.205); NOP 5022, Wild Crops Harvesting, requirements; and, identification of material inputs and corresponding restrictions stated in the National List (205.600), e.g. copper sulfate.

c. Inspectors are not adequately verifying the completeness of Organic System Plan (OSP) and did not demonstrate an understanding of the central role of the OSP in USDA organic certification.

d. During the wild crops witness audit, the inspector did not plan sufficient time to conduct an adequate inspection. The inspection was rushed and did not adequately verify the operation's compliance.

e. During the wild crops witness audit, the inspector did not identify harvesting in the village area where there were significant signs of trash, animal manure, and potential contaminants until the auditor pointed this out.

f. Verification of flow charts and site maps did not consistently occur during inspections. Maps lacked sufficient detail such as potential contamination risks, and inspectors did not identify incomplete maps as an issue of concern.

g. The lack of a crop rotation plan was not identified as an issue of concern during the inspection of a crops operation.

h. The inspector did not identify labels as an issue of concern when approved labels did not identify the organic ingredients as "organic" in the ingredients statement as required by 205.303(b)(1)."

Ex. 23, pp. 4-5 of 5.

Part of the USITC investigation involved a request that U.S. Customs block imports of organic hazelnut kernels made by a Turkish company called NFSI.

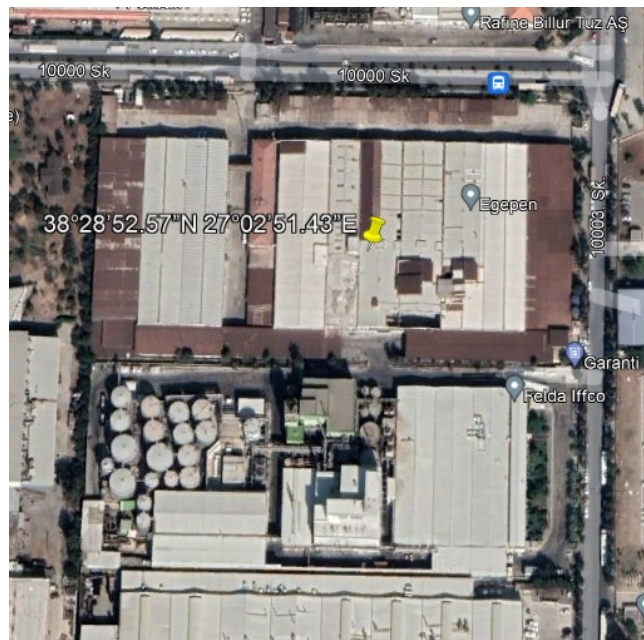
NFSI imported organic hazelnut kernels and other products from a related Turkish processor called Nimeks.

NFSI claimed that Nimeks "*maintains a Group Grower Certificate that covers all upstream entities in its supply chain*" and "*NFSI is entitled to rely on the Group Grower Certificate maintained by Nimeks Organik.*" Ex. 24, p. 1 of 18. The grower group certificate was issued to Nimeks by CCPB. Ex. 24, p. 15 of 18.

The Nimeks certificate places the grower group's place of "crops production" in an industrial neighborhood in Izmir, Turkey:



Street view of Nimeks “place of crops production”³³




Aerial view of Nimeks “place of crops production”³⁴

³³ See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 38°28'55.36"N 27°02'51.34"E (Nimeks certificate “place of production” street address: A.O.S.B. 10000 Sok. No:3 Cigli Izmir, Turkey (See Ex. 24, p.15 of 18)).

³⁴ See Google Earth Pro, coordinates: 38°28'52.57"N 27°02'51.43"E (Nimeks certificate “place of production” street address: A.O.S.B. 10000 Sok. No:3 Cigli Izmir, Turkey).

It is possible the above factory complex operates in good faith and obtains organic hazelnuts directly from *nearby* upstream farmers (a grower group certification policy requirement), someplace, as per the representations made to the USITC. But, if CCPB had checked the Nimeks website, CCPB would have learned that the above factory complex is not receiving hazelnuts from a nearby group of farmers. Instead, the Nimeks factory complex acquires hazelnuts from another upstream factory, called Balsan, which is located about three hundred miles away:

 BALSAN, city Sakarya Factory: Integrated HAZELNUT processing facility. Located in Black Sea. (Hazelnut growing region of Turkey)

See <https://nimeks.com.tr/factories/>.

Moreover, the Nimeks grower group organic certificate is compelling evidence of an operation that skirts the criteria for “clustering” farmers into a group that meets organic compliance standards.

In this regard, the Nimeks grower group is certified for the following listed products:

anise, apple juice, apricot compote, apricot juice, apricot kernel, apricot, black cumin, black mulberry juice, blanched broken hazelnut kernel, blanched hazelnut, blueberry juice, brown (shelled) lentil, bulghur, cherry compote, chickpea, chickpea flour, chopped hazelnut, coriander, cumin, diced dried apricot, diced dried fig, diced dried plum, diced dried tomato, diced plum, dried apricot paste, dried apricot, dried bean, dried fig, dried fig paste, dried mulberry, dried plum, dried plum paste, dried sour cherry, dried tomato, fennel, fig, flax seed, grape, green lentil, hazelnut, hazelnut flour, hazelnut kernel, hazelnut meal, hazelnut paste, hazelnut puree, hazelnut roasted, hazelnut shelled, infused dried sour cherry, mulberry juice, mulberry, olive, orange juice, peach juice, pine nuts, pistachios, plum, plum compote, pomegranate juice, poppy (blue), poppy (capsule-grain), poppy seeds, prune paste, prunes, raisin, red football lentil, red lentil, red mix juice, red split lentil, rice flour, roasted broken hazelnut kernel, sesame, sour cherry juice, sultana raisin, sunflower oil, Thompson raisin, thyme, and yellow lentil.

See Ex. 24, pp. 16-18 of 18.

NOSB policy “recommendations,” which were later adopted as policy by the USDA, create visions that grower group certification “refers to the certification of a group of producers whose farms are uniform in most ways...” Ex. 28, p. 1 of 7. Among other things, the farms “are located within geographic proximity, as defined by access to the same collection or post-harvest handling facility, and/or common soils, water source, slope, topography or other physical features.” Ex. 29, p. 7 of 11.

Who is going to believe from the above list that the farms are uniform in most ways; or that the Nimeks industrial complex shown above, which is in a major metropolitan city in Turkey, is receiving all the above products from small farms that are a short distance from the Nimeks complex? No one.

The USDA already found that CCPB certifying personnel did not demonstrate an understanding of USDA regulations. But the USDA nevertheless allows CCPB, and others like CCPB, to continue to operate and generate organic certificates, like the one above, for entities like Nimeks.

IV. USDA Actions Requested

Images of factory and apartment/street building complexes that are certified as “crops producers” are in stark contrast to the USDA’s rosier, website images of farm tractors hauling baskets of greens to market and cows in the pasture.

The above problems raise numerous legal issues, beginning with violation of the federal statutory requirement for annual on-site inspections of farms; and ending with liability exposure for those who use the USDA organic seal in advertising and thereby imply that Turkish organic hazelnuts are traceable to organic farms.

We request that the USDA do the following:

A. Penalize the certifiers

We ask the USDA to sanction each of the above 5 certifiers and revoke each certifier’s accreditation for certifying grower groups.

There is a pattern to past USDA “corrective action” reports on foreign certifiers. These reports consistently show serious problems arising with foreign certifiers compared to few problems with domestic certifiers like the ODA or a nonprofit like Oregon Tilth. However, the USDA seems heedless to the overseas problems and consistently addresses them with lenience: the foreign certifier agrees to “amend or revise forms” or undertake “more training” for certifier personnel. Then the USDA indicates problems are “cleared.” This approach is insufficient.

B. Revise grower group certification policy

In the USITC investigation, we were 5 for 5 in discovering certifier problems attached to grower groups, some worse than others. This indicates a need to recognize that it is time for a policy change. More importantly, it is time to recognize that existing grower group certification policies are unlawful under the OFPA.

1. NOP grower group certification policies benefit big agribusiness, not small farmers

In addition to learning that no one can trace to organic farms in Turkey, the USITC investigation revealed that, when it comes to foreign grower groups, no one follows the same rules as us; USDA policy helps overseas food processors, first; and there is little or no evidence that grower group certifications benefit organic farmers.

Organic certification costs come in two steps: an initial application fee paid to the certifier; and a second fee paid to the certifier for an on-site inspection. Concerning the inspection, our farm was visited by an ODA inspector who walked our orchard and reviewed organic procedures with us. One can see from his itemized bill that inspecting/certifying one farm (ours) required 8 hours of the inspector's time – or one complete workday. Ex. 25, p. 2 of 2.

As best understood, grower group certifications arose from good intentions – that is, a desire to reduce the overall application and inspection fees for small-acreage farmers in developing countries who are closely located in the same village, so that they can share resources, reduce certification fees among them, and then improve their profits by selling crops at an organic premium. Something else is happening with Turkish hazelnuts.

With respect to raw product sales, hazelnut processors are paid by their customers based on kernel weight while farmers are paid based on in-shell weight. In Turkish hazelnut varieties, the nut kernel makes up approximately 50% of the inshell weight (called “shellout”).

The shellout means this: returning to the narrow, processor-received, organic margin between \$7/Kg. (organic) and \$6.82/Kg. (conventional) discussed in the introductory part of this complaint (p. 5), if a Turkish processor paid back the entire organic premium received by the processor to the farmer ($\$7/\text{Kg.} - \$6.82/\text{Kg.} = \$0.18/\text{Kg.}$), the shellout factor means the farmer would receive \$.09/Kg. of the farmer's in-shell weight delivered to the processor. While beneficial, it is insignificant, given that Turkish farm producers have consistently received more than \$2/Kg. inshell and closer to \$2.50/Kg. (conventional prices) over the last several years.³⁵ Moreover, the organic certification costs presumably cut into the organic premium – which creates pressure for the farmer to receive less or nothing.

Regarding the last point above, to create a rough-estimate value for certification costs, we clicked on Ecocert's “fast, free, no hassle quote” for organic certification (*see* fn. 4). We asked for a quote on 1400 farms (the number in the Arslanturk grower groups), averaging one acre in size, and all within fifty miles of each other – which approximates how Turkish hazelnut agriculture is structured – although the Arslanturk grower groups are spread farther apart. Ecocert estimated \$50,000 for the application fee and another \$274,890 in inspection fees, totaling \$324,890 (annually). Ex. 26, p.2 of 2.³⁶

³⁵ *See, e.g.,* <https://www.findiktv.com>.

³⁶ One might argue this is not an apples-to-apples comparison for grower group certifications because the certifying agency is responsible for inspecting only a small percentage of farms in a grower group. Nevertheless, according to NOP policy, someone must pay an ICS inspector to visit each farm. *See* p. 29, *infra.*; and *see also* fn. 41. Moreover, given the NOP policy expectation that grower groups “hire” their own staff for carrying out field inspection and other administrative responsibilities (*see* p. 29), it raises questions concerning whether NOP ideals, assuming they are followed, manage to reduce certification costs for grower groups anywhere.

Arslanturk claims that it exports about 3,000 metric tons of organic hazelnut kernels from Turkey every year. Ex. 27, p. 2 of 2. For that amount, Ecocert's estimate equates to \$.11/Kg. in certification cost (\$325,890 divided by 3,000 metric tons) – a significant amount relative to the \$.18/Kg. organic premium described above.³⁷

When a customer sees the USDA organic seal on a food item that is priced close to a counterpart, conventional food item, it is reasonable to presume the customer will be inclined to buy the one with the USDA organic seal. One conclusion that can be reached from the above numbers is that Turkish processors and their customers use the USDA organic seal to improve sales volume and they make their money that way; the “for profit” certifier makes money in return for issuing the organic certificate directly to the processor as the “crops producer;” and the farmer gets little.³⁸

2. Grower group certification rules and policies both violate the OFPA and invite certification practices that are likely to violate the OFPA

As discussed in fn. 3, the recent SOE adds regulations that state, for the first time, earlier NOSB policy recommendations concerning grower groups. The addition of 37 CFR § 205.403(a)(2)(iii) to the CFRs is the most significant addition:

³⁷ Ecocert estimated that only 2 hours of total inspection time are needed for each farm for “**Travel (to and from), Onsite Inspection, and Preparation and Report Writing**” (*i.e.*, Ecocert estimated 2805 total hours of time would be needed, spread across 1400 farms). *See* Ex. 26, p. 2 of 2. For those who understand what is involved in on-site farm inspections by a certifier, Ecocert’s “2 hours” means the inspector spends little time on the farm. If Ecocert inspectors spent the same amount of time inspecting farms and writing reports as the ODA inspector when he inspected our farm, the Ecocert time/cost estimate climbs by a factor of 3 or more. *See* Ex. 25.

³⁸ In the USITC investigation, Arslanturk claimed that organic farmers receive a “maximum” price increase of 12% but did not give minimums – which means farmers might be receiving “zero.” Ex. 27, p. 1 of 2. In an oral discussion with Farmeks, a Farmeks representative said, “Honestly, I do not know” when asked about prices paid to organic versus conventional farmers. Farmeks bought directly from a middleman, Ekotar. *See* pp. 19-20, *supra*.

§ 205.403 On-site inspections.**(a) *On-site inspections.***

(1) A certifying agent must conduct an initial on-site inspection of each production unit, facility, and site that produces or handles organic products and that is included in an operation for which certification is requested. An on-site inspection shall be conducted annually thereafter for each certified operation that produces or handles organic products for the purpose of determining whether to approve the request for certification or whether the certification of the operation should continue.

(2) Inspections of a producer group operation must:

(i) Assess the internal control system's compliance, or ability to comply, with the requirements of § 205.400(g)(8). This must include review of the internal inspections conducted by the internal control system.

(ii) Conduct witness audits of internal control system inspectors performing inspections of the producer group operation.

(iii) Individually inspect at least 1.4 times the square root or 2% of the total number of producer group members, whichever is higher. All producer group members determined to be high risk by the certifying agent must be inspected. At least one producer group member in each producer group production unit must be inspected.

37 CFR § 205.403.

As explained in fn. 3, the new rule stated in 37 CFR § 205.403(a)(2)(iii) (the “2% rule”) appears to originate from an early NOSB recommendation, adopted October 20, 2002, that is entitled “*Criteria for Certification of Grower Groups*” (“2002 NOSB Recommendation”). Ex. 28.³⁹

Ignoring the statutory requirements of the OFPA, the 2002 NOSB Recommendation explains:

“Historically, not all grower group members’ farms are individually inspected by the certifying agent annually. This means that the grower group must have a quality system, or internal control system, in place to assure that all members of the group operate according to the system plan in compliance with the organic standard. The quality system of the grower group is inspected at least annually, but only a set percentage of the member operations are visited by the certifying agent. Individual site inspections are conducted primarily to validate the functioning of the quality system.”

³⁹ The 2008 NOSB Recommendation (Ex. 29) is a follow-on recommendation that adds details to the 2002 NOSB Recommendation (Ex. 28).

Ex. 28, p. 1 of 7 (underlining added).

We were unable to obtain background information concerning the historical or statistical context for arbitrarily inspecting the “higher” of “2%” or “1.4 times the square root” of the total number of “producer group members” (*i.e.*, the factory plus all the farms) in a grower group, as written in 37 CFR § 205.403(a)(2)(iii) . However, as discussed previously (*see fn. 9*), it is the statute that matters – not what has been done according to custom (or “historically”).

The applicable OFPA statute, 7 U.S.C. § 6506(a)(5), does not allow the 2% inspection rule – the statute instead requires an annual inspection by the certifying agent of *each farm* (or 100% of the farms). Likewise, the statute does not call for a lesser, annual inspection of a mere written plan that describes the “quality system of the grower group” to avoid inspection of the remaining 98% of the farms in the group by an *accredited* certifier.”⁴⁰

The 2002 NOSB Recommendation’s earlier shift from annual certifier inspection of “farm” to annual inspection of a written “plan” serves to defeat the intent and purpose of 7 U.S.C. § 6506(a)(5).

a. NOP grower group certification policy was unrealistic from the beginning

Even if one assumes the current NOP grower group policy complies with the statute, which it does not, the current policy nevertheless requires a “system plan” (ICS) on the part of every grower group. Therefore, in the Ecocert/Arslanturk situation described above, there must be a written ICS, somewhere, for both of Arslanturk’s Artvin and Trabzon groups.

According to NOSB/NOP policy, the group ICS is supposed to function like “the Quality Assurance department of a large operation.” *See* 2008 NOSB Recommendation, Ex. 29, p. 8 of 11. As the quality assurance department of the grower group, the “ICS personnel” for each Arslanturk group should include the following: (1) “field staff;” (2) an “internal evaluation committee;” (3) a “director of ICS;” (4) a “director of training and capacity building” (5) representatives of a “technical committee;” (6) representatives of a “marketing committee;” and (7) a “board of trustees.” Ex. 29, p. 9 of 11. In addition, qualified “staff” are to be hired to fulfill these roles. *Id.*⁴¹

The above NOSB recommendation explains why lines are now blurred and foreign certifiers are apparently taking on multiple roles for hazelnut processors in Turkey that invites corruption.

⁴⁰ The policies and/or rule-making of a federal agency cannot override the terms of a clear statute. *See Harvey v. Veneman*, 396 F.3d 28 (1st Cir. 2005).

⁴¹ The earlier 2002 NOSB Recommendation likewise states, “Field officers are employed by the grower group” and “There should be a minimum of one field officer per maximum 500 farmers.” *See* Ex. 28, p. 6 of 7. Under these guidelines, Arslanturk’s Artvin group ICS should have at least two, identifiable field officer employees; Arslanturk’s Trabzon group should have another one.

A hazelnut processor's business focus is on buying hazelnuts from farms, shelling/processing them into kernel and related products, and selling those products to their customers.⁴² It is one thing to clean out processing lines and keep "organic" kernels in labeled sacks or containers that are separate from "conventional" in a factory. However, no factory business will welcome setting up a new "Quality Assurance" department along the above lines for a group of farmers miles outside of the factory – when one considers that it requires adding full-time employees and related overhead – and then managing a complicated organic compliance system that is outside what the business normally does. The business will, however, pay a fee to a certifier to purportedly do it for the business – and issue an organic "crops" certificate to the business – so long as the certifier's fee is not too high.

If one accepts Arslanturk's representations in the USITC investigation (*see* pages 13-16, *supra.*), then the above "Quality Assurance department" resides with Ecocert – which then presumably handles all the above complications invisibly for Arslanturk and emails the results (an incomprehensible list of "confirmed" farmer codes) to Arslanturk.

If true, then all of the above ICS personnel are Ecocert people – which puts Ecocert in a convoluted, conflict-filled, multi-role position vis-à-vis Arslanturk: according to the SOE, Ecocert is first required to inspect either 2% or 1.4 times the square root of the farms in Arslanturk's grower groups (*see* 37 CFR § 205.403(a)(2)(iii)), as an outside, accredited certifying agency; then, Ecocert inspects the written "system plan" which, in essence, may be an inspection of itself.⁴³

Certifier administration of an ICS may not be strictly forbidden by the text of the OFPA statutes (*see, e.g.,* the Bio.Inspecta situation described in fn. 9), or related rules stated in the current version of the CFRs. But, even in the best light, it raises serious questions concerning best practices, conflicts of interest, and whether the policy objectives of the OFPA are being implemented in actual practice.

On the other hand, should Ecocert deny or contradict Arslanturk's representations, and claim that Arslanturk's Artvin and Trabzon group ICSs are administrated by Arslanturk, then Arslanturk would need to supply evidence that it has a quality assurance department along the above lines – for both groups. However, Arslanturk stated, in unqualified terms, "*Records of all information about our registered farmers and their orchards are kept by Ecocert S.A. in their system*" and "*there is nothing to share except for the organic certificates.*" *See* pp. 13-18, *supra.*

Either way, like lawyers and accountants, "for profit" certifiers use time-based billing. It is pollyannaish to believe that anyone (Ecocert or Arslanturk) is properly running an ICS according to the above NOSB guidelines for each Arslanturk grower group – because of the cost it would

⁴² *See, e.g.,* fns. 18 and 19 (describing Yilmaz/Ozyilmaz operations).

⁴³ Bear in mind that all of this is managed from an Ecocert office that is approximately 900 miles away from the location of the Arslanturk grower groups.

entail. And this is probably why Turkish “organic” hazelnut kernels are being sold in the U.S. at a 3% premium above Turkish “conventional” wholesale prices. Because no one is doing it.

3. **Arslanturk: “Records of all information about our registered farmers and their orchards are kept by Ecocert S.A. in their system”**

As part of sorting out the above, Ex. 30 is a copy of an “Organic Inspection Exit Interview” document that was provided to us by the ODA inspector after he finished inspecting our farm. In addition to his time spent on other matters relating to the inspection, the document shows that he was physically present on our farm from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on April 26, 2022.

As is plain from NOSB-generated grower group policy recommendations (Exs. 28-29), there should be one or more similar ICS documents for each farmer code on the Arslanturk farmer annexes discussed above – that is, an approximate total of 1400 written records, similar in substance to the above ODA exit interview document, that shows “at least one annual direct observation and review of each individual operator [farmer code], including visits to fields and facilities.” *See pp. 3-4, supra.*⁴⁴

We respectfully request that the USDA require Ecocert to produce, to the USDA, what Arslanturk stated Ecocert possesses (*see p. 13, supra.*) – that is, an adequate written record, correlated specifically to each farmer code on Arslanturk’s farmer annexes, that shows that each farmer was visited by ICS personnel and that ICS personnel did the things they are required to do. Similar follow-up requests should be made of each of the other 4 certifiers complained about here.

4. **Grower groups should be structured like traditional farm co-ops**

While the above involves problems with hazelnuts in Turkey, there is no reason to believe things are different involving other crops, whether it be in Turkey or other countries.

It is respectfully submitted that, to fix the damage that is being done to the overall integrity of the system, USDA grower group policy should be amended, immediately, to limit grower group certifications to a traditional farm co-op model. That is, an organic co-op that farmers own and operate. Let the organic certificate be issued directly to them – because they are the actual producers of the “crops.” Require an accredited certifying agency to inspect *all* the farms in the co-op as required by U.S. statute, not just a few, and let the farmers make a reasonable organic premium by selling their certified crops to downstream entities.

In our case, this change will help correct unbalances in the marketplace caused by Turkish processors (*i.e.*, the 3% organic premium price difference). It will both reduce violations of federal law (*i.e.*, the 2% rule) and improve traceability to identifiable groups of farmers – the latter being one of the stated purposes of the USDA organic system. And it may improve declining

⁴⁴ “The Internal Control System keeps appropriate documentation...” Ex. 29, p. 9 of 11 (Sec. III.(D).(2).(i)).

public trust in the organic system by shifting the system away from one where certifiers focus on operating as certificate mills for agribusinesses – to certifiers that focus on the farms. *See, e.g.,* Chenglin Liu, “*Is USDA Organic a Seal of Deceit: The Pitfalls of USDA Certified Organics Produced in the United States, China and Beyond,*” 47 *Stan. J. Int’l L.* 333 (2011).

Last, we are submitting this as a complaint to the USDA that is directed at 5 certifiers, as permitted by USDA procedures. These 5 certifiers were the only ones involved in the USITC investigation discussed above. However, we are also submitting this complaint for the purpose of putting the USDA on notice of the statutory violations discussed above. Finally, we are submitting this complaint to the Inspector General’s Office because the complaint raises issues concerning agency wrongdoing.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce A. Kaser" with a small "ds" at the end.

Bruce Kaser

Dated: July 20, 2023

(Delivered to USDA and OIG via Federal Express Tracking Nos. 772788354758 & 772788405215, respectively)

EX. 1

bruce@pratumfarm.com

From: BOND Lane <lane.bond@ecocert.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:08 PM
To: Bruce Kaser
Subject: USDA NOP Opportunity

Greetings from Ecocert USA,

Interested in a fast, free, no hassle quote for organic certification?

If you'd like to receive an estimate for NOP certification, you can [click here](#) to build your own custom quote – takes 5 minutes or less.

A green rounded rectangular button with the text "Build Quotation" in white, sans-serif font.

Ecocert USA is excited to share this new technology with you and would love to hear any feedback.

Looking forward to connecting with you!

Lane Bond

Sales Officer

lane.bond@ecocert.com

Tel +1 (888) 337-8246

Ecocert USA – PO Box 158, Plainfield, Indiana 46168 – USA



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EX. 2



FROM HGO'S DIVISION PRESIDENT GERRY WATTS

Wilco Members & Hazelnut Growers,

Thank you for your continued support of Wilco's Hazelnut Growers of Oregon business unit, and most importantly your dedication to continue to deliver Oregon Hazelnuts to your co-op during what we know is a very financially stressful time for you and your family. By now you are tired of hearing about all the reasons why the global market is weak and Oregon field prices suppressed, such as, supplies outpacing demand, high carryover inventories and a larger global crop, as well as the inflationary environment influencing consumer purchase preferences.

At HGO, we are laser focused on making tangible and significant headway in selling your crop at the best market prices, significantly lowering costs through innovation and automation, and penetrating deeper into the US Domestic market in all sales channels, as well

as some alternative channels you might not expect. Our branded retail products are growing in awareness and value to the enterprise, and we are striving to create the point of difference Oregon hazelnut products need to compete with global forces within the Foodservice and Ingredient channels. The future remains in transitioning away from the commodity designation applied to Hazelnuts and moving towards more alternative nut products the U.S. domestic market consumer's desire.

We know that transitions of this magnitude come along with growing pains which we are all currently experiencing; but as our efforts and innovations take hold with trade customers and consumers, the value to HGO and to our growers, will be significant and generational. Again, thank you for your loyalty and support.

ESTIMATED WORLD HAZELNUT PRODUCTION (IN-SHELL BASIS, METRIC TONS)

COUNTRY	2021-2022				2022-2023			
	BEG. STOCK	CROP	TOTAL SUPPLY	ENDING STOCK	BEG. STOCK	CROP	TOTAL SUPPLY	ENDING STOCK
TURKEY	95,000	790,000	885,000	105,000	105,000	830,628	935,628	120,000
ITALY	25,000	50,000	75,000	10,000	10,000	100,000	110,000	20,000
USA	5,900	69,150	75,050	11,000	11,000	75,000	86,000	8,000
GEORGIA	1,000	55,000	56,000	5,000	5,000	55,000	60,000	5,000
AZERBAIJAN	2,400	60,000	62,400	3,000	3,000	55,000	58,000	5,000
CHILE	1,000	45,000	46,000	500	500	54,000	54,500	2,500
CHINA	500	28,000	28,500	1,500	1,500	30,600	32,100	2,800
IRAN	500	26,000	26,500	500	500	1,000	12,500	600
SPAIN	500	5,000	5,500	500	500	10,500	11,000	1,000
FRANCE	700	7,000	7,700	700	700	8,500	9,200	800
OTHERS	0	30,000	40,000	0	0	30,000	30,000	0
WORLD TOTAL	132,500	1,165,150	1,297,650	137,700	137,700	1,261,228	1,398,928	165,700
WORLD CONSUMPTION (T. SUPPLY- END STOCK)				1,159,950	1,233,228			

EX. 3

Question No. 4: What are the current approximate market prices for organic kernels?

Answer No. 4: 11-13mm Organic Natural Hazelnut Kernels at \$ 7,00 / kg as based on FOB Istanbul delivery, at the moment. The price changes daily, and weekly.

(Arslanturk’s December 2022 Answer to Questions in USITC Investigation (highlighting added))

We wish you a full of health, happiness and work in 2023. Hope that New Year will be a year filled with your loved ones.

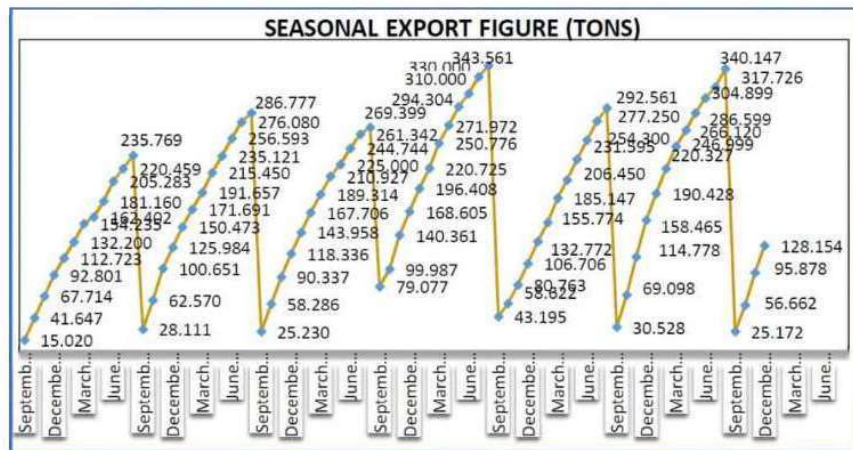
As of 31.12.2022, we exported 128.154 tons of hazelnut. In the 2021/2022 season, the same time export was 158.465 tons, in the 2020/2021 season same time export was 106.706 tons, as can be seen in the graphic.

On 12.08.2022, crop 2022 prices for 11-13mm natural hazelnut kernels started at the level of 5.970 USD/tons (5.850 Euro/tons). Today, 11-13mm natural hazelnut kernel prices for DDU Europe delivery are 6.820 USD/Ton (6.380 Euro/tons) levels.

Compared to the previous season, exports were 19.13% less on a quantity basis. Exports, which started the season with 5.97 USD/kg, remained at the same levels for a long time. After November 16, it reached the level of 6.82 USD/kg without slowing down. As a result of our research, we see a high probability of an export increase of at least 10%.



Hazelnut Times has been established by Arslar S.A. for informing the buyer and seller.



2022 Crop Hazelnuts Market Prices (USD-EURO/100kg)

ARTICLE TAGS

- #HAZELNUT
- #HAZELNUTREPORT
- ARSLANTURKHAZELNUT
- ARSLANTURK
- AVELLANA
- BLACKSEA
- EXPORT
- FERTILIZATION
- FINDIK
- FINDIK
- GIRESUN
- HASELNUSS
- HAZELNUT
- HAZELNUTEXPORTER
- HAZELNUTMARKET
- HAZELNUT MARKET REPORT
- HAZELNUTMARKETREPORT
- HAZELNUTPLAN

(From Arslanturk’s January 2023 “Hazelnut Times” (highlighting added))

See <https://www.arslanturk.com.tr/2023-january-hazelnut-market-report/>

EX. 4

bruce@pratumfarm.com

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:42 PM
To: bruce@pratumfarm.com
Cc: 'Deka, Monisha'; dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: USITC 337-TA-1337

Hello Dear Bruce,

Thank you for your email.

Is my understanding correct?

Yes, it is correct. Ecocert is one of the biggest certification bodies around the World and they follow USDA or European organic certification rules.

Nice to hear that you will forward us a motion to terminate the investigation soon.

Awaiting your feedback.

Have a nice day.

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,

Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK

Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



Bu e-posta ve içeriği Arslantürk Tarım Ürünleri San. İhr. Ve İth. A.Ş çalışanları tarafından iş amaçlı oluşturulmuştur ve kişisel verilerle gizli kalması gerektiren verileri içerebilir. Şayet bu e-posta size yanlışlıkla iletilmiş ya da kişisel verileri veya ticari sırları içeriyorsa 6698 sayılı Kişisel Verilerin Korunması Kanununa göre sisteminizden silinmesini tavsiye eder, aksi durumun sorumluluğuna yol açabileceğini hatırlatırız.

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2023

happy new year.

From: bruce@pratumfarm.com [mailto:bruce@pratumfarm.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 6:42 PM

To: 'Oğuz / ARS' <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>

Cc: 'Deka, Monisha' <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>; dilek@arslanturk.com.tr

Subject: RE: USITC 337-TA-1337

Thank you for your responses.

I have had a discussion with Monisha at USITC and will agree to terminate Arslanturk from the USITC investigation. I am agreeing to terminate Arslanturk because the problems identified in our complaint involve USDA administration of the US national organic program (NOP) relating to the operations of overseas certification agencies like Ecocert.

Based on the information that you provided, it appears that Arslanturk uses Ecocert as a service agency that provides the service of administrating an organic farmer group for Arslanturk and that Arslanturk relies on Ecocert to follow USDA or European organic certification rules. Is my understanding correct? If so, I will forward to you a motion to terminate the investigation within a few days of your response.

Thank you again.

Bruce Kaser

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 5:40 AM

To: bruce@pratunfarm.com

Cc: 'Deka, Monisha' <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>; dilek@arslanturk.com.tr

Subject: RE: USITC 337-TA-1337

Hello Dear Bruce,

Please find attached the document filled.

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,

Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK

Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



Bu e-posta ve içeriği Arslantürk Tarım Ürünleri San. İhr. Ve İth. A.Ş çalışanları tarafından iş amaçlı oluşturulmuştur ve kişisel verilerle gizli kalması gerekliliği gerektirir. Şayet bu e-posta size yanlışlıkla iletilmiş ya da kişisel verileri veya ticari sırları içeriyor ise 6698 sayılı Kişisel Verilerin Korunması Kanununa göre sisteminizden silinmesini tavsiye eder, aksi durumun sorumluluğuna yol açabileceğini hatırlatırız.

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EX. 5

Number of certificate: BINT-6931

Yılmaz Fındık Entegre San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 381/A
Çarşamba
Samsun
Turkey

Operator number: TR-185

The products and activities of that operator are certified to the:

**USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR part 205
(NOP)**

Categories of organic operation: Production, Handling/Processing

The certification details of products and activities are listed under www.EASY-CERT.com/CH/TR-185. This certificate is only valid in combination with an actual product list downloaded from EASY-CERT.

Date of last inspection: 02/11/2021

Effective Date: 20/09/2017

Anniversary Date: 01/04/2022

The list of approved farmers forms an integral part of this certificate.

Frick, Issue Date: 22/11/2021



Peter Jossen
President of board of directors



Ueli Steiner
Director

Once certified, a production or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered, suspended or revoked.



bio.inspecta AG
Ackerstrasse
CH-5070 Frick
Phone +41 (0)62 865 63 00
www.bio-inspecta.ch

EX. 5

EX. 6

This farmer list is a part of the checklist / report. It is valid for inspected farmers only if all corrective measures are on actual checklist/ report are met.
 Bu üretici listesi, raporun bir parçasıdır. Rapordaki yükümlülüklerin yerine getirilip getirilmediği kontrol edilmiş üreticiler için geçerlidir.

