



Industry Notice

Title: Organic Certifying Bodies – annual review 2017		Number: 2016/04
Date issued: December 2016	Date of Expiry: April 2017	
Distributed to: Approved Certifying Organisations Organic Federation of Australia	Last Notice in the category: Nil	
Relevant legislation: <i>Export Control (Organic Produce Certification) Orders</i>		Contact details: NPGExports@agriculture.gov.au

PURPOSE

To advise of the 2017 annual audit program to be undertaken from January to March.

FOR NOTING

The scope of the 2017 annual audits will include a review of:

- OPC administrative processes, including risk assessment and certification decision making- objective and impartial;
- Inspector/auditor competency standards and impartiality;
- Sanctions (applied, graduated, justification and outcome);
- Importing country requirements e.g. accreditation to 17065 where applicable;
- Unannounced inspection/audits;
- Issues raised during 2016;
- Verification of corrective actions taken in response to CARs issued in 2016 and
- Implementation of actions required by Organic Notices 2016/01, 2016/02 and 2016/03.
- Approved certifiers include ACO, NCO, OFC, BDRI, AUSQUAL, SFPQ

ACTION

By COB 22 December 2016, approved certifying organisations must provide the department with the following information applicable for the first 4 months of 2017:

1. Operators (certified to the National Standard) being inspected and their operations (include type of operator, scope of certification),
2. Organic auditor details,
3. Audit details i.e. date, address (in full), expected duration of audit, and
4. Contact details for operator & auditor.