CCOF Mexico Compliance Program Application

Find all forms at www.ccof.org/documents. Send completed forms to inbox@ccof.org.

General:

- To apply, operations must be located in the US or Mexico, and currently certified to, or concurrently applying for, USDA NOP certification with CCOF Certification Services LLC (CCOF CS).
- Program fees apply, as described in the Mexico Compliance Program Manual.

Certification Agreement: [1]

- CCOF Servicios de Certificación S. de R.L. de C.V. (CCOF Mexico) is responsible for the administration and implementation of the Mexico Compliance Program for LPO certification or recertification. CCOF Mexico is a subsidiary of CCOF CS.
- The Mexico Compliance Program Manual is available at www.ccof.org/mexico or by contacting us to request a paper copy.
- **By signing this document,[2] the applicant acknowledges that it has received, has read, fully understands, and agrees to be bound by the terms of the Mexico Compliance Program Manual, and further agrees to comply with and strictly adhere to all regulations, procedures and policies set forth in that manual including but not limited to those described in Section One: Certification Agreement**.

Instructions:

- **Complete this form to enroll in the Mexico Compliance Program (MCP)** for certification or recertification to the Mexico organic standards (LPO).
- **Organic Plan:**[3] Operations seeking LPO certification must complete an Organic Plan which describes all stages of production and organic management plans to meet LPO requirements. The Organic Plan consists of this form along with the forms applicable to your operation listed in the following guides.[4] **As needed, update the forms applicable to your operation from the relevant guide(s) and submit them with this application:**
  - Guide to Grower Forms
  - Guide to Handler Forms
  - Guide to Wild Crop Forms
- **Labels:** Attach color drafts of all labels planned for organic product sales in Mexico.

A. General Information

Operation Name:	**Date:**
1. I, the owner or legally authorized representative of the operation, acknowledge the above Certification Agreement. I attest that all information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. My handwritten signature or typed name entered in the signature field below constitutes my legal signature.	
Name/Title	**Signature (handwritten or typed)** **Date**
2. You must maintain a complaint file to address complaints pertaining to your organic practices.	☐ Yes, I keep a complaint file.[5]
3. Are you currently certified organic by a certification agency other than CCOF?	☐ No ☐ Yes, Certifier: Attach current certificates, recent compliance notices, letters, and a signed release of certification data.
4. What products or crops do you plan to sell as organic in Mexico?	☐ All ☐ Limited. Describe:

[1] ISO/IEC 17065 4.1.1, 4.1.2.1, 4.1.2.2
[2] ALOOA Article 210.IV.a
[3] LPO Article 3, XV
[4] ISO/IEC 17065:2012 4.1.2.1, 7.4.1; LPO Article 3, XV; ALOOA Articles 7, 12, 22, 23, 32, 34, 41, 51, 56-57, 66, 68,184, 187, 214, 217
[5] ISO/IEC 17065 4.1.2.2.c.2 & 4.1.2.2.j

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5. How do you prevent sale of products in Mexico that are not compliant with the Mexico organic standards? *Select all that apply*	☐ All products are compliant for sale in Mexico. ☐ Ingredients and finished products that are compliant for sale in Mexico are separated and clearly labelled in storage. ☐ Inventory system tracks ingredients that are compliant for sale in Mexico. ☐ Lot coding system indicates products that are compliant for sale in Mexico. ☐ Sales system only allows sale in Mexico of compliant products. ☐ Other, describe:
6. Provide an estimate of expected organic production for each crop or product, by weight or volume.	☐ Complete this table and/or attach additional pages.

Crop/product	*Amount*	*Unit (i.e. L, t, no. of individual plants)*

☐ Additional pages attached.

B. Crop, Wild Harvest, and Mushroom Production Practices and Materials

☐ NA, no crop, wild harvest, or mushroom production.

Practice	Answer	Requirement
1. Are you requesting an exemption to utilize non-organic seeds and/or planting stock if equivalent varieties are not commercially available in organic form?	☐ No ☐ Yes *Supporting documentation: If yes, describe use of seed and/or planting stock in your G3.0 form.*	If you wish to be granted this exception, you must request it and provide the applicable supporting documentation indicated.[6]
2. Are you requesting retroactive recognition of a 3-year land conversion exemption?	☐ No ☐ Yes *Supporting documentation: If yes, provide a three-year land history with each Parcel Application, including the results of any pesticide residue testing, if applicable.*	If you wish to be granted this exception, you must request it and provide the applicable supporting documentation indicated.[7]
3. Are any of your organic crops from hydroponic production?	☐ No ☐ Yes, list crops and parcels:	Production without soil (for example, production in inert substrate) is prohibited.[8]
4. Are any of your organic crops from container production?	☐ No, go to question 5 ☐ Yes, list crops and parcels: **If yes, answer question 4a below.**	**Prohibited, except in cases in which due to the characteristics of the product or the agroecological conditions, production in the soil is not viable.**[9] Market demand cannot be considered as technical justification.
	4a. Is in-ground production of the specific crops(s) viable based on the characteristics of the crop and/or the agroecological conditions of your parcel? ☐ Yes, go to question 5. ☐ No, in-ground production is not viable. **If no, answer question 4b below.**	