APPROVED FARMERS LIST / ÜRETİCİ LİSTESİ YILMAZ FİNDİK ENTEGRE 2021-SAMSUN PROJESİ

FARMER/ÜRETİCİ													CROP AND CERTIFICATION STATUS/ÜRÜN VE SERTİFİKASYON DURUMU													
Farmer Name Üretici Adı Soyadı	Farmer Code No / Direkt Kod Numarası	City İlçe	Town Köy/Mahalle	Village Köy/Mahalle	Location in the field Mevceki	Number of inspection of the Farmer Denetimler için kontrol edilen üreticilerin sayısı	Inspection Date Kontrol Tarihi	Date of starting George Farming system Beyazın sisteminin başlangıç tarihi	D	Crop-1 Ürünün Adı-1	Crop-2 Ürünün Adı-2	Plot No Ada No	Use date Toprak kullanma tarihi	Organic Area product /Yapma ürün alanı	Production area (ha) Üretim alanı (ha)	Kilimanjaro	Tahmini Haat-1 (ton)	E.O.1.1. Conversion Ratio (kg)	Total Dry Matter (kg)	Top-Dig Ha	kg/ha	kg/ha	Yield (kg/ha) Verim (kg/ha)	Planting date Ekin tarihi	Last national inspection date for CS Ulusal denetim tarihi (CS için)	Operator's own risk level Üreticinin risk seviyesi (CS için)
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	SATIROĞLU	2020	01/2017	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	1	112	14	1.0800	1.0800	1.0800	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	TEPE	2020	23.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	2	114	20	2.4510	2.4510	2.4510	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	TEPE	2020	23.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	3	118	9	0.2427	0.2427	0.2427	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	TEPE	2020	23.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	4	119	14	0.7572	0.7572	0.7572	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	TEPE	2020	23.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	5	120	17	0.0492	0.0492	0.0492	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	SATIROĞLU	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	6	135	2	2.3437	2.3436	2.3436	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	GALLIYANLI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	7	130	7	1.2641	1.2641	1.2641	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	UZUMLUK	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	8	121	54	4.3929	4.3928	4.3928	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	DAVILA	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	9	166	1	1.2122	1.2000	1.2000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	10	111	11	0.9334	0.9333	0.9333	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	11	112	12	1.5988	1.5790	1.4917	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	12	111	26	0.2582	0.2582	0.2582	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	13	111	35	0.1809	0.1809	0.1809	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	14	111	34	0.1809	0.1809	0.1809	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	15	122	25	0.9466	0.9465	0.9466	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	16	122	41	0.1666	0.1665	0.1665	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	17	122	45	1.2400	1.2399	1.2399	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	18	122	45	1.2400	1.2399	1.2399	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	19	103	31	1.4999	1.4999	1.4999	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	20	146	2	0.3752	0.3752	0.3752	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	21	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	22	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	23	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	24	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	25	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	26	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	27	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	28	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	29	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	30	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	31	146	3	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	32	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	33	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	34	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	35	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	36	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	37	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	38	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	39	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	40	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.07.2021	Duyuk
		Samsun	SALPAZARI	KARABERE	HAZALCI	2020	24.11.2021/GK	01/2017	Hesahat/Finatik	Ada-2	41	128	17	0.6556	0.6556	0.6556	0.00	0								

EX. 7

CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION FOR DOMESTIC SALES

1. Issuing body or authority (name and address) bio.inspecta AG Ackerstrasse CH- 5070 Frick TR-BIO-161		2. Serial number of the certificate of inspection YI-011-T21		
3. Seller (name and address) Yılmaz Fındık Entegre San. ve Tic. A.Ş. Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 381/A Çarşamba SAMSUN TÜRKİYE		4. Producer or processor of the product (name and address) Yılmaz Fındık Entegre San. ve Tic. A.Ş. Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 381/A Çarşamba SAMSUN TÜRKİYE		
5. Control body or control authority (name, address and code) bio.inspecta AG Ackerstrasse CH- 5070 Frick TR-BIO-161		6. Country of origin TURKEY		
7. Country of sale TURKEY		8. Buyer (name and address) Özyılmaz Fındık San. Ve Tic. A.Ş. Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No:283/Z01 Çarşamba SAMSUN TÜRKİYE		
12. Description of products				
12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5
CN Code	Trade Name	Number of packages	Lot number	Net weight
-	Organic Hazelnut, Harvest 2021	2025 Sacks	YFE2021P	161.943,00 Kg
13. Container number -		14. Seal number -		15. Total gross weight -
16. Means of transport Mode		Identification	Transport document	
Road Vehicle		55 K 6210, 55 AFY 114, 55 ADR 693, 55 RH 828, 55 K 6171	BY12021000000345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 352; Invoice No and Date: YFE2021000000299 – 27.12.2021	
17. Declaration of body or authority issuing the certificate referred to in box 1.				
<p>This is to certify that this certificate has been issued on the basis of the checks required under Article 13(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 and that the products designated above have been obtained in accordance with rules of production and inspection of the organic production method which are considered equivalent in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.</p> <p>This is to certify that the products designated above have been obtained in accordance with rules of production and inspection of the organic production method in accordance with the provisions of Regulation USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR part 205 (NOP).</p> <p>Date: 31.12.2021</p>				
Name and signature of the authorised person		Stamp of issuing authority or body		
 Özge Feyzioğlu Karagüzel		 Ackerstrasse Postfach CH-5070 Frick		

EX. 8

The fascination of quality...

INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

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Food Industry

Agriculture

Company

News

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Management

Administration/finances

Agriculture - Processing/Trade

bio.inspecta Ltd.

bio.inspecta AG

Partners

Human Resources

The Appeals Service


Contact

Prices


Downloadable content

Staff


Administration/finances




Burçin Çil
Administration/Finance
+90 232 347 48 68
ofis@bio-inspecta.com



Gökhan Küçüksubaşı
Administration
+90 232 347 48 68
gokhan.kucuksubasi@bio-inspecta.com



Göksun Tunca
Administration/Finance
+90 232 347 48 68
goksun.tunca@bio-inspecta.com



Özge Feyzioğlu Karagüzel
Administration
+90 232 347 48 68
info@bio-inspecta.com

bio.inspecta Ltd.
Mansuroğlu Mah. 284/1
Sok. No:11 D:11-12
Simya Metal İş Mrk. P.K:35535
Bayraklı IZMİR, Türkiye
Tel 0090 232 3474 868
Fax 0090 232 3474 866
ofis@bio-inspecta.com
Mersis Nr: 0-1760-3952-3300010

bio.inspecta AG
q.inspecta GmbH
Ackerstrasse
CH-5070 Frick
+41 (0) 62 865 63 00
+41 (0) 62 865 63 01
admin@bio-inspecta.ch
www.bio-inspecta.ch

See <https://www.bio-inspecta.com.tr/htm/team.htm?tkid=2>



2023 Prices bio.inspecta Turkey

bi-OS (EU Equivalency Standard for 3rd Countries)	Prices (EUR)*	Per unit
Inspection		
Travel time, inspection time & sampling time	280.-	Day
Travel, accommodation expenses	According to real expenses	
Certification		
Single operator (Processor, Exporter, Trader, Sub-contractor)	280.-	Operation
Producer/Farmer (Single operator, Farmer group, Wild collection)	280.-	Operation
Retroactive Recognition Request	350.-	Operation
OFIS Case Handling	350.-	Operation
All Certificates		
Printing of certificates, mail, publishing on EASY-CERT	27.-	Certificate
Certificates issued for Turkish market (Product certificate):		
Export certificate request (for Exporters' Union)	29.-	Certificate
Domestic market certificate request (Product certificate)	29.-	Certificate
International certificates (For Export & Import)		
Certificate of Inspection (COI) and Transaction certificate request	45.-	Certificate
USDA National Organic Program (NOP)	Prices (EUR)*	Unit
Inspection (only in combination with bi-OS inspection)		
Inspection (farmer)	13.-	Farmer
ICS (Internal Control System)	280.-	Farmer group
Inspection (Processor, Exporter, Trader)	110.-	Operation
Inspection		
Travel time, inspection time & sampling time	280.-	
Travel, accommodation expenses	According to real expenses	
Certification		
Single operator (Processor, Exporter, Trader)	280.-	Operation
Producer/Farmer (Single operator, Farmer group, Wild collection)	280.-	Operation
Sales and stocks follow up (USA sales without COI)	45.-	Each

Private Labels	Prices (EUR)*	Unit
Inspection (only in combination with bi-OS inspection)		
Private labels such as: Bio Suisse, Demeter, Naturland, Krav	13.-	Operator
Certification Bio Suisse (first hour free)	100.-	Hour
Coordination for all inspections	Prices (EUR)*	Unit
Inspection preparation, reporting, tbs entries etc.	280.-	Day
Other Services	Prices (EUR)*	Unit
Official confirmations / documents	10.-	Each
Correspondance for confirmations	10.-	Each
Purchasing controls and stock records (purchasing slipts, shipment documents, transportation, invoice etc.)	30.-	Hour
Positive analyses and additional works	100.-	Each
Label, input, seed, etc. requests	10.-	Each
Extra services: Addition of a new product for certification More than five B sanctions in certification decisions, Missing, incomprehensive or inadequate documentation, Translations, other services	30.-	Hour
Unscheduled terminations after September 30 th	150.-	Operator
Inspection cannot be carried out due to reasons in the client's responsibility	Total costs incurred	
Appeals	Prices (EUR)*	Unit
Appeals rejected in part	400.-	Appeal
Appeals rejected entirely	600.-	Appeal
Upon lodging an appeal an advance payment of EUR 400.- is due		
Analysis	Prices (EUR)*	Unit

Analysis costs are to be paid directly to the laboratory by the customer.

*18% V.A.T. will be added

Offer

An offer is prepared in accordance with price list above. The offer is confirmed by written confirmation of the applicant.

Terms of payment

80% of the estimated costs are payable in advance at the services are ordered. The remaining amount plus additional costs are related to your order will be invoiced before publication of the certificate. Payment terms are 10 days from the date of invoice.

If any reason the contract is cancelled until 10 days before inspection, 50% of prepayment is refunded.

Later cancellation: no money is refunded.

Subject to change without notice.

bio.inspecta
Kontrol Sertifikasyon Ltd.
Mansuroğlu Mah. 284/1 Sok. No:11 D:11-12
Simya Metal İş Mrk Bayraklı / İZMİR

Tel. +90-232-347 48 68
Fax +90-232-347 48 66
ofis@bio-inspecta.com
www.bio-inspecta.com.tr
Mersis no: 0-1760-3952-33000010

EX. 9

bruce@pratumfarm.com

From: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 5:25 AM
To: bruce@pratumfarm.com
Subject: Fwd: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint
Attachments: 71603TR-NOP Certificate.pdf; 128516TR-NOP Certificate.pdf; 128516.F50(NOP) v05en-Annex OGG members NOP.PDF; 220073TR-NOP Certificate.pdf; 220073.F50(NOP) v04en - Annex OGG members NOP v01.pdf

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 5:04:29 AM
To: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr <dilek@arslanturk.com.tr>
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Dear Monisha,

Hope everything is okay.
I received an email from Ecocert. They explained all as below.

The annexe which I sent to you, due to the there is no obligation to open it to the general public, NOP and EOS certificates are not published on their websites by Ecocert. Ecocert sends us them via email.

The grower certificates which I sent you before were not updated. Please find attached the updated ones which belong to the 2022 season.

Ecocert shared with me the below links and they stated that anyone reaches certificates through these links.

71603 Processing / Exporter: <https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=722CFE01-DA94-4D99-9F32-6C9FA3CF28AB>

128516 Farmer Group in Artvin Province: <https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=91D70839-D545-421E-8ADA-ADF0499B977D>

220073 Farmer Group in Trabzon Province:
<https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=0E9858A4-BCB2-40FC-AA04-EB8DE741BF4B>

Ecocert stated that the information about our NOP certification is being published on the USDA website. Links are below (P.S: It seems that there is a server problem on the website)

71603 Processing /

Exporter: <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/CP/OPP.aspx?cid=24&nopid=7887160300&ret=%252fIntegrity%252fDefault.aspx&retName=Home>

128516 Farmer Group in Artvin

Province: <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/CP/OPP.aspx?cid=24&nopid=7880128516&ret=%252fIntegrity%252fDefault.aspx&retName=Home>

220073 Farmer Group in Trabzon

Province: <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/CP/OPP.aspx?cid=24&nopid=7880220073&ret=%252fIntegrity%252fDefault.aspx&retName=Home>

Links can be connected with the NOP IDs on the certificate.

As you know, all farmers available in the certificate annexes are controlled by Ecocert and certified according to the NOP regulation.

Therefore, in line with the certification requirements, they have been certified as a result of all the documentation and external controls requested for the farmer groups.

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,

Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK

Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



Bu e-posta ve içeriği Arslantürk Tarım Ürünleri San. İhr. Ve İth. A.Ş çalışanları tarafından iş amaçlı oluşturulmuştur ve kişisel verilerle gizli kalması gerekli ticari verileri içerebilir. Şayet bu e-posta size yanlışlıkla iletilmiş ya da kişisel verileri veya ticari sırları içeriyor ise 6698 sayılı Kişisel Verilerin Korunması Kanunu gereğince sisteminizden silinmesini tavsiye eder, aksi durumun sorumluluğa yol açabileceğini hatırlatırız.

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From: Oğuz / ARS [mailto:oguz@arslanturk.com.tr]

Sent: Saturday, November 19, 2022 12:46 PM

To: 'Deka, Monisha' <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>

Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr

Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Dear Monisha,

Sorry for my late reply.

Could you provide additional information on where that Annex with the farm IDs was obtained?

Also, does Eco-Cert have all of the underlying documents for the farms listed in the farm ID Annex?

-The farmer's ID belongs to Arslanturk and Ecocert, Ecocert audits each of them in every season and keeps a record of it.

-They supply this document to us after confirmation. As far as I saw that those documents are not available on the USDA system.

-Yes, Ecocert has all.

I have been waiting for information from Ecocert regarding the questions. Probably on Monday afternoon, I will receive them and then share them with you.

By the way, I saw that the Farmeks has been released from the investigation. Is that correct? Balsu and Ofi have a lawyer I think, they follow the investigation through them. It makes easy the process for them maybe.

I also got confirmation from USITC. Do we need to write any answers there?

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sorry for our responses if it is not adequate. I do as much as I can and try to follow and understand what's going on in the email correspondence.

Thank you for your understanding.
Have a nice weekend!

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,
Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK
Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



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From: Deka, Monisha [<mailto:Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 7:35 PM

To: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>

Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr

Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Dear Oğuz,

By way of follow up, the links below show the certificates and certain Annex documentation, however they do not include the Annex with Farm IDs that you sent in your email of November 16.

Could you provide additional information on where that Annex with the farm IDs was obtained?

Also, does Eco-Cert have all of the underlying documents for the farms listed in the farm ID Annex?

Thank you,

Mo

Monisha Deka

Office of Unfair Import Investigations
US International Trade Commission
202-205-3180
Monisha.deka@usitc.gov

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 4:03 AM
To: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Monisha,

I received an email from Ecocert yesterday. They sent me the below links. One of them belongs to the crop grower and the other one you already examined.

<https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=0E9858A4-BCB2-40FC-AA04-EB8DE741BF4B>
<https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=91D70839-D545-421E-8ADA-ADF0499B977D>

Just to confirm, all of the farms that Arslanturk sells products from are under these certificates?

- Yes, correct.

Does Arslanturk use third-party suppliers?

- Sometimes. But only for EOS(EU) and the domestic market.
- For NOP, we only use our own grower group.

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,

Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK

Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



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or business secrets, we recommend you delete and remove the related e-mail immediately within the context of Personal Data Protection Act Nr 6698.

From: Deka, Monisha [<mailto:Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Thank you for your email. Just to confirm, all of the farms that Arslanturk sells product from are under these certificates? Does Arslanturk use third-party suppliers?

Thanks,
Mo

Monisha Deka
Office of Unfair Import Investigations
US International Trade Commission
202-205-3180
Monisha.deka@usitc.gov

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 8:55 AM
To: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Dear Monisha,

Please find attached the missing documents.

All documents are still valid, especially OGGs so please do not only focus on the issued date. Ecocert told me that those documents are valid.

In meantime, I am also waiting for some certificates from Ecocert too. If I received different from those I shared with you, I will share them.

Hope those could help you to understand.

Have a nice day.

All the best!

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,

Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK

Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr

Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



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From: Deka, Monisha [<mailto:Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 5:17 PM
To: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hi –

Could you help me understand whether the certificate copies you provided in the earlier email align with those listed here - <https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=91D70839-D545-421E-8ADA-ADF0499B977D>.

In general, any clarity as to the farm level certification for the products handled by Arslanturk would be helpful. Is there a USDA or EU Grower Group certification or are the supplying farms owned and certified as Arslanturk?

Thank you,
Mo

Monisha Deka
Office of Unfair Import Investigations
US International Trade Commission
202-205-3180
Monisha.deka@usitc.gov

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:39 AM
To: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Dear Monisha,

Hope you are fine.
For this investigation, the answer of our company is in the attachment.
Please also find attached our updated organic certificates. The complainant also can have some information from them.

If you need more information, please let me know.

Have a nice weekend!

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,
Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK
Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



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From: Oğuz / ARS [<mailto:oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 11:00 AM
To: 'Deka, Monisha' <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Dear Mo,

Thank you for informing me. Okay, noted.
Well, to be honest, don't know what will I do at this meeting.

I am planning to give some answers to the questions Bruce asked me this evening.
We are a certified company in direction of the rules of NOP organic therefore there is nothing to share except for the organic certificates.

By the way, we are still waiting for the approval of our company. Is it so important that we should answer through the Usitc system?

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,
Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK
Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY

EX. 10



since 1950

ARSLANTÜRK S.A.

11/11/2022

**To the United States International Trade Commission
In the Matter of Certain Hazelnut and Products Containing the Same, Inv. No. 337-TA-1337**

I am writing to inform you that we, as ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. ve İTH. A.Ş. has been carrying out the organic hazelnut project with our registered farmers under the rules of USDA Organic (NOP) and EOS (EU). This organic project is conducted by Ecocert S.A. as a certification body. They (Ecocert S.A.) audit our farmers and companies every year and they may confirm or not at the end of the audit. Records of all information about our registered farmers and their orchards are kept by Ecocert S.A. in their system. We purchase organic hazelnut from our farmers at a higher price level than other farmers who grow conventional hazelnuts in their gardens. Purchased organic hazelnut are kept in separate areas in our warehouses in our both facilities. Our both processing and cracking facilities (sites) also are organically certified. In direction of customer orders, these hazelnuts are taken, processed and shipped. the records of all this process are kept in our system. Also, pesticide analysis of this organic hazelnut is carried out by accredited laboratories. Before each organic hazelnut shipment, the product's information is informed to Ecocert S.A. They check the cracking number, lot numbers and products etc... and confirm the shipments. After this, they certify the products we processed.

For USDA (NOP), you can reach out to information at <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity> writing ARSLANTÜRK. I also attached our updated organic certificates. It contains some information about our project too.

**General Manager
Sebahattin ARSLANTÜRK**

**ARSLANTÜRK TARIM
ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. ve İTH. A.Ş.**
Organik M. Özgü Meykili Araklı Trabzon
Tel: 0(462) 721 73 41 Fax: 721 73 45
Hızırbey V.D. 085 005 4692

Ozgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 - Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY

EX. 11

Certificate

N° 71603/202209051139

Ecocert SA hereby confirms that:

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

Özgen Mahallesi Ova Mevkii Bayburt Yolu Üzeri 3. Km Araklı, TRABZON-TURKEY

Has been audited and certified to the USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205
National Organic Program



For operation categories:
HANDLING/PROCESSING

For the following product groups:
FRUIT-BASED PREPARATIONS

Certificate issued on 5 September 2022

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest
32600 L'Isle Jourdain France
(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
Capital 444 400 € - SIREN 380 725 002 – RCS AUCH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jouard', is written over the Ecocert contact information.

Anniversary date: 1st August

when the certified operation must submit its annual update - this is not an expiration date

Effective date / date of 1st certification: 11 October 2003

F61(NOP)v01 en

Page 1/5

Annex to the certificate

N° 71603/202209051139

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Products certified for the brand: **Bedemco, Inc**

PRODUCT	LABELLING CATEGORY	ADDITIONAL EQUIVALENCES	
		(1)EU equivalence	(2)COR equivalence
> Hazelnut Powder (Hazelnut meal)	100% Organic		x
> Hazelnut Puree (Hazelnut Paste)	100% Organic		x
> Raw (Natural) Hazelnut Kernels	100% Organic		x
> Roasted Diced Hazelnut (Minced Hazelnut)	100% Organic		x

(1) EU Equivalent product(s) is/are certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S. – European Union Equivalency Arrangement

(2) COR Equivalent product(s) is/are certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S. – Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement

Certificate issued on 5 September 2022

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest
 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France
 (+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
 Capital 444 400 € - SIREN 380 725 002 – RCS AUCH

Annex to the certificate

N° 71603/202209051139

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Products certified:

PRODUCT	LABELLING CATEGORY	ADDITIONAL EQUIVALENCES	
		(1)EU equivalence	(2)COR equivalence
> Blanched Diced Hazelnut	100% Organic		x
> Blanched Hazelnut Kernels	100% Organic		x
> Blanched Hazelnut Powder (Blanched Hazelnut meal)	100% Organic		x
> Blanched Sliced Hazelnut	100% Organic		x
> Hazelnut in Shell	100% Organic		x
> Hazelnut Oil	100% Organic		x
> Natural Chopped Hazelnut	100% Organic		x
> Natural Sliced Hazelnut	100% Organic		x
> Roasted Hazelnut Kernels	100% Organic		x
> Roasted Hazelnut Powder (Roasted Hazelnut meal)	100% Organic		x
> Roasted Salted Hazelnut Kernels	100% Organic		x
> Roasted Salted Inshell Hazelnut	100% Organic		x
> Roasted Sliced Hazelnut	100% Organic		x

- (1) EU Equivalent product(s) is/are certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S. – European Union Equivalency Arrangement
- (2) COR Equivalent product(s) is/are certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S. – Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement
-

Certificate issued on 5 September 2022

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest

32600 L'Isle Jourdain France

(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com

Capital 444 400 € - SIREN 380 725 002 – RCS AUCH

Annex to the certificate

N° 71603/20220905

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Sites covered:

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

- > Özgen Mahallesi Ova Mevkii Bayburt Yolu Üzeri 3. Km Araklı, TRABZON-TURKEY
- > Özgen Mahallesi Bayburt Cad. No: 194 Araklı, 61700, TRABZON-TURKEY

Certificate issued on 5 September 2022

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France (+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
Capital 444 400 € - SIREN 380 725 002 – RCS AUCH

EX. 12

Certificate

N° 128516/202210131213

Ecocert SAS hereby confirms that:

**ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN.
İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.**

Özgen Mahallesi Ova Mevkii Bayburt Yolu Üzeri 3. Km Araklı, TRABZON-TURKEY

Has been audited and certified to the USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205
National Organic Program



For operation categories:

CROPS - HANDLING/PROCESSING

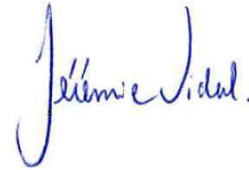
For the following product groups:

FRUIT-BASED PREPARATIONS

Certificate issued on 13 October 2022

Ecocert SAS

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest
32600 L'Isle Jourdain France
(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
Capital 300 000 € - SIREN 897 812 137 – RCS AUCH



Anniversary date: 1st February

when the certified operation must submit its annual update - this is not an expiration date

Effective date / date of 1st certification: 11 October 2003

Annex to the certificate

N° 128516/202210131213

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Products certified:

PRODUCT	LABELLING CATEGORY	ADDITIONAL EQUIVALENCES	
		(1)EU equivalence	(2)COR equivalence
> Processed hazelnuts	100% Organic		x

(1) EU Equivalent product(s) is/are certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S. – European Union Equivalency Arrangement

(2) COR Equivalent product(s) is/are certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S. – Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement

Certificate issued on 13 October 2022

Ecocert SAS

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest
 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France
 (+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
 Capital 300 000 € - SIREN 897 812 137 – RCS AUCH

Annex to the certificate

N° 128516/20221013

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Sites covered:

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

> Borçka, 35220, ARTVİN-TURKEY

Certificate issued on 13 October 2022

Ecocert SAS

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France (+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
Capital 300 000 € - SIREN 897 812 137 – RCS AUCH

Certificate

N° 220073/202209280858

Ecocert SA hereby confirms that:

**ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN.
İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.**

Özgen Mahallesi Ova Mevkii Bayburt Yolu Üzeri 3. Km Araklı, TRABZON-TURKEY

Has been audited and certified to the USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205

National Organic Program



For operation categories:

CROPS - HANDLING/PROCESSING

For the following product groups:

OTHER TREE AND BUSH FRUITS

FRUIT-BASED PREPARATIONS



Certificate issued on 28 September 2022

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest
32600 L'Isle Jourdain France
(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
Capital 444 400 € - SIREN 380 725 002 – RCS AUCH



Anniversary date: 1st February

when the certified operation must submit its annual update - this is not an expiration date

Effective date / date of 1st certification: 11 October 2003



Annex to the certificate

N° 220073/202209280858

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Products certified:

PRODUCT	LABELLING CATEGORY
> Hazelnuts	100% Organic
> Processed hazelnuts	100% Organic

Certificate issued on 28 September 2022

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest

32600 L'Isle Jourdain France

(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com

Capital 444 400 € - SIREN 380 725 002 – RCS AUCH



Annex to the certificate

N° 220073/20220928

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Sites covered:

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

> Araklı, Arsin, Sürmene, Yomra, TRABZON-TURKEY

Certificate issued on 28 September 2022

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France (+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com
Capital 444 400 € - SIREN 380 725 002 – RCS AUCH



EX. 13

Annex to the certificate

N° 128516/202112011133



ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Members of group covered:

MEMBERS

Farmer codes of members, see below table

12910634084	16567511484	31567012274	14071594696
31615010276	25210223490	14068594760	16297520428
13585610908	21517346672	28009130092	16570511310
14761571686	25375218126	22321319890	28741105648
31858002502	26146192898	15709540528	21070368524
31867002210	13756605160	15037562650	28351119448
10054729222	63415175800	24139259016	29467081568
29575078610	31798004406	27514146550	20599377024
28786104354	28621109728	17368484922	20809370098
29704073530	29242089062	29467082244	21052361932
25186224774	16270521824	25525213308	25336219438
28207124220	17506480304	16498513748	10243722270
17185490892	22210323588	21811336836	15682541192
20086394114	30373051620	24211263832	13384618228
10981698080	13132626666	26557178832	17704473788
12571644606	28969098258	27454153472	16861501648
21763345382	10690710486	23974264940	23386284444
14224589678	10213723368	15532546124	13447615584
16789504066	18295453838	25942199056	15667541780
29215089860	14749572032	30031063354	20371384806
31681007736	30202057694	15139559176	19408416924
29329086212	21445348854	15244555674	30670042024
29275087998	30238055848	60508036604	18298453910
13591610770	15118559982	16327519644	21997330666
13570611330	22816303656	18433449488	11158692160
21556345124	17644475750	18928432940	12979631222
17473481274	20320393552	10711707396	20155392546
30184058368	22081327814	15610543342	16330519570
31483014734	29686074136	22558312244	57430375116
28966098862	24571244908	19534412784	20200390848
13429616776	21667341954	27400151088	24262255480
17611476698	31750005540	16954498466	11323686246
18787437476	20767372004	18649442266	12868634884
11899667120	17986464320	30733039930	31204024332
15904533820	18436449324	25699214200	11374684420
21751338976	12727639692	14338592892	18127459366
27124160250	25564208800	13465617508	12886634132

10714707232	16252521880	14716573116	15733539208
25141226294	29503080388	17653475468	20965372004
18613443404	16432515906	13291621038	31477014962
11329686196	19279421522	24973234194	31111026702
17275487832	29833069640	10066728190	16321519626
11947665436	30607043698	23335286192	25243222248
12166658230	28048135898	30133059880	31642009410
29920067016	29095093940	28540112328	50386495730
12346652188	18013463422	39892673412	25300220644
10972698372	11359685176	21331352606	12736639232
25672215156	10708707460	28174131658	30313053288
20533379282	10696707084	26149192420	10597710404
20578377762	13336619822	26017196406	23260288810
19819403780	16804503524	16474514530	29245088918
28600111032	11890667402	11950665744	11713673368
19030429200	19714406596	20830369382	29578078006
18427449616	30190058062	13426616380	27811136650
18067461610	26146192584	12661642086	18628449934
10876701246	14941566310	28846102146	13246622028
12913633558	20905367046	25687207726	28939099278
28726106158	13411616890	13882601302	31903000422
24226256638	28030130030	12997630412	16675507850
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20170392026	16627509680	16276521156	19396417774
14491580620	24821515536	20854368590	15655541822
20728373316	29752071946	30052062008	25099227534
20098393778	15694541296	28438115844	27622142994
14458581714	11335685800	18511446606	30463048660
19399417092	10678707668	16798503784	17734472768
20629375914	12922633198	30025062806	16501513642
17812469918	27418150424	54130249198	23701274174
15172558600	18262454912	13861602030	29971064682
12049662774	19744405712	13498613904	29677075272
26464181956	17458481930	30586044280	21502354170
21811336522	20332385972	30991030656	17998463984
22414316812	21505346714	30142058980	24997237676
28351118694	21679341362	25105227374	14083594240
28081133196	15784537864	17437483108	10582711072
21910333552	30193057604	28573111312	20803370834
12421649874	10165725502	29692073918	14953565356
15628542788	21682341434	12067661728	12403650584
29740072528	25693214428	22906302576	56152373530
12331652766	14497580402	12715640006	10975698218
23923266834	27472148634	12949631948	14965564910
20671374842	15241555738	17512480176	28729106230
15235556024	27295153846	11704673650	10504714136
18640442548	28330119490	14413583234	26428183194
12292653864	22921306870	10084727694	17800470568
28267121672	29197090502	31480014898	24838236332
20494380594	13507613680	22726306648	23662275418
22027329636	24148258734	19111426814	10465715234
29077094750	20410383876	10432716318	17890467530
13093627450	31186024184	29863068866	21031362660
29182090944	27247156116	28255122018	12388651408
29962064974	28531113464	14206590210	27358156692
24661241770	18430449542	13015630032	24868235312
28399117000	16972497892	28219123020	10186724188
29719073020	11020696364	18922433462	17737472604
22324326734	25486214642	29320087102	30664042320
13177624696	22939306206	25177224448	16888501478
17359485204	29746072164	15592544634	18424449770

GROUP

ECOCERT



21790337596	14356593062	31525012896	21541345702
29563078516	14857568408	30193058076	22078328350
19327419624	19978397968	13288621102	21055361878
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18979431282	16339519298	15112559964	14332586470
12907634158	29233089286	21076361130	27529146040
24211257206	28279121844	19303420620	16765504868
13681608328	17686474384	31630009798	16954498534
14758571750	21511346890	30214057316	22849309298
28747105666	28918099916	19526128600	25975198422
30031062746	26149192048	30193057918	11299687148
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11413683186	28516113298	29221090386	20221390032
27736139378	23413283556	30133059958	18574444748
11395683792	31093028084	27730139596	29413083202
14845568854	27808136960	20374391672	25111226606
31762005026	10588710796	17497480628	29107094170
29653075388	20827369456	18925433094	28564111604
19957398696	13408616964	17827469408	13399617278
22915307098	16312520112	28402117768	30208056790
29308086882	18934432712	28126126930	15895533908
29701073694	29320086426	19702406942	23554279074
19780404328	28459115724	11473681382	14518579774
16984497446	15697541132	11506680412	28699107046
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28513114038	25144226130	20992363914	21421350154
14821569646	24379258268	28021129678	20665375060
31600010472	18265454858	11638675782	30880034444
16267521448	20227389856	10468714708	20884367716
10954698956	16633509902	30190057386	14035596070
20566378108	12931632984	28624109732	16891501304
29194090598	17191490664	28945099590	29857069084
27709140066	14725572834	17620476306	11545685904
31744005778	10171725374	12301653540	10192723960
11896667802	13516613848	31108026708	19930399542
28984098288	17638475988	29344085634	21793337500
27712139934	29218090528	29410083366	24592244642
11845668706	15883534580	19990397502	12967631814
30490048008	25999197012	14416583316	21388350976
14407583462	12115660192	28303120256	21064368752
17467481334	25249222020	31381018476	11362685316
28273121444	18610443568	20716373380	14890565716
29863068248	29413083998	13405616882	22471315094
14491580866	22018329928	11113700442	14779571012
16519512910	29638076416	22351318870	26458182174
20638375622	26488181154	19018430488	24616243828
11194690472	23866268292	10567711424	21784337410
22057328548	20776371104	50557367064	30430050016
21259355574	16306520890	16375518354	21271355118
19015430092	26506180244	15067561630	30982031174
26212190384	15673541798	10252721998	14818569710
28735105876	30823037006	26581178198	14824569582
28885100844	21326584494	31669008564	18100460594
13339619454	30226056284	13885601248	24355259050
13471614546	31726006274	24049269174	10477714966
12091660780	14536579190	20581377698	17902467152
30013063310	13387617488	25192224546	30988030966
10666715248	12754639276	14860568334	26707420200
27523146268	29032096720	14092593968	37333081086
17713473496	30478048464	14566578170	31738005838

GROUP

ECOCERT



12899634536	29776071908	13009630260	27478147730
24340514362	29026096958	19975398012	31861002438
21718339992	26203190676	29080094686	19597411120
19000430298	14455581700	15274554722	16864501584
27412150710	20635375786	16297521104	19948399988
27961131796	24226256560	31528013586	27619143058
18268454794	13177624382	30970031520	20857368436
15904534056	20248388746	12871635328	10594710568
14998563836	26857168496	28930099482	25750205376
31153025268	19528412912	11026696528	14032596134
31480014584	19849402074	11356685230	27001164326
15397550656	18532445978	13417616672	27136159150
12559645434	27775137908	28339119804	12139659646
29233090008	23773987118	29146092250	26941165622
25117227096	12466648344	19717406432	29872068574
14026596126	11440682398	28366118184	31879001256
15889534362	13288620662	23875267910	11053695280
28777104646	12682640986	10690707202	14089594022
16459515040	14143592278	21736339486	12085660772
14839569072	18781437830	25939199052	29812070346
26023196278	16483514248	17257488642	19594410744
28546112650	22075328414	12358651810	27505146842
14227589514	22021330294	20839369628	19927399616
13018629774	18520446314	13075628024	27769138126
18238455714	14956565124	31741005832	26347186030
11518686938	12721639742	28228123042	14719573052
14722572998	22804304092	21280354836	25747205440
30991030892	21076368306	27949132838	16663508296
14527579482	19303420484	12703640148	22864301512
31039029052	14059595042	27175164924	11320686300
27826136386	14773571230	14278587934	14713573102
25234222844	31816003978	17641475814	13111626786
27055162132	31603010240	29983065080	28495114644
28486114936	23398284098	21379351258	16522513690
20689374650	11479681164	20431383206	20896367742
29869068334	29779071844	26158192138	35827666306
11299686912	18322452940	13873601908	29803070638
24145258898	21694340852	24508246876	10966698500
28510113652	26209190458	19936406312	21271354678
14548578754	24586244498	14299587746	28576111708
25717206774	13996597188	20899367060	12364651682
28993097524	25537213198	11341685740	11476681228
14086594186	28045135952	21760338516	26116193504
21799337382	26215190220	18931432876	20497380430
18082461190	14608576782	12565645060	12004670752
17833469416	17362485130	29284087606	20899367206
12976631218	12043662992	28315120596	16516513828
14947565416	14524579546	18766438340	20539379200
13912599920	16882501696	28039129868	63214182412
10141725618	20626376136	15241556346	10381717794
12718639670	16702507198	12037663110	22858302426
20293387992	14722572820	15166558142	28975098570
17674474730	21679341508	13246622578	19879401290
30184058290	28318120500	25702207274	15136559230
21283354468	22417316826	11128692886	15874534490
21709340310	31393017726	16309520286	12361651746
20599376966	23659275582	31183024248	24577244780
27763138580	16336519352	29317086668	28528119950
17083494466	24481248058	14278588160	15646542104
20665375138	12388655604	10717706492	24637243258
12919633262	29815069842	27703140420	21529346226

GROUP

ECOCERT



18079461028	12340652238	31009030422	25132226586
19723406440	14833569290	16936499108	16621509808
11482681090	13735606416	29515080628	13180625062
12694640776	28915100028	11860668422	12127659306
18784437776	10603710244	28123131708	16633509452
26033421988	14461581640	23425283100	28768105096



Certificate issued on 1 December 2021

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest - 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France
(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com

Once certified, a production or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered, suspended or revoked.

