

A. ABOUT THE NOP STANDARD

1. National Organic Program (NOP)

- NOP is a federal regulatory program that develops and enforces consistent national standards for organically produced agricultural products sold in the United States.
- NOP also accredits third-party organizations to certify that farms and businesses meet the national organic standards. These certifiers and USDA work together to enforce the standards, ensuring a level playing field for producers and protecting consumer confidence in the integrity of the USDA Organic Seal.
- The NOP organic certification ensures that the organic products are produced under the system of agriculture where there is no use of chemical fertilizers & pesticides to demonstrate an environmental & socially responsible approach.
- By implementing the NOP certification the farming technique used does not hamper the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, and facilitates good plant nutrition, along with sound soil management which helps to produce nutritious food which has resistant to diseases.

2. What is the difference between NOP and NPOP

- Organic products must be certified by a USDA-accredited certification agency, such as Escort, before they can be sold, labeled, or represented in the United States. USDA NOP applies to food, feed, and personal care products labeled “100% Organic,” “Organic,” or “Made with Organic.” Whereas NPOP is a program launched by the Indian government which provides standards for organic production, systems, criteria, and procedures for licensing Certification Bodies, the National (India Organic) Logo, and the regulations governing its use.

3. What Benefits will the standard bring to business.

- Meet precise standards for organic agriculture, including aquaculture, livestock and live produce, wild harvest, etc., and the resulting products
- Promote the growth and development of organic farming and processing
- Promotes safe, sustainable and profitable farming

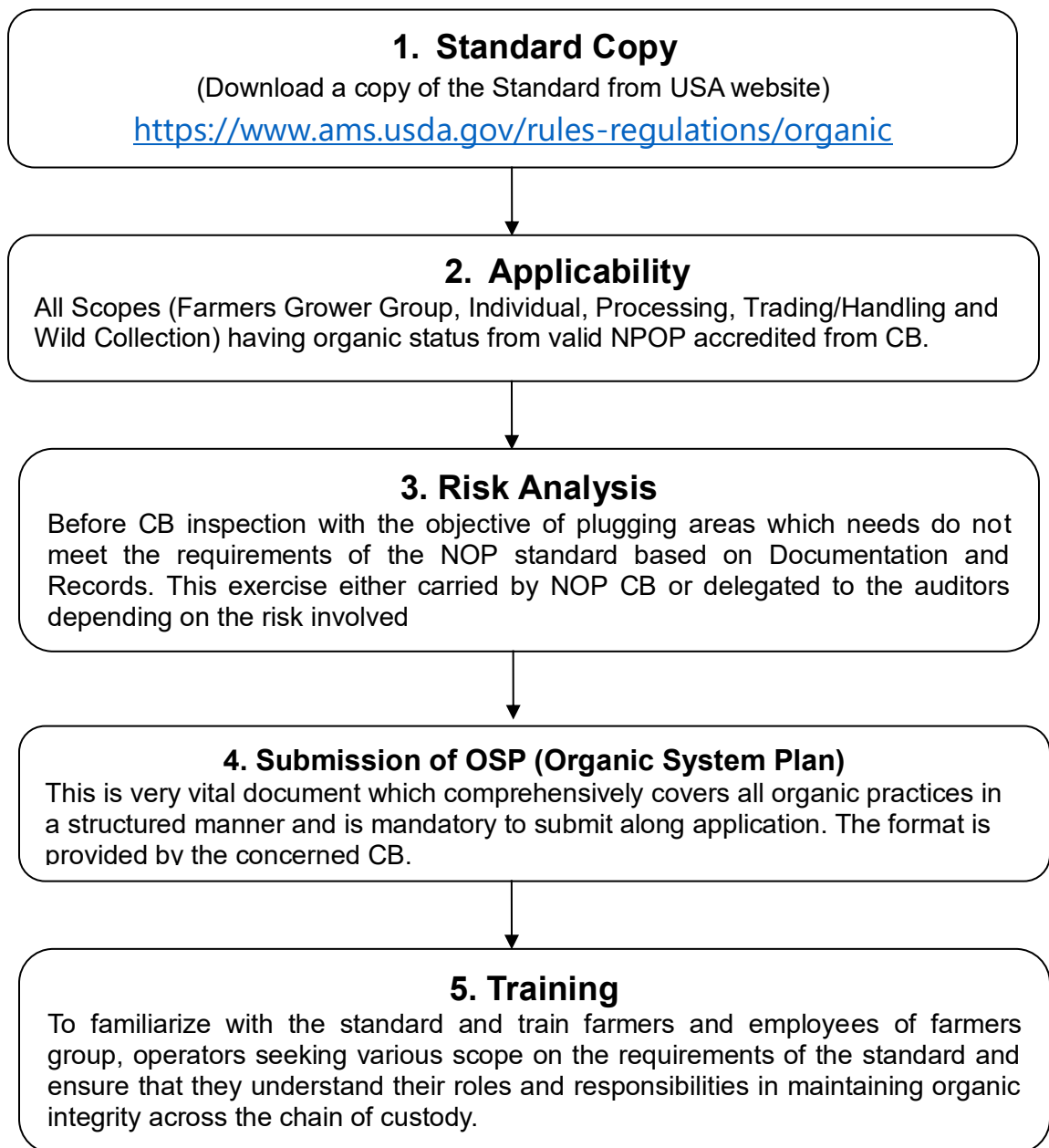
4. Standard Applicable to

- The NOP are applicable to the farmer groups, processors of crops, Traders/exporters of foods, apiculture, livestock & poultry units.

5. Where can I download the standard copy

- You can visit www.ams.usda.gov and download the copy free of cost

B. Steps involved in NOP certification:





6. Organic Quality Documentation

Developing internal organic standard in vernacular language in tune with the NOP standard requirements. Documentation like a Quality Manual, Procedures, and Work Instructions, Record templates, Farm diaries, legal statutory incompliance with NOP standards and ensuring its application uniformly across the group members and other scope operators.

7. Internal Inspections

Minimum 02 internal inspections of all the members of the farmers group by qualified internal inspectors and make available during external audits by CB.



8. Internal Audit

Conduct an internal audit of the operator's units based on the instructions by qualified internal auditors and record the observations.



9. Recording of Non-Conformances/ Corrective Actions

To record non-conformances raised during the internal audit and take corrective actions before external audit is scheduled.



10. Select a certification body

Submit the application form to a certification body that is accredited to NOP standards by checking on the website of USDA accredited CB.



11. Certification Process

The certification body will conduct an external audit to assess your organization's compliance with NOP standard after accepting the Quotation and payment of fees as per terms of contract.



12. Certificate

Upon satisfactory closure of all non-conformities, if any raised during the audit, a certificate will be issued valid for one year



13. Maintain certification

To maintain your NPOP certification, one needs to renew the certificate on yearly basis and the process should commence at least 03 months before the expiry of the certificate validity.

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