[6] ALOOA Article 35
[7] ALOOA Article 12
[8] ALOOA Article 30
[9] ALOOA Article 5

Practice	Answer	Requirement
	4b. Mark all applicable technical justifications for why in-ground production is not viable: ☐ I grow sprouts, mushrooms, or annual seedlings (transplants). ☐ Local soil type is not conducive to in-ground production due to high clay content, low porosity, low levels of organic content, and/or pH is too low/high. ☐ Crops are susceptible to local soil borne pathogens or other pests. ☐ Container production allows for water conservation because water is recirculated, incorporates methods and/or technologies to use water efficiently and/or use of water is reduced by producing this crop in containers. ☐ Other. Explain:	
5. Do you use sodium nitrate (Chilean nitrate, $NaNO_3$) in your organic crop production?	☐ No ☐ Yes, list crops and parcels:	Prohibited.[10]
6. Is your use of all plastic, such as irrigation tubing, container production pots, bags, etc., in compliance with the requirements listed in the Requirement column?	☐ NA, no plastic used ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain plan to meet this requirement:	Plastic used in crops as soil covers, fibers, nets against insects and hail, trays, silage wrappers, ducts and irrigation components, and bags for nurseries is only allowed if they are made with polythene, polypropylene and other polycarbonates. The use of chlorinate or chlorinated plastics and PVC for the aforementioned uses is prohibited. Used plastic must be collected after their use in organic plots and should not be burnt, in order to avoid the production of dioxins and furans. Organic operators must seek to send them to recycling sites. The use of chlorinated plastics is allowed only in irrigation water conduction pipes, as long as they are not exposed to direct sunlight or exposed to heat sources when they contain liquids.[11]
7. If you remove native forest or jungle vegetation to produce crops, do you comply with the requirements listed in the Requirement column?	☐ NA, no removal of native forest or jungle vegetation to produce crops ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain plan to meet this requirement:	Where native or original vegetation is forest or jungle, the operation must establish two or more strata of native plants in the crop production area, especially in perennial crops.[12]
8. Wild harvest operations only: Do you have a current wild harvest permit or registration from SEMARNAT (Mexico's Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources)?	☐ NA, no wild harvest ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain plan to meet this requirement:	Wild harvest operations must include a copy of their current SEMARNAT registration or permit in the Organic Plan.[13]

[10] ALOOA Article 4 "National List"; Article 31; Table 1 of Annex 1
[11] ALOOA Article 51
[12] ALOOA Article 26
[13] ALOOA Article 58

Practice	Answer	Requirement
9. Wild harvest operations only: Do all collection areas have buffer zones of at least 25 meters, where adjacent to asphalt roads and/or nonorganic production?	☐ NA, no wild harvest ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain plan to meet this requirement:	Collection areas must have buffer zones of at least 25 meters, where adjacent to asphalt roads and/or nonorganic production.[14]
10. Mushroom production operations only: do all outdoor mushroom production locations have a buffer zone of at least 35 meters from surrounding nonorganic fields?	☐ NA, no mushroom production, or all mushroom production takes places indoors ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain plan to meet this requirement:	Buffer zones separating outdoor mushroom production sites from surrounding nonorganic fields must be at least 35 meters.[15]
11. Mushroom production operations only: is all non-municipal water used in mushroom production tested for compliance with applicable water quality requirements?	☐ NA, no mushroom production, or only municipal water used in mushroom production ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain plan to meet this requirement:	Water used in organic mushroom production must be potable and tested to ensure it meets applicable water quality requirements, except that municipal water may be used without further testing by the operation.[16]

C. Processor/Handler Practices, including post harvest handling[17]

☐ NA, none of the above.