Annex to the certificate

N° 220073/202109151048



ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Members of group covered:

MEMBERS

Farmer codes of members, see below table

38870088552	29840389328	48436707414	30209377078
32084314858	67243142492	37397137460	44578897990
53458601978	34079248018	35363227078	10935019862
66283174524	68566101654	39542066038	24875564832
33317295418	66163179076	38618096764	30347372492
24269575000	13697927598	33782258222	36527166400
15221876686	61477335354	20270708376	11205010886
19310740308	66013186506	65539199984	69280096370
48988751538	30026383498	20525699862	24110580382
55093548076	49540732712	45880855272	55453536040
38591097642	28730426372	10473035362	49288741250
31964318870	21311673622	37943119490	41075014912
22901632296	34439248580	64276244544	39299074126
40874021602	61672328410	14975884848	58321440210
28256442160	50275708262	10770025226	49732726482
59965385066	27251487916	32981284636	52135646394
23384604572	60040382856	49432736750	64867221848
66388170964	13847922534	41006017234	60781358592
29549420926	33620263678	41078014858	50908687148
60940352560	44473901754	19343739256	15500867428
40583031374	31631351384	40007050578	52285641294
41153012366	61627330390	52762547378	42673961738
40589031156	23453602218	14528899848	34115246848
51925653208	51889654242	69037082656	46648828972
58684427712	41465002338	44665906864	66568164912
71449024292	23357605438	11121013640	40970018414
55186544930	12782958080	31973318588	61033349740
69289096098	43432936554	48664762384	43429936246
70096047586	19883721278	52156645970	41536999512
48967751894	30893354522	60304377000	44614896710
71548020928	32987284418	49249742494	40490034420
47134812796	10410037466	55465535604	53680594550

31736326102	61681339872	48229776498	41593997636
38159112022	44830889824	63580265252	39329073242
47827789664	51973651614	47146812340	34646229174
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54319573670	63910254246	15248875730	41399004156
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21836668448	40574031666	53083614404	30464368576
41408003842	49957718842	69106080606	26531500192
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19697727480	22742625976	41060015276	10077048232
21320673330	56140513184	19694727544	47212810386
48934753340	49015750630	10773025162	39233076216
62617297044	52006650598	54166578316	70279063150
38432102788	46363860264	41539999458	48232776324
18524769686	35470129180	41563998656	12935952972
34628229758	27962463728	23660595310	10926020112
34223243272	50224709920	39908053894	34022249994
16868824856	56863488806	39806057222	28289441390
40598030874	54004584370	12167978214	21527666432
39944052646	10224043332	26765492102	54325573442
62077317924	21278674748	59947385640	14981884610
26351505940	49294740964	44983885032	51898654196
50788712794	47164811912	65470204570	55963518710
58927419566	26294519806	41084014620	54163578470
57325473668	26621508954	26699506340	44398904236



46933819418	32069336844	44098914368	39569065182
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48667761858	14945885936	31688328032	26996487090
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66394170736	10071048450	39656062018	39545065984
67396137338	63211277302	66583164492	55090548130
37841122806	34277241460	39080081470	41608997194
44335906026	50236709574	20852688942	71749014238
10809023834	50869688482	13460935416	66256175312
42940952544	29711393690	47044815924	40301040800
36683161240	10458035578	71743014456	57868454940
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28517433418	20933686782	65062215366	33242275974
15911789562	35597197758	26612497434	55396537654
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71527021656	37847122442	14444902592	19046749538
40859022112	27272418968	44404904076	65230209524
16469835046	32111313960	57487467604	21083681290
64867221602	54283574468	71557020636	30320373652
31490334658	44288001748	30917365688	36815077524
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42070981988	70990039670	41818990190	10458038548
32156333916	32213332098	26537511796	
46039849890	20033654766	26681506914	



Certificate issued on 16 September 2021

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest - 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France

(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 - www.ecocert.com



EX. 14

bruce@pratumfarm.com

From: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 5:03 AM
To: bruce@pratumfarm.com
Subject: FW: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

FYI – Is there anything else you'd need?

Thanks,
Mo

Monisha Deka

Office of Unfair Import Investigations
US International Trade Commission
202-205-3180
Monisha.deka@usitc.gov

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 4:03 AM
To: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Monisha,

I received an email from Ecocert yesterday. They sent me the below links. One of them belongs to the crop grower and the other one you already examined.

<https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=0E9858A4-BCB2-40FC-AA04-EB8DE741BF4B>
<https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=91D70839-D545-421E-8ADA-ADF0499B977D>

Just to confirm, all of the farms that Arslanturk sells products from are under these certificates?

- Yes, correct.

Does Arslanturk use third-party suppliers?

- Sometimes. But only for EOS(EU) and the domestic market.
- For NOP, we only use our own grower group.

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,
Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK
Sales Assistant

Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45



Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



Bu e-posta ve içeriği Arslantürk Tarım Ürünleri San. İhr. Ve İth. A.Ş çalışanları tarafından iş amaçlı oluşturulmuştur ve kişisel verilerle gizli kalması gerekliliği içerebilir. Şayet bu e-posta size yanlışlıkla iletilmiş ya da kişisel verileri veya ticari sırları içeriyor ise 6698 sayılı Kişisel Verilerin Korunması Kanununa göre sisteminizden silinmesini tavsiye eder, aksi durumun sorumluluğuna yol açabileceğini hatırlatırız.

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From: Deka, Monisha [<mailto:Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Thank you for your email. Just to confirm, all of the farms that Arslanturk sells product from are under these certificates? Does Arslanturk use third-party suppliers?

Thanks,
Mo

Monisha Deka
Office of Unfair Import Investigations
US International Trade Commission
202-205-3180
Monisha.deka@usitc.gov

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 8:55 AM
To: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Dear Monisha,

Please find attached the missing documents.

All documents are still valid, especially OGGs so please do not only focus on the issued date. Ecocert told me that those documents are valid.

In meantime, I am also waiting for some certificates from Ecocert too. If I received different from those I shared with you, I will share them.

Hope those could help you to understand.
Have a nice day.
All the best!

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,
Oğuz ARSLANTÜRK
Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



Bu e-posta ve içeriği Arslantürk Tarım Ürünleri San. İhr. Ve İth. A.Ş. çalışanları tarafından iş amaçlı oluşturulmuştur ve kişisel verilerle gizli kalması gerekliliği içerebilir. Şayet bu e-posta size yanlışlıkla iletilmiş ya da kişisel verileri veya ticari sırları içeriyor ise 6698 sayılı Kişisel Verilerin Korunması Kanunu gereğince sisteminizden silinmesini tavsiye eder, aksi durumun sorumluluğuna yol açabileceğini hatırlatırız.

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From: Deka, Monisha [<mailto:Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 5:17 PM
To: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr
Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hi –

Could you help me understand whether the certificate copies you provided in the earlier email align with those listed here - <https://certificat.ecocert.com/client.php?source=recherche&id=91D70839-D545-421E-8ADA-ADF0499B977D>.

In general, any clarity as to the farm level certification for the products handled by Arslanturk would be helpful. Is there a USDA or EU Grower Group certification or are the supplying farms owned and certified as Arslanturk?

Thank you,
Mo

Monisha Deka
Office of Unfair Import Investigations
US International Trade Commission
202-205-3180
Monisha.deka@usitc.gov

From: Oğuz / ARS <oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:39 AM
To: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>

Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr

Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Hello Dear Monisha,

Hope you are fine.

For this investigation, the answer of our company is in the attachment.

Please also find attached our updated organic certificates. The complainant also can have some information from them.

If you need more information, please let me know.

Have a nice weekend!

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,

Öğuz ARSLANTÜRK

Sales Assistant



Phone : +90 462 721 73 41 Pbx: 150
Mobile : +90 538 244 42 55
Fax : +90 462 721 73 45
Email : oguz@arslanturk.com.tr
Web : www.arslanturk.com.tr
Skype : oguzarslanturk
Address : Özgen Mah. Bayburt Cad. No: 194 - 61700 Araklı - Trabzon / TURKEY



Bu e-posta ve içeriği Arslantürk Tarım Ürünleri San. İhr. Ve İth. A.Ş çalışanları tarafından iş amaçlı oluşturulmuştur ve kişisel verilerle gizli kalması gerektiren verileri içerebilir. Şayet bu e-posta size yanlışlıkla iletilmiş ya da kişisel verileri veya ticari sırları içeriyor ise 6698 sayılı Kişisel Verilerin Korunması Kanununa göre sisteminizden silinmesini tavsiye eder, aksi durumun sorumluluğa yol açabileceğini hatırlatırız.

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From: Öğuz / ARS [<mailto:oguz@arslanturk.com.tr>]

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 11:00 AM

To: 'Deka, Monisha' <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>

Cc: dilek@arslanturk.com.tr

Subject: RE: 337-TA-1337 procedural schedule and date for response to the complaint

Dear Mo,

Thank you for informing me. Okay, noted.

Well, to be honest, don't know what will I do at this meeting.

I am planning to give some answers to the questions Bruce asked me this evening.

We are a certified company in direction of the rules of NOP organic therefore there is nothing to share except for the organic certificates.

By the way, we are still waiting for the approval of our company. Is it so important that we should answer through the Usitc system?

Best Regards / Saygılarımla,

EX. 15

Annex to the certificate

N° 128516/202210131213

ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN.

İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Members of group covered:

MEMBERS

Farmer codes of members, see below table

12910634084	16459515040	15883534580	18922433462	12736639232
31615010276	14839569072	25999197012	29320087102	28768105096
13585610908	26023196278	12115660192	18223456214	30313053288
14761571686	28546112650	25249222020	25177224448	10597710404
31858002502	14227589514	18610443568	15592544634	23260288810
31867002210	13018629774	16630510024	31525012896	29245088918
10054729222	18238455714	29413083998	30193058076	11713673368
29575078610	24067268500	22018329928	13288621102	29578078006
28786104354	11518686938	29638076416	29728072748	27811136650
29704073530	14722572998	26488181154	15112559964	18628449934
25186224774	23548285838	24202264114	21076361130	13246622028
28207124220	30991030892	23866268292	19303420620	28939099278
17185490892	14527579482	20776371104	31696007912	31903000422
20086394114	31039029052	16306520890	31630009798	16675507850
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14224589678	28486114936	15673541798	30193057918	25099227534
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13570611330	25717206774	12754639276	17497480628	29677075272
21556345124	28993097524	29032096720	18925433094	21502354170
17473481274	14086594186	30478048464	17827469408	17998463984
30184058368	21799337382	29026096958	28402117768	24997237676
31483014734	18082461190	29776071908	28126126930	14083594240



28966098862	17833469416	14455581700	19702406942	10582711072
13429616776	12976631218	20635375786	11473681382	20803370834
17611476698	10129726132	24226256560	11506680412	14953565356
18787437476	14947565416	13177624382	28372117966	12403650584
11899667120	13912599920	20248388746	18607443496	56152373530
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12166658230	11482681090	18520446314	31381018476	27358156692
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20578377762	25210223490	19303420484	19018430488	16888501478
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20098393778	10690710486	26215190220	29080094686	18574444748
14458581714	10213723368	14608576782	15274554722	20221390032
19399417092	14749572032	17362485130	16297521104	29413083202
20629375914	30202057694	12043662992	31528013586	12634643010
17812469918	21445348854	14524579546	30970031520	25111226606
15172558600	30238055848	16882501696	12871635328	29107094170

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15628542788	17986464320	24481248058	23875267910	25507220676
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23923266834	25654208800	12340652238	25939199052	20884367716
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15235556024	29503080388	13735606416	12358651810	29857069084
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14992571042	18013463422	15709540528	27175164924	21064368752
29077094750	11359685176	15037562650	14278587934	11362685316
13093627450	10708707460	24139259016	17641475814	14890565716
29182090944	10696707084	27514146550	29983065080	22471315094
29962064974	13336619822	17368484922	21379351258	14779571012
24661241770	16804503524	22882308104	20431383206	26458182174
28399117000	14080594540	29086094222	26158192138	24616243828
29719073020	11890667402	29467082244	13873601908	21784337410
22324326734	19714406596	25525213308	24508246876	21271355118
13177624696	30190058062	16498513748	19936406312	30982031174
17359485204	26146192584	21811336836	14299587746	14818569710
21790337596	14941566310	24211263832	20899367060	14824569582
29563078516	20905367046	27454153472	11341685740	18100460594
15865534782	13411616890	23974264940	21760338516	24355259050
19327419624	28030130030	15532546124	18931432876	10477714966
25486214406	17515480012	25942199056	12565645060	17902467152
18979431282	16627509680	30031063354	29284087606	30988030966
12907634158	24821515536	15139559176	28315120596	16633509452
24211257206	29752071946	15244555674	25042236194	31738005838
13681608328	15694541296	16327519644	18766438340	27478147730
24778237796	11335685800	60508036604	18451455812	31861002438
14758571750	10678707668	21817336304	28039129868	19597411120
28747105666	12922633198	18433449488	15241556346	16864501584
30031062746	18262454912	18928432940	12037663110	19948398988



14401583680	19744405712	10711707396	15166558142	27619143058
14509580024	17458481930	15610543342	13246622578	10594710568
11413683186	20332385972	22558312244	25702207274	20857368436
27736139378	21505346714	19534412784	21715340182	25750205376
11395683792	21679341362	27400151088	11128692886	14032596134
14845568854	15784537864	16954498466	16309520286	27001164326
31762005026	30193057604	18649442266	31183024248	27136159150
29851069066	10165725502	30733039930	29317086668	12139659646
29653075388	21682341434	25699214200	14278588160	26941165622
19957398696	25693214428	14338592892	10717706492	29872068574
22915307098	14497580402	13465617508	27703140420	27922132930
29308086882	27472148634	14716573116	31009030422	31879001256
29701073694	15241555738	17653475468	16936499108	11053695280
19780404328	27295153846	14224589982	29515080628	14089594022
16984497446	28330119490	13291621038	11860668422	12085660772
28513114038	22921306870	24973234194	28123131708	29812070346
14821569646	29197090502	10066728190	31402017570	19594410744
31600010472	26440182748	23335286192	23425283100	27505146842
16267521448	13507613680	30133059880	14071594696	19927399616
10954698956	24148258734	28540112328	16297520428	27769138126
20566378108	20410383876	39892673412	16570511310	26347186030
29194090598	31186024184	21331352606	29647075448	14719573052
27709140066	28531113464	26149192420	28741105648	25747205440
31744005778	18430449542	26017196406	21070368524	16663508296
11896667802	16972497892	16474514530	28351119448	22864301512
28984098288	11020696364	11950665744	29467081568	12298653646
27712139934	25486214642	20830369382	31150025940	11320686300
11845668706	22939306206	13426616380	20599377024	14713573102
30490048008	29746072164	12661642086	20809370098	27865141914
14407583462	14356593062	26299187048	21052361932	13111626786
29146092182	14857568408	28846102146	25336219438	28495114644
17467481334	19978397968	25687207726	10243722270	16522513690
28273121444	28048129576	13882601302	15682541192	20896367742
10312723054	16339519298	12997630412	13384618228	35827666306
29863068248	29233089286	21451348626	17704473788	26302186952
31738005906	28279121844	16276521156	16861501648	29803070638
14491580866	17686474384	20854368590	23386284444	10966698500
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28735105876	31093028084	30586044280	16864502260	20899367206
13339619454	27808136960	30991030656	21997330666	16516513828

13471614546	10588710796	30142058980	11158692160	20539379200
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30013063310	13408616964	17437483108	20155392546	10381717794
10666715248	16312520112	28573111312	16330519570	22858302426
27523146268	18934432712	29692073918	57430375116	28975098570
12895634536	29320086426	12067661728	20200390848	19879401290
24340514362	16315520362	29461082394	24262255480	15136559230
21718339992	28459115724	22906302576	11323686246	15874534490
19000430298	15697541132	12715640006	12868634884	11422682972
27961131796	25657208746	12949631948	31204024332	12361651746
18268454794	25144226130	17512480176	11374684420	28528119950
15904534056	24379258268	11704673650	18127459366	15646542104
14998563836	18265454858	14413583234	12886634132	24637243258
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15889534362	17638475988	13015630032	50386495730	
28777104646	29218090528	28219123020	25300220644	

Certificate issued on 13 October 2022

Ecocert SAS

a simplified liability company, capital €300.000

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest - 32600 L'Isle Jourdain France

(+33) 5 62 07 3424 - www.ecocert.com

SIREN 897 812 137 RCS AUCH

Annex to the certificate

N° 220073/202209280858



ARSLANTÜRK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. İHR. VE İTH. A.Ş.

USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205 – National Organic Program

Members of group covered:

MEMBERS

Farmer codes of members, see below table

38870088552	57325473668	32066315422	29165412190	12167978214	65470201746
32084314858	46933819418	63910254246	32213332098	26765492102	48253775696
53458601978	31952319216	26912508700	48436707414	59947385640	14573898308
66283174524	40049049134	26438515060	25085491802	44983885032	41399004156
24269575000	41461301190	68827111644	37397137460	65470204570	44869888218
15221876686	71533021428	49393737780	35363227078	44098914368	59956385358
19310740308	54628563560	37526133448	39542066038	51106680580	32945285884
48988751538	20591697694	68008117786	38618096764	50848689110	49243742476
55093548076	48667761858	29831389610	33782258222	27053485172	12686961278
38591097642	36071181614	30044404212	20270708376	51100680708	35027216400
31964318870	66394170736	44737892958	65539199984	59248411970	29819390034
22901632296	66394170736	61066348734	20525699862	31688328032	64993217494
40874021602	67396137338	44821889734	45880855272	67360138576	66349172884
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59965385066	44335906026	66259175876	37943119490	66583164492	22052648986
23384604572	10809023834	41527999804	64276244544	39080081470	39923053374
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29549420926	36683161240	27065481834	10770025226	13460935416	56467502106
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40583031374	28517433418	21299674000	55363538738	47044815924	65308207674
41153012366	15911789562	64264244990	31553332072	71743014456	54157579216
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69289096098	15491867742	49957718842	14528899848	27671476606	30176378184
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47134812796	15398870708	49015750630	31973318588	64249245400	10077048232
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47827789664	16469835046	46363860264	52156645970	23378604700	12935952972
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63943253094	67243142492	49294740964	33296296178	26537511796	55963518710
55051549138	34079248018	47164811912	39854055638	26681506914	54163578470
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58018450348	13697927598	26294519806	15248875730	44578897990	44398904236
20426703644	66013186506	26621508954	29120413620	10935019862	39569065182
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47281811024	49540732712	49978718586	26429515352	24875564832	50161712496
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49330761328	50275708262	19889721050	54307573644	24110580382	26996487090
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43267941860	60040382856	23663595256	23372604782	49288741250	13112946906

54301573862	13847922534	10071048450	32261330404	41075014912	39545065984
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41584997928	15098880694	34277241460	26453514550	43276941578	41608997194
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28289441086	61627330390	29711393690	62935286034	52135646394	66256175312
71560020562	23453602218	10458035578	23399604062	64867221848	40301040800
21836668448	51889654242	62725293792	71110013846	60781358592	54319573298
41408003842	41465002338	20933686782	44992884750	15500867428	57868454940
21224676550	20528700206	35597197758	28091447948	52285641294	33242275974
19697727480	53968585560	41516000276	65242209178	42673961738	61636330008
21320673330	23357605438	67336139378	65959185222	42673961738	44803890758
48934753340	12782958080	29708393764	68092114180	34115246848	51961652050
62617297044	44224909992	40046049298	53083614404	66568164912	12164978378
38432102788	43432936554	11622018304	69106080606	40970018414	32015317170
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43537932826	32987284418	46999817496	19694727544	41536999512	47965785214
16868824856	10410037466	37847122442	10773025162	44614896710	32225309804
40598030874	61681339872	27272418968	54166578316	40490034420	30563365292
39944052646	44830889824	32111313960	41539999458	53680594550	19046749538
26351505940	51973651614	54283574468	41563998656	41593997636	65230209524
50788712794	20924687064	44288001748	23660595310	39329073242	42271975298
50788712794	14690894450	30410392136	39908053894	26627496798	30320373652
58927419566	71422025148	11328006506	39806057222	34646229174	32000317680
43361032686	10458038548	32987284418	47452802462	26699506340	

Certificate issued on 28 September 2022

Ecocert SA

BP 47 Lieudit Lamothe Ouest – 32600 L’Isle Jourdain France

(+33) 5 62 07 51 09 – www.ecocert.com

EX. 16

bruce@pratumfarm.com

From: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 7:28 AM
To: bruce@pratumfarm.com
Subject: USDA's response with their redactions
Attachments: RE_ ITC Inquiry - Handler Arslanturk_Redacted.pdf

Hi Bruce –

I've attached what I've been given permission to send on at this point. Let's talk about it once you free up this week. I probably feel the same way about it as you do.

Thanks,
Mo

Monisha Deka
Office of Unfair Import Investigations
US International Trade Commission
202-205-3180
Monisha.deka@usitc.gov

EX. 17

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Deka, Monisha](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ITC Inquiry - Handler Arslanturk
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 9:30:10 AM

Hi Mo,

Per your request, in terms of what should be shared with the complainant, find below a strike through version of the information I provided you with:

We confirmed with Ecocert SAS that all the documents you provided for Arslanturk are valid and were issued by the certifier. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The fact that the list of grower group members for Arslanturk has changed over the past year is not by itself an issue.

[REDACTED]

The organic certificates on ECO's website are compliant even though they do not list grower group members. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The page [for Arslanturk in the Organic Integrity Database](#) appear to meet the NOP's minimum data reporting requirements for publishing information in OID.

[REDACTED]

In summary, I did not identify any issues based on a review of the documents and links you provided from Arslanturk. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Accreditation Manager
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW Room 2649-S
Washington DC 20250

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Want to receive email updates? [Subscribe to the Organic Insider](#)

From: Deka, Monisha <Monisha.Deka@usitc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 4:06 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: ITC Inquiry - Handler Arslanturk

May I pass this correspondence to the Complainant? I can redact your email addresses if that is preferred.

Thanks,
Mo

[REDACTED]

EX. 18



organic operation is certified to the USDA National Organic Program Regulation 7 CFR part. 205

issued to

FARMEKS TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. VE TIC. LTD. ŞTI.

EGE SERBEST BÖLGESİ ZAFER SB MAHALLESİ, MÜMTAZ SOKAK NO:16 - . GAZIEMİR - İZMİR, TR

operative offices

230842 FARMEKS TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. VE TIC. LTD. ŞTI. - EGE SERBEST BÖLGESİ ZAFER SB MAHALLESİ, MÜMTAZ SOKAK NO:16 - . GAZIEMİR - İZMİR, TR

kind of firm
handling/processing

control code
TR BIO 132 R52Z

list of authorized products

category - name - qualification

category	name	qualification
10.89	ORGANIC FRUIT BAR	organic
10.39.1	CACAO BEAN PRODUCTS	organic
10.41.2	VEGETABLE OILS	organic
10.41.4	SEEDS, CAKES AND POWDER	organic
10.39.2	DRIED AND PROCESSED PRODUCTS	organic
10.89	OTHER PRODUCTS	organic
46.31.1	OTHER PRODUCTS	organic
46.31.1	NUTS AND FRUITS	organic

Conditions to put products on the market

- a) The "Transaction Document of organic products" (DTPB), which declares the conformity with the reference standard and ensures regular information towards Bioagricert, should always accompany the transactions between controlled operators. If the DTPB is issued after the transaction, the declaration of conformity shall be reported on the sales documents
- b) Prepacked products can be put on the market only after Bioagricert approves the label and after they are identified with a control code

The certificates and the transactions can be checked via web on www.bioagricert.org and www.trasparente-check.com as indicated on the sites.

The operator is responsible for putting products on the market and for the conformity statements.

effective date start of validity of the certificate	09/10/2019
issuing date	05/11/2020

Bioagricert manager

ALESSANDRO LOMBARDI

anniversary date for annual update 15/01/2022

Digitally signed document

the NOP certified operation must submit, before the anniversary date, its annual update

La passione per la qualità certificata Pasiunea pentru calitate certificată Страсть к качеству сертифицированных
 La pasión por la calidad certificada Die Leidenschaft für Qualität zertifiziert 認定された品質への情熱
 A paixão pela qualidade certificada Страсть к качеству сертифицированных 认证的質量激情 Страст за качеством сертификата
 The passion for certified quality La passion pour la qualité certifiée ความรัก ที่ดีคุณภาพ ได้มาตรฐานจริง



Bioagricert S.r.l. Unipersonale
www.bioagricert.org

Via dei Macabracchia, 8 - 40033
Casalecchio di Reno (Bo) Italy
info@bioagricert.org

Organismo di Controllo ai sensi del Control body in force of D.M. 29/07/2002 n° 91822
soggetta a direzione e coordinamento di Global ID Inc. - under the direction and coordination of Gbbal ID Inc.

Once certified, a producer or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until survenndered, suspended, or revoked. Status of this certification and specific certified organic products covered may be verified at <https://apps.ams.usda.gov/integrity/> www.bioagricert.org www.trasparente-check.org. The certificate published on the web are the reference document for any verification

EX. 19



organic operation is certified to the USDA National Organic Program Regulation 7 CFR part. 205

issued to

**EKOTAR ORGANIK TARIM URUNLERI SAN.VE
TIC.LTD.STI.**

IRMAK MAH, 38/7 SK, 14 A - GAZIEMIR - 35410 TURKEY (TR)

operative offices

231479 EKOTAR ORGANIK TARIM URUNLERI SAN.VE TIC.LTD.STI. - ARSIN - 61900 TRABZON, TR

kind of firm

control code

crops

TR BIO 132 R52Y

list of authorized products
category - name - qualification

category	name	qualification
01.25.9	DRIED RAISIN	100% organic
01.25.9	DRIED PEAR	100% organic
01.25.3	WALNUT	100% organic
01.25.9	DRIED FIG	100% organic
01.25.3	CHESTNUT	100% organic
01.26.1	OLIVE	100% organic
01.13	DRIED AND FRESH TOMATO	100% organic
01.25.3	HAZELNUT	100% organic
10.39.2	UNSHELLED HAZELNUT	100% organic

Conditions to put products on the market

- a) The "Transaction Document of organic products" (DTPB), which declares the conformity with the reference standard and ensures regular information towards Bioagricert, should always accompany the transactions between controlled operators. If the DTPB is issued after the transaction, the declaration of conformity shall be reported on the sales documents
- b) Prepacked products can be put on the market only after Bioagricert approves the label and after they are identified with a control code

The certificates and the transactions can be checked via web on www.bioagricert.org and www.trasparente-check.com as indicated on the sites.

The operator is responsible for putting products on the market and for the conformity statements.

Organic total surface: 388,63 ha
SFG composed by 152 producers.

Surface for each product (ha):

CHESTNUT 4,5384
FIG 56,8237
HAZELNUT 45,1575
ITALIAN GRASS 2,57
OLIVE 28,7101
PEAR 0,4324
RAISIN 209,7963
TOMATO 3,6378
WALNUT 33,5802
WHEAT 1,033
CAULIFLOWER 2,0478
CORN 32,81
TOMATO 10,9152

La passione per la qualità certificata Pasiunea pentru calitate certificată Страсть к качеству сертифицированных
La pasión por la calidad certificada Die Leidenschaft für Qualität zertifiziert 認定された品質への情熱
A paixão pela qualidade certificada Страсть к качеству сертифицированных 认证的質量激情 Страст за качеством сертификата
The passion for certified quality La passion pour la qualité certifiée ความรัก ที่ดีคุณภาพ ได้มีการรับรอง



Bioagricert S.r.l. Unipersonale
www.bioagricert.org

Via dei Macabracchia, 8 - 40033
Casalecchio di Reno (Bo) Italy
info@bioagricert.org

Organismo di Controllo ai sensi del • Control
body in force of D.M. 29/07/2002 n° 91822
soggetta a direzione e coordinamento di Global
ID Inc. - under the direction and coordination of
Global ID Inc.

Once certified, a producer or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered, suspended, or revoked. Status of this certification and specific certified organic products covered may be verified at <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity> www.bioagricert.org www.trasparente-check.org. The certificate published on the web are the reference document for any verification



effective date start of validity of the certificate	15/11/2019
issuing date	22/11/2021

Bioagricert manager

ALESSANDRO LOMBARDI

anniversary date for annual update 12/06/2022

Digitally signed document

the NOP certified operation must submit, before the anniversary date, its annual update

La passione per la qualità certificata Pasiunea pentru calitate certificată Страсть к качеству сертифицированных
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EX. 20

Ekotar Company Farmer List

il / City	ilçe / Town	Köy/ Mahalle / Village	Ada no / Plot No	Parsel no / Title deed no	Toplam Tapu Alanı (ha) / Title deed acreage total	Kullanım Alanı (ha) / product/ÇK Area (ha)	Ürünün Adı / Crop	Kontrol Tarihi / Inspection Date	Kontrolör / Inspector	Geçiş başlangıç tarihi / Date of starting Transition period	Tahmini Taze Hasat ton / Estimated Fresh Yield ton	Tahmini Kuru Hasat ton / Estimated Dry Yield ton	Arazi Statüsü (2022) /Field Status (2022)
TRABZON	YOMRA	YOKUŞLU	1471	47	0.0582	0.0287	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YOKUŞLU	1471	14	0.2178	0.0720	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YOKUŞLU	1471	12	0.2008	0.0290	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YOKUŞLU	1471	13	0.2017	0.0667	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YOKUŞLU	1471	5	0.0422	0.0207	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YOKUŞLU	1470	2	0.3845	0.1915	HAZELNUT						Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	AŞAĞI KIZILCA	152	61	0.6552	0.6552	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	116	8	0.7383	0.7383	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	116	11	0.9236	0.9236	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	243	32	2.1849	1.3000	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	243	32	0.0000	0.8845	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	256	1	0.3526	0.3520	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	219	12	0.0262	0.0260	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	220	2	0.0935	0.0920	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	220	6	0.0888	0.0880	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	220	9	0.2600	0.2600	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	286	0.0338	0.0338	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	288	0.3799	0.3799	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	285	3.6744	3.6744	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	283	0.7274	0.7274	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	293	0.1188	0.1188	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	ŞEHZADELER	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	214	66	0.8798	0.8798	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	167	12	0.8559	0.8559	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	71	0.3800	0.3800	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	95	1.1400	1.1400	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	DERBENT	215	120	1.6287	1.6287	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	0	3776	1.1097	1.1097	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	109	2	0.7956	0.7956	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	124	2	0.8116	0.8116	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	125	2	0.2611	0.2610	HAZELNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	119	9	2.1610	2.1610	WALNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	128	8	0.2560	0.2560	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	129	3	1.3350	1.3350	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	147	15	0.4726	0.4726	FIG						Organic

Complaint - Ex. A

İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	150	7	0.2519	0.2519	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	12	1.1782	1.1782	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	43	0.1565	0.1565	OLIVE	Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	33	5.6053	4.6095	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	104	1.2101	1.2101	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	127	1	2.0440	1.8437	WALNUT	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	147	5	0.4838	0.4838	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	148	2	0.0981	0.0981	WALNUT	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	148	4	0.8508	0.8508	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	9	0.3113	0.3113	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	201	1	0.3548	0.3548	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	243	5	0.2347	0.2347	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	5	0.8698	0.8698	OLIVE	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	161	12	0.3922	0.3803	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	173	10	0.3679	0.3678	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	173	7	0.2012	0.2011	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	175	7	0.1088	0.1087	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	178	3	0.5039	0.4617	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	178	5	0.4060	0.3980	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	178	7	0.0274	0.0273	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	178	8	0.2671	0.2670	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	HARMANLI	185	12	0.1291	0.1290	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	219	10	0.1167	0.0753	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	222	4	0.0898	0.0898	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	223	20	0.0425	0.0425	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	223	6	0.0470	0.0470	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	223	7	0.0758	0.0182	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	227	14	0.0351	0.0116	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	250	1	0.0816	0.0816	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	251	10	0.0500	0.0500	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	261	5	0.0294	0.0294	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	261	9	0.0748	0.0748	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	275	15	0.0619	0.0619	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	277	14	0.0063	0.0063	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	284	12	0.0228	0.0075	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	284	42	0.0247	0.0247	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	285	19	0.0370	0.0370	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	285	8	0.0233	0.0050	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	343	3	0.1299	0.0432	HAZELNUT	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	YUKARI ÇOBANISA	109	1	1.2815	1.2815	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	YUKARI ÇOBANISA	109	2	0.3140	0.3132	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	139	43	0.9600	0.9600	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	348	3.8216	1.4792	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic

PF0000118

Complaint - Ex. A

İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	256	12	0.1460	0.1459	OLIVE					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	HOROZKÖY	0	1237	0.8500	0.8500	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	HOROZKÖY	0	1238	0.3450	0.3279	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	HOROZKÖY	0	1557	0.6500	0.6422	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	HOROZKÖY	0	5206	1.4116	1.4081	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	YUNUSEMRE	HOROZKÖY	0	2043	0.8800	0.8670	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	129	21	0.0115	0.0090	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	134	10	3.1320	2.5414	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	134	14	0.6701	0.5688	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	135	10	0.1788	0.1512	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	136	4	0.5075	0.4305	HAZELNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	141	1	0.2615	0.2615	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	16	0.0897	0.0697	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	5	0.1951	0.1951	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	199	3	0.0174	0.0174	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	210	5	0.1819	0.1819	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	237	17	0.0305	0.0305	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	237	27	1.7613	0.8807	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	243	25	0.0817	0.0817	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	218	8	0.3524	0.3524	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKMERDERE	206	3	0.6407	0.6400	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	208	1	0.2953	0.2950	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	208	7	0.2426	0.2420	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	211	1	0.6935	0.6930	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	228	16	0.2214	0.2200	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	230	11	0.0791	0.0791	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	230	12	0.0000	0.0500	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	230	12	0.2128	0.1628	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	230	13	0.0370	0.0370	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	137	1	0.0751	0.0500	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	145	7	0.8571	0.8500	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	195	2	0.4202	0.4202	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	218	13	0.9383	0.9383	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	248	3	1.0116	1.0116	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	204	7	0.3249	0.3248	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	204	8	0.2764	0.2764	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	228	6	0.3743	0.3742	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	142	5	0.2115	0.2114	WALNUT					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	201	25	0.0000	1.0800	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	YUKARI ÇOBANISA	0	3194	0.7000	0.6799	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	SANCAK	1276	43	1.0675	0.8500	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	SANCAK	1278	10	0.1463	0.1460	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	SANCAK	1278	5	0.1936	0.1850	HAZELNUT					Organic

PF0000120

Complaint - Ex. A

PF0000121

TRABZON	YOMRA	SANCAK	1278	8	0.1477	0.1472	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	SANCAK	1282	1	1.1816	0.2953	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	SANCAK	1283	18	0.1800	0.1700	HAZELNUT					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	2.MINTIKA	95	9	0.5999	0.4517	TOMATO					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	261	0.0000	1.2450	TOMATO					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	ÇAMPINAR	0	48	1.4250	0.2849	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	113	56	4.4241	0.8847	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	13	0.1969	0.1969	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	2	0.1595	0.1592	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	3	0.1994	0.1994	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	4	0.4087	0.0124	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	4	0.0000	0.3960	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	5	0.0997	0.0997	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	8	0.2094	0.2092	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	11.MINTIKA	931	9	0.5383	0.5380	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	109	7	0.6893	0.6893	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	111	18	0.1619	0.1619	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	111	6	0.2279	0.2279	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	30	0.5716	0.5716	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	306	1.8106	1.3578	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	32	0.0000	0.2495	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	32	2.2995	2.0500	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	4.MINTIKA	888	6	0.2212	0.2212	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	129	28	9.7277	4.4988	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	ÇAMPINAR	0	347	2.7600	2.7600	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	214	12	0.0974	0.0971	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	214	20	0.0669	0.0667	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	227	22	0.0036	0.0034	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	229	12	0.1221	0.1219	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	229	15	0.3156	0.3154	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	230	11	0.1523	0.1521	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	230	14	0.2071	0.2069	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	231	3	0.2796	0.2794	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	308	101	0.0475	0.0474	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	324	6	0.0242	0.0241	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	326	15	0.1517	0.1515	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	326	43	0.0135	0.0133	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	328	11	0.0486	0.0483	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	330	23	0.0051	0.0049	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	330	9	0.0084	0.0082	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	331	17	0.0221	0.0218	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	336	106	0.0601	0.0598	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	336	144	0.0191	0.0189	HAZELNUT					Organic

Complaint - Ex. A

İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ARMUTLU	439	41	0.3199	0.3196	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	143	0.2555	0.0851	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	328	1.6369	0.8183	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	155	342	0.7809	0.7809	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	DERBENT	208	89	0.5355	0.5355	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	0	2457	2.5000	1.0000	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	143	6	1.3744	1.3744	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	3	0.6240	0.6240	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	455	0.8260	0.8260	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	458	0.6760	0.6760	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	461	0.3020	0.2942	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	492	0.3130	0.3041	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	65	1.1348	1.1348	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	150	2	1.3299	0.4432	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	154	22	2.1880	1.0115	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	AKKÖY	0	631	2.7200	2.6623	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	114	90	0.7347	0.7347	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	182	0.8700	0.8700	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	37	1.5019	0.6257	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	38	0.3899	0.3899	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	143	1	1.0803	1.0802	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	144	1	0.6014	0.6013	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	7	1.7930	1.7929	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	256	10	0.4958	0.4957	OLIVE					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	129	48	1.2576	1.2576	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	ÇAMPINAR	0	48	1.4250	0.4273	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	113	56	4.4241	0.4422	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	113	56	0.0000	0.8848	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	4	2.1921	1.0959	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	AKKÖY	0	275	1.1600	1.1600	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	KARAOĞLANLI	0	2007	1.9800	0.9900	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	KARAOĞLANLI	0	2118	1.0300	1.0300	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	157	37	0.2903	0.2903	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	132	19	2.3884	2.3884	HAZELNUT					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	8.MINTIKA	34	57	0.7232	0.7232	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	ÇAMPINAR	0	248	0.0000	2.0000	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	İZETTİN	0	332	7.6766	2.5000	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	İZETTİN	0	330	2.3600	2.3600	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	İZETTİN	0	331	2.1600	0.4049	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	246	14	0.1711	0.1711	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	22	0.2438	0.2438	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	26	0.1357	0.1357	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	251	3	0.0881	0.0880	HAZELNUT					Organic

