

the National List and represent not more than 5 percent of the weight of the total finished product (excluding salt and water);

(5) use any packaging materials, storage containers or bins that contain synthetic fungicides, preservatives, or fumigants;

(6) use any bag or container that had previously been in contact with any substance in such a manner as to compromise the organic quality of such product; or

(7) use, in such product water that does not meet all Safe Drinking Water Act [42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.] requirements.

#### (b) Meat

For a farm or handling operation to be organically certified under this chapter, producers on such farm or persons on such handling operation shall ensure that organically produced meat does not come in contact with nonorganically produced meat.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2111, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3941; Pub. L. 102-237, title X, §1001(3), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1893; Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title VII, §748], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-41; Pub. L. 109-97, title VII, §797(a), Nov. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 2165.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Safe Drinking Water Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(7), is title XIV of act July 1, 1944, as added Dec. 16, 1974, Pub. L. 93-523, §2(a), 88 Stat. 1660, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter XII (§300f et seq.) of chapter 6A of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 201 of Title 42 and Tables.

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 109-97 inserted “not appearing on the National List” after “ingredient”.

2000—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 106-387 inserted “except in the production of wine,” after “sulfites.”

1991—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 102-237 substituted “post-harvest” for “post harvest”.

### § 6511. Additional guidelines

#### (a) In general

The Secretary, the applicable governing State official, and the certifying agent shall utilize a system of residue testing to test products sold or labeled as organically produced under this chapter to assist in the enforcement of this chapter.

#### (b) Preharvest testing

The Secretary, the applicable governing State official, or the certifying agent may require preharvest tissue testing of any crop grown on soil suspected of harboring contaminants.

#### (c) Compliance review

##### (1) Inspection

If the Secretary, the applicable governing State official, or the certifying agent determines that an agricultural product sold or labeled as organically produced under this chapter contains any detectable pesticide or other non-organic residue or prohibited natural substance the Secretary, the applicable governing State official, or the certifying agent shall conduct an investigation to determine if the

organic certification program has been violated, and may require the producer or handler of such product to prove that any prohibited substance was not applied to such product.

#### (2) Removal of organic label

If, as determined by the Secretary, the applicable governing State official, or the certifying agent, the investigation conducted under paragraph (1) indicates that the residue is—

(A) the result of intentional application of a prohibited substance; or

(B) present at levels that are greater than unavoidable residual environmental contamination as prescribed by the Secretary or the applicable governing State official in consultation with the appropriate environmental regulatory agencies;

such agricultural product shall not be sold or labeled as organically produced under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2112, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3942; Pub. L. 102-237, title X, §1001(4), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1893; Pub. L. 113-79, title X, §10005(a), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 944.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 113-79 struck out subsec. (d) which related to recordkeeping requirements for producers who operate a certified organic farm or handling operation.

1991—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-237 substituted “Preharvest” for “Pre-harvest” in heading.

### § 6512. Other production and handling practices

If a production or handling practice is not prohibited or otherwise restricted under this chapter, such practice shall be permitted unless it is determined that such practice would be inconsistent with the applicable organic certification program.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2113, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3943.)

### § 6513. Organic plan

#### (a) In general

A producer or handler seeking certification under this chapter shall submit an organic plan to the certifying agent and the State organic certification program (if applicable), and such plan shall be reviewed by the certifying agent who shall determine if such plan meets the requirements of the programs.

#### (b) Crop production farm plan

##### (1) Soil fertility

An organic plan shall contain provisions designed to foster soil fertility, primarily through the management of the organic content of the soil through proper tillage, crop rotation, and manuring.

##### (2) Manuring

###### (A) Inclusion in organic plan

An organic plan shall contain terms and conditions that regulate the application of manure to crops.

###### (B) Application of manure

Such organic plan may provide for the application of raw manure only to—

- (i) any green manure crop;
- (ii) any perennial crop;
- (iii) any crop not for human consumption; and
- (iv) any crop for human consumption, if such crop is harvested after a reasonable period of time determined by the certifying agent to ensure the safety of such crop, after the most recent application of raw manure, but in no event shall such period be less than 60 days after such application.

**(C) Contamination by manure**

Such organic plan shall prohibit raw manure from being applied to any crop in a way that significantly contributes to water contamination by nitrates or bacteria.

**(c) Livestock plan**

An organic livestock plan shall contain provisions designed to foster the organic production of livestock consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

**(d) Mixed crop livestock production**

An organic plan may encompass both the crop production and livestock production requirements in subsections (b) and (c) if both activities are conducted by the same producer.

**(e) Handling plan**

An organic handling plan shall contain provisions designed to ensure that agricultural products that are sold or labeled as organically produced are produced and handled in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

**(f) Management of wild crops**

An organic plan for the harvesting of wild crops shall—

- (1) designate the area from which the wild crop will be gathered or harvested;
- (2) include a 3 year history of the management of the area showing that no prohibited substances have been applied;
- (3) include a plan for the harvesting or gathering of the wild crops assuring that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop; and
- (4) include provisions that no prohibited substances will be applied by the producer.

**(g) Limitation on content of plan**

An organic plan shall not include any production or handling practices that are inconsistent with this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2114, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3943.)

**§ 6514. Accreditation program**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall establish and implement a program to accredit a governing State official, and any private person, that meets the requirements of this section as a certifying agent for the purpose of certifying a farm or handling operation as a certified organic farm or handling operation.

**(b) Requirements**

To be accredited as a certifying agent under this section, a governing State official or private person shall—

- (1) prepare and submit, to the Secretary, an application for such accreditation;
- (2) have sufficient expertise in organic farming and handling techniques as determined by the Secretary; and
- (3) comply with the requirements of this section and section 6515 of this title.

**(c) Duration of designation**

An accreditation made under this section shall be for a period of not to exceed 5 years, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and may be renewed.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2115, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3944.)

**§ 6515. Requirements of certifying agents**

**(a) Ability to implement requirements**

To be accredited as a certifying agent under section 6514 of this title, a governing State official or a person shall be able to fully implement the applicable organic certification program established under this chapter.

**(b) Inspectors**

Any certifying agent shall employ a sufficient number of inspectors to implement the applicable organic certification program established under this chapter, as determined by the Secretary.

**(c) Agreement**

Any certifying agent shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary under which such agent shall—

- (1) agree to carry out the provisions of this chapter; and
- (2) agree to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate.

**(d) Private certifying agent agreement**

Any certifying agent that is a private person shall, in addition to the agreement required in subsection (c)—

- (1) agree to hold the Secretary harmless for any failure on the part of the certifying agent to carry out the provisions of this chapter; and
- (2) furnish reasonable security, in an amount determined by the Secretary, for the purpose of protecting the rights of participants in the applicable organic certification program established under this chapter.

**(e) Compliance with program**

Any certifying agent shall fully comply with the terms and conditions of the applicable organic certification program implemented under this chapter.

**(f) Confidentiality**

Except as provided in section 6506(a)(9) of this title, any certifying agent shall maintain strict confidentiality with respect to its clients under the applicable organic certification program and may not disclose to third parties (with the exception of the Secretary or the applicable governing State official) any business related information concerning such client obtained while implementing this chapter.

**(g) Conflict of interest**

Any certifying agent shall not—