Management Practice	Answer	Requirement
1. Do you market any products as organic in Mexico?	☐ No. Stop, this section is complete. ☐ Yes, complete this section about the products to be marketed as organic in Mexico.	Product marketed as organic in Mexico must comply with the LPO.[18]
2. If located in Mexico, are all suppliers certified organic to the Mexico organic standards (LPO) or verified as compliant with the Canada Mexico Organic Equivalence Arrangement (CMOEA)[19]?	☐ NA, not located in Mexico. ☐ Yes. Attach LPO certificates or COR certificates. **Go to question 4.**	All ingredients/supplies must be certified to the LPO or to a regulation recognized as equivalent by SENASICA.[20]
3. If located in the United States, are all suppliers certified organic to the Mexican organic standards (LPO)?	☐ NA, not located in the United States. ☐ Yes. Attach LPO certificates. **Go to question 4.** ☐ No. I request recertification of my finished product to be exported to Mexico. **Complete the following questions:** 3a. Have you resolved all Conditions and Noncompliances from your last inspection? ☐ Yes ☐ No, attach responses. 3b. Are suppliers located in Mexico certified to the LPO standard? ☐ Yes, attach LPO certificates. ☐ No. *Required.*	All ingredients/supplies must be certified to the LPO. If ingredients/supplies are not LPO certified, the final product must be recertified when applicable. For recertification, ingredients/supplies must be certified to the LPO, US, Canada, EU, or Japan organic regulations.[21]

[14] ALOOA Article 56
[15] ALOOA Article 161
[16] ALOOA Article 162
[17] ALOOA Articles 164; 166; 200; 204; 258; 259
[18] LPO Article 33; SENASICA Circular No. 022/2016
[19] SENASICA has recognized the Canadian Organic Regime as an equivalent standard. The equivalence applies to products grown or produced in Canada or whose final processing and packaging occurs in Canada. COR certified products must be accompanied by a Control or International Transaction Document. The terms of the arrangement are available on the CFIA and SENASICA websites.
[20] ALOOA Articles 200, 204, 212, 214, 258, 259; Circular 48/2020
[21] ALOOA Articles 200, 204, 212, 214, 258, 259, Annex 3 O-SQ-F-02; Circular 48/2020

Management Practice	Answer	Requirement
	3c. Are suppliers located outside Mexico certified to the Mexico (LPO), US, Canada, European Union, or Japan standards? ☐ Yes, attach certificates. If not already provided to CCOF. ☐ No. *Required*	
4. Are all co-packing facilities in Mexico certified to the Mexican organic standards (LPO)?	☐ NA, no co-packers in Mexico. ☐ Yes. Attach certificates for co-packers in Mexico. ☐ No. Explain and list co-packers/locations:	Required.
5. Does water used in post-harvest handling meet requirements listed in the Requirements column?	☐ NA, no use of water in post-harvest handling. ☐ Yes. ☐ No. *Required*	The water used during post-harvest handling must be of potable quality. Efforts should be made to treat the water for its reuse or discharge.[22] When chlorine is added, residual levels of chlorine must not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant levels established in NOM-127-SSA1-1994.[23]

D. Labeling

- ► All labels must comply with the requirements for labeling organic products for sale in Mexico.
- ► All labels must be submitted to CCOF for approval prior to printing.
- ► **Labeling Requirements:** Review the Mexico (LPO) Labeling Guide for Mexican labeling requirements.

☐ NA, no labels for products sold as organic in Mexico.

Labeling Practice	Answer	Requirement
1. Do all non-retail containers, wholesale containers, produce boxes, or accompanying documents (BOLs, invoices, etc.) contain the required information?	☐ NA, no non-retail containers used ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain plan to meet this requirement:	All labels must be submitted to CCOF for approval and must meet the Mexican labeling requirements in the MCP Manual.[24]
2. Has all retail packaging for product to be sold as organic been submitted to CCOF for review and approval?	☐ NA, no retail packaging for organic product ☐ Yes ☐ No, explain:	All labels must be submitted to CCOF for approval and must meet the Mexican labeling requirements in the MCP Manual.[25]
3. Do you plan to use the Mexican national organic seal on any packaging or labels for products certified under the Mexico organic standards?	☐ NA, no packaging or labels ☐ No ☐ Yes. For each product to be labeled with the seal, indicate the volume and production lot:	Lot numbering systems must be described in the OSP forms G8.0 or H5.0. Volume and production lots will be verified at annual inspections.[26] Written certifier approval required prior to use of the seal.[27]

[22] ALOOA Article 63
[23] ALOOA Anexo 1; NOM-127-SSA1-1994: https://salud.gob.mx/unidades/cdi/nom/127ssa14.html
[24] ALOOA Articles 191; 198
[25] ALOOA Articles 201; 202; 204; Agreement which discloses the national seal of organic products and the general rules are established for use in the labeling of products certified as organic (DN)
[26] ALOOA Article 254
[27] DN Article 12; DGIAAP/SENASICA Circular N° 74/2021

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