PF0000122

Complaint - Ex. A

PF0000123

TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	259	3	0.1034	0.1034	HAZELNUT	0.1034					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	284	9	0.0583	0.0051	HAZELNUT	0.0051					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	KARAOĞLANLI	0	2235	0.6300	0.6300	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.6300					Organic
MANISA	ŞEHZADELER	KARAOĞLANLI	0	1040	0.4450	0.4450	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.4450					Organic
MANISA	ŞEHZADELER	KARAOĞLANLI	0	1041	0.2300	0.2300	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.2300					Organic
MANISA	ŞEHZADELER	KARAOĞLANLI	0	1123	0.1281	0.1281	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.1281					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	ŞEHİTLER	135	35	0.5460	0.5460	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.5460					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	ŞEHİTLER	151	17	1.4532	0.9686	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.9686					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	ŞEHİTLER	869	95	0.4130	0.4130	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.4130					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	ŞEHİTLER	869	96	0.2705	0.2705	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.2705					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	ŞEHİTLER	869	97	0.3977	0.3977	RAISIN (SULTANA)	0.3977					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	1	0.0218	0.0216	HAZELNUT	0.0216					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	10	0.0417	0.0414	HAZELNUT	0.0414					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	2	0.0927	0.0924	HAZELNUT	0.0924					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	20	0.2470	0.2468	HAZELNUT	0.2468					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	21	0.2388	0.2386	HAZELNUT	0.2386					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	5	0.2120	0.2118	HAZELNUT	0.2118					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	6	0.0812	0.0810	HAZELNUT	0.0810					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	245	7	0.1072	0.1070	HAZELNUT	0.1070					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	11	0.2890	0.2888	HAZELNUT	0.2888					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	12	0.0748	0.0746	HAZELNUT	0.0746					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	18	0.1495	0.1492	HAZELNUT	0.1492					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	19	0.1462	0.1460	HAZELNUT	0.1460					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	248	1	0.0190	0.0188	HAZELNUT	0.0188					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	251	29	0.1819	0.1816	HAZELNUT	0.1816					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	10	0.1321	0.1320	HAZELNUT	0.1320					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	14	0.1875	0.1872	HAZELNUT	0.1872					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	20	0.0973	0.0972	HAZELNUT	0.0972					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	21	0.1324	0.1322	HAZELNUT	0.1322					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	24	0.0136	0.0067	HAZELNUT	0.0067					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	268	12	0.0427	0.0424	HAZELNUT	0.0424					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	268	3	0.0287	0.0284	HAZELNUT	0.0284					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	270	1	0.0101	0.0080	HAZELNUT	0.0080					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	271	1	0.0239	0.0236	HAZELNUT	0.0236					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	272	19	0.0867	0.0864	HAZELNUT	0.0864					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	272	20	0.1474	0.1472	HAZELNUT	0.1472					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	278	1	0.0105	0.0104	HAZELNUT	0.0104					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	278	4	0.0018	0.0016	HAZELNUT	0.0016					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	279	4	0.0091	0.0088	HAZELNUT	0.0088					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	280	2	0.0674	0.0672	HAZELNUT	0.0672					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	280	5	0.2207	0.1600	HAZELNUT	0.1600					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	280	6	0.1256	0.0720	HAZELNUT	0.0720					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	280	7	0.1480	0.0978	HAZELNUT	0.0978					Organic

Complaint - Ex. A

TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	281	2	0.0129	0.0128	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	286	5	0.1723	0.1722	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	286	6	0.1287	0.1286	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	286	7	0.1131	0.1130	HAZELNUT					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	318	104	0.0000	0.8089	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	228	22	0.2968	0.1500	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	228	22	0.0000	0.1468	OLIVE					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	18	0.5943	0.5943	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	217	2	0.8161	0.8159	FIG					Organic
MANISA	ŞEHZADELER	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	211	68	2.2332	1.1000	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	165	7	1.1090	1.1090	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	211	6	1.5091	1.5091	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	578	1.6000	0.4000	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKEMERDERE	207	1	0.0000	0.6051	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKEMERDERE	207	1	1.2110	0.6050	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	124	7	0.6593	0.6587	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	19	0.2576	0.2576	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	142	1	0.5357	0.5353	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	25	0.1222	0.1222	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	188	6	0.2777	0.2776	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	200	1	1.0822	1.0814	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	203	3	0.7517	0.7513	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	204	3	0.1454	0.1453	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	204	4	0.2039	0.2034	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	37	0.7463	0.7455	OLIVE					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	207	2	0.4714	0.4708	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	225	1	0.9791	0.9790	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	235	4	1.6956	1.6948	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	236	2	0.6729	0.6728	OLIVE					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	238	5	0.1046	0.1040	OLIVE					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	247	16	0.0383	0.0383	OLIVE					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	247	19	0.0467	0.0467	OLIVE					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	DÜNDARLI	216	17	0.6103	0.6095	OLIVE					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1002	14	1.1206	1.1202	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1005	17	0.3062	0.2486	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1009	34	1.3890	0.8337	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1009	36	0.2611	0.0655	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1009	37	0.9588	0.2415	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1011	14	0.9449	0.2380	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1011	15	0.5224	0.1315	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1011	16	1.9084	1.1456	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	1011	17	0.4674	0.1176	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	ŞANLI	999	1	0.0619	0.0153	HAZELNUT					Organic

PF0000124

Complaint - Ex. A

MANISA	TURGUTLU	2.MINTIKA	822	32	4.4800	1.5900	TOMATO				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	2.MINTIKA	822	48	1.4300	1.4300	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	318	82	1.2821	0.6408	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	ŞEHZADELER	ÇAVUŞOĞLU	0	358	1.8000	1.8000	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YENICE	1326	20	0.0329	0.0329	HAZELNUT				Organic
MANISA	AHMETLİ	GÖKKAYA	103	1	2.7888	2.0915	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	AHMETLİ	GÖKKAYA	104	2	1.2100	1.2091	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	0	2585	3.1316	0.8771	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	0	462	1.0200	0.5099	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	0	92	1.3100	0.4366	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	0	93	0.6400	0.6198	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	117	5	0.0000	0.9190	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	134	2	2.6725	2.6705	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	806	2.9083	0.9693	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	807	2.2687	0.7561	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	293	1.2237	1.2212	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	295	0.4137	0.4137	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	111	10	0.4918	0.4918	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	111	9	0.9476	0.9476	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	74	0.6600	0.6516	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	123	1.2983	0.6490	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	663	1.1952	1.1952	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	ÇARDAKLI	343	2	0.6617	0.4617	HAZELNUT				Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	ÇARDAKLI	346	44	0.7349	0.1472	HAZELNUT				Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	ÇARDAKLI	349	2	0.2213	0.2213	HAZELNUT				Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	SANCAK	1285	31	0.2527	0.0340	HAZELNUT				Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	SANCAK	1285	33	2.2422	0.6700	HAZELNUT				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	114	117	0.6888	0.6888	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	119	17	2.8985	1.9322	OLIVE				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	185	0.9400	0.9400	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	186	0.9650	0.3216	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	113	98	0.9811	0.9811	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	KARAOĞLANLI	0	367	0.5025	0.5020	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	KARAOĞLANLI	0	368	0.5025	0.4894	RAISIN (SULTANA)				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	32	1.7039	0.6000	CHESTNUT				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	32	0.0000	0.1000	PEAR				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	32	0.0000	1.0038	WALNUT				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	199	19	0.0181	0.0181	WALNUT				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	201	5	0.8511	0.2700	FIG				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	36	1.2893	1.2893	FIG				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	237	24	0.1852	0.1852	OLIVE				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	251	14	0.1545	0.1545	OLIVE				Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	220	10	0.1019	0.1019	OLIVE				Organic

PF0000125

Complaint - Ex. A

TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	356	4	2.2264	2.0000	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	362	21	0.1241	0.1241	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	362	30	0.1700	0.1700	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	362	51	0.1087	0.0715	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	366	4	0.0097	0.0097	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	367	5	0.0567	0.0567	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	370	5	0.0383	0.0383	HAZELNUT					Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	AŞAĞI KIZILCA	152	16	0.5347	0.5347	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	KEMALPAŞA	ÇAMBEL	101	173	0.1739	0.1739	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	2.MINTIKA	92	34	0.3901	0.3901	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	2.MINTIKA	92	35	0.3734	0.3734	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	8.MINTIKA	55	83	0.6420	0.5617	FALLOW					Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	0	3768	2.1150	2.0861	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	12	0.6128	0.6127	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	14	1.4169	1.4168	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	218	6	1.2911	1.2910	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	218	7	0.5539	0.5538	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	119	3	0.9468	0.9468	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	120	5	0.0109	0.0109	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	194	2	0.0973	0.0973	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	28	0.0000	0.1412	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	28	0.1912	0.0500	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	31	0.6268	0.3268	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	31	0.0000	0.3000	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	230	15	0.1549	0.1549	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	235	29	0.7062	0.2062	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	235	29	0.0000	0.5000	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	217	15	0.1347	0.1347	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	248	2	1.1339	1.1339	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	248	4	1.0209	1.0209	FIG					Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	170	9	0.0000	1.7323	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	198	6	0.1772	0.1672	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	199	14	0.9918	0.4918	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	199	14	0.0000	0.5000	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	217	16	1.1241	1.1241	FIG					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	223	39	0.0653	0.0648	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	227	23	0.2588	0.2346	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	28	0.0532	0.0528	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	31	0.0087	0.0084	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	267	38	0.0920	0.0811	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	268	4	0.0178	0.0149	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	272	16	0.0526	0.0520	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	277	1	0.0554	0.0548	HAZELNUT					Organic

PF0000126

Complaint - Ex. A

TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	277	4	0.0081	0.0076	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	284	31	0.1291	0.1007	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	284	34	0.0053	0.0048	HAZELNUT					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	318	69	0.4735	0.4735	FALLOW					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	183	14	0.8654	0.8654	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	183	15	0.7474	0.7474	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	111	6	2.8053	2.8052	WALNUT					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	190	2	0.1555	0.1554	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	198	13	0.1759	0.1758	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	27	0.3132	0.3131	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	213	2	0.1931	0.1930	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	235	16	0.2178	0.2177	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	236	6	0.0485	0.0484	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	15	0.1609	0.1608	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	156	10	0.0214	0.0213	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	179	1	0.4009	0.4008	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	179	3	0.1032	0.1031	FIG					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	193	3	0.2136	0.2135	OLIVE					Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	215	2	0.8714	0.8713	FIG					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	127	38	1.7930	1.7021	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	127	40	1.6466	0.8232	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	127	45	1.3056	1.3055	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	127	46	0.1042	0.0881	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	KÖMÜRCÜ	127	48	0.2304	0.2304	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	246	15	0.1587	0.1584	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	16	0.4928	0.4574	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	247	21	0.1216	0.1212	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	323	11	0.0510	0.0254	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	326	14	0.0689	0.0689	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	336	22	0.0563	0.0560	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	214	28	0.0960	0.0632	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	214	30	0.0420	0.0272	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	215	2	0.2639	0.1967	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	308	103	0.0580	0.0421	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	322	6	0.0060	0.0032	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	323	10	0.0088	0.0048	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	323	29	0.1474	0.0300	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	323	5	0.1296	0.0900	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	324	17	0.0981	0.0723	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	324	5	0.0199	0.0138	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	326	13	0.3460	0.2581	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	326	23	0.1858	0.1382	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	328	7	0.0209	0.0138	HAZELNUT					Organic

PF0000127

Complaint - Ex. A

TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	330	36	0.0831	0.0069	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	330	6	0.0112	0.0069	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	331	14	0.0071	0.0040	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	336	121	0.0434	0.0310	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	336	146	0.0164	0.0114	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	336	161	0.3212	0.0256	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	336	163	0.0331	0.0216	HAZELNUT					Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	337	11	0.0563	0.0368	HAZELNUT					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	ÇAVUŞOĞLU	0	357	1.4600	1.4599	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	318	82	1.2821	0.6407	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	1.MINTIKA	19	51	0.5100	0.5099	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	1.MINTIKA	6	4	0.7332	0.3665	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	1.MINTIKA	6	5	0.8499	0.4248	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	217	8	0.9858	0.2463	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	196	70	0.5972	0.5972	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	211	33	0.5087	0.1695	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	211	34	0.5976	0.5976	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	169	92	1.0788	1.0788	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	231	4	0.5722	0.5722	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	147	12	2.8405	1.4202	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	177	7	1.0200	1.0192	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
MANISA	TURGUTLU	URGANLI	185	5	0.5317	0.5312	RAISIN (SULTANA)					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	111	11	0.1615	0.1614	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	111	13	1.7718	1.7718	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	111	16	0.3298	0.3298	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	111	21	3.0376	3.0373	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	111	24	1.7550	1.7548	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	111	8	2.3310	2.3309	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	124	3	0.6318	0.6317	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	124	8	1.7565	1.7564	CHESTNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	18	0.2419	0.2418	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	21	0.0000	0.2820	CHESTNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	21	0.5321	0.2500	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	26	0.8076	0.8075	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	31	0.0634	0.0633	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	142	3	0.1785	0.1784	CHESTNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	142	8	0.9217	0.9216	CHESTNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	2	0.8776	0.8775	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	27	0.1389	0.1388	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	30	0.0531	0.0530	WALNUT					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	33	0.9410	0.9409	FIG					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	38	0.6491	0.6490	OLIVE					Organic
IZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	8	0.2388	0.2387	OLIVE					Organic

PF0000128

Complaint - Ex. A

PF0000129

İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	206	4	0.0174	0.0173	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	222	2	0.0156	0.0155	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	247	17	0.0369	0.0368	OLIVE						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YENİCE	1326	3	0.0577	0.0570	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YENİCE	1323	35	0.4605	0.4500	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YENİCE	1322	3	0.2126	0.2100	HAZELNUT						Organic
TRABZON	YOMRA	YENİCE	1353	2	0.1965	0.1900	HAZELNUT						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	133	10	1.5134	0.7566	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	129	37	7.7987	1.1408	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	DERBENT	211	7	1.7446	1.7746	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	352	0.8600	0.8600	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	128	6	0.3338	0.3330	WALNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	130	2	0.4396	0.4390	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	160	2	2.6275	0.8000	CHESTNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	160	2	0.0000	1.0270	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	160	2	0.0000	0.8000	WALNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	13	0.3008	0.3000	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	17	0.0259	0.0250	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	13	1.0742	0.5000	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	13	0.0000	0.5740	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	46	0.0645	0.0640	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	208	11	0.4373	0.4370	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	235	19	1.0253	0.8250	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	235	19	0.0000	0.2000	OLIVE						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	67	1.5458	1.1876	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	110	67	0.0000	0.3582	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	120	4	0.8396	0.8396	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	120	3	0.4565	0.4565	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKEMERDERE	207	3	0.6106	0.6106	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	188	13	0.0249	0.0249	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	188	5	0.1099	0.1099	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	9	0.2251	0.2251	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	206	5	0.0192	0.0192	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	211	13	0.7390	0.7390	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	211	14	0.4267	0.4267	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	226	1	0.2735	0.2735	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	226	2	1.8292	1.8292	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	238	1	0.1950	0.1950	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	238	3	0.1142	0.1142	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	101	9	0.0276	0.0276	WALNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	162	3	0.6325	0.3324	PEAR						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	162	3	0.0000	0.3000	WALNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	166	11	0.3151	0.3151	FIG						Organic

Complaint - Ex. A

İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	173	25	0.0521	0.0521	0.0521	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	228	24	0.3152	0.3152	0.3152	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	230	7	1.6993	1.6993	1.6993	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	249	6	0.0000	0.0000	0.0721	WALNUT	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	1	0.5075	0.5075	0.5075	OLIVE	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	211	104	0.4806	0.4806	0.4806	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	157	8	0.2134	0.2134	0.2134	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	157	9	0.7237	0.7237	0.4237	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	197	2	0.6292	0.6292	0.3197	PLUM	Organic
MANİSA	ŞEHZADELER	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	318	92	0.0000	0.0000	0.4500	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	ŞEHZADELER	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	217	13	0.0000	0.0000	0.5767	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	ÇAMPINAR	0	48	1.4250	1.4250	0.1424	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	MUSACALI	113	56	4.4241	4.4241	0.4423	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	250	10	0.2579	0.2579	0.2579	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	250	6	0.1305	0.1305	0.1305	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	259	8	0.1065	0.1065	0.1065	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	283	11	0.0149	0.0149	0.0149	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	283	3	0.2756	0.2756	0.1956	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	283	6	0.1434	0.1434	0.1434	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	ARSIN	GÜNEYCE	284	9	0.0000	0.0000	0.0140	HAZELNUT	Organic
MANİSA	ŞEHZADELER	SANCAKLI İĞDECİK	186	62	3.6819	3.6819	0.5259	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	10	0.3287	0.3287	0.3287	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	7	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	WALNUT	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	208	12	1.7799	1.7799	1.7799	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	210	7	0.2954	0.2954	0.2954	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	230	21	0.7691	0.7691	0.7691	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	233	5	0.4372	0.4372	0.4372	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	146	2	0.0000	0.0000	0.1000	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	146	2	0.6128	0.6128	0.5128	WALNUT	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	KARAOĞLANLI	130	9	0.6600	0.6600	0.6547	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	185	42	0.5241	0.5241	0.5241	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	169	100	0.5579	0.5579	0.5574	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI BOZKÖY	169	105	0.0000	0.0000	0.2000	RAISIN (SULTANA)	Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	KAYABAŞI	132	41	2.1639	2.1639	1.1474	HAZELNUT	Organic
TRABZON	YOMIRA	KAYABAŞI	133	19	0.1917	0.1917	0.1015	HAZELNUT	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	28	1.5917	1.5917	0.7957	WALNUT	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	136	11	0.0000	0.0000	0.8070	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	136	11	1.6141	1.6141	0.8070	WALNUT	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	147	20	2.5789	2.5789	2.5789	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	157	4	0.3525	0.3525	0.3525	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	171	10	0.0302	0.0302	0.0302	FIG	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	49	0.0677	0.0677	0.0677	OLIVE	Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	KÜÇÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	206	3	0.0000	0.0000	0.3378	OLIVE	Organic

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İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	116	10	1.2136	1.2135	WALNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	147	14	0.2137	0.2136	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	149	3	0.0151	0.0150	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	228	3	0.0000	0.5000	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	228	3	0.7265	0.2264	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	235	30	0.1198	0.1197	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	126	1	2.2677	2.2670	WALNUT						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	147	16	0.0000	0.2500	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	147	16	0.4609	0.2109	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	150	5	0.4660	0.4660	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	150	6	0.5359	0.5350	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	172	2	0.6065	0.6000	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	52	0.1144	0.1144	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	54	0.2530	0.1300	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	205	54	0.0000	0.1229	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	7	0.0000	0.4210	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	7	0.8420	0.4000	OLIVE						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	196	8	1.1303	1.1302	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	198	5	0.5986	0.5985	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	222	1	0.0482	0.0481	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	223	3	0.3549	0.3548	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	226	4	0.3867	0.3866	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	17	0.0000	0.5608	FIG						Organic
İZMİR	TİRE	BÜYÜKKÖMÜRCÜ	250	17	1.0609	0.5000	OLIVE						Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI İĞDECİK	231	52	0.0000	1.0000	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	MERKEZ	SANCAKLI İĞDECİK	231	42	0.3506	0.3506	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	112	0.8200	0.8200	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	113	0.8200	0.8200	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	49	0.6400	0.4266	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	50	0.3300	0.2199	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	8	0.4000	0.1999	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	86	1.1300	0.5649	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	87	0.5100	0.5100	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	88	0.3000	0.3000	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	91	0.4500	0.2999	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	112	92	0.4500	0.2999	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	109	0.9429	0.9429	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	3.MINTIKA	869	38	0.0000	1.3458	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	SARIBEY	0	39	1.2480	1.2478	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	DERBENT	208	128	1.3401	1.3401	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	DERBENT	216	101	0.7344	0.7344	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	DERBENT	216	119	0.1802	0.1802	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic
MANİSA	TURGUTLU	YENİKÖY	0	8	0.7320	0.7320	RAISIN (SULTANA)						Organic

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EX. 21



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program

LETIS
San Lorenzo 2261 1 "A", Rosario, ARGENTINA

meets all the requirements prescribed in the USDA National Organic Program Regulations


7 CFR Part 205
as an Accredited Certifying Agent
for the scope of

Crops, Handling, Livestock, Wild Crops Operations

This certificate is receivable by all officers of all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Status of this accreditation may be verified at <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

Certificate No: USDA-13-18
Effective Date: 12/9/2017
Renewal Date: 12/9/2022


Jennifer Tucker, Ph.D.
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program

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NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM: CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORT

AUDIT AND REVIEW PROCESS

An onsite Mid-term assessment of LETIS S.A. (LETIS)’s organic program was conducted on December 2-6, 2019. The National Organic Program (NOP) reviewed the auditor’s report to assess LETIS’s compliance to the USDA organic regulations. This report provides the results of NOP’s assessment and review of corrective actions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant Name	LETIS S.A. (LETIS)
Physical Address	Urquiza 1285, Planta alta, S2000, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina
Mailing Address	Urquiza 1285, Planta alta, S2000, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina
Contact & Title	Patricia Isabel Garcia de Clausen, General Director
E-mail Address	calidad@letis.org
Phone Number	54 341 528-2560
Reviewer & Auditors	Karin French, Alexis Randolph, NOP Reviewers; Alison Howard, Lars Crail, On-site Auditors.
Program	USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
Review & Audit Dates	Corrective Action Review: March 19-September 23, 2021 NOP Assessment review: December 23, 2020 Onsite audit: December 2-6, 2019
Audit Identifier	NOP-36-19
Action Required	None
Audit & Review Type	Mid-term Assessment
Audit Objective	To evaluate the conformance to the audit criteria; and to verify the implementation and effectiveness of LETIS’s certification program.
Audit & Determination Criteria	<i>7 CFR Part 205, National Organic Program as amended</i>
Audit & Review Scope	LETIS’s certification services in carrying out the audit criteria during the period: December 16, 2017 through December 1, 2019

LETIS is a privately owned, for-profit corporation located in Argentina. LETIS was accredited on December 9, 2002 to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) to the scopes of Crops, Wild crop, Livestock, and Handling. LETIS certifies 367 operations to the following certification scopes: Crops (245), Wild Crops (4), Livestock (0), and Handlers (119), including 17 grower groups in the crop and wild crop scopes.

LETIS provides certification services in Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Hong Kong, The Republic of Moldova, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Certification decisions are made in the Rosario, Argentina office. Two satellite offices in Turkey and Germany, perform inspection services.

The auditors conducted two witness audits and one review audit in Argentina. Witness audits were conducted on two annual Crops inspections. The Crops operations produced pears. The review audit was conducted at a fruit handling operation.

NOP DETERMINATION

The NOP reviewed the onsite audit results to determine whether LETIS corrective actions adequately addressed previous noncompliances. The NOP also reviewed the findings identified during the onsite audit to determine whether noncompliances should be issued to LETIS.

Any noncompliance labeled as “**Cleared**,” indicates that the corrective actions for the noncompliance are determined to be implemented and working effectively. Any noncompliance labeled as “**Outstanding**” indicates that either the auditor could not verify implementation of the corrective actions or that records reviewed and audit observations did not demonstrate compliance. Any noncompliance labeled as “**Accepted**” indicates that the corrective action remains accepted and that additional verification of the implementation of the corrective action will be conducted during the next audit.

Noncompliances from Prior Assessments

NOP-60-17.NC1 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC2 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC3 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC4 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC5 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC6 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC7 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC9 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC10 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC11 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC12 – Cleared.

NOP-60-17.NC13 – Cleared.

NOP-24-18.NC2 – Cleared.

NOP-24-18.NC3 – Cleared.

AP-339-18.NC1 – Cleared.

AIA-5864-21 (NOP-24-18.NC1) – Accepted. This NC is in addition to a similar NC (NOP-60-17.NC6) issued to LETIS regarding inadequate expertise and knowledge of personnel. 7 C.F.R. § 205.501(a)(4) states, “A certifying agent under this subpart must: Use ... adequately trained personnel, including inspectors ... to comply with and implement the organic certification program established under the Act and the regulations in subpart E of this part.”

Comments: *LETIS-Turkey personnel did not demonstrate an adequate understanding of the USDA organic regulations and NOP Policies. The following are examples of the auditor’s observations from the on-site assessment:*

- 1. During a witness audit of a handler operation, nitrogen was present onsite and was being used as a processing aid. The inspector failed to identify that nitrogen was being used, and that its use was not listed in the operation’s OSP.*
- 2. The OSP asks about an operation’s monitoring procedures (205.201(a)(3)), but the operation did not provide this information. The inspector did not note that this information was missing from the OSP and did not understand what needed to be verified in this case.*
- 3. The inspector did not demonstrate an adequate understanding of how to complete successful traceability and in/out balance exercises. The recorded traceability exercise was incomplete and did not list the documents reviewed. No in/out balance was completed. The operation was not producing and processing organic products, but the inspector did not conduct an in/out balance on non-organic products to test the operation’s record keeping system.*
- 4. The inspector did not record in the inspection report an assessment of whether the record keeping system on-site matched the description in the organic system plan.*

2018 Corrective Action: LETIS determined that staff in Turkey needed additional training on inspections and the requirements for NOP certification. In November 2018, the LETIS General Director and Technical and Quality Director traveled to Turkey to provide training to staff, to conduct performance evaluations, and to complete an internal audit. The training covered completing and verifying the OSP, the NOP requirements for multi-site operations, and various topics on conducting the inspection. In April 2019, one Turkey employee traveled to Argentina for training on the entire certification and inspection process under the NOP. That employee is replicating the trainings for other staff in Turkey. The LETIS Technical and Quality Director and a colleague will travel to Turkey again in September 2019 to provide further training. To monitor this noncompliance, LETIS has created training logs to be maintained, will conduct annual performance evaluations for all staff, and will have the technical department review all inspection reports before issuing certifications decisions.

Verification of Corrective Actions: The implementation of the corrective action could not be verified during the onsite audit of LETIS’s office in Argentina. The corrective action will be verified at the next audit.

AIA-7882-21 (AP-339-18.NC2) – Accepted. 7 CFR §205.404(b) states, “The certifying agent must issue a certificate of organic operation which specifies the name and address of the certified operation.”

Comments: *A NOP review of supply chain documents for a vessel of organic corn from Turkey showed that LETIS issued multiple transaction certificates to a Turkish handler who purchased crops from uncertified subcontractors. LETIS issued two transaction certificates to the handler for a total of 20,000 metric tons of organic corn from Turkey. In a June 15, 2018 email to the NOP, LETIS stated, “This Operator has under his management 193 fields (sites) of crop production and has a leasing contract with the producers (for primary production/ the producers manage the field).” LETIS issued the handler an organic certificate with a 14-page appendix, which listed the names and Turkish organic certificate numbers for 177 producers. LETIS further supplied two letters, dated June 15, 2018 and issued from its Rosario office, stating that the transaction certificates issued to the Turkish handler corresponded to corn produced by a list of 44 and 50 farmers, depending on the letter. The farmers’ names did not appear in the Organic INTEGRITY Database. However, LETIS listed the Turkish handler’s address as “Multiples sitios” [sic] in the same database. While LETIS stated that each field or site was audited by an organic inspector, it did not grant certificates to the individual producers. Instead, LETIS listed the producers as an appendix to the Turkish handler’s organic certificate, providing only their names and their Turkish organic certification numbers as identifying information. The organic certificate did not list the mailing address or physical location for the producers. In response to questions from the NOP, LETIS stated that its general procedures allow for the use of uncertified subcontractors as “multi-site” operations.*

Corrective Actions: LETIS will no longer allow for multisite certification. LETIS identified 11 operations that LETIS will certify as grower groups during the operation’s 2019 certification cycle. LETIS plans to have all the multisite operations certified as grower groups by May 2020.

Verification of Corrective Actions: The corrective action plan has been initiated but will not be fully implemented until May 2020. The auditor reviewed the corrective action plan status with LETIS certification personnel. Eleven of the identified operations are in conversion to grower group certification. The completion of this transition will be verified at the next audit.

AIA-5863-21 (NOP-60-17.NC8) - Accepted. 7 C.F.R. §205.501(a)(21) states, “Comply with, implement, and carry out any other terms and conditions determined by the Administrator to be necessary.” NOP 2601, The Organic Certification Process, Section 3.4, 3 – Inspection, states, “Inspectors often discover new information or documentation during onsite inspections. The inspector may accept additional OSP updates during the inspection, up until the start of the exit interview, and should provide any new information received onsite to the certifier. If the inspector and the operator update the OSP during the inspection, then the inspector should provide a copy of the update to both the operator and the certifier. Once the inspector finishes the inspection report, he or she sends the report to the certifier for review. The certifier will evaluate the inspector’s findings when making a final certification decision.”

Comments: *Inspectors are not verifying the Organic System Plan (OSP) and making necessary updates during inspections. Instead, inspectors are recording updates and details about the operation that should be described in the OSP in their inspection reports. Inspectors are not verifying OSP flow charts and maps during inspections.*

2018 Corrective Action: LETIS revised and submitted the documents listed below. The revisions will be covered in training given to staff in 2018 according to LETIS’ submitted training plan.

NOP-36-19 LETIS CA 09/23/2021

Page 4 of 9

- F-CI-301, the opening interview and inspection plan template – LETIS added verification of the OSP as one of the objectives of onsite inspections.
- Procedures document, OMOP-01, sections six and seven – LETIS added clarifications to the requirements for inspectors in reviewing, verifying, and making updates to the OSP.
- Procedures document, OMOP-06, section 9.11 – LETIS added a requirement for inspectors to verify the accuracy of OSP flow charts and maps during inspections.

Verification of Corrective Actions: Below is evidence that LETIS has not effectively implemented the corrective actions:

- During the Witness Audits LETIS inspectors did not verify the organic system plan (OSP) during the inspection. The inspection checklist is used to document what is currently occurring at the operation. This information is not described in the OSP and is not indicated on an Exit Interview as an update or issue of an inaccurate or incomplete OSP.
- At one of the Witness Audits, the map was not consulted or verified during the field inspection. The map was reviewed at the office after the field visit.
- During the Auditor’s record review, inspection reports indicated detailed information on current production practices that were not documented in the current OSP. The Exit Interviews did not identify as an issued of concern differences between the OSP and the current practices of the operation. During the final review, the inspection report and OSP were not reviewed to determine if updates were needed to the OSP.

2021 Corrective Action: LETIS provided training in January 2021 to inspectors. Training records provided to the NOP for review included inspector attendance and the topics of verifying the OSP, map and flow charts during inspection and how to document the verification points. LETIS also updated the general inspection report to include the section Application and Maintenance of Certification; a section for the inspector to document OSP updates. The updated template was provided to the NOP for review. LETIS submitted a Crop inspection report that included inspector comments referencing verification against the OSP.

Noncompliances Identified during the Current Assessment

AIA-5855-21 (NOP-36-19.NC1) – Accepted. 7 C.F.R. §205.404(b)(1) – (4) states, “The certifying agent must issue a certificate of organic operation which specifies the: Name and address of the certified operation; Effective date of certification; Categories of organic operation, including crops, wild crops, livestock, or processed products produced by the certified operation; and Name, address, and telephone number of the certifying agent.”

Comments: *LETIS’s organic certificates do not fully comply with the requirements of the USDA organic regulations. The auditor’s review of certification files found the following:*

1. *Certificate formats are inconsistent. In one example, the certified operation and the parcel were listed; whereas, other issued certificates these items were not listed. Additionally, some certificates listed two or more operator names.*
2. *For one certificate, the certification scope indicated the operation was a Handler/processor, when in fact, the operation was a Handler/trader.*

EX. 22



LETIS certifies that

The certified Operation:

Udex Organik Gıda Tar. Ürün. Rek. San. Tic. Ve Ltd. Şti.

Siteler mah. 241 Sk. No: 47/B Güzelbahçe, 35310, İzmir, Güzelbahçe, Siteler mah. Turkey

Certificate N°: 1935/2020-01

For the categories of the organic operations:

Crops

And the certified organic products detailed in annex

It is certified to the USDA Organic Regulation, 7CFR Part 205

✓ The LETIS-NOP Program and certified in compliance with the terms of the
US-CANADA ORGANIC EQUIVALENCY ARRANGEMENT

Once certified, a production or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered, suspended or revoked.

Anniversary Date (when the certified operation must submit its annual Organic System Plan update): October 01st, 2021

Effective Date: December 28th, 2020

(when the current or initial certifying agent first certified the operation to the USDA organic regulations)

Issue Date: December 28th, 2020

(when the certifying agent issued the organic certificate)

MÓNICA DE NICOLA
Dirección Técnica
LETIS S.A.

Authorized Signature



Annex to certificate

Udex Organik Gıda Tar. Ürün. Rek. San. Tic. Ve Ltd. Şti.

Certificate Nº: 1935/2020-01

Unit Production/Facilities:

UNIT PRODUCTION/FACILITIES NAME	ADDRESS	SCOPE
Udex Organik Gıda Tar. Ürün. Rek. San. Tic. Ve Ltd. Şti.	35310 Siteler mah. 241 Sk. No:47/B Güzelbahçe/İzmir	Crops

Products:

PRODUCT	LABELING CATEGORY	PRESENTATION
Hazelnut Shelled	100% Organic	80 KG JUT BAG/25 KG CRAFT BAG/5-10-20 KG VACUUM BAG HAZELNUT KERNEL

MÓNICA DE NICOLA
Dirección Técnica
LETIS S.A.

Authorized Signature

LETIS S.A./ Urquiza 1285 Top Floor, (S2000KPA), Rosario, Argentina./ +543414264244 / www.letis.org

Page 2 of 2

EX. 23



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program

CCPB SRL

Viale Angelo Masini 36, Bologna, 40126, ITALY

meets all the requirements prescribed in the USDA National Organic Program Regulations

7 CFR Part 205

as an Accredited Certifying Agent
for the scope of

Crops, Handling, Livestock, Wild Crops Operations

This certificate is receivable by all officers of all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture .

Status of this accreditation may be verified at <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

Certificate No: **USDA-20-21**

Effective Date: **6/30/2019**

Renewal Date: **6/30/2024**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Jennifer Tucker, Ph.D.
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268
Washington, DC 20250-0201

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM: CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORT

AUDIT AND REVIEW PROCESS

An onsite renewal assessment of CCPB Srl (CCPB)'s organic program was conducted on October 21 – 25, 2019. The National Organic Program (NOP) reviewed the auditor's report to assess CCPB's compliance to the USDA organic regulations. This report provides the results of the NOP's assessment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant Name	CCPB Srl (CCPB)
Physical Address	Viale Masini 36 Bologna, 40126 Italy
Mailing Address	Same as above
Contact & Title	Roberto Setti, Technical Office and Quality Assurance Manager
E-mail Address	rsetti@ccpb.it
Phone Number	39 051 6089811
Reviewer & Auditor	Jon Frady, NOP Reviewer; Lars Crail and Jessica Walden, On-site Auditors
Program	USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
Review & Audit Date(s)	Corrective action review: May 6, 2020 – June 15, 2021 NOP assessment review: December 16, 2019 Onsite audit: October 21 – 25, 2019
Audit Identifier	NOP-19-19
Action Required	Yes
Audit & Review Type	Renewal Assessment
Audit Objective	To evaluate the conformance to the audit criteria; and to verify the implementation and effectiveness of CCPB's certification
Audit & Determination Criteria	<i>7 CFR Part 205, National Organic Program as amended</i>
Audit & Review Scope	CCPB's certification services in carrying out the audit criteria during the period: June 2016 through October 2019

CCPB is a for-profit company, accredited by the NOP as a USDA certifying agent for the scopes of crops, wild crops, livestock and handling operations. CCPB was initially accredited as a certifying agent on December 9, 2002. On July 24, 2012, CCPB surrendered its accreditation due to the implementation of the EU/US Equivalency Arrangement. In October 2013, CCPB once again applied for NOP accreditation and was accredited on July 1, 2014.

The CCPB current list of NOP certified operations included 191 operations, consisting of 123 crops, 32 wild crops, 0 livestock, 141 processing/handling operations, and 58 grower groups.

CCPB is currently certifying operations in Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Tunisia, Egypt, China, Lebanon, and Turkey.

During the on-site assessment, two witness audits were conducted in Italy.

NOP DETERMINATION

The NOP reviewed corrective actions submitted as a result of noncompliances issued from findings identified during the renewal audit, and a previous audit noncompliance that was still outstanding.

