

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: US-India Organic Transitory Timeline for Market Access and Accreditation

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, FAIRS Subject Report, Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

To maintain access to the U.S. market, any organic operation certified through the Government of India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority must apply to a USDA National Organic Program certifier by July 12, 2021. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has notified all organic operations (farms, certification bodies and other miscellaneous businesses across the organic agriculture landscape in India) to apply for direct certification under the ongoing 18-month transition period. After July 12, 2022, USDA organic certification by a USDA-accredited certifier will be required to import organic products from India to the United States.

Overview:

On January 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) ended the organic recognition arrangement with India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) first established in 2006. Indian organic operations currently certified through the APEDA National Programme for Organic Production must apply to an accredited NOP certification body by July 12, 2021 to maintain market access to the United States. For more information about the ending of the recognition agreement, please see the [NOP website](#) and [GAIN Report IN2021-0007](#). After July 12, 2022, all organic products imported into the United States from India must be certified by an NOP-accredited certifier and comply with all NOP requirements.

USDA continues to post updates to the [NOP web page for India](#).

U.S. - India Organic Recognition Arrangement Timeline for Transition: Operation-Level Application and Certification



In January 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA) that we are ending U.S.-India Organic Recognition. The National Organic Program (NOP) took this action because India's organic control system was determined to be insufficient to adequately protect the integrity of the USDA organic seal. We are now in an 18-month transition period that allows **organic operations (farms and businesses)** currently certified by APEDA-accredited certifiers to apply for **direct certification** with USDA-accredited certifiers.

July 12, 2021: APPLICATION

- Any APEDA-certified organic operation in a supply chain exporting to the U.S. must have **applied to a USDA National Organic Program (NOP) certifier by July 12, 2021, to maintain access to U.S. market.**
- Operations and certifiers need to follow certifier's **published application procedures.**
- USDA certifiers must report **certification applicants in India** in the USDA Organic Integrity Database.

July 12, 2022: CERTIFICATION

- To export to the U.S., ALL India organic products/ ingredients across a supply chain **must be certified USDA organic and have a USDA/NOP certificate.**
- This is also called a **full compliance date.**

What Does It Mean to Apply?

- Each certifier publishes organic certification application instructions, which generally include submission of an application form, Organic System Plan (OSP), fees, and/or other certifier-required materials (like a contract).

What Happens After I Apply?

- Certifier evaluates application and OSP to initially assess compliance with the USDA organic regulations.
- Certifier may ask for more information or may issue a Notice of Noncompliance or Denial of Certification based on information reviewed during the process.
- Certifier will conduct an inspection if operation appears to be able to comply.
- USDA organic certificate issued if operation fully complies.
- Operation must maintain certification with your APEDA-accredited certifier throughout the USDA certification process!

More Information: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/international-trade/India>

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | National Organic Program

Attachments:

No Attachments.