



Agricultural
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Service

National
Organic
Program

1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268
Washington, DC 20250-0268

MAY 12 2010

TO: USDA Accredited Certifying Agents

FROM: Miles V. McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program

SUBJECT: California State Organic Program, Additional Requirements Granted

The National Organic Program (NOP) has granted additional requirements for the NOP regulations to the California State Organic Program (SOP), co-administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the California Department of Public Health. The additional requirements include:

- Organic producers and handlers of raw agricultural products with facilities located within the State of California must register with the California Department of Agriculture county agricultural commissioner.
- Organic processors with facilities located within the State of California must register with the California Department of Public Health.
- Organic producers, processors and handlers within California must provide verification of SOP registration to the accredited certifying agent prior to the granting or continuation of NOP certification.
- USDA Accredited Certifying Agents operating within the State of California must register with the California Department of Agriculture and pay registration fees.

Thank you for all you do to ensure the integrity of organic products produced, handled, or sold within the State of California. If you have any questions regarding this notice, you may contact me or Mark Bradley, NOP Accreditation and International Activities Division Director, at 202-720-3252.