Noncompliances from Prior Assessments and Corrective Actions

Any noncompliance labeled as “**Cleared**,” indicates that the corrective actions for the noncompliance are determined to be implemented and working effectively. Any noncompliance labeled as “**Accepted**” indicates acceptance of the corrective actions and verification of corrective action implementation will be conducted during the next audit assessment.

NP6172MMA.NC1 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC2 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC3 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC4 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC5 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC6 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC7 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC8 – Cleared.
NP6172MMA.NC9 – Cleared.

AIA-6818-21 (NP4132OOA.NC1) – Accepted. 7 CFR §205.402 (b)(2) states, “The certifying agent shall within a reasonable time: Provide the applicant with a copy of the on-site inspection report, as approved by the certifying agent, for any on-site inspection performed.”

Comments: *CCPB’s policy and procedure is for the inspector to leave a copy of the unapproved inspection report with the applicant/certified operation after completing the inspection. The inspector would then submit the inspection report to CCPB for approval. The operator would only receive an approved inspection report if CCPB amended the inspector’s original report. The operator would not receive an approved report if CCPB did not amend the report. CCPB is not in compliance because CCPB does not provide an approved copy of the complete inspection report to all applicants.*

2014 Corrective Action: CCPB approves all inspection reports and results of audits prior to an initial review. CCPB has added a statement to form Mod.NO/VI - *Checklist of organic system plan*, stating, “This report and the result of the audit is confirmed in absence of different written communication from CCPB in the following 60 days from the inspection.” CCPB amended the inspectors *Standard Control Procedure - Operative procedure 2.3.7* to define “inspection report and complete checklist” as the reports to be issued to the operator. CCPB made employees aware of these procedural changes in an email sent on August 11, 2014.

2016 Verification of Corrective Action: The inspection reporting process and inspection report templates used are not consistent in all CCPB offices. There are multiple versions of inspection report templates being used that contain different wording. Latest revision to the inspection report template removed the “60 days” specification, which has resulted in separate versions of the same document in use among CCPB offices.

2016 Corrective Action: CCPB revised its inspection report forms and checklists. The amended forms were submitted to the NOP and include the statement “A copy of this completed report and of the check list must be left, by the inspector, with the inspected party as compliant with the requirements of NOP 205.403(e)(2). This report and the result of the audit is confirmed in absence of different written communication from CCPB in the following 60 days from the inspection.” CCPB held a training meeting with the Directors on this topic and submitted the training agenda.

2019 Verification of Corrective Action: This corrective action was not adequately implemented. During the two witness audits, only the “inspection report” was provided to the operator and not the “inspection checklist.” Both the inspection report (i.e. a summary of the inspector’s findings) and the inspection checklist (i.e. a detailed report of the inspector’s verification) constitute the inspection report as stated in the accepted corrective actions.

2020 Corrective Action: CCPB has modified their communication post inspection to operations and has begun sending the operation the complete inspection report (summary of the inspector’s findings), including the checklist (detailed report of the inspector’s verification). The inspection report template has been amended to state at the signature line, “Report Copy - 7 C.F.R NOP 205.403(e)(2).: A copy of the present on-site inspection report and any test results will be sent to the inspected operation by CCPB, following the review process.”

AIA-6819-21 (NOP-52-18.NC1) – Accepted. 7 C.F.R. § 205.501(a)(4) states, “A certifying agent under this subpart must: Use ... adequately trained personnel, including inspectors ... to comply with and implement the organic certification program established under the Act and the regulations in subpart E of this part.”

Comments: *CCPB personnel did not consistently demonstrate during the audit an adequate understanding of the USDA regulations and NOP policies (i.e. NOP Handbook). The following are examples:*

a. Inspectors did not consistently discuss and reference USDA organic regulations, including NOP Instruction, Guidance, and Policies (i.e. NOP Handbook) during inspections and exit interviews with operators.

b. Inspectors, certification reviewers, and decision makers (identified by assessing certification records) were unaware of processes required in the USDA organic regulations, such as: the OSP requirement for operations to monitor their compliance (205.201(a)(3)); the Crop rotation practice standard and its application to perennial crops (205.205); NOP 5022, Wild Crops Harvesting, requirements; and, identification of material inputs and corresponding restrictions stated in the National List (205.600), e.g. copper sulfate.

c. Inspectors are not adequately verifying the completeness of Organic System Plan (OSP) and did not demonstrate an understanding of the central role of the OSP in USDA organic certification.

d. During the wild crops witness audit, the inspector did not plan sufficient time to conduct an adequate inspection. The inspection was rushed and did not adequately verify the operation's compliance.

e. During the wild crops witness audit, the inspector did not identify harvesting in the village area where there were significant signs of trash, animal manure, and potential contaminants until the auditor pointed this out.

f. Verification of flow charts and site maps did not consistently occur during inspections. Maps lacked sufficient detail such as potential contamination risks, and inspectors did not identify incomplete maps as an issue of concern.

g. The lack of a crop rotation plan was not identified as an issue of concern during the inspection of a crops operation.

h. The inspector did not identify labels as an issue of concern when approved labels did not identify the organic ingredients as "organic" in the ingredients statement as required by 205.303(b)(1).

2019 Corrective Actions: CCPB will revise organic system plans (OSP) and checklists to assist operations and staff to understand the USDA organic regulation and handbook policies. OSP revisions will insert relevant content and examples from NOP handbook documents. The inspection checklist revisions focus on adding clarity to the findings section and a section for documenting audit trail-mass balance verifications. CCPB provided specific training to all NOP inspectors and reviewers on July 15, 2019 in Tunisia and on July 30, 2019 in Morocco on the noncompliances of the NOP audit and CCPB's proposed corrective actions and revisions to the Standard Control Procedures. Revision of documents will be initiated after the September 2019 review and scheduled for completion by the end of 2019. CCPB plans to conduct additional training for applicable staff on implemented changes to the Standard Control Procedures document by the end of 2019.

2019 Verification of Corrective Action: This corrective action is not fully implemented because it is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019. CCPB demonstrated that they have developed checklist drafts, provided and developed trainings for certification staff, and improved maps, which indicates they are on schedule to implement the corrective action. Corrective actions will need verification during the next audit assessment.

AIA-6820-21 (NOP-52-18.NC2) – Accepted. 7 C.F.R. §205.501(a)(21) states, "A private or governmental entity accredited as a certifying agent under this subpart must:... Comply with, implement, and carry out any other terms and conditions determined by the Administrator to be necessary." NOP 2603 Organic Certificates, Section 3.1, Elements of the Organic Certificate, provide the necessary layout and terminology used on organic certificates.

Comments: *The auditor's review of issued organic certificates found the following issues:*

a. Certificates incorrectly state the Crops certification scope as "Plant Production."

b. Certificates incorrectly state the Wild Crops certification scope as "Wild products."

c. Certificates include an operation's "First issuing date" rather than an "Effective Date."

2019 Corrective Actions: CCPB revised and submitted the organic certificate template correcting the scopes and date effective. CCPB provided specific training to all NOP inspectors and reviewers on July 15, 2019 in Tunisia and on July 30, 2019 in Morocco on the noncompliances of the NOP audit and CCPB's proposed corrective actions and revisions to the Standard Control Procedures. Revision of documents will be initiated after the September 2019

EX. 24



Nixon Peabody LLP
799 9th Street NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001-5327
Attorneys at Law
nixonpeabody.com
@NixonPeabodyLLP

John R. Sandweg
Partner

T / 202.585.8189
F / 877.743.5914
jsandweg@nixonpeabody.com

November 17, 2022

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Monisha Deka
Office of Unfair Import Investigations
U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
500 E Street, SW, Room 317
Washington, DC 20436

Re.: *Certain Hazelnuts and Products Containing the Same, 337-TA-1337 – Group Grower Certificates*

Dear Ms. Deka:

Attached with this letter are true and correct copies of the National Organic Program (“NOP”) Compliance Certificates submitted on behalf of Respondents Natural Food Source, Inc. (“NFSI”) (attached as Exhibit A) and Nimeks Organik Tarim Urun San Ve Tic Ltd Sti (“Nimeks Organik”) (attached as Exhibit B).

NFSI purchases 100% of its organic hazelnuts from Nimeks Organik. Nimeks Organik maintains a Group Grower Certificate that covers all upstream entities in its supply chain. NFSI is entitled to rely on the Group Grower Certificate maintained by Nimeks Organik.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Sandweg", written over a horizontal line.

John R. Sandweg
Partner

Counsel for Respondents Natural Food Source Inc. and Nimeks Organik Tarim Urun San Ve Tic Ltd STI

cc: Bruce Kaser, Esq. (*Lead Counsel for Complainant*)

EXHIBIT A



**Pennsylvania Certified Organic
(PCO)**

106 School Street, Suite 201
Spring Mills, PA 16875
UNITED STATES

hereby certifies that

Natural Food Source, Inc.

1139 Lehigh Ave., Suite 300 B
Whitehall, PA 18052, USA

The operation above is certified to the USDA organic regulations 7 CFR Part 205. This certified operation is inspected annually by an agent of Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) to verify to the best of its knowledge the regulations have been met. Information regarding products, crops, livestock, and sites is available on the attached addendum. Once certified, a production or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered, suspended or revoked.



Certification Scope(s):

NOP Handling

Certificate number: OG-02230
File Number*: 8210002272
NOP Effective date: 10/08/2007
Anniversary date**: 03/01/2023
Issue Date: 10/26/2022

Kyla S Smith, Certification Director

* File Number is equivalent to NOP ID when referencing the NOP Organic Integrity Database.
** Certified operations are required to submit annual updates to PCO by March 1 of each year

This Organic Certificate Addendum is provided to describe the certified products and the organic standard equivalence arrangement and/or export arrangement to which compliance has been verified. It is valid only with the corresponding organic certificate(s).

Products listed below identified with compliance marks for US-Canada Equivalency are certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement.

Handling

Certified Product (Organic)

Beverage Related Products

Product	Compliance
Juice > Apple Juice Concentrate - Clear (Non-Retail)	NOP Handling
Juice > Apple Juice Concentrate - Clear (Non-Retail)	US/Canada Equivalence
Juice > Apple Juice Concentrate - Cloudy (Non-Retail)	NOP Handling
Juice > Apple Juice Concentrate - Cloudy (Non-Retail)	US/Canada Equivalence
Juice > Black (Purple) Carrot Juice Concentrate (Non-Retail)	NOP Handling
Juice > Black (Purple) Carrot Juice Concentrate (Non-Retail)	US/Canada Equivalence
Juice > Dark Sweet Cherry Juice Concentrate (Non-Retail)	NOP Handling
Juice > Dark Sweet Cherry Juice Concentrate (Non-Retail)	US/Canada Equivalence
Juice > Lemon Juice Concentrate - Clear (Non-Retail)	NOP Handling
Juice > Lemon Juice Concentrate - Clear (Non-Retail)	US/Canada Equivalence

Complaint - Ex. A

NOP Handling

PF0000154

Juice > Lemon Juice
Concentrate - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Lemon Juice
Concentrate - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Lemon Juice NFC
- Clear (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Lemon Juice NFC
- Clear (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Lemon Juice NFC
- Cloudy (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Lemon Juice NFC
- Cloudy (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Orange
Concentrate (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Orange
Concentrate (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Orange Single
Serve (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Orange Single
Serve (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Pear Juice
Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Pear Juice
Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Pear Juice
Concentrate - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Pear Juice
Concentrate - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice - Clear (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice - Clear (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

Complaint Ex. A

NOP Handling

PF0000155

Juice Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice Concentrate -
Cloudy (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice Concentrate -
Cloudy (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Pomegranate
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Strawberry Juice
Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Strawberry Juice
Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Strawberry Juice
Concentrate - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Strawberry Juice
Concentrate - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Sweet Cherry
Juice NFC - Clear
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Sweet Cherry
Juice NFC - Clear
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Sweet Cherry
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Sweet Cherry
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Tart (Sour) Cherry
Juice Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Complaint - Ex. A
Juice > Tart (Sour) Cherry
Juice Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence PF0000156

Juice > Tart (Sour) Cherry
Juice Concentrate -
Cloudy (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Tart (Sour) Cherry
Juice Concentrate -
Cloudy (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > Tart (Sour) Cherry
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > Tart (Sour) Cherry
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > White Grape
Juice Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > White Grape
Juice Concentrate - Clear
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > White Grape
Juice Concentrate -
Cloudy (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > White Grape
Juice Concentrate -
Cloudy (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > White Grape
Juice NFC - Clear
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > White Grape
Juice NFC - Clear
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Juice > White Grape
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Juice > White Grape
Juice NFC - Cloudy
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Purees > Apple Puree
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Purees > Apple Puree
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Purees > Apricot Puree
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Purees > Peach Puree
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Purees > Peach Puree
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Fruits/Vegetables

Product

Compliance

Berries > IQF Blackberries
 (Non-Retail) (10.00 kg)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Apricots
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Apricots
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Broccoli
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Broccoli
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Carrots
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Carrots
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Cauliflower
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Cauliflower
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Figs
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Figs
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Green Bell
 Peppers (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Green Bell
 Peppers (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Kale
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Kale
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Onions
 (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > IQF Onions
 (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > IQF Peaches (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Other > IQF Pomegranate Arils (Non-Retail)		NOP Handling
Other > IQF Pomegranate Arils (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Other > IQF Red Bell Peppers (Non-Retail)		NOP Handling
Other > IQF Red Bell Peppers (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Other > IQF Spinach (Non-Retail)		NOP Handling
Other > IQF Spinach (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Other > IQF Strawberries (Non-Retail)		NOP Handling
Other > IQF Strawberries (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Other > IQF Sweet Cherries (Non-Retail)		NOP Handling
Other > IQF Sweet Cherries (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Other > IQF Tart (Sour) Cherries (Non-Retail)		NOP Handling
Other > IQF Tart (Sour) Cherries (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Other > Strawberries (64.00 oz)	Smart Harvest	NOP Handling
Other > Sweet Cherries (64.00 oz)	Smart Harvest	NOP Handling
Other > Thompson Raisins (2.00 count)	Smart Harvest	NOP Handling
Other > Thompson Raisins (32.00 oz)	Smart Harvest	NOP Handling
Other > Tomato Paste (Non-Retail)		NOP Handling
Other > Tomato Paste (Non-Retail)		US/Canada Equivalence
Mixed Fruit > Berry Green Fusion (8.00 count)	Smart Harvest	NOP Handling

Complaint - Ex. A
Mixed Fruit > Green
Fusion (8.00 oz)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

PF0000159

Mixed Fruit > Cherry Berry
Fusion (2.00 count)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit > Cherry Berry
Fusion (8.00 oz)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit >
Mediterranean Medley
(2.00 count)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit >
Mediterranean Medley
(8.00 oz)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit > Peach
Sunrise (2.00 count)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit > Peach
Sunrise (8.00 oz)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit > Sweet
Greens (2.00 count)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit > Sweet
Greens (8.00 count)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Mixed Fruit > Sweet
Greens (8.00 oz)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Beans > Beans/Pulses -
Dried Garbanzo Beans
(Chickpeas) (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Beans > Beans/Pulses -
Dried Garbanzo Beans
(Chickpeas) (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Beans > Beans/Pulses -
Lentils, Red Split
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Beans > Beans/Pulses -
Lentils, Red Split
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Vegetables > Broccoli
Florets (16.00 oz)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Vegetables > Broccoli
Florets (4.00 count)

Smart Harvest

NOP Handling

Vegetables > IQF Black
Mulberries (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Vegetables > IQF Black
Mulberries (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Nuts/Seeds

Product

Compliance

Walnuts > Walnuts
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Pine Nuts > Pine Nuts
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Pine Nuts > Pine Nuts
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > Poppy Seeds
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > Poppy Seeds
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > Sesame Seeds
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > Sesame Seeds
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > Sunflower Kernels
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > Sunflower Kernels
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other > Tahini
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Other > Tahini
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Filberts > Hazelnuts
(Filberts) (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Filberts > Hazelnuts
(Filberts) (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Other Grains, Pastas and Cereals

Product

Compliance

Wheat > Bulgur
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Wheat > Bulgur
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Processed Items

Product

Compliance

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Apple Juice
Infused Cranberries
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Apple Juice
Infused Cranberries
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Complaint Ex. A

NOP Handling

PF0000161

Dried Fruit - Dried
Apricots (Non-Retail)

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried
Apricots (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried
Apricots Diced
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried
Apricots Diced
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried Figs
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried Figs
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried
Mulberries (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried
Mulberries (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried Tart
(Sour) Cherries
(Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Dried Tart
(Sour) Cherries
(Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Raisins,
Sultana (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Raisins,
Sultana (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Raisins,
Thompson (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Raisins,
Thompson (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dried Fruit - Sun Dried
Tomatoes (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Sun Dried
Tomatoes (Non-Retail)

NOP Handling

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Sweetened
Cranberries (Non-Retail)

US/Canada Equivalence

Dehydrated Foods >
Dried Fruit - Sweetened
Cranberries (Non-Retail)

EXHIBIT B



NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

Conformity Certificate - *Certificat de conformité*

Mod. CC/NO
Rev. 4
del 2022-08-17
Pag. 1 di 4

This document certifies that the company • *Ce document atteste que l'opérateur*

NİMEKS ORGANİK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. ve TİC. LTD. ŞTİ.
code • *code:* (K)0222

with registered office in • *siège sociale à:* A.O.S.B. 10001 sk. No:25 Çiğli İzmir / Turkey

and place of production in • *avec unité de production à:* A.O.S.B. 10001 sk. No:25 Çiğli İzmir / Turkey
A.O.S.B 10000 Sok. No:3 Çiğli İzmir / Turkey

is certified to the USDA organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205, • *est certifié conforme aux réglementations biologiques de l'USDA, 7 CFR Part 205 par:*

CCPB SRL

in regards to the following activities • *pour l'activités de:*

(Crops) (Handling/Processing)
(Production Végétale) (Manipulation/Transformation)

The certificate refers only to the mentioned activity and authorizes the company to issue declarations of conformity only for the products listed in the enclosure of the certificate.

Le certificat se réfère uniquement à l'activité mentionnée et autorise la société à émettre des déclarations de conformité que pour les produits énumérés dans l'annexe du présent certificat.

issuing date <i>date émission</i>	06/10/2022	CC/NO 0010576	reference number <i>numéro de référence</i>
effective date <i>date effective</i>	04/01/2020	28th February*	anniversary date <i>date d'anniversaire</i>

* when the certified operation must submit its annual update (within February 28th of the next year) - this is not an expiration date
* *lorsque l'opérateur certifiée doit soumettre sa mise à jour annuelle (avant le 28 février de l'année suivante) - ceci n'est pas une date d'expiration*

Once certified, a production or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered, suspended or revoked. The fulfilment of the requirements is under the surveillance of CCPB srl. Any questions related to civil responsibilities will be treated in accordance with the enforced laws. The documentation concerning the certification service is filed by CCPB srl.

Une fois certifié, la certification biologique de production ou transformation continue en vigueur jusqu'à résiliation, suspension ou révocation. Le respect des exigences est sous la surveillance de CCPB srl. Toutes les questions liées aux responsabilités civiles seront traitées en conformité avec les lois en vigueur. La documentation relative au service de certification est gardée dans les bureaux de CCPB srl.

ENCLOSURE: list of authorized products • **ANNEXE:** *liste des produits autorisés*

The General Manager
Lorenzo Pileri

DISTRIBUITION LIST: certified company
LISTE DE DISTRIBUTION: *opérateur certifié*

Any request regarding verifications on this certificate should be addressed to: • *Les demandes concernant la vérification de ce certificat doivent être adressées à*
CCPB SRL – Viale Masini 36 – I 40126 Bologna Tel. +39-051-6089811 Fax +39-051-254842 www.ccpb.it – ccpb@ccpb.it

USDA-AMS-NOP accreditation n° NP413200A July, 1st, 2014
Accréditation NOP-AMS-USDA n°

CCPB SRL, Registro Imprese BO, CF e P.IVA 02469721209, REA n. 441882, Capitale Sociale € 705.920 i.v.



NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

Conformity Certificate - *Certificat de conformité*

Mod. CC/NO
Rev. 4
del 2022-08-17
Pag. 2 di 4

Enclosure with **CC/NO 0010576 del 06/10/2022**
Annexe à

issued to the company • *délivré à l'opérateur*

NİMEKS ORGANİK TARIM ÜRÜNLERİ SAN. ve TİC. LTD. ŞTİ.

Growers Group

code • code: (K)0222

list of authorized products • *liste des produits autorisés*

product	produit	product specification specifications du produit	status - type
Anise*	***	***	%100 Organic
Apple Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Apricot Compote	***	***	%100 Organic
Apricot Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Apricot Kernel*	***	***	%100 Organic
Apricot*	***	***	%100 Organic
Black Cumin*	***	***	%100 Organic
Black Mulberry Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Blanched Broken Hazelnut Kernel	***	***	%100 Organic
Blanched Hazelnut	***	***	%100 Organic
Blueberry Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Brown (Shelled) Lentil*	***	***	Organic
Bulghur	***	***	%100 Organic
Bulghur*	***	***	Organic
Cherry Compote	***	***	%100 Organic
Chickpea*	***	***	%100 Organic
Chickpeas Flour	***	***	Organic
Chopped Hazelnut	***	***	%100 Organic
Coriander	***	***	%100 Organic
Cumin*	***	***	%100 Organic
Diced Dried Apricot*	***	***	%100 Organic
Diced Dried Fig	***	***	%100 Organic
Diced Dried Fig*	***	***	Organic
Diced Dried Plum	***	***	%100 Organic
Diced Dried Plum*	***	***	Organic
Diced Dried Tomato	***	***	%100 Organic
Diced Dried Tomato*	***	***	Organic

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NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

Mod. CC/NO
Rev. 4
del 2022-08-17
Pag. 3 di 4

Conformity Certificate - *Certificat de conformité*

product	produit	product specification spécifications du produit	status - type
Diced Plum	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Apricot Paste*	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Apricot*	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Bean	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Bean*	***	***	Organic
Dried Fig	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Fig Paste	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Fig Paste*	***	***	Organic
Dried Fig*	***	***	Organic
Dried Mulberry*	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Plum	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Plum Paste	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Plum Paste*	***	***	Organic
Dried Plum Paste*	***	***	Organic
Dried Sour Cherry*	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Tomato	***	***	%100 Organic
Dried Tomato*	***	***	Organic
Fennel*	***	***	%100 Organic
Fig	***	***	%100 Organic
Flax Seed	***	***	%100 Organic
Flax Seed*	***	***	Organic
Grape	***	***	%100 Organic
Green Lentil	***	***	%100 Organic
Green Lentil*	***	***	Organic
Hazelnut	***	***	%100 Organic
Hazelnut Flour	***	***	%100 Organic
Hazelnut Kernel (Natural, blanched)*	***	***	Organic
Hazelnut Meal	***	***	%100 Organic
Hazelnut Paste	***	***	%100 Organic
Hazelnut Puree	***	***	%100 Organic
Hazelnut Roasted	***	***	%100 Organic
Hazelnut Shelled	***	***	%100 Organic
Hazelnut*	***	***	Organic
Hazelnuts Kernel	***	***	%100 Organic
Infused Dried Sour Cherry	***	***	Organic
Mulberry Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Mulberry*	***	***	%100 Organic

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NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

Conformity Certificate - *Certificat de conformité*

Mod. CC/NO
Rev. 4
del 2022-08-17
Pag. 4 di 4

product	produit	product specification spécifications du produit	status - type
Olive	***	***	%100 Organic
Orange Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Peach Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Pinenuts*	***	***	Organic
Pistachios	***	***	%100 Organic
Plum	***	***	%100 Organic
Plum Composte	***	***	%100 Organic
Pomegranate Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Poppy (Blue)*	***	***	%100 Organic
Poppy (Capsule-grain)*	***	***	%100 Organic
Poppy Seeds	***	***	%100 Organic
Poppy Seeds*	***	***	Organic
Prune Paste	***	***	%100 Organic
Prune Paste*	***	***	Organic
Prunes	***	***	%100 Organic
Prunes*	***	***	Organic
Raisin	***	***	%100 Organic
Red Football Lentil*	***	***	Organic
Red Lentil	***	***	%100 Organic
Red Mix Juice	***	***	%100 Organic
Red Split Lentil*	***	***	Organic
Rice Flour*	***	***	Organic
Roasted Broken Hazelnut Kernel	***	***	%100 Organic
Sesame*	***	***	%100 Organic
Sour Cherry Juice (Tart Cherry Juice)	***	***	%100 Organic
Sultana Raisin*	***	***	Organic
Sunflower Oil*	***	***	Organic
Thompson Raisin*	***	***	Organic
Tyhme*	***	***	%100 Organic
Yellow Lentil*	***	***	Organic

The company is authorized to use declaration of conformity to the USDA-NOP regulation only for the attested products. The company is directly responsible of the use of the certificate and can issue such declarations of conformity only if the company fulfils the requirements of the USDA-NOP regulations and of the enforced laws for the certified products. The company cannot advertise, or give other information about activities not listed above in order to avoid confusion with non certified activities.

L'opérateur est autorisé à émettre des déclarations de conformité au règlement USDA-NOP, uniquement pour les produits listés. L'opérateur est directement responsable de la bonne utilisation de ce certificat et peut émettre de telles déclarations que seulement s'il répond aux exigences du règlement USDA-NOP et la législation applicable aux produits certifiés. L'opérateur ne doit pas donner des indications publicitaires qui peuvent créer une confusion avec des produits non certifiés.

**Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Agreement*

Any request regarding verifications on this certificate should be addressed to: • *Les demandes concernant la vérification de ce certificat doivent être adressées à*
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EX. 25



Oregon Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol St NE Salem, OR 97301-0110

Phone (503) 986-4620

<https://oda.direct/NOP>

Certified to the USDA Organic regulations, 7 CFR Part 205

ORGANIC CROPS CERTIFICATE

is issued to:

Pratum Farm, LLC

120 95th Ave NE

Salem, OR 97317

On May 12, 2022

Organic

Nuts:

Hazelnuts

Site(s):

Jefferson Orchard

Total acreage: 17

This certificate verifies that the above named operation has been inspected annually by an ODA representative to verify compliance with organic standards. Once certified, a production or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered, suspended or revoked.

Certification Number: AG-C0001707OC

Anniversary Date: February 1st

NOP Effective Date: 05/12/2022

Certified by Oregon Dept of Agriculture since 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gilbert White", positioned above a horizontal line.

INVOICE DATE. **Complaint 13, 2022A**
 CUSTOMER NO. **483-451**
 PREPARED BY. **Susanna Pearlstein**
 COMMODITY.
 DISTRICT.

STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Mail payment with copy of invoice to:
 PO BOX 4395 UNIT 17
 PORTLAND, OR 97208-4395
 or Pay **ONLINE** at <https://MyLicense.oda.state.or.us>

PF0000170
 AR 266618

Invoice Billed to:
 Pratum Farm
 120 95TH AVE NE
 SALEM, OR 97317

INVOICE



DUE 30 DAYS FROM INVOICE DATE UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

DATE	DESCRIPTION	PCA/ Revenue Object	AMOUNT
Certified Organic by Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Invoice			
		PCA/Object Code 33148/8104	
	Application Fee: New Crop - Fee \$1,000 [Application Type 2]	Fees Paid	
	Site History Review: 0 Hour(s)		\$0.00
	Receiving: 0.25 Hour(s)		\$0.00
	Initial Review: 1 Hour(s)		\$0.00
	Input Inventory Review: 0.5 Hour(s)		\$0.00
	Export Label Review?: 0 Hour(s)		\$0.00
	Final Review: 0.5 Hour(s)		\$54.00
	QA Certificate Issued: 0.5 Hour(s)		\$54.00
	Inspection: 2 Hour(s)		\$216.00
	Inspection Report: 2 Hour(s)		\$216.00
	Travel time: 1.25 Hour(s) Salem, Oregon to Salem, Oregon		\$135.00
	Travel Miles: 36 Mile(s) @ .56/Mile		\$20.16
	Lodging: \$0.00		\$0.00
	Per diem: \$0.00		\$0.00
	Misc Expenses: \$0.00		\$0.00
	Additional Services: 0		\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
<p>Differences between invoice amount and pre-inspection cost estimates may be the result of travel time (which can be split with other clients when feasible), auditor rotations as required by USDA, farm size and complexity, auditee preparedness, etc. Please contact certification@oda.state.or.us with any questions.</p> <p>NOTE:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>This invoice is for the following services:</p> <p>Audit Criteria: Annual Announced Audit</p> <p>Audit Scope: Certification Audit</p> <p>Inspector: Nathan Miller</p> <p>Audit Date: 4/26/22</p> </div>			
TOTAL		TOTAL	\$695.16

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT ERRORS WITHIN 60 DAYS OF INVOICE DATE.
 DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS WILL BE SENT TO COLLECTIONS FOR THE AMOUNT OWED PLUS THE COLLECTION FEE PER ORS.293.231 AND ORS.293.250. ALL DISHONORED CHECKS WILL INCUR A \$25 ADMINISTRATION FEE PER ORS.30.701.

EX. 26

ECOCERT – USDA NOP eQuote – See usa.ecocert.com/quote?campaign=NOP&CA=9

Screen Clip No. 1:

ECOCERT USA
USDA NOP eQuote
skip to our eApplication software

\$925

Please click on the activities that apply to your organic operation

JUST GETTING STARTED? [CLICK HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Crops/Wild Crops Livestock Processing Handling Distributing

Activity Count: 1

Are you performing organic activities at more than one location?
MULTIPLE ORGANIC OPERATIONS IN ONE GENERAL LOCATION/CAMPUS COUNT AS ONE LOCATION

Yes No

Are your locations more than 50 miles apart?
IF AN INSPECTOR HAS TO TRAVEL FAR TO VIEW ALL YOUR OPERATIONS, THAT WILL IMPACT YOUR ESTIMATED INSPECTION TIME/COST

Yes No

How many locations do you have?
BASE ON THE INFORMATION ABOVE, WE WILL ESTIMATE YOUR INSPECTION TIME/COST

1400

Next

Screen Clip No. 2:

ECOCERT USA
USDA NOP eQuote
skip to our eApplication software

\$925

Let's dive a little deeper into Crops...

Crops/Wild Crops

What type of crops are you looking to certify?

Maple Other (Non-Maple) Both

How many acres of other(non-maple) crops do you want to certify?

1400

Back Next

Screen Clip No. 3:

ECOCERT
ECOCERT USA
USDA NOP eQuote
skip to our eApplication software

\$50,000

Estimated Inspection

Scopes

- Crops/Wild Crops

Based on the scopes and locations you've selected, we estimate your total inspection will take **2805** total hours and cost **\$274,890**. Total inspection time includes **Travel** (to and from), **Onsite Inspection**, and **Preparation and Report Writing**.

Note: Actual inspection hours can vary depending on a variety of factors (customer location, preparedness, etc.) Inspection costs are billed based on actual hours at a rate of \$98/hr with a \$500 minimum for crops/wild crops, \$650 minimum for livestock/handlers, and \$800 minimum for 2 or more of any scope.

Back Next

Screen Clip No. 3 (application fee enlarged):



Screen Clip No. 3 (inspection fee enlarged):

Estimated Inspection

Scopes

- Crops/Wild Crops

Based on the scopes and locations you've selected, we estimate your total inspection will take **2805** total hours and cost **\$274,890**.

Screen Clip No. 3 (enlarged):

Total inspection time includes **Travel** (to and from), **Onsite Inspection**, and **Preparation and Report Writing**.

EX. 27

Arslanturk's December 2022 Answers to Questions in USITC Investigation:**No. 1:**

In a document dated November 11, 2022 (attached), Arslanturk stated:

"We purchase organic hazelnut from our farmers at a higher price level than other farmers who grow conventional hazelnuts in their gardens."

Question No. 1: How much higher is the price level that Arslanturk pays to organic hazelnut farmers compared to farmers who grow conventional hazelnuts in their gardens?

Answer No. 1: Although it varies according to the years, a maximum price difference of 12% is given.

Additional instructions for Question No. 1: Arslanturk may provide an approximate answer. Arslanturk may also answer the question based on an approximate percentage increase (*i.e.*, organic farmers receive approximately __ % more per kilogram, in-shell).

No. 2:

Question No. 2: What is Arslanturk's estimate of the approximate realized shell-out percentage for hazelnuts received from organic hazelnut farmers?

Answer No. 2: Average 51%

Additional instructions for Question No. 2: Realized shell-out is the averaged net kernel weight following shell-out, with deductions for bad hazelnuts (relating to insect or mold damage, blank shells, etc.).

No. 3:

The Arslanturk website (at <https://www.arslanturk.com.tr/products/>) states the following:

A screenshot of text from the Arslanturk website, overlaid on a background image of hazelnut kernels. The text is white and reads: "We are very proud of saying that with the 25.000 tons annual capacity of hazelnut kernel, 3.000 tons Organic NOP/BioSuisse, 1.000 ton UTZ and 21.000 tons Conventional, Arslantürk S.A. is in TOP 10 list of Exporters Union."/>

We are very proud of saying that with the 25.000 tons annual capacity of hazelnut kernel, 3.000 tons Organic NOP/BioSuisse, 1.000 ton UTZ and 21.000 tons Conventional, Arslantürk S.A. is in TOP 10 list of Exporters Union.

Question No. 3: Does Arslanturk export approximately three thousand (3.000) metric tons of organic hazelnut kernels on an annual basis?

Answer No. 3: It changes according to the years, but our average for the last 5 years in terms of domestic and abroad sales is 3,000 tons per year.

EX. 28

**NOSB Recommendation
Adopted October 20, 2002**

Criteria for Certification of Grower Groups

Introduction:

Grower group certification refers to the certification of a group of producers whose farms are uniform in most ways, and who are organized under one management and marketing system. Grower group certifications have historically been used for the certification of cooperatives or groups of producers located in a geographical or social region, whose crops are marketed collectively. Primary crops produced by grower groups include coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, and tropical fruits.

Background:

In section 205.2, the final rule defines “person” as “an individual, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or other entity.”

In section 205.400 “General requirements for certification,” the final rule states:

“A person seeking to receive or maintain organic certification under the regulations in this part must:

- (a) Comply with the Act and applicable organic production and handling regulations of this part;
- (b) Establish, implement, and update annually an organic production or handling system plan that is submitted to an accredited certifying agent as provided for in § 205.200;
- (c) Permit on-site inspections with complete access to the production or handling operation, including noncertified production and handling areas, structures, and offices by the certifying agent as provided for in § 205.403;
- (d) Maintain all records applicable to the organic operation for not less than 5 years beyond their creation and allow authorized representatives of the Secretary, the applicable State organic program's governing State official, and the certifying agent access to such records during normal business hours for review and copying to determine compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part, as provided for in § 205.104;
- (e) Submit the applicable fees charged by the certifying agent; and
- (f) Immediately notify the certifying agent concerning any:
 - (1) Application, including drift, of a prohibited substance to any field, production unit, site, facility, livestock, or product that is part of an operation; and
 - (2) Change in a certified operation or any portion of a certified operation that may affect its compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.”

Given the fact that the rule includes “cooperative” and “association” in the definition of “person”, and given the fact that section 205.400 indicates that it is a “person” who seeks organic certification, it can be concluded that grower groups, organized as cooperatives or associations, can seek certification as one operation under the NOP without a change to the rule.

Grower groups are different from other entities seeking certification in that they are comprised of numerous producers who are certified as one entity, rather than being certified as individual sole proprietors.

Historically, not all grower group members’ farms are individually inspected by the certifying agent annually. This means that the grower group must have a quality system, or internal control system, in place to assure that all members of the group operate according to the system plan in compliance with the organic standard. The quality system of the grower group is inspected at least annually, but only a set percentage of the member operations are visited by the certifying agent. Individual site inspections are conducted primarily to validate the functioning of the quality system.

Rationale:

Many products sold as organic in the United States, including coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, and tropical fruits, are produced by grower groups. These types of operations are certified by certifying agents who have received NOP accreditation. While there is no need to change to the final rule, there is a need to provide guidance to the NOP to assure that certifying agents who operate grower group certification programs follow consistent procedures. There is also a need to assure that such certifying agents are evaluated according to set criteria during the accreditation review of their programs.

Recommendation #1:**Criteria for the Certification of Grower Groups**

The NOSB recommends that, in order to be certified as a grower group, the following conditions must be met:

- The crops and farming practices of the producers must be uniform and reflect a consistent process or methodology, using the same inputs.
- The group must be managed as a legal entity under one central administration that is uniform and consistent.
- Participation in the group is limited to producers who sell all of their organic production through the group.
- Producers who are certified as part of a grower group do not possess individual certificates. Rather, the grower group is certified as a unit.
- Grower groups must establish and implement an internal control system (quality system), with supervision and documentation of production practices and inputs used at each producer's operation to insure compliance with the USDA's National Organic Standard.
- Grower groups must ensure that all members understand the US National Organic Standard and how it applies to their specific operations.
- Grower groups must utilize centralized processing, distribution, and marketing facilities and systems.

The certifying agent shall have policies and procedures for determining how many growers must receive an annual inspection by the certifying agent. For each grower group it certifies, a certifying agent must document its method for determining the number of growers to be inspected. This determination must include consideration of:

- The number of operations participating in the grower group;
- The size of the average operation in the grower group;
- The degree of uniformity between the group's operations;
- The complexity of the group's production system(s); and
- The management structure of the group's internal control system.

Recommendation #2:

The NOSB recommends that the following information be included in the NOP Accreditation Manual:

A. Inspection of Grower Groups

Information provided. The first step of any grower group inspection is to review the material from the

certifying agent to determine the scope of the project. Grower groups are often very complex. They may include hundreds if not thousands of producers. These types of operations do not easily fit normal inspection protocols. Therefore, much supplemental data is necessary in addition to normal certification documents. The following is a list of information that the certifying agent must provide to the inspector prior to the inspection:

- General map indicating the general region of the production zone.
- A more detailed map indicating the location of each of the communities to be inspected.
- Grower lists by community, listing producers, producer codes or numbers, amount of land area under production by each producer, crops, estimated yields, and past production history. Many grower groups maintain individual producer records such as parcel maps and grower agreements which are generally reviewed at the time of inspection.
- Organic system plan, certification questionnaire, or application.
- Name of contact persons with phone numbers, both home and work. It is important to have access to at least two contacts in case the primary contact person cannot be reached.
- A description of the project to understand how it is organized. A previous inspection report should be provided for certification updates.
- Handling plans, questionnaires/applications, if there is any processing. (Many grower groups operate processing and/or storage facilities.)
- Information on final sales and distribution. This is important to determine if any off-site export or storage facilities need to be inspected.
- In the case of certification updates, the inspector should be provided with the past certification letter with all conditions for certification clearly stated. As indicated, the past inspection report can be extremely valuable, and should be reviewed.

Review internal control documents. Upon arrival at the inspection locale, meet with the management to plan the inspection itinerary. You should clearly understand the organizational management of the project prior to heading out into the field. You will need documentation of the internal control system to properly verify local oversight efforts, education programs, product flow, and production practices. It is advisable to review internal control documents and other records before heading out into the field. This information can help you choose where to focus your inspection site visits.

Select the sites to visit. Make sure that you have the freedom to select any part of the project for inspection. Do not allow the grower group manager to “direct” the inspection. Keep in mind that the further a group of producers are from the main office or the internal control system administrator, the weaker the control may be. Attempt to visit remote producers to best assess the system.

Interview grower group members. Once the inspection begins, it is best to follow the product flow starting with the production sites, followed by primary processing, final processing, packaging, storage, and distribution. When visiting the producers, in addition to observing production practices and organic control points specific to the operation, the inspector must verify aspects critical to the overall project. Interview producers directly. Ask questions not only about their farms, but also about other project programs. How well does the producer understand what organic farming and certification means?

Ask direct questions. It is also important to ask producers, point blank, "When was the last time you used agro-chemicals?" You may want to ask specifically if this includes urea or Roundup or other brand name products common to the area. Often producers in a remote area do not clearly understand that these substances are prohibited. Do not assume anything. Individual farm integrity usually reflects the producer's understanding of organic certification, which is directly linked to the project's educational and oversight efforts.

Understand local issues. It is critical to understand the local culture, traditions, and common inputs. It is advantageous to invite a local inspector to accompany you. A local inspector can help build trust with producers and help you understand local issues. Such cooperative arrangements can help empower indigenous inspectors.

Office audit. Once all aspects of the project have been inspected, a final visit to the project office will likely be required for an audit. The audit of the entire project is best done at the end of the inspection, when the inspector has a more thorough understanding of the entire operation. Additionally, it will most likely be necessary to verify different pieces of information gathered during the field inspection.

Exit interview. An exit interview with the project management is necessary in order to answer remaining questions. This gives the inspector a last chance to secure missing information, obtain required signatures, clarifying confusing, inconsistent, or inaccurate information, and communicate issues of concern.

B. The Internal Control System and Organic Control Points (OCPs)

Assess the internal control system. The most critical component of both the grower group inspection and the grower group inspection report is the assessment of the internal control system. (A grower group inspection is in fact an evaluation of the internal control system.) The report must address the steps taken by the internal control system to enforce compliance with organic standards.

- Have the operators been provided copies of the standards in a language or format they understand?
- Does the internal control system use individual inspection reports to assess operator compliance? If not, how is compliance assessment documented?
- How often do official representatives of the control system visit each operation?
- What kinds of documents are generated to verify these visits?
- Are new operators inspected prior to being added to the GG?
- Have all grower group members signed a contract stating that they will comply with the organic standards and permit annual inspections?
- Are operators provided assistance to comply with the standards?
- What happens when non-compliance is suspected or detected?
- Are there records of the actions taken when non-compliance has been investigated?
- Does the control system have an official "sanctions" policy? If so, submit a copy with your report.

Report inconsistencies. It is important to clearly describe the consistency of the project from producer to producer. As indicated, different certifying agents may have different requirements for grower group inspections. Some may require spreadsheets with information on each producer; others may require site visit sheets signed by the farmer at the farm; others require inspecting only a percentage of the total number of producers. If you find prohibited practices and you are only inspecting 20% of the operations, it is a good bet that you have only found 1/5 of the problems. Removal of the individual producer is not necessarily the final answer. The situation may be an indication that the project is not providing proper oversight. Internal records should match your findings and the findings of the certification program. Present your findings in the inspection report, along with any inconsistencies and unresolved issues.

OCPs. It is very important to describe the organic control points of the overall operation, where loss of organic integrity may occur. The inspector should report the preventative steps taken to protect organic products, and identify deficiencies where organic control points are not sufficiently addressed.

The following is a list of examples of **organic control points** encountered during grower group

inspections:

- Unclear registers of grower group members.
- Unclear or inadequate maps.
- Inclusion of new fields or new producers with no conversion or documentation.
- Use of synthetic fertilizers - A producer may think that because he or she uses no herbicides or pesticides, the operation is organic.
- Use of used agrochemical bags or containers for harvested products.
- Contamination during storage or transport, e.g.: boats with gas and water in bilge, or storage under the house with gas and paint on top of product.
- Insufficient buffers or non-separation from other crops that have chemicals e.g.: cacao inter-planted with plantain, with urea used to fertilize the plantain.
- Inclusion of crops from neighbors or relatives who are not on the producer list.
- Intentional chemical use. "I only used a little bit."
- Shared use of backpack sprayers which are also used for applying prohibited materials.
- Unclear internal purchase and transaction records within the grower group.

Processing by grower groups. Finally, grower group reports may include process inspection reports for all of the processes performed by the grower group. Make sure that the grower group has submitted a handling system plan, as applicable, and that the plan has been approved by the certifying agent. Follow handling inspection protocols and submit a handling inspection report.

C. Grower Group Inspection Report Guide

The grower group inspection report basically follows the outline for a farm inspection report. However, sections may need to be expanded, added, or modified. For example, a section on Organizational Management is helpful to describe many aspects of the project. This section should describe the structure and assess the functioning of the internal control system. It should also list the names of communities, number of producers in each, hectares of each, and, if possible, estimated yields, with totals.

The following outline summarizes the general areas of grower groups that should always be inspected, and provides a list of the additional topics which must be covered in a grower group inspection report:

1. **Background**
2. **Project headquarters and audit trail information; organization, accessibility, and accuracy of information; projected yields of products requested for certification**
3. **Organization management, internal control system, and compliance mechanisms, including records maintained**
4. **List of communities**
5. **Grower lists**
6. **All processing facilities, both on-farm and off-farm**
7. **Transportation systems**
8. **Storage facilities**
9. **Field conditions; inspector observations**
10. **Risk assessment; adjoining land uses; other organic control points**
11. **Inputs used**
12. **Equipment used**
13. **Packaging materials**
14. **Producer interviews; inspector observations**
15. **Education program – producer understanding of organic principles and standards**

16. Split operations - production of non-organic crops/products by grower group members

17. Other considerations

18. Summary

19. Attachments

D. Outline for Organization and Assessment of the Internal Control System (ICS)

1. Field officers

Field officers are employed by the grower group. They have mixed roles:

- a. Information/extension
- b. Registration of growers
- c. Internal control
- d. On-farm research

Field officers often become part of the community. Because field officers have internal control and education functions, they may have conflict of interest issues. This can be solved by rotation of field officers or field officers from other areas handling the internal control function. There should be a minimum of one field officer per maximum 500 farmers.

2. Principles of ICS

- a. analyses/description of situation
- b. appropriate, documented system
- c. awareness raising, information and instruction, contracting, verbal and written, social controls, monitoring, corrective actions, risk analyses

3. ICS documents

- a. Project description
 1. Basic project outline
 2. Farmer and farm profile, grower lists, site maps
 3. Farming practices
 4. Farmer support system
 5. Stakeholder analyses
 6. Risk-assessment
- b. The ICS itself
 1. ICS personnel and the ICS office
 2. Documentation & record keeping (forms)
 3. Monitoring and corrective actions
 4. The buying system arrangement
 5. Product storage and handling procedures
 6. Code numbering and product tracing
- c. Updating the system (annual report)
 1. Compliance with standards
 2. Corrective actions undertaken
 3. Farm/project economy – financial report
 4. Update of documents

E. Evaluation of the Internal Control System (ICS)

The outline below contains further methodology for evaluation of the ICS by the third party inspector:

- a. At the ICS office
 1. Review of the documented system (Is it sufficient for the current situation?)
 2. File check to see whether system is being adhered to (Is office, are documents, is staff, is the system functioning?)
 3. Review cases of farmer non-compliance
 4. Identification of problem areas/risk assessment
 5. Construct a plan for field visits:
 - Select some to get a general feeling, at random
 - Select some targeted at problems/risk areas and distant production sitesThis work can be done in one day if the office and staff are well organized. The inspector should use a format/checklist/reporting form for this office work.

- b. In the field
 1. Field visits
 - Conduct some farm re-inspection visits
 - Inspect some at random (can even be demonstration farm or village elders)
 - Inspect some focused on the problem/risk areas
 - Meet with community, second parties
 - Evaluate social control mechanisms
 - Meet with third partiesAs soon as a non-compliance is detected, the inspector will want to determine whether the non-compliance is the odd exception or whether it is widespread.

- c. Back in ICS office (exit interview)
 1. Share evaluation of the field visits with field staff.
 2. Identify OCPs and potential non-compliance issues.
 3. Discuss strategies to address areas of non-compliance with management and field staff.

EX. 29

**FORMAL RECOMMENDATION BY THE
NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD (NOSB)
TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM (NOP)**

Date: November 19, 2008

Subject: Certifying Operations with Multiple Production Units, Sites, and Facilities under the National Organic Program

Chair: Rigoberto Delgado

Recommendation

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Rulemaking Action: X

Guidance Statement:

Other:

Summary Statement of the Recommendation (including Recount of Vote):

This 2008 recommendation “Certifying Operations with Multiple Production Units, Sites and Facilities” is a new recommendation that accepts and extends the logic of the NOSB’s 2002 recommendation. The OFPA and the NOP authorize certification of operations with multiple production units, sites or facilities-- including operations consisting of legally-constituted groups--based on their organic system plan, their internal control systems and other oversight provided by certifying agents. In short, this recommendation supports the continued expansion of opportunity to certify groups worldwide that supply many organic products and ingredients without compromising or diluting the strict requirements of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and NOP.

There are today producers operating under certifications based on implementation of strong internal control systems that guide the implementation of a single organic system plan across multiple production units. This method of organic certification has assisted producers and handlers from less developed areas in reaching organic markets and in expanding the purchasing options of organic consumers. The use of an internal control system as part of an organic system plan that integrates multiple sites and production units is consistent with the OFPA and, provided additional assurances are met, may reduce the need for direct observation by inspection of each subunit or site operated under that OSP.

NOSB Vote: Pass Motion:

Joseph Smillie

Second: Tracy Miedema

Board vote: Yes - 12 No- 2 Abstain- 0 Absent - 1

Summary Rationale Supporting Recommendation (including consistency with OFPA and NOP):

See pages 2-5

Response by the NOP:

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Compliance, Accreditation & Certification Committee**

**Certifying Operations with Multiple Production Units, Sites and Facilities
under the National Organic Program**

November 19, 2008

I. Overview

Congress determined that national organic standards would facilitate commerce and assure consumers that products marketed with an organic claim meet a “consistent standard.”¹ To achieve this commercial consistency Congress authorized the USDA to develop a federal organic certification program² in consultation with the National Organic Standards Board.³ On October 20, 2002, the NOSB submitted its recommendation “Criteria for Certification of Grower Groups” to the Secretary. (2002 recommendation) The National Organic Program (NOP) approved the 2002 recommendation in May 2007 for interim use by certifying agents.

This 2008 recommendation “Certifying Operations with Multiple Production Units, Sites and Facilities”⁴ is a new recommendation that accepts and extends the logic of the NOSB’s 2002 recommendation.⁵ The OFPA and the NOP authorize certification of operations with multiple production units, sites or facilities-- including operations consisting of legally-constituted groups--based on their organic system plan, their internal control systems and other oversight provided by certifying agents. *In short, this recommendation supports the continued expansion of opportunity to certify groups worldwide that supply many organic products and ingredients without compromising or diluting the strict requirements of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and NOP.*

The key development that underpins this recommendation is an informal decision dated October 27, 2006 in which the AMS Administrator determined that a certifying agent’s policy of inspecting “only a percentage of producers” in a group instead of annual inspections of each producer in the group was inconsistent with 7 CFR §205.403.⁶ The NOP allowed the continuation of group certification under the guidance of the 2002 NOSB recommendation on May 2nd 2007

There are today producers operating under certifications based on implementation of strong internal control systems that guide the implementation of a single organic system plan across multiple production units. This method of organic certification has assisted producers and handlers from less developed areas in reaching organic markets and in expanding the purchasing options of organic consumers. The use of an internal control system as part of an organic system plan that integrates multiple sites and production units is consistent with the OFPA and, provided additional assurances are met, may reduce the need for direct observation by inspection of each subunit or site operated under that OSP.

¹ 7 USC §6501; §6505(b) (imported products may be sold in interstate commerce if certified under an “organic certification program ...[that] provides safeguards and guidelines ...equivalent to the requirements for this chapter.”)

² 7 USC §6503(a)

³ 7 USC §6503(c)

⁴ This terminology is consistent with the regulatory language related to inspection found in 7 CFR § 205.403.

⁵ The rationale described in the 2002 recommendation remains applicable

⁶ National Organic Program Appeal Decisions 2005-07 (March 12, 2007)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/Compliance/AppealsSummaries/Sept05-Mar07.pdf>

II. Legal Background

The committee agrees with and adopts the 2002 NOSB approach that the NOP may authorize its certifying agents to develop requirements for internal control systems designed to assist in certifying operations that consist of multiple production units, sites and facilities operating under a single organic system plan and that may reduce the need for direct observation by inspection of each unit or site. We begin with the October 2006 Decision in APL-011-06 (the decision) because it partially frames the ultimate issue addressed by this recommendation.

A. The Decision

In October 2006 the AMS Administrator issued a decision regarding a “community grower group” that was denied certification largely because it lacked a “well defined internal control system.”⁷ The group had sought review only of the certification denial, appealing “the magnitude of the sanction” and not the underlying finding of an inadequate internal control system.⁸ The Administrator affirmed the certifying agent’s decision, concluding that there had been a “failure of internal oversight mechanisms” thus the certification denial was justified.⁹ The decision went further however and concluded the use of an internal control system that required annual inspection of only a “percentage of producers for initial and annual on-site inspections” did not comport with 7 CFR 205.403(a)(1).¹⁰ Other deficiencies were identified and taken together caused the Administrator to conclude that an “internal inspection system [cannot be used] as a proxy for the mandatory on-site inspections by a certifying agent.”¹¹

We understand the decision to say that the system under review in the case failed to comply with section 205.403(a)(1). But the decision does not preclude internal control systems that reduce or eliminate the need for direct observation of each portion of an operation under the annual on-site inspection rule appearing at section 205.403(a)(1)

B. The Role of the Organic System Plan

The OFPA authorizes persons¹² to seek certification for their operations by submitting an organic system plan.

"[O]rganic plan" means *a plan of management* * * * that has been agreed to by the producer or handler and the certifying agent and that includes written plans concerning all aspects of agricultural production or handling[.]¹³

Congress envisioned the OSP as a collaborative written management plan that reflected the unique characteristics of the operation. The Final Rule reflects this guidance.

⁷ Docket APL-011-06, Pg. 5, fn. 9 (defining a community grower group for purposes of the administrative decision) The 2002 NOSB recommendation also describes the organizational form its recommendation addresses calling it a “grower group.”

⁸ Pg. 10

⁹ Pg. 10

¹⁰ Pg. 11

¹¹ Pg. 12

¹² 7 USC §6502 (15) A person may be an individual or any other form of legally recognized entity.

¹³ 7 USC §6513(a); §6506(a)(2)

The organic system plan must be negotiated, enacted, and amended through an informed dialogue between certifying agent and producer or handler, and it must *be responsive to the unique characteristics of each operation*.¹⁴

The organic system plan is the forum through which the producer or handler and certifying agent collaborate to define, on a site-specific basis, how to achieve and document compliance with the requirements of certification. The organic system plan *commits the producer or handler to a sequence of practices and procedures resulting in an operation that complies with every applicable provision in the regulations*.¹⁵

OSPs are the key management document for certified operations. Additional documentation may be ordered by the certifying agent to ensure the OSP is consistent with the OFPA and NOP.

[C]ertifying agents are competent to determine the specific documentation they require to review and evaluate an operation's organic system plan.¹⁶

Such records must be adapted to the particular business that the certified operation is conducting, * * * and be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Act and regulations.¹⁷

The organic certification process envisioned by Congress and embedded in the Final Rule demonstrates that an OSP is a management plan that is responsive to the operation's particular needs and that certifying agents may impose additional documentary requirements to ensure a particular operation is compliant. This is adequate authorization to use the organic system plan as a vehicle for development of internal control systems that improve the results of third-party inspections by bringing the various units and sites under one governing compliance scheme that may reduce the need for direct observation by inspection of each unit or site.

C. The Role of Inspections

Inspections play an important role in determining whether an OSP is being properly implemented, and Congress mandated that all certified farms and handling operations receive an "annual inspection."¹⁸ The statute does not define "inspection" and the fact that it occurs but once a year indicates that Congress considered the organic inspection to be more a part of the OSP collaboration between the farmer and the certifying agent than as part of the government's policing of the organic label. The NOP's definition of "inspection" and statements in the Final Rule support this approach:

The act of examining and evaluating the production or handling operation of an applicant for certification or certified operation to determine compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.¹⁹

An inspection is a tool based on examination and evaluation of site-specific activity to verify that the organic system plan "accurately reflects the practices used" and that the operation may be seen to comply with the rules and statute.²⁰

¹⁴ Final Rule at p. 41, <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/NOP/standards/FullText.pdf>

¹⁵ 65 Fed. Reg. at 80558 (emphasis added).

¹⁶ Final Rule, at pg. 44, <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/NOP/standards/FullText.pdf>

¹⁷ Pg. 21 Final Rule, <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/NOP/standards/FullText.pdf>

¹⁸ 7 USC §6506(a)(5) and 6502 (definitions)

¹⁹ 7 CFR §205.2 (definitions)

²⁰ Pg. 158 Final Rule, <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/NOP/standards/FullText.pdf>

III. Recommendation

The committee recommends that the NOP accept the following **suggested definitions changes** and **prepare guidance materials for ACAs** that describes the implementation of these changes regarding certification of operations with multiple production units, sites or facilities. This may require a rule change to Section 205.403 and 205.2 that specifically allows multi-site certification based on a single OSP and functioning ICS.

Recommended new definitions for addition to 7 CFR205.2

“Production Unit” means:

The portion of an organic operation where products are produced and/or handled post-harvest, including any sub-units located within geographic proximity. A production unit, including any sub-units located within geographic proximity, operates under the operation’s organic system plan, and is managed through an internal control system to ensure compliance with all applicable provisions of the regulations. Each production unit within a production or post-harvest handling operation has defined location, practices, management and/or products.

“Sub-unit” means:

A smaller discrete portion of a production unit, such as a field, plot, wild-crop harvest area, or distinct processing area.

“Internal Control System” means:

A written quality assurance system included in a master organic system plan that sets forth the practice standards, recordkeeping and audit trail requirements applicable at each production unit, facility or site and that identifies the internal verification methods used.

“Site” means:

The location of management activities for a given production unit.

Recommended guidance materials that NOP should create for Accredited Certifying Agencies

A. Introduction

For the past 30 years, the organic industry has embraced the concept of people working together to convert more acreage to organic agriculture and create more organic food and products for consumers. One method of people working together has traditionally been called “group certification” or “organic smallholder certification,” and is here referred to as “producer group certification.” When an operation’s activities are carried out in a similar manner at different sites, production units, and facilities and when the activities of these component parts are under the control of the operation through a well-executed, single Organic System Plan (OSP), it is possible that proper multi-site inspection may be achievable through risk assessment and sampling rather than through direct observation of every member of the producer group every year.

All producer group organic operations are subject to the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and 7 CFR Part 205. Therefore, the guidance provided herein focuses on particular items not addressed in the rule, and would serve to codify practices that have existed pursuant to the NOSB 2002 Grower Group recommendation. The intent here is to provide guidance for topics specifically related to producer group organic operations, not to create a parallel set of organic standards or verification system for producer group organic operations.

B. Prerequisites for a Producer Group Operation to seek USDA Organic Certification

- The producer group operation composed of production units, sites, or facilities, must be organized as a “person” according to 7 CFR 205.2. The Final Rule defines “person” as “an individual, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or other entity.”
- The certification is owned by the group, not any individual member or subunit, which may not represent itself as certified other than through the group.
- The operation must only seek certification with an Accredited Certification Agency (ACA) that is fully qualified to perform certification of operations with multiple production units, sites, and facilities. *(An ACA may be considered qualified if they have produced evidence, upon request by NOP, which is considered by NOP to be satisfactory to affirm the fitness of the ACA to perform the inspection of multi-site operations.)*
- The practices of the producer group operation must be uniform and reflect a consistent process or methodology, using the same inputs/ processes.
- Participation in the producer group operation is limited to those group members who market their organic production only through the group, unless the member is individually certified.
- Producer group operations must utilize centralized processing, distribution, marketing facilities and systems.
- Record-keeping protocols must be consistent. It is not acceptable that individual production units, sites, or facilities differ in their methodology of record keeping.

C. Organizing the Producer Group Operation

Production units, sites, and facilities within a certified organic producer group operation do not possess individual certificates.

A “production unit,” “site,” or “facility,” for purposes of ACA inspection, is to be considered the measurement unit of the operation subject to annual inspection. This includes direct inspection of sub-units of a production unit based on both risk assessment and random sampling.

The producer group operation must establish and implement an Internal Control System (ICS), with supervision and documentation of production practices and inputs used at each sub-unit, and collected at each production unit, site, or facility to insure compliance with the USDA’s National Organic Program.

Criteria for the clustering of ‘members’ or ‘sub-units’ into a Production Unit

The ACA must approve the designation of specific members or subunits as belonging to a single production unit according to the following criteria, as applicable to the group, the geographic location, and the type(s) of product being produced. All members or sub-units within a production unit:

- Are unified by a shared training regimen
- Operate together under the same section of the producer group operation’s single Organic System Plan, including inputs used, fertility management and pest control practices, livestock feeding and health care practices, and record keeping and audit trail system. (This will require an adjustment to the status quo where members may be acting as autonomous members under a single OSP. Going forward, members will need to organize into production units for the sharing of best practices.)
- Share a common input supply

- Share common personnel responsible for managing operations, providing extension services, monitoring and enforcing the functioning of the Internal Control System
- Use a single post-harvest processing system
- Are located within geographic proximity, as defined by access to the same collection or post-harvest handling facility, and/or common soils, water source, slope, topography or other physical features
- Produce unique products or varieties and share the same harvest schedule

Likewise, if any member within a production unit processes or consolidates product from more than one member, it must be considered a single production unit and must be inspected annually. An upper limit on the number of members or subunits included in a given Production Unit should be based on the feasibility of effective oversight by management personnel and factors such as size and accessibility of the subunits.

D. Inspecting the Producer Group Operation

An inspection, as defined by the NOP, is “the act of examining and evaluating the production or handling operation of an applicant for certification or certified operation to determine compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.” The applicant or certified entity is the legal business or association whose Organic System Plan (OSP) must be verified by examining each “production unit, facility, and site” where organic products are produced or handled.

Verification of the OSP is largely accomplished by a thorough audit of the functioning of the Internal Control System, accompanied by a physical examination of every Production Unit (generally the headquarters or common regional handling or collection facility) and a meaningful sample of subunits within any given Production Unit (with one exception – all new entrants to a Production Unit must be inspected in their first year with the group. In subsequent years, all successfully certified operations will be inspected per the sampling method described below) In a producer group operation, the Production Unit is the smallest portion of the operation that must be inspected every year.

1. Inspection: Sampling and Risk Analysis

The certifying agent must have policies and procedures for determining how many of the sub-units within a production unit must receive an annual inspection by the certifying agent. In addition to the mandatory inspection of new entrants to the production unit, the certifying agent must also have policies and procedures for determining which sub-units present the greatest risks of non-compliance. Various risk assessment methods are used to both determine sample size and select the appropriate sub-units to examine. Higher levels of overall risk for a production unit would dictate a higher proportion of components to be sampled. The factors below will assist inspectors both in determining the sample size and in deciding which components he/ she should inspect annually. It is the responsibility of the ACA to instruct the inspectors on which high-risk sub-units must be inspected and the number of lower-risk sub-units that should be sampled based on their determination of the group’s over-all risk. The ACA will ensure that this protocol is transparent.

- The number of production units and sub-units, sites and facilities participating in the producer group operation
- The size of the average production unit and sub-units
- The degree of uniformity among the sub-units within a production unit
- The complexity of the production system
- The management structure of the internal control system.
- Prohibited materials applied adjacent to a sub-unit within the previous year
- New entrants to the producer group operation
- Significant expansion of size of the sub-unit
- Split or parallel production
- The number of years the producer group operation has functioned
- The rate of growth in new members

- Any previous problems with functioning of the ICS
- Staff turnover
- Potential conflict of interest
- Complexity of types of subunits and/or products marketed
- The prevalence of conventional production of the same type in the region
- Whether a post-harvest handling or livestock facility of any kind is included
- Compliance with Internal Training
- Frequency of minor non-compliances
- Grossing \$5000 or more in US organic sales per year

Once the annual sampling percentage rate is determined by the ACA, the highest risk subunits are identified and inspected. Of the remaining sample to be inspected annually, at least 25% of these the subunits should be selected at random. This helps to prevent the complacency that might be inadvertently encouraged by a certifier focusing only on higher-risk members of the multi-site operation.

Example 1: 100 subunits. Sample rate determined by the ACA: 10%. 3 sub-units are identified by ACA as "high risk" and inspected. Of the remaining 97 subunits, 7 more will need to be inspected to reach the 10% rate. At least 2 of those (25%) should be selected for inspection at random.

Example 2: 100 subunits. Sample rate determined by the ACA: 30%. 10 subunits identified as "high risk" and inspected. Of the remaining 90 subunits, 20 more will need to be inspected to reach the 30% rate. At least 5 of those (25%) should be selected for inspection at random.

The objective of using risk assessment methodology is to determine whether the Internal Control System (or ICS, see below) is functioning and to detect and correct non-compliances before they compromise the certification of the group. Moreover, the direct observation of a given sub-unit is not a guarantee that an instance of deliberate or fraudulent noncompliance will be detected. It is reasonable to expect that a well functioning Internal Control System, whose personnel visit each sub-unit at least once a year, will be effective in detecting such instances of noncompliance.

2. The Role of the Internal Control System (ICS)

An Internal Control System may also be called an Internal Quality System, and is analogous to the function of the Quality Assurance department of a large operation. Its mandate is to maintain consistency in compliance with the regulations as well as more traditional product quality concerns. The various components of a producer group operation all are governed by the same Organic System Plan, and the ICS must maintain sufficient oversight to ensure that all personnel are consistently following the plan. It is in the interest of this body to safeguard the organic status of the entire operation and the eligibility of the group as a whole for organic certification.

Within a production unit, the Internal Control System personnel are charged with conducting surveillance and reviews of every smallest divisible part of the production unit, site or facility every year. For instance, for a single sub-unit of a farming operation that is made up of multiple production units, the ICS surveillance and review should focus on critical organic control points (analogous to a HACCP Plan) such as buffer areas, condition of growing crops, soil quality indicators, input and equipment storage areas, and level of understanding of organic requirements by the operator.

While it is the ACA's role to inspect at the level of production units, sites, and facilities and ensure that the ICS is functioning properly, the Internal Control System peers deeper into each of these production units, sites or facilities. For the person seeking organic certification to be in compliance with the NOP, all non-compliances detected at the production unit, site, or facility or at the sub-unit or member level are required to be reported to the *certifier* (not just the ICS) per 205.400 (f).

i. How the ICS Works

The internal reviewers carry out at least one annual direct observation and review of each individual operator, including visits to fields and facilities.

The Internal Control System keeps appropriate documentation, including at least a description of the subunits and the facilities, the production plans, the products harvested, the contractual arrangement with each individual member and internal inspection reports.

The Internal Control System must include the application of sanctions to individual members who do not comply with the organization's OSP, the OFPA or the NOP Regulations. It must inform the ACA of the irregularities and minor non-compliances found. It must communicate back to the source of the minor non-compliance the corrective actions imposed, with agreed time for completion.

The Internal Control System must provide for the suspension or exclusion of members or subunits who are found to have major non-compliances, including a plan for corrective action that must be implemented before the member or subunit can be readmitted. It must inform the ACA of all such actions, and a member who willfully or fraudulently violates the NOP should not be permitted to rejoin the group until the ACA approves the measures taken to ensure that the violation is not repeated.

ii. Internal Control System Personnel

Ideally, the ICS personnel team should include field staff the internal evaluation committee, the director of ICS, the director of training and capacity building, representatives from the technical committee, representatives from the marketing committee, and the board of trustees. While primary responsibility would remain with the directors, the internal inspectors, and the internal evaluation committee, coordination and input from other personnel is crucial for a well-functioning ICS process.

Regardless of the number of ICS personnel, the ICS director needs to develop an organizational chart to provide a clear picture of how the various duties among the ICS staff are divided and to make clear the reporting structure among personnel. ICS personnel must have clear roles and responsibilities assigned by management and the resources and training to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. Additionally, the staff hired to fulfill the roles within an ICS should possess the following qualifications:

- Be fluent in the local language and dialect of the group members
- Possess the ability to read and write and report in the chosen ICS language
- Be well versed in the National Organic Program, especially in the sections of the regulation that relate to the subunits and members, sites or facilities that they review
- Be familiar with the local agricultural production systems.
- Be familiar with the principles and practice of organic agriculture
- Be familiar with the principles and practices of organic post-harvest handling
- Be able to demonstrate competence in internal control procedures and an understanding of the internal regulations

iii. Addressing Potential Conflicts of Interest

Any employee of an organization empowered by that same organization to determine compliance with a regulation carries the potential to be conflicted about whether or not to report non-compliances. This is true at individual producer operations and at producer group operations. In order to mitigate the potential for non-compliances to go unreported, the Internal Control System personnel must receive contractual (in-writing) assurances that under no circumstances are they to be admonished in any way because they have detected and reported a noncompliance. In essence, this written assurance from the organization or "person" creates a firewall of protection for Internal Control System personal to implement the operation's OSP. Additionally, these

personnel must also be required to disclose, in writing, any potential conflicts in advance of surveillance and review.

Some of the past concern regarding conflict of interest at producer group operations may have arisen from a misuse of the word “inspection” as referring to the Internal Control System’s use of surveillance and review as part of its oversight function. These internal surveillance and compliance reviews, carried out by the operation’s field staff, should be clearly distinguished from the inspections conducted by the certifying body, and should not be represented as serving as proxies for, or in lieu of, the organic inspection. In other words: only ACAs conduct Inspections.

While internal staff could be considered to have an inherent conflict of interest, their obligation is to ensure that the entire group maintains its organic status. The use of internal field staff to ensure compliance by all group members is analogous to the QA department of a large, complex operation. Groups may mitigate any conflict of interest by assigning field staff to review subunits in different regions or villages, and similar measures. The NOP requires an individual operator to report any changes that might affect the operation’s compliance, including drift or applications of prohibited substances, and a certifier should also expect to receive this information from ICS personnel.

3. Training Requirements

The success of an ICS is greatly enhanced by consistent and continuous training for all members and all ICS personnel. For most organizations, internal personnel will carry out the majority of training of members, but at least one training per year by an external specialist is recommended for ICS personnel. For producer group operations, the internal surveillance and review is a rigorous and time-consuming process for ICS personnel. Training maximizes the efforts of the personnel devoted to the ICS, and therefore the entire internal review process.

Training is considered to be the key to ensuring that members understand and comply with organic standards. The responsibility of NOP with regard to certifier qualifications, in addition to reviewing a certifier’s evidence of fitness to certify multi-site operations, is to promote and assist in the implementation of certification training specific to producer group operations, particularly the training in the evaluation of Internal Control Systems.

V - VI (Reserved)

References:

The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990

7 CFR Part 205 National Organic Program

IFOAM Training Manuals: ICS Training Kit for Group Certification, For Producer Organizations

IFOAM Training Manuals: ICS Training Kit for Group Certification, For Inspectors and Certification Personnel

NOSB Recommendation, "Criteria for Certification of Grower Groups," adopted October 20, 2002.

International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF), "IAF Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC Guide 62:1996, Annex 3, Multisite Certification/Registration," April 12, 2000

IFOAM, "Smallholder Group Certification: Compilation of Results," March, 2003

ISO/IEC 17021: "Conformity Assessment—Requirements for bodies providing audit and verification of management systems," First edition 2006-09-15.

Pyburn, Rhiannon. "Final Report on Internal Control Systems and Management Systems: Public Summary," Social Accountability in Sustainable Agriculture (SASA), August 3, 2004

Public Input: OTA Group Certification Task Force 2007-2008 White Papers

Public Comments collected to www.regulations.gov

COMMITTEE VOTE:

The CACC moves to accept this document as the recommendation:

Moved: Julie Weisman; Second: Tracy Miedema

Yes: 3 No: 2 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1

EX. 30



Oregon Department of Agriculture
Market Access and Certification Programs
Organic Certification Program

OCP.F.25

Organic Inspection Exit Interview

Business Name: <u>Prairie Farms</u>	Customer ID: <u>AG-000170700</u>
Contact Name: <u>Bruce Kaser</u>	Inspection Date: <u>4/26/22</u>
Inspector: <u>Nathan Miller</u>	Time In: <u>11:00</u> Time Out: <u>1:00</u>
Company Representatives: <u>Bruce Kaser</u>	

Please describe all issues of concern identified during the inspection and include the NOP citation*:

None found

List any additional documentation requested from the applicant:

NA

Due date for additional documentation:

*Any issue(s) noted above may result in a Notice of Noncompliance. The inspection report is subject to review and additional findings may be made by the Final Reviewer.

If any changes were made to the OSP or supporting documentation(labels, maps, etc.), they must be initialed by a company representative and attached to the inspection report.

Were samples collected? Yes No

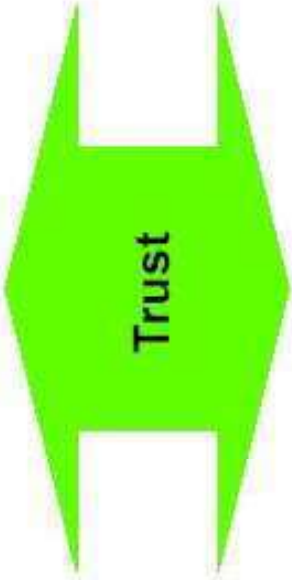
Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/26/22
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Inspector

Signature: Bruce Kaser Date: 4/26/22
Company Representative

EX. 31

Why is organic certification needed?

The consumer requests healthy and environmentally sound products
and is willing to pay a higher price for them.



The farmer produces according to defined organic standards
and can sell his products at a higher price.

Principles of Smallholder Group Certification



- A central body ensures the compliance of all smallholder farmers with organic standards
- Group has a formal Internal Control System (ICS)
- One certification for the group (not for single farmers)

EX. 31 - page 2 of 9

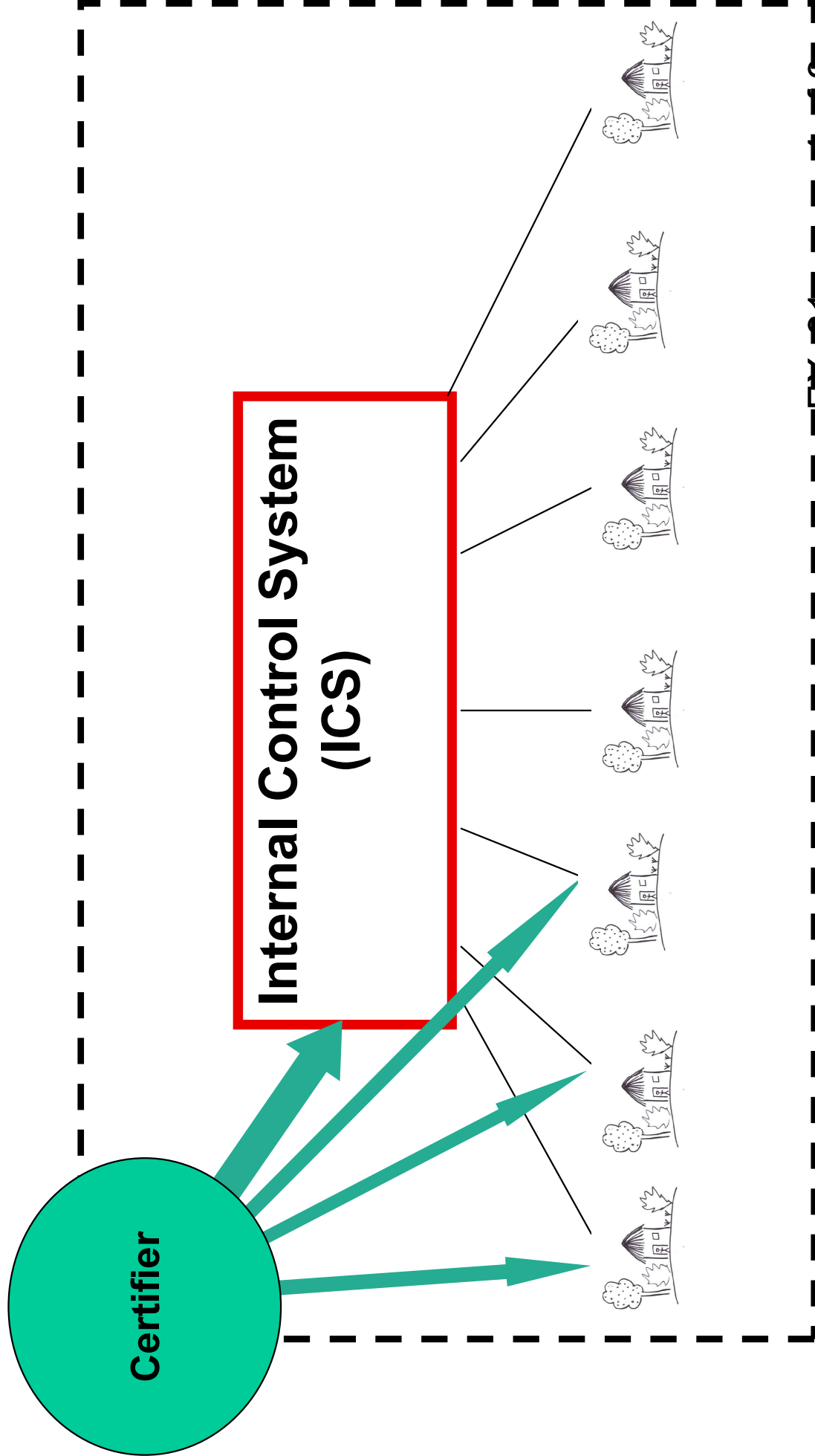


Definition ICS

IFOAM Definition:

An Internal Control System (ICS) is a documented quality assurance system that allows the external certification body to delegate the annual inspection of individual group members to an identified body/unit within the certified operator.

Certification of a Smallholder Group



The Internal Control System

- **Internal Control System (ICS)**
- Binding commitment of farmers to adhere to organic standard
- Internal inspection and field advise for farmers
- Internal approval and handling of noncompliances
- Documentation of farmer and farm data
- Product flow control



Farmers in the organic project



Conditions for Smallholder Group Certification

Complaint - Ex. A

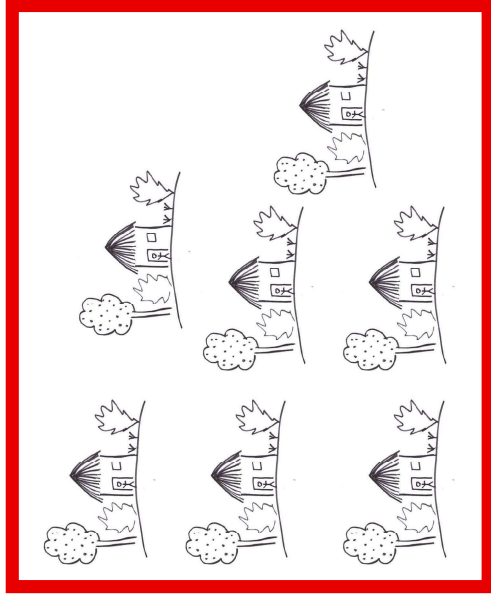
- **Cost of individual certification disproportionately high in relation to sales value.**
- **Homogeneity of members (location, production system, size of holding).**
- **In principle, only small farmers (by local standards); larger farms can belong to group but must always be inspected externally each year.**
- **Usually common marketing system**

PF0000205

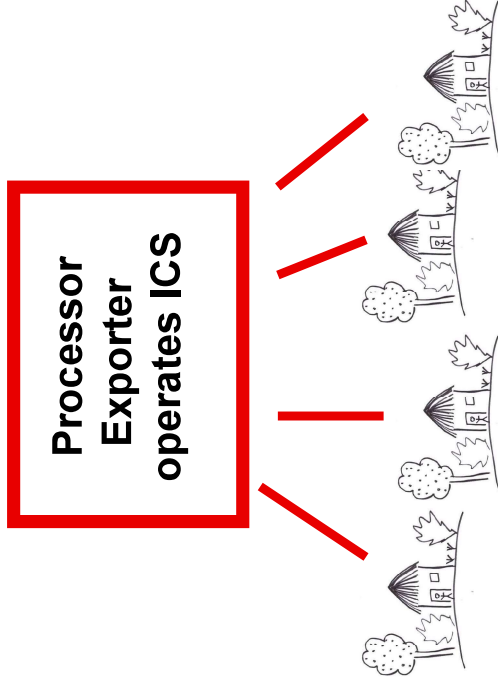
EX. 31 - page 6 of 9



Basic Types of Smallholder Projects



Cooperative
or Farmers Association
operates ICS



Contract Production

Some Important Terms

Complaint - Ex. A

Organic: normally means **CERTIFIED** according to a certain organic standard

Conventional: not organic = not certified

ICS Operator: Body that organises the ICS, usually this is the farmers cooperative or the contracting processor

ICS Manual: sum of all documents regulating the ICS: procedures, forms, policies, etc.

Noncompliance: always refers to a certain organic standard,
e.g. spraying Ambush is a n act of noncompliance because it violates an organic standard, but spraying copper is acceptable because it is allowed.

Prohibited/unallowed : not permitted according to a certain standard

Approval: approval by ICS according to internal organic standard and procedures

Certification : certification by (external) organic certifier according to regulations or public organic standards

PF0000207

ICS Manual

ICS Manual: sum of all documents regulating the ICS: procedures, forms, internal regulation, contracts, etc.

Note: *the new IFOAM ICS Guidance Manual is an example for such an ICS manual*

All relevant parts of the ICS Manual must be made available in appropriate form to the people who are responsible for implementation of the respective procedure or requirement.

The ICS Manual shall reflect the reality of the ICS, but must also fulfill all relevant minimum requirements. Therefore it needs to be reviewed regularly and changes need to be communicated to the ICS staff.

EX. 31 - page 9 of 9



EX. 32

Inspection of the Internal Control System in the ICS Office

Internal Control System (ICS)

- 3.2 Description of activities
- 5.1 ICS structure & responsibilities
- 5.2 ICS manual
- 5.3 Internal organic standard
- 5.4/5.5/5.6 Documented & effective procedures for internal farm inspection, internal approval/sanctions
- 5.7 Personnel is qualified; no conflicts of interest
- 5.8 Training of farmers



EX. 32 - page 1 of 32
Numbers refer to the sections and compliance criteria in the ICS report

Basic Description of Activities



3.2.1 An overview of the organic operation sites must be available, including a general overview of the farming system and agricultural practices of participating farmers

- May be part of the ICS Manual or as separate project description
- Description is important because inspector needs this information for a risk-based inspection approach
- ICS submits evidence that it is aware of all activities under its responsibility (all activities that will need monitoring)



3.2.2 There must be a description of all the steps that take place from harvest to final sales, including an indication of which entity is responsible for the product at each stage

- Make sure to consider all handling activities in the detailed inspection schedule at the beginning of inspection. **EX. 32 - page 2 of 32**

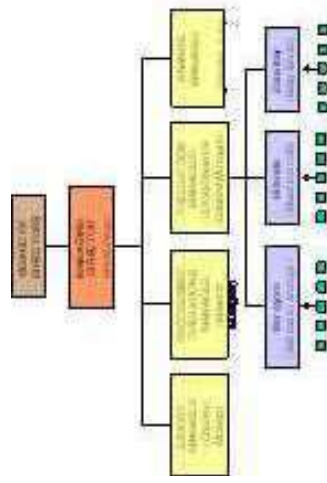
ICS Organization



5.1.1 ICS operator has an organizational chart or table of responsibilities

5.1.2 One person has overall responsibility for the ICS and coordination with the organic certification body.

- This position is usually called ICS-Coordinator
- He/She can delegate responsibilities so that for each procedure or task of the ICS, one person is in charge.
- Coordinates the internal inspection
- Coordinates with external certification body



5.1.3 ICS has assigned at least one person to take approval and sanction decisions

- Often = ICS coordinator, but may be somebody else; responsibility must be clear EX. 32 - page 3 of 32
- Better if it is more than one person taking the decision

Number of Internal Inspectors

5.1.4 There is a sufficient number of inspectors to perform 100% internal inspection each year



- Check how many inspectors, average number of farmers inspected by day.
- Can the internal inspections be thorough? E.g. if doing 20 inspection per day once a year???
- Don't forget to also consider time for other duties of inspectors (e.g. extension) when calculating whether capacities are sufficient.

EX. 32 - page 4 of 32

Are 2 inspectors sufficient for inspection & training of 250 farmers?

The ICS Manual

Complaint - Ex. A



5.1.1 There is an ICS manual, i.e. a set of documented policies, procedures and forms for the internal control system (B)

- Often not organized as manual, only forms and possibly a few written procedures - OK for first inspection, but missing parts must be defined
- If for some activities no written procedures yet - ask about standard practices (whether they have standardized procedures even if not written down)



5.1.2 The ICS manual covers in principles all relevant procedures (and their documentation) (B)

- internal organic standard (farm production rules)
- farm registration, internal inspection, internal approval/sanctions
- selling/buying, product handling

rather general first / rough evaluation of completeness of manual

EX, 32 - page 5 of 32

PF0000214

Effective Use of the ICS Manual

Complaint - Ex. A

PF0000215



5.1.3 Internal ICS staff has up-to-date forms at hand and is aware of the valid ICS procedures as described in the manual (C)

- Do they have documents at hand?
- Are documents used up to date? (*some delay in starting to use a new form is acceptable*)
- do the ICS staff know their respective procedures (as described in the manual)?



5.1.5 The ICS Manual reflects IN PRINCIPLE the internal procedures (B)

- Overall assessment at the end of the inspection.
- Small differences are very common, but somehow there must be a link between written procedures and reality.

EX. 32 - page 6 of 32

Updating of the ICS Manual

Complaint - Ex. A

5.1.4 The ICS Manual is reviewed regularly and updated when necessary (B)

- e.g., updated each year before start of new season
- Manual will need to be changed if internal procedures are modified/improved.
- Manual must be changed if major changes in applicable regulations/standards.
- Manual may need to be changed because requested by the certifier (certification conditions).
- If updating - how is the new document approved and distributed? Version management?



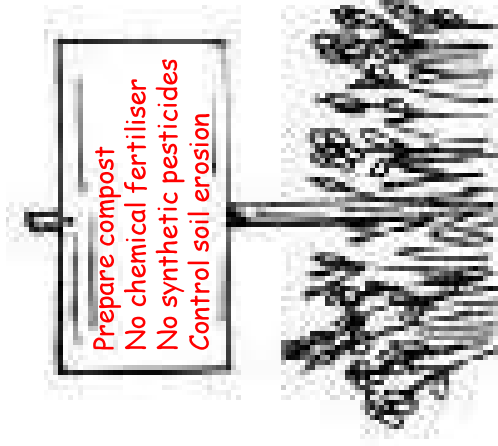
PF0000216

EX. 32 - page 7 of 32



What is an ‘Internal Organic Standard’?

- Describes the relevant organic farm production requirements
- Is a local interpretation of the applicable organic standards „What do our members need to do to be organic farms?“
- Takes into consideration all applicable standards and own quality expectations
- Is written in simple, practical language in order to be understood by farmers and ICS staff



The Internal Organic Standard

Complaint - Ex. A



5.3.1 There is an 'Internal Organic Standard' (B)



- Sometimes the rules of production are included in the contract. Some parts may even be somewhere else in the ICS manual → important is that the requirements are defined, not in which document.
- The term „internal regulation“ (IMO-Naturland ICS Manual) includes the organic production rules (= internal organic standard) but also some procedures, e.g. on registration.
- In some cases also the “external” standard can be accepted, if all requirements of the standard are effectively implemented in the ICS and are well known. Usually not suitable.

EX. 32 - page 9 of 32

PF0000218

Minimum Content of the Internal Organic Standard

Complaint - Ex. A



5.3.2 The 'Internal Organic Standard' regulates the following aspects:



- Organic and non-organic farm units
 - Soil management & fertilization (incl. inputs)
 - Plant protection (incl. inputs)
 - Seeds and planting stock
 - Prevention of drift (buffers, etc.) and contamination
 - Livestock husbandry
 - Post-harvest treatments/processing on the farm
 - Conversion period
- Are at least all minimum requirements of applicable standards (your certifier's interpretation) included, at least as far as relevant?

EX. 32 - page 10 of 32

PF0000219



Principles of Organic Production to be Included in the Internal Organic Standard (2)



Plant Protection and Weed Management

- Control of pests, diseases, weeds by appropriate cultivation measures (incl. crop rotation), mechanical measures, protection/propagation of natural enemies
- Restricted use of organic pesticides (list in standard), no chemical pesticides
- No chemical herbicides, weed control by slashing/hoeing

Organic Seeds or Planting Stock

- Organic seeds/planting stock; conventional material only under certain conditions
- No GMO



Animal Husbandry (if livestock not certified)

- Animal welfare
- Organic fodder where possible, no preventive medication, no contamination of organic fields

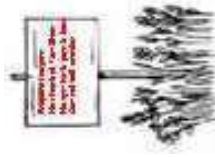
Harvest and Post-Harvest Procedures

- Separation
- No contamination

EX. 32 - page 12 of 32

Form of the Internal Organic Standard

Complaint - Ex. A



5.3.3 The internal standard is written in a language and manner that can be clearly understood by all ICS staff (B)



- In language of ICS staff?
- Clear and okay to read for the ‘typical’ ICS staff?



5.3.4. The (summary of) the internal organic standard is presented to farmers in a language/form that they can be understand.



- Summary can be given, e.g., in contract
- Simple language? Available in local language?
- If farmers are not literate, are the requirements still communicated to them in an appropriate way (illustrations/training)?

EX. 32 - page 13 of 32

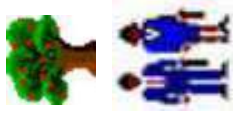
PF0000222

Understanding the Organic Requirements

Complaint - Ex. A



5.3.5 All ICS staff is trained, knowledgeable, & competent in implementation of internal standard and internal approval requirements (B)



- Even if no formal internal organic standard is yet available, staff awareness of all relevant requirements can be checked.



5.3.6 The internal approval staff is familiar with the overall standard requirements of the external certification standard



- Do they have the (external) certification standards available?
- Are they familiar with the most important requirements (even if slightly different from internal organic standard)?
EX. 32 - page 14 of 32

PF0000223

Exercise: Internal Organic Standard 'KNCU'



Documents:
Complete ICS manual, incl. contract form

→ Evaluate internal organic standard

→ Complete inspection report chapter 5.3



EX. 32 - page 15 of 32



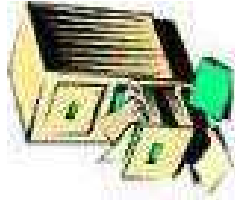
Minimum Farm Documentation



**The following documentation is needed for each farmer.
The documentation is usually kept in farm files:**

- Formal commitment of growers to fulfill the internal standard (written contract)
- Basic Farm Data Form / Farm Entrance Form with field history
- Updated production information
- Maps (if required for single farmer)
- Notes on important training or advice given to the farmer by field officer / other important notes from field officers
- Annual 'Farm Inspection Checklist' EX. 32 - page 16 of 32

Summary of the Internal Control



5.4.10 The result of the internal control needs to be resumed as follows:



- **Farmers List with information on**
 - Name and code of the farmer
 - Total area and area under organic crop
 - Date of registration and date of last use of forbidden products
 - Date of internal inspection and result
 - Name of internal inspector
 - **List of sanctioned farmers with reason and duration of the sanction**
- Are farmers lists complete? Does the information correspond to the information registered in the farmer's documentation?

EX. 32 - page 17 of 32

General Aspects of the ICS Documentation



- Because internal control systems are complex and documentation individually designed, the information is not always registered in the same way (in the various documents).
- If you do not find the information as shown in a particular form, check if it is available in another document (e.g., the plot list is not registered on the farm entrance form but on the internal checklist each year).
- In low-input systems, minor deficiencies in the documentation can be accepted (e.g., if the quantities of inputs are not registered), but the more complex the inputs, the more detail is needed.



EX. 32 - page 18 of 32

Exercise: Evaluation of ICS Documentation Case Study I, Coffee Union XXX

- Received documents:
Complete ICS manual, incl.
- Contract
 - Farm entrance form
 - Internal inspection report
 - Farmers list (1 sample page)

Evaluate the following documents (overall comments)

- Contract
- Internal inspection report form
- Farm entrance form
- Farmers list

EX. 32 - page 20 of 32

Commitment Declaration/Farmers Contract

5.4.1 & 5.4.2 The written contract (commitment declaration) needs to include:



Complaint - Ex. A



Obligations of the farmer:

- to comply with the requirements of the internal organic standard (A)
- to give access to the fields, stores and documents (B)
- to accept sanctions in case of deviations (B)

Organic Production Rules

- summary of internal organic standard or reference to internal organic standard (B)

For each farmer a signed complete contract must be available before buying EX. 32 - page 21 of 32

PF0000230



The Farmers Contract

Complaint - Ex. A



Other aspects often included in the contract

- ICS operator to provide advice to the farmers and to coordinate the internal and external inspection and to organise the purchase.
- Prices, product quality requirements.
- Rules for leaving the project / cancellation of contract.
- Farmer needs to announce non-conformities of fellow farmers to the ICS.

PF0000231

EX. 32 - page 22 of 32



Contract or Commitment Declaration?

- Some ICS operators choose to sign the actual contract with farmers only shortly before the farmers reach organic status and their products will be bought.
- In this case there needs to be at least a commitment declaration to adhere to organic rules from the beginning of the certification (often in basic farm data form/farm entrance form). This is an A- requirement.

Hand picking, Sun-drying and home storage. Citrus and mango Harvest, storage and Processing sale is done on site.

Confirmation of Farm Manager.

The undersigned here with confirms that all data mention the above a correct and that he intend to participate actively in the organic project. Further on, he binds him self to work according to the known IMO- production standards, not to use any chemical fertilizer nor pesticides and follow the recommendations of the consultants for organic agriculture methods.

P. B. MZYDAY
 Name of interviewer

9/12/2002
 Date

Alhazim
 Signature of farmer

Commitment declaration in the basic farm data form

CONTRACT

Contract No. IA - 162

Between Farmer(s) (Full name) *ALLY ABDALLAH DEWE*
 Address *Kaduna, Fagga*
 And *ZAWANLA DESIGN PROJECT XXX*

The undersigned farmer is legally bound to abide by the following rules:

Standards:

The responsible farmer, as well as all subcontractors and family members on the farm, acknowledge that this whole farm is certified by the Institute for Market-Oriented (IMO) according to the EU-Regulation for organic farming (Regulation (EEC) N° 2092/91) and therefore obliged to comply with the therein defined production methods (national policy).

Farm production:

- The farmer has to convert his whole farm land (not even to organic, i.e. it is not permitted to use artificial fertilizer or pesticides) on any part of the farm. If there is a conventional field (e.g. rice), this field has to be a clearly separate area marked on the required map and not to be organic areas. Also great care has to be taken to prevent shift of conventional crops to organic areas.
- The farm fields are conventional from *1995* onwards.
- The farmer is not allowed to use any off-farm inputs (Fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, etc.) except those for which he has been explicitly given written permission by the treatment inspector. Naturally grown fertilizers/pesticides can be produced but also used to be announced to the treatment control body.
- The farmer is obliged to ensure and verify by appropriate validation measures (systems, logbooks, etc.) and to maintain accurate. All records/validations shall remain originals from organic farms or else a confirmation has to be requested that they are neither genetically modified nor treated with pesticides.
- The farmer is not allowed to store any unprocessed inputs on the farm.
- If there is any simple processing (e.g. drying) on the farm, no additives may be used.

Inspection & Information:

- Internal inspectors and IMO's inspectors are allowed access to the farm land from buildings at any time for inspection purposes.
- The farmer is obliged to voluntarily state all his farm activities to the inspectors, also of previous years and can be held responsible for wrong or misleading information.
- Only products grown on the farm itself may be sold to the farmers association.
- If the organic production rules are broken, the farmer has to follow the association and agree to be sanctioned for a maximum of 3 years in which period he may not sell his products as organic. Even stronger sanctions may be imposed.

The undersigned farmer affirms that he/she has understood this contract and agrees to abide by its terms and regulations.

System: *CF 2004*
 Date: *Place*

Alhazim
 Name Farmer

Alhazim
 Name Farmer

EX. 32 - page 23 of 32

Contract





The Basic Farm Data Form

5.4.3 & 5.4.4 The basic farm data form/farm entrance



form needs to include:

- Registration data of the farmer: name, address, code (A)
- Description of all area under management of the farmer (B)
- Organic crops and their respective area or number of plants (B)
- Number of animals (B)
- The date of the last application of prohibited inputs must be recorded for all plots (A)

• Plot/area registration is critical. List of all plots may be most appropriate. Sometimes better to describe the situation per crop or to indicate the cropping information in maps.

• System must be adapted to the situation and must allow an overview of ALL organic/non-organic fields and crops under management of the farmer (→ also fields for non-certified crops)

• In many cases it is better to record field history for **EX. 32** (not page 24 of 32 past years) than just the last date of application of prohibited inputs

Maps



5.4.5 An overview map (village or community map) must be available (A-B)



- shows the location of each farm with the code numbers for each farmer



5.4.6 If rotating annual crops are grown or if there is a conventional farm unit, there must be a farm map for each farmer (B)

- Needs to show each plot/field and the respective crops
- Neighboring fields, their cultivation system, and risks of drift should be indicated
- Landmarks and streets/paths should be indicated
- Neighboring farms may be combined – if still possible to identify each plot and its crops

All maps must be dated

EX. 32 - page 25 of 32

PF0000234



Sample Map



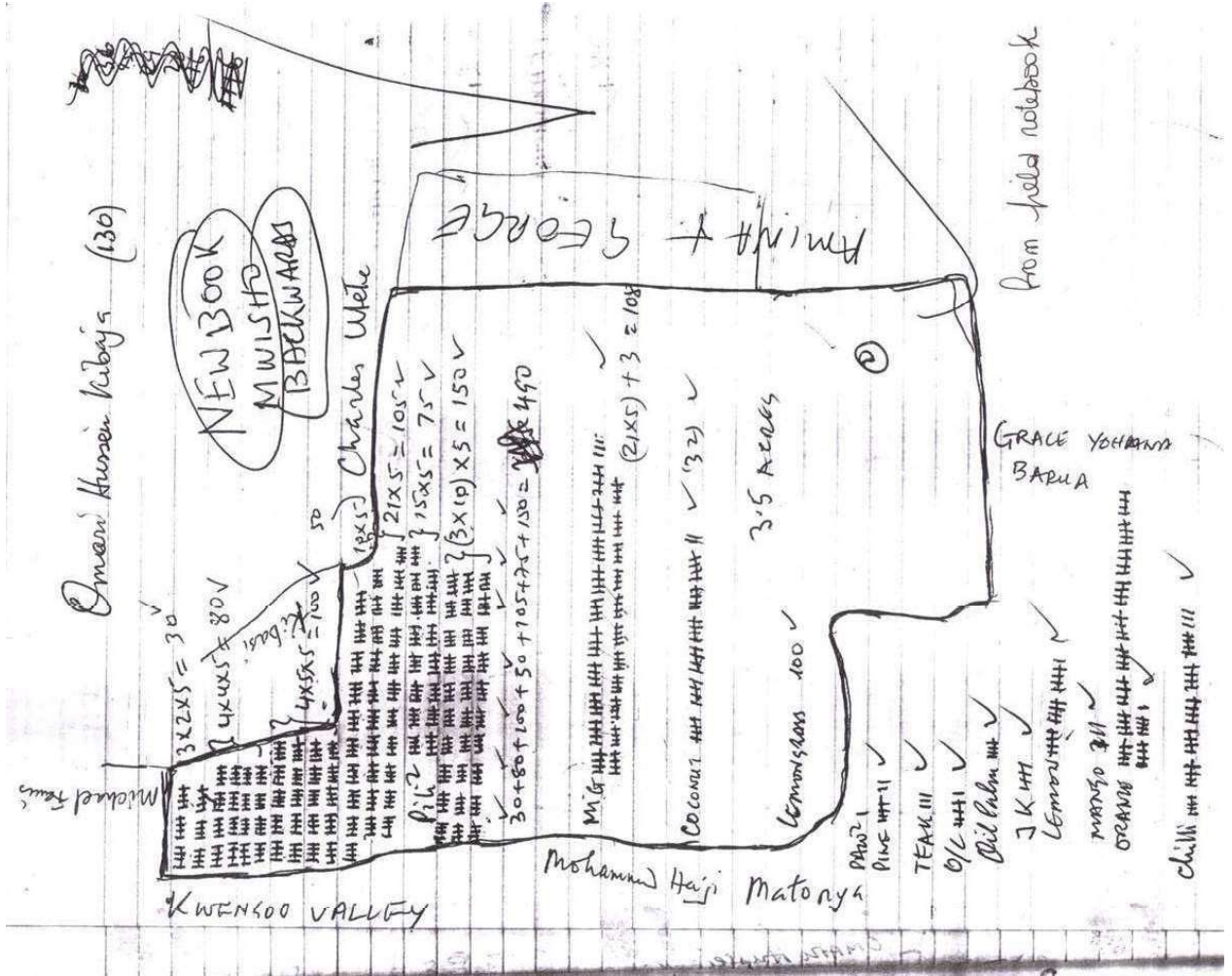
← Shanga

→ Morogoro

EX. 32 - page 26 of 32



Sample Map

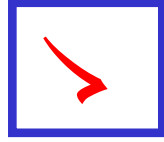


Counting each plant might be appropriate in some cases (intercropped agroforestry system)

EX. 32 - page 27 of 32



Content of the 'Internal Farm Inspection Report'



5.4.9 The 'Internal Farm Inspection Report' covers all certification-relevant farm aspects

- ✓ Evaluation of cultivation measures: fertilization & soil conservation, plant protection measure, use of inputs, use of seeds
- ✓ Verification if there is a risk of contamination (drift, storing of inputs, use of sprayers etc.)
- Measures in case of part-conversion
- ✓ Sustainable animal husbandry (if required by standard)
- ✓ Yield estimates (can also be kept in separate documentation)
- ✓ Harvest and post-harvest handling (if relevant)

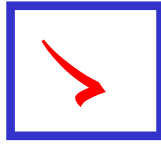
The report checks management of all crops (like the inspection) with main focus on the organic plots and all crops on these plots.

EX. 32 - page 29 of 32



Compliance Check in the Internal Farm Inspection Report

Complaint - Ex. A



5.4.9 The internal inspection report should make a clear compliance statement



- Evaluation of the compliance of the farmer with internal organic standard
- Determination of sanctions in case of non-compliance
- Evaluation of the fulfilment of previous conditions
- Signed by the farmer and the internal inspector
- *Contains sometimes also approval decision of the organisation*

PF0000239

EX. 32 - page 30 of 32



Update Farming Records (5.4.8)

Records for low input use

- Sufficient to register the following information in the annual internal control checklist:
 - Use of inputs (incl. homemade preparations)
 - Harvested quantities
 - New fields/changes in area
- Better: a farm diary kept additionally by the farmer

Records for high use of inputs or complex production systems

- Annual update information needs to be available:
 - Main cultivation measures
 - Use of inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides)
 - Harvested quantities
 - Changes in area
- Continuous recording necessary (either farmer or field officer)
- Information needs to be consolidated (in farm inspection report or annual update questionnaire)



Verification of the Farm Files at the ICS Office



- Do forms correspond to minimum requirements? Are all relevant topics addressed?

- Has each farmer received a documented internal inspection visit?

- Are farm files complete and all required documents available for each farmer?

- Are documents completely filled in, signed, and dated?
Does the ICS seem to know how to use the form?

- Are all documents for each farmer consistent with one another and consistent with farmers list?

- Can sanctions be seen in the farm files? **EX. 32 - page 32 of 32**



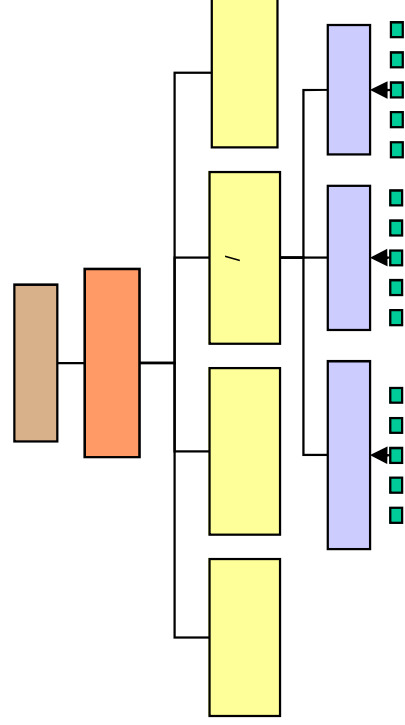
EX. 33

ICS Staff

 **One person is responsible for overall ICS and can delegate the responsibilities so that for each procedure or task of the ICS, one person is in charge.**

 **All personnel must be qualified and aware of their responsibilities.**

 **Positions/hierarchies of the organization are illustrated in the organizational chart**

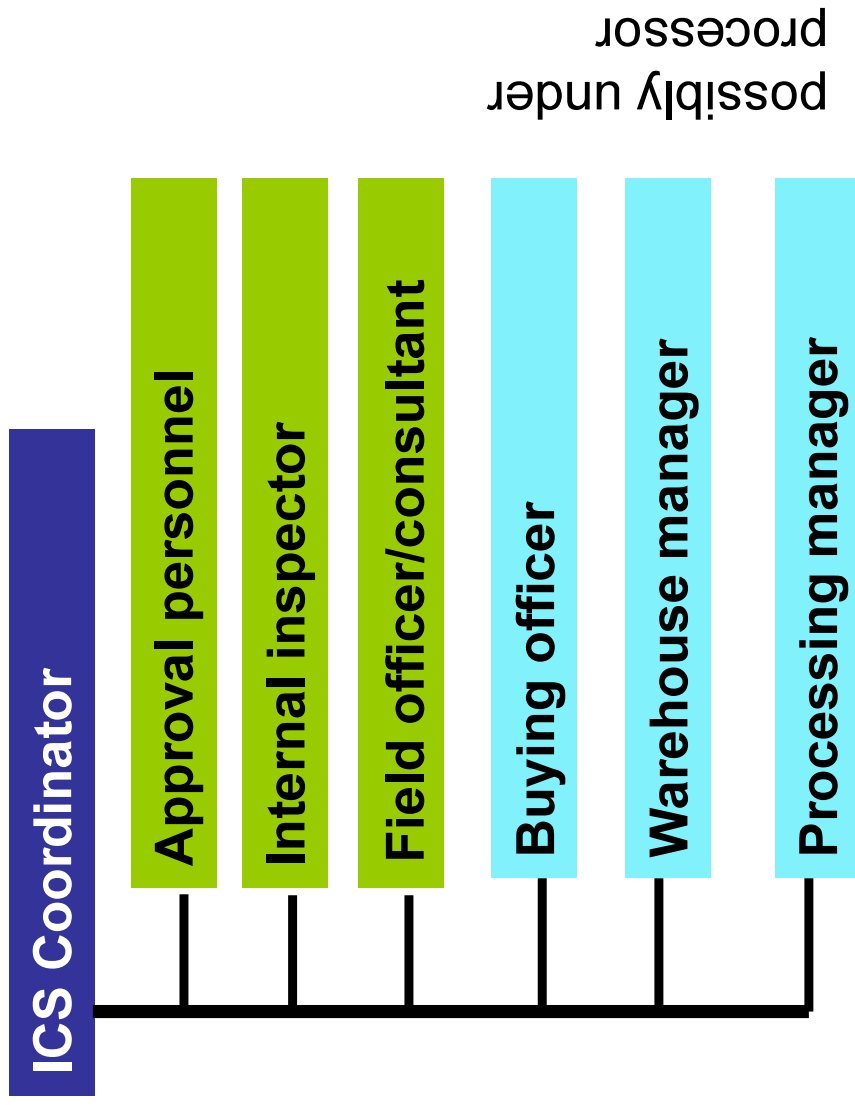


Personnel may be either:

- Employees (staff)
- Contractors (e.g. buying, transport)

EX. 33 - page 1 of 15

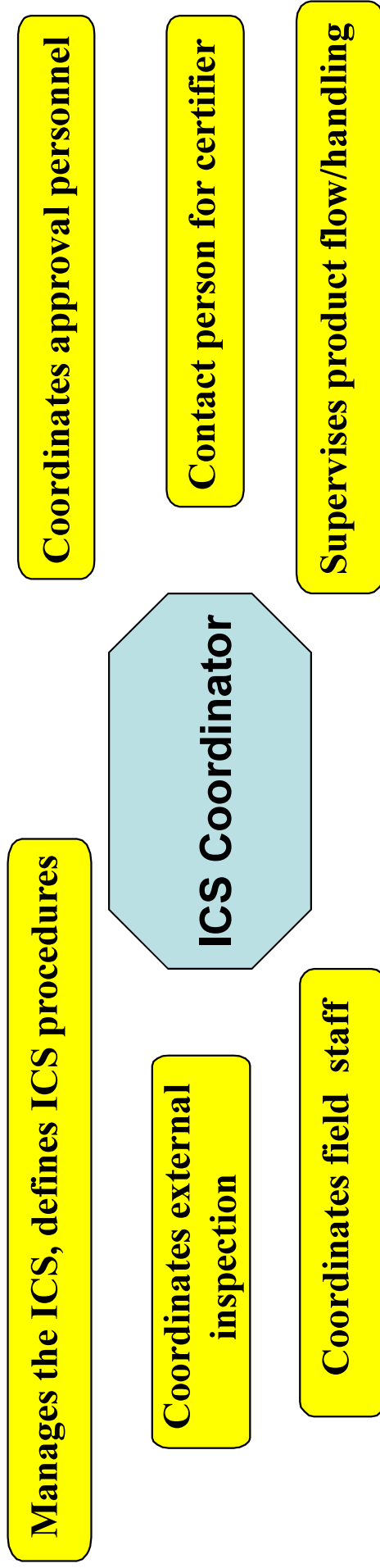
ICS Key Positions



In principle, one person can take over several positions, but each position should be described in the ICS Operator Manual EX. 33 - page 2 of 13



ICS Coordinator (ICS Manager)



This important position requires a person who can demonstrate:

- A detailed understanding of the ICS standards, procedures and documents and the requirements of the external certifying agency
- People management skills and ability to train others in ICS systems and procedures
- Efficiency in the handling of documents
- Database skills.

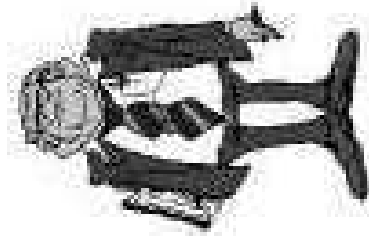
Often the ICS coordinator is also the internal approval manager.

EX. 33 - page 3 of 15



Approval Manager or Approval Committee?

Complaint - Ex. A



PF0000246

EX. 33 - page 4 of 15



Minimum Qualifications of Approval Personnel

Complaint - Ex. A

He/she must be familiar with the principles of organic agriculture.

He/she must be familiar with the internal regulation.

He/she is well respected among the farmers and the organisation.

He/she must not have conflicts of interests for the farmers he/she is approving.

Inspection and approval should be done by separate persons

PF0000247

EX. 33 - page 5 of 15



The Internal Inspector

The internal inspector is a key position in the ICS.

The roles and responsibilities require technical and social skills as well as an eye for detail and the ability to keep detailed records in an organized way.



EX. 33 - page 6 of 15



Lessons to Be Learnt

- **The internal inspector is the ICS operator’s ‘eyes and ears’. The success of the ICS can depend on how the internal inspector is supported and resourced to do his or her job.**
- **The inspector needs to be able to demonstrate a range of technical and social skills to be effective in the job.**
- **Regular inspector training is a priority and is most effective when it involves both the theory and practice.**
- **Office and administrative support systems should provide the inspector with as much support as is practical.**

Qualification Requirements for Internal Inspectors

- **Fluent in the local language and the idiosyncrasies of the farmers.**
- **Able to read and write; can report in the chosen ICS language**
- **Is familiar with the local agricultural production systems.**
- **Is familiar with the principles and practice of organic agriculture.**
- **Can demonstrate competence in internal control procedures and an understanding of the internal regulations.**
- **Has no conflicts of interest which may influence the integrity of his/her work.**

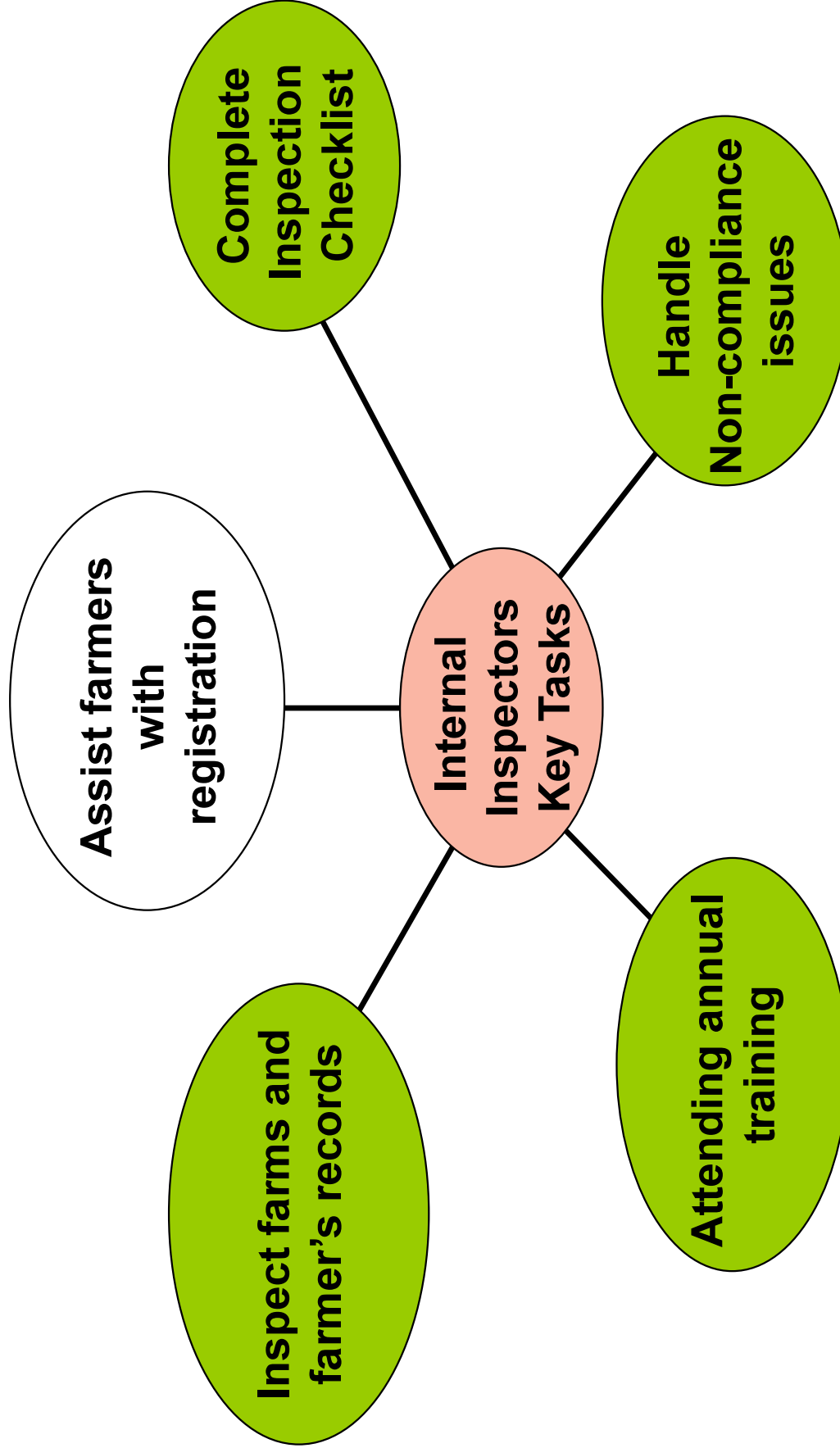
This must be documented!

EX. 33 - page 8 of 15

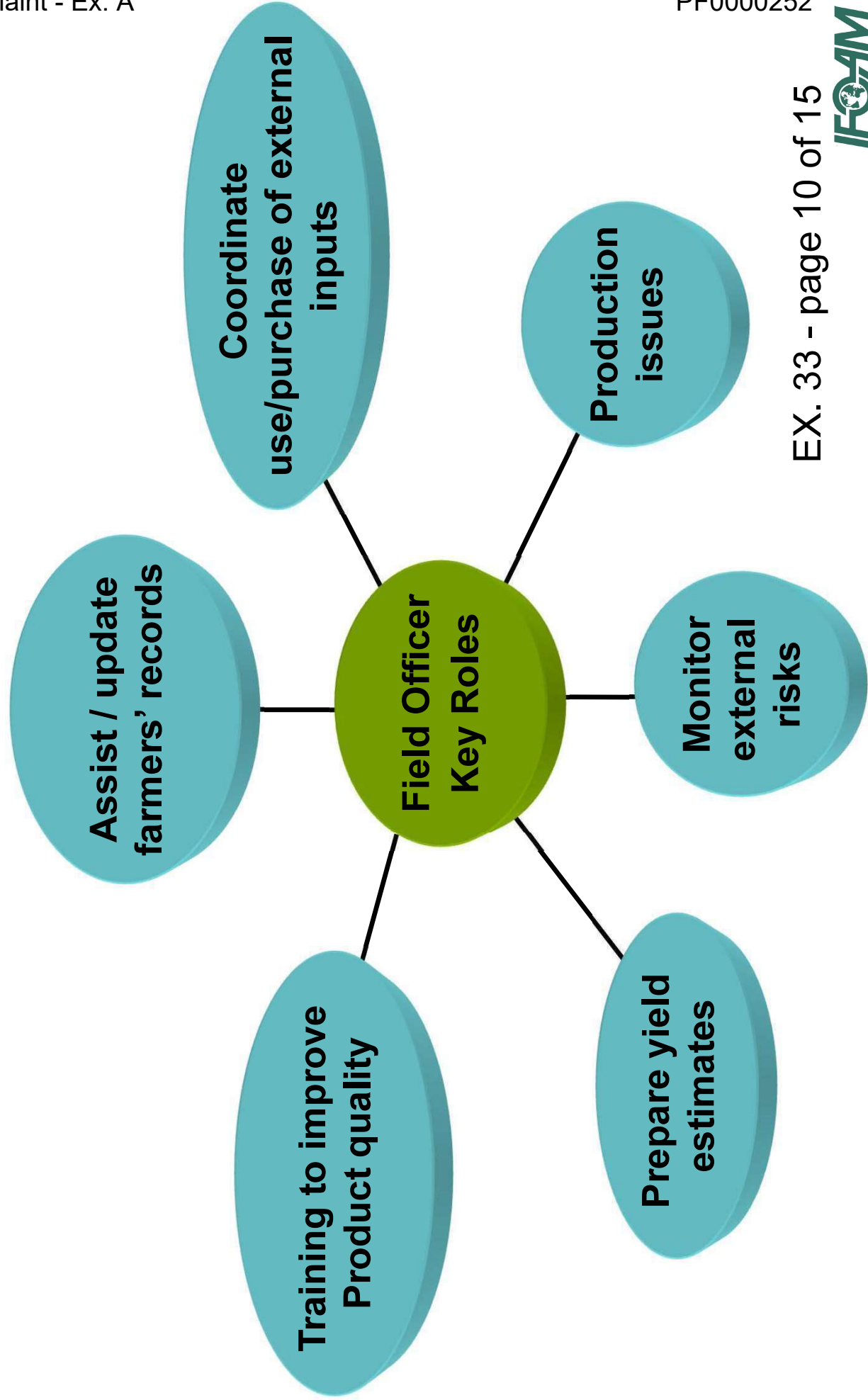




Internal Inspector Tasks



Field Officer / Field Advisor



Other Positions in ICS

Complaint - Ex. A

Depending on the management structure of the ICS and on the project size, there may be a couple of other important positions within the ICS.

Some examples:



Chief Training Officer: organises farmers training, supervises field extension service, etc.



ICS Documentation Officer: person in ICS officer in charge of organising the documentation, processing data on the computer (farmers lists), etc.



Chief Internal Inspector

PF0000253

EX. 33 - page 11 of 15



Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest is a situation where the inspector/approval manager's ability to make an impartial judgement could be perceived to be compromised

A conflict of interest compromises the overall integrity of the ICS.

Potential conflicts of interest need to be declared in order to prevent any actual conflicts of interest. The ICS manager checks the declarations and ensures that nobody inspects/approves farmers where a conflict would arise.



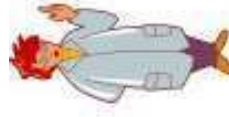
Example: an inspector can not inspect his/her close friends or family

EX. 33 - page 12 of 15





Inspection vs. Field Advice



- **Field extension service (farm advise) is an important aspect of an organic project and often field extensionists are at the same time internal inspectors.**
- **However, field extensionists tend to be very close to the farmers, often live in the same village and therefore are not “neutral” enough for the actual inspection.**
- **Many ICS operators solve this problem by exchanging field officers (advisors) between project regions for the internal inspection.**
- **However, in certain cases it can also be accepted that one person does both the field extension and the internal inspection, but at least they should be clearly separate events. This is only possible if the advisor is “distant” enough from farmers to ensure an impartial inspection.**
- **Informing the farmers of the standard requirements and the functioning is not considered consultancy. An internal inspection may also include some advice.**

Buying Officer

The buying officer should be able to carry out the following tasks:

- Check farmer's identification.
- Weigh or count product.
- Assess that the product has reached the agreed quality standards.
- Check that the quantity of product presented for sale falls within the farmer's yield estimate as it is recorded in the farmers list/buying record and deal with problems if they arise.
- Keep the related documentation well
- Issue receipts etc.
- Handle the payments.



EX. 33 - page 14 of 15



Staff Documentation

The roles and responsibilities of each staff member should be clearly defined and documented by the ICS operator.

It is common practice for the ICS operator to have on file for each key position:




- A job description and details of responsibilities.
- Employee's CV.
- Employee's Employment Contract or details of terms of employment.
- Signed Conflict of Interest Declaration Form
- For some positions signed confidentiality agreement.
- Training Records

EX. 33 - page 15 of 15

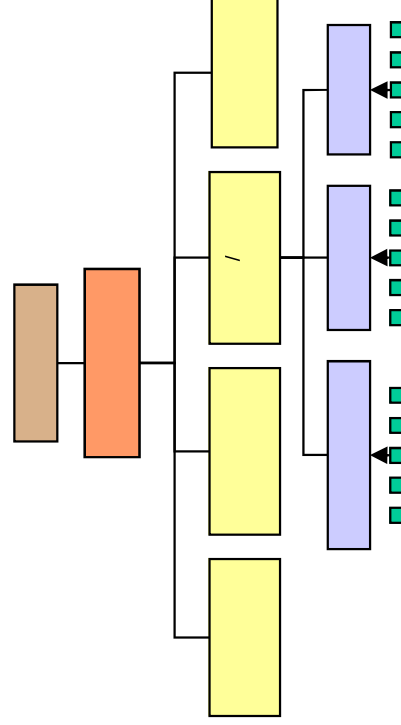
EX. 34

ICS Staff

 One person is responsible for overall ICS and can delegate the responsibilities so that for each procedure or task of the ICS, one person is in charge.

 All personnel must be qualified and aware of their responsibilities.

 Positions/hierarchies of the organization are illustrated in the organizational chart

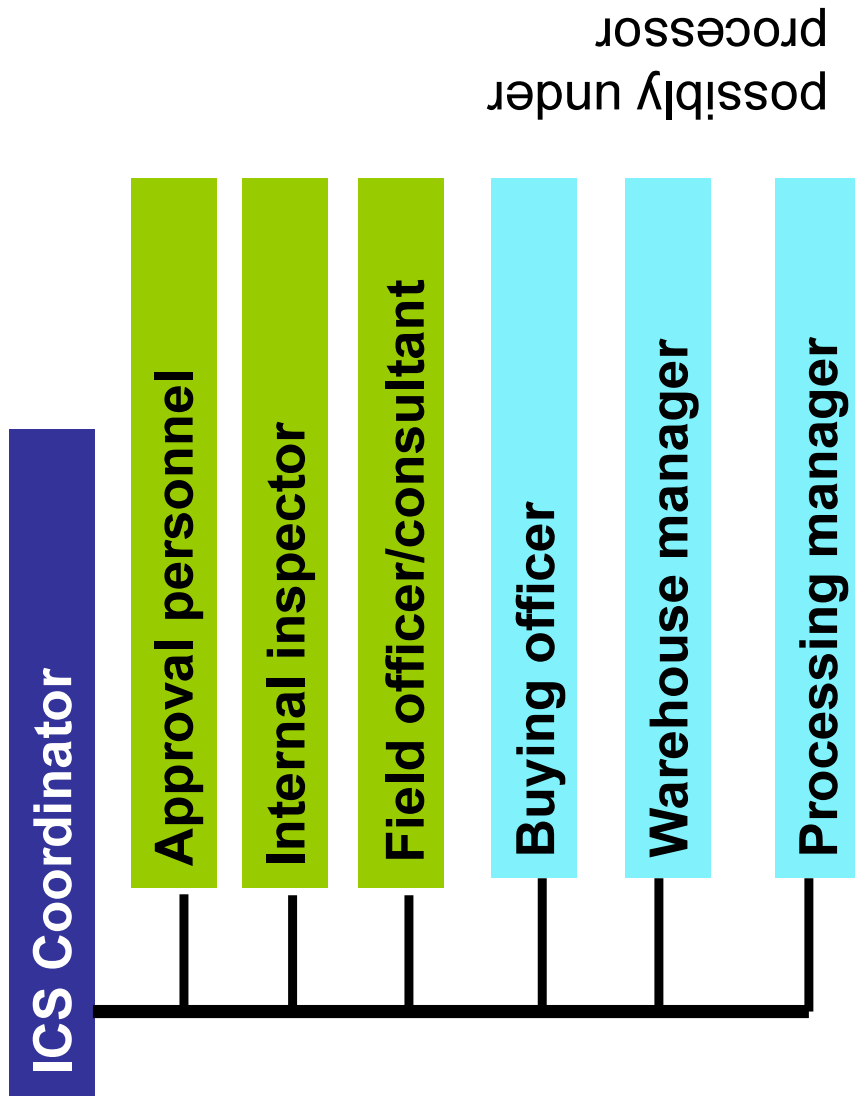


Personnel may be either:

- Employees (staff)
- Contractors (e.g. buying, transport)

EX. 34 - page 1 of 15

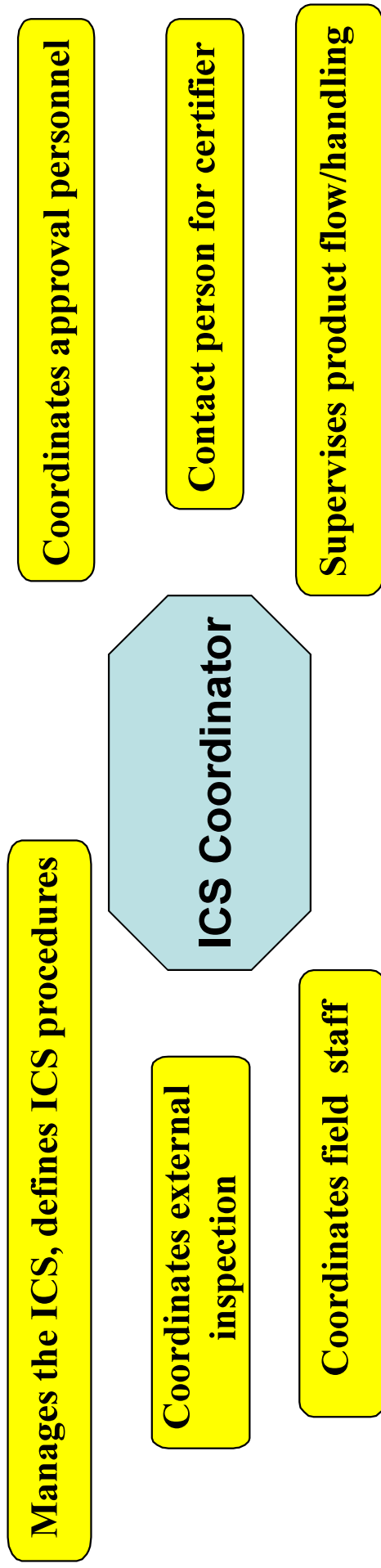
ICS Key Positions



In principle, one person can take over several positions, but each position should be described in the ICS Operator Manual



ICS Coordinator (ICS Manager)



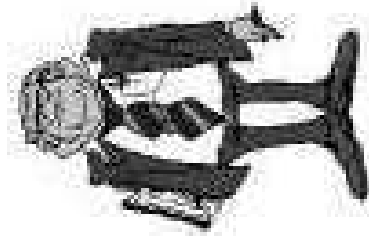
This important position requires a person who can demonstrate:

- A detailed understanding of the ICS standards, procedures and documents and the requirements of the external certifying agency
- People management skills and ability to train others in ICS systems and procedures
- Efficiency in the handling of documents
- Database skills.

Often the ICS coordinator is also the internal approval manager.

Approval Manager or Approval Committee?

Complaint - Ex. A



PF0000262

EX. 34 - page 4 of 15



Minimum Qualifications of Approval Personnel

Complaint - Ex. A

He/she must be familiar with the principles of organic agriculture.

He/she must be familiar with the internal regulation.

He/she is well respected among the farmers and the organisation.

He/she must not have conflicts of interests for the farmers he/she is approving.

Inspection and approval should be done by separate persons

PF0000263

EX. 34 - page 5 of 15



The Internal Inspector

The internal inspector is a key position in the ICS.

The roles and responsibilities require technical and social skills as well as an eye for detail and the ability to keep detailed records in an organized way.



EX. 34 - page 6 of 15

Lessons to Be Learnt

- **The internal inspector is the ICS operator’s ‘eyes and ears’. The success of the ICS can depend on how the internal inspector is supported and resourced to do his or her job.**
- **The inspector needs to be able to demonstrate a range of technical and social skills to be effective in the job.**
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EX. 34 - page 7 of 15



Qualification Requirements for Internal Inspectors

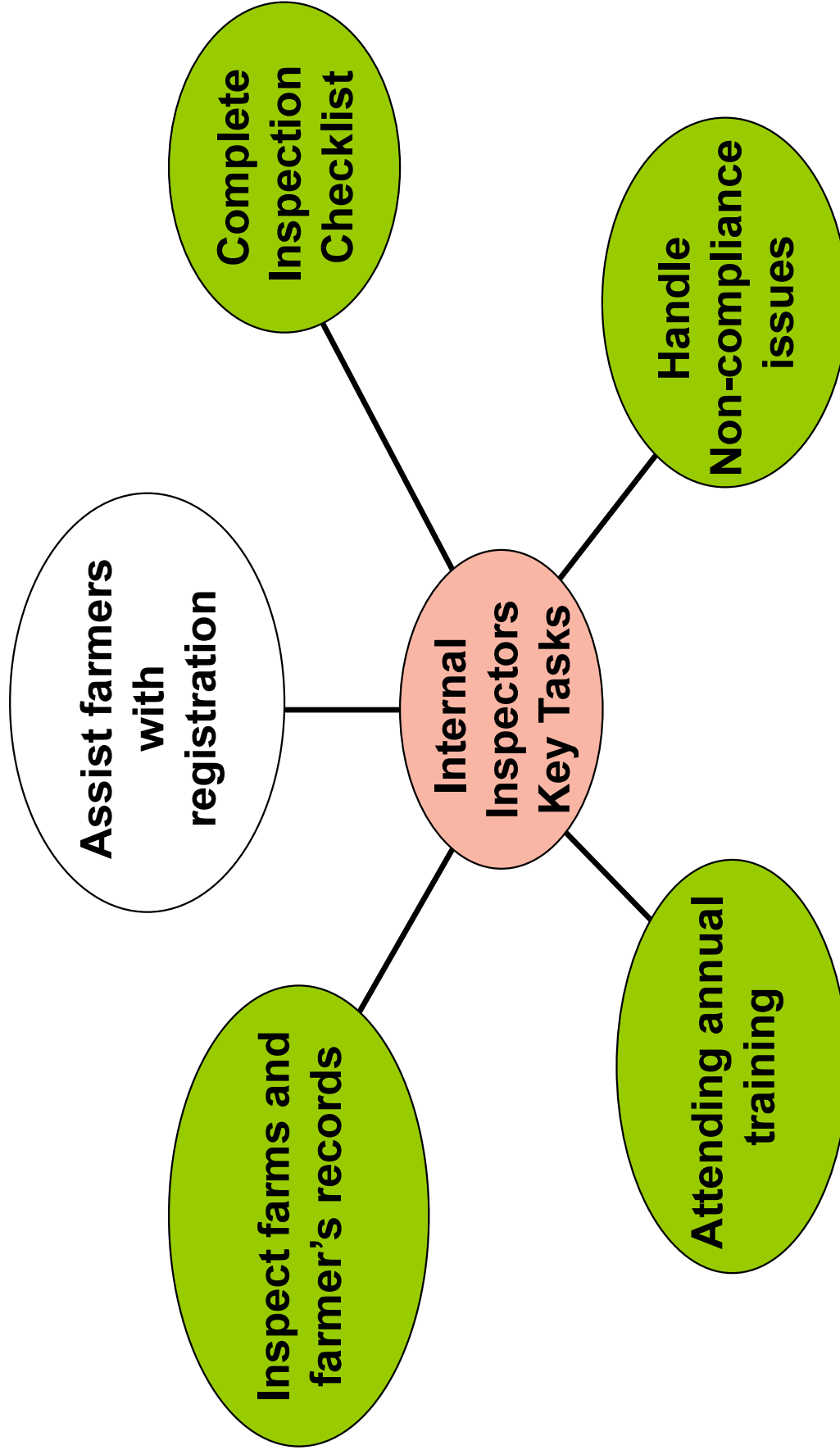
- **Fluent in the local language and the idiosyncrasies of the farmers.**
- **Able to read and write; can report in the chosen ICS language**
- **Is familiar with the local agricultural production systems.**
- **Is familiar with the principles and practice of organic agriculture.**
- **Can demonstrate competence in internal control procedures and an understanding of the internal regulations.**
- **Has no conflicts of interest which may influence the integrity of his/her work.**

EX. 34 - page 8 of 15

This must be documented!



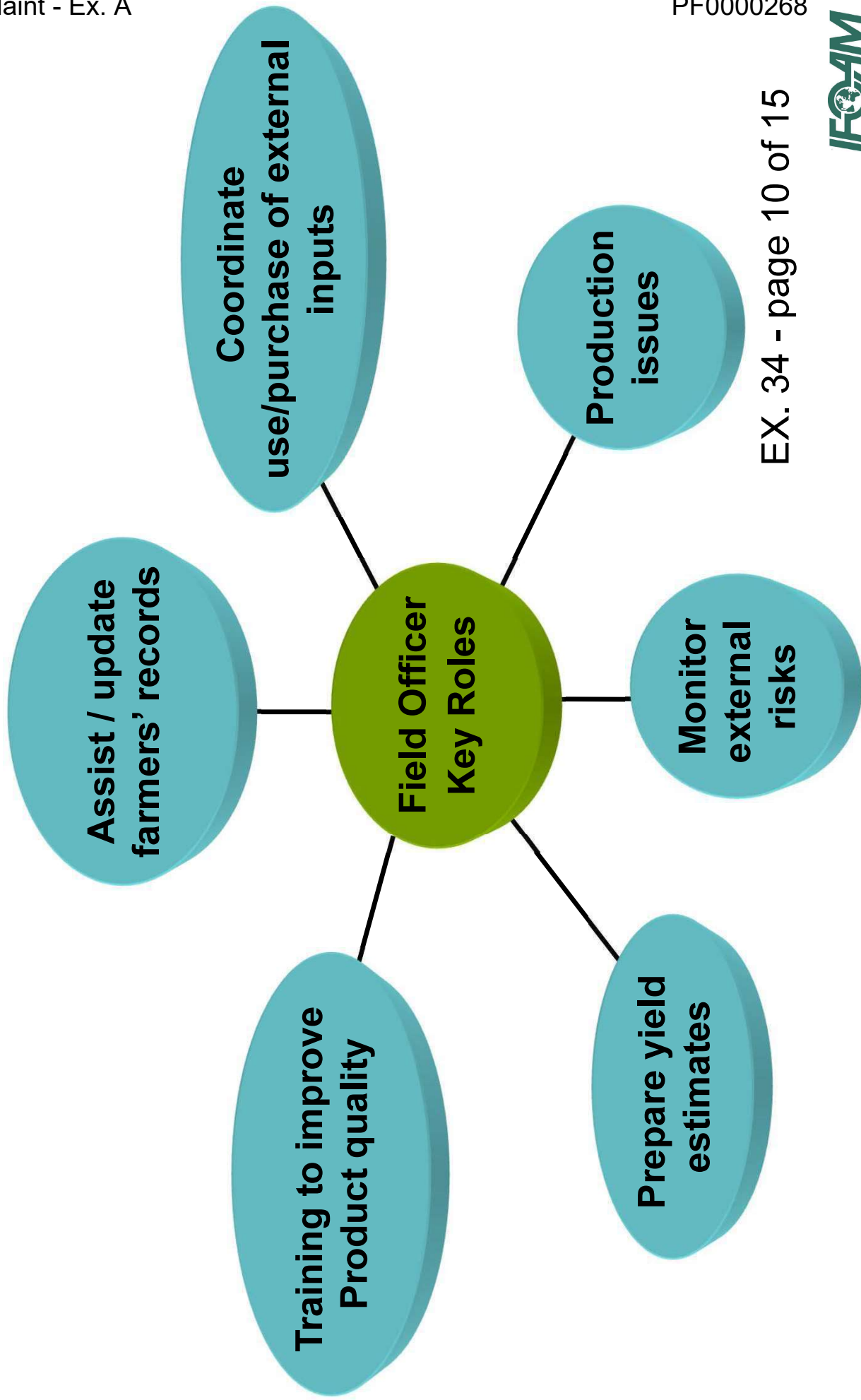
Internal Inspector Tasks



EX. 34 - page 9 of 15



Field Officer / Field Advisor



Other Positions in ICS

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EX. 34 - page 11 of 15

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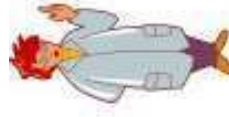
EX. 34 - page 12 of 15

Example: an inspector can not inspect his/her close friends or family





Inspection vs. Field Advice



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EX. 34 - page 13 of 15

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EX. 34 - page 14 of 15

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- Signed Conflict of Interest Declaration Form
- For some positions signed confidentiality agreement.
- Training Records

EX. 34 - page 15 of 15

EX. 35



Policy Memorandum

To: Stakeholders and Interested Parties

From: Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator

Subject: Certification of Grower Groups

Date: Original Issue Date – January 21, 2011

Grower group certification refers to the certification of a group of producers whose farms are uniform in most ways, and who are organized under one management and marketing system. Grower group certifications have historically been used for the certification of cooperatives located in geographical proximity, whose crops are marketed collectively. Primary crops produced by grower groups include coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, and tropical fruits.

The National Organic Program (NOP) is drafting guidance regarding certification of grower groups and will be requesting public comment before publishing final guidance and possible regulation change. In the interim, accredited certifying agents should use the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations of October 2002 and November 2008 as the current policies.

References:

NOSB Recommendations

October 20, 2002, "Criteria for Certification of Grower Groups".

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Rec%20Criteria%20for%20Certification%20of%20Grower%20Groups.pdf>

November 19, 2008, "Certifying Operations with Multiple Production Units, Sites, and Facilities under the National Organic Program"

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP%20Final%20Rec%20Certifying%20Operations%20with%20Multiple%20Sites.pdf>

Document Control:

This document supersedes "NOP and NOSB Collaboration on Grower Group Certifications" dated May 02, 2007, which is now obsolete.

EX. 36

EX. 37



See <https://www.ozyilmazfindik.com/>



See <https://www.ozyilmazfindik.com/>

FOUNDED IN 1986

Özyılmaz Fındık's foundations were laid with trade in the 1960s. Azmi and Mustafa Yılmaz brothers, who were trading agricultural products in Çarşamba at that time, entered the hazelnut production business in 1986. Yılmaz Brothers has invested in a facility with a daily capacity of 100 tons of hazelnut cracking. In 2001, a new facility was commissioned, again in Çarşamba. This facility, which was built with an investment of 2 million TL, has a daily production capacity of 300 tons. Located in a closed area of 6 thousand square meters in total, the facility also has a storage area of 10 thousand tons.

Özyılmaz Fındık, which was among the companies that increased its turnover the most in the research of "The 500 Largest Companies of Anatolia", which we prepared as the Economist Magazine, rose from 199th to 88th in the general ranking. Özyılmaz Hazelnut Board Member Selim Yılmaz attributes this jump to the increased production amount and the serious increase in hazelnut prices.

MAKE NEW INVESTMENTS

Selim Yılmaz says that there are new investments on their agenda. A new company was established under the name of 'Yılmaz Fındık Entegre' within Özyılmaz. 7 million TL investment was made for this company. Products such as roasting, blanching, hazelnut puree, hazelnut cream, hazelnut paste will be produced in the new factory, which was built from scratch. The plant is scheduled to start production next June. The company plans to introduce its processed products to the domestic market with the brands 'Mayhaz' and 'YFE' next year. Processed products will also be exported over time.

See <https://www.ozyilmazfindik.com/findik-haberleri/findik-sektorunun-samsunlu-yildizi>



OZYILMAZ HAZELNUT

The family, which has been dealing with the trade of agricultural products in the Çarşamba district of Samsun for 60 years, has traded many agricultural products, especially hazelnuts, and kept their investments in this direction. In 1986, the first hazelnut cracking factory was established and started to serve in the domestic and foreign markets.

See <https://www.ozyilmazfindik.com/icerik/hakkimizda>

In 2000, one of Turkey's largest hazelnut cracking (250 tons/day) facilities was established and continued to grow in the sector. Founded in 2014, Yılmaz Fındık Entegre A.Ş. In 2016, our processed hazelnut facility under the brands of YFE and MAYHAZ was put into service. With the increase in my export and production figures, our hazelnut cracking factory with a daily capacity of 300 tons came into service in 2019 and became the largest hazelnut cracking factory in the sector with a total capacity of 550 tons.

See <https://www.ozyilmazfindik.com/icerik/hakkimizda>



See <https://www.ozyilmazfindik.com/icerik/hakkimizda>



See <https://www.yfe.com.tr/>

EX. 38

Yilmaz Surrender of grower group crops certification in November 2021 (from USDA Organic Integrity Database)¹

Operation Details:

Operation Profile (4797359789) updated on 10/31/2022

[Return to the Search Page](#)

[\[Export to PDF\]](#)

Operation Name: Yilmaz Findik Entegre San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
Operation Status: Certified
Status Effective Date: 09/20/2017
Certifier: [BIOI] Bio.Inspecta

Operation Details

Product Details

NOP ID: 4797359789
Certifier Client ID: TR-185
Other/Former Names: N/A
NOP Anniversary Date: 04/01/2022
Business Types/Services: Grower Group, Marketer/Trader

[Top](#)

Scope and Product Summary

Scope	Status	Effective Date	Certified Products
CROPS	Surrendered	11/02/2021	--
HANDLING	Certified	09/20/2017	Other: Blanched broken hazelnut kernels,Blanched chopped hazelnut,Blanched hazelnut meal,Hazelnut kernel,Hazelnut paste, Natural broken hazelnut kernels,Natural hazelnut meal,Natural sliced hazelnut,Naturel blanched hazelnut kernels,Naturel chopped hazelnut,Roasted blanched hazelnut kernels,Roasted broken hazelnut kernels,Roasted chopped hazelnut,Roasted hazelnut meal,Roasted hazelnut spread with no sugar,Roasted sliced hazelnut,Rosted hazelnut kernels

[Top](#)

Contact Information

Name: Selim Yilmaz
Phone: +90 235036236
Email: oyilmazfindik@hotmail.com
Website: N/A
Addresses: [Physical & Mailing Address]
 Beylerce Mah. Yeni Samsun Cad. No: 381/A
 Çarşamba
 Samsun
 Turkey

[Top](#)

1

<https://organic.ams.usda.gov/Integrity/CP/OPP.aspx?cid=11&nopid=4797359789&ret=%257e%252fSearch.aspx&retName=Search#topOfPage>

Product Details:



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

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ORGANIC INTEGRITY DATABASE

Log In Register

Operation Profile (4797359789) updated on 10/31/2022

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[\[Export to PDF\]](#)

Operation Name: Yilmaz Fındık Entegre San. ve Tic. A.Ş.

Operation Status: Certified

Status Effective Date: 09/20/2017

Certifier: [BIOI] Bio.Inspecta

Operation Details

Product Details

Scope	Product (Item) Information	100% Organic	Organic	Made with Organic	Status	Effective Date
Any	<input type="text"/>	Any	Any	Any	Any	
CROPS	<p>No. 1 Category: Other</p> <p>Hazelnut with shell</p> <p>Certificate No.: BINT-7137</p>	Yes	--	--	Surrendered	11/22/2021
HANDLING	<p>No. 2 Category: Other</p> <p>Blanched broken hazelnut kernels,Blanched chopped hazelnut,Blanched hazelnut meal,Hazelnut kernel,Hazelnut paste, Natural broken hazelnut kernels,Natural hazelnut meal,Natural sliced hazelnut,Naturel blanched hazelnut kernels,Naturel chopped hazelnut,Roasted blanched hazelnut kernels,Roasted broken hazelnut kernels,Roasted chopped hazelnut,Roasted hazelnut meal,Roasted hazelnut spread with no sugar,Roasted sliced hazelnut,Rosted hazelnut kernels</p> <p>Certificate No.: BINT-7137</p>	Yes	--	--	Certified	09/20/2017

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[Top](#)