



AMERICERT INTERNATIONAL

(Formerly known as Americert International)

2603 NW 13th St. #228, Gainesville, FL 32609*Ph: (352)336-5700 *Fax: (866)325-8261

Americert@gmail.com

www.americertorganic.com

Information About the Americert Organic Input Registry and Products Approved for Use in Organic Production and Handling

Americert International, as a USDA accredited certifying agency has the responsibility and authority to approve products for use in organic production and handling. Americert International NOP Organic Inputs Review Registry lists the products of manufacturers or distributors who have applied for approval through Americert International including submitting all required information on their process, procedures, and ingredients, have received an onsite inspection by Americert International (where applicable), and have been determined to be in compliance with the requirements of the USDA National Organic Program for the specific products listed in the registry.

While Americert International cannot and does not warrant the effectiveness of the products, nor any of the label claims unrelated to the requirements of the USDA National Organic Program, Americert International has determined that the products listed in the registry meet the requirements applicable to the product under the USDA National Organic Program.

Where restrictions apply to the use of the product under the USDA National Organic Program, such restrictions are listed in the registry listing for the product.

Always be sure to receive advance approval from your certifier before using ANY input on your certified organic farm, on a product to be labeled as organic, or in your organic facility.

More information about the Registry, including information on how to apply to get your product listed in the Registry, is listed below.

Information for Manufacturers and Distributors Interested in Having Products Listed in the Registry

I. Introduction

One of the greatest challenges to certified organic operations is the sourcing of inputs for use in organic production and handling. The USDA National Organic Program Final Rule sets firm limits on the types of materials that can be used in organic production and handling. Often, it is left up to the operator or the certifier to determine on a case by case basis if a particular material is allowed under the USDA National Organic Program Final Rule. To aid the makers and users of these products in knowing which products comply with the USDA NOP rules, Americert International has developed its Organic Input Review Registry to review products and assess their compliance with the USDA National Organic Program Final Rule and to register those products which comply. The register is intended to be a resource for organic producers and handlers seeking to source products which comply with the USDA National Organic Program Final Rule.



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II. How it Works

An input manufacturer or supplier who intends to submit a product for review and listing on the registry must complete an application form which requests detailed information about the product's ingredients, method of manufacture, and ingredient suppliers. In many cases, confidential and proprietary information will have to be disclosed; Americert International agrees to maintain confidentiality of such information. Americert International begins the assessment through a desk audit of the information provided and confirms the information through onsite inspection. When Americert International has collected and verified all of the information necessary to make a determination of compliance, it issues a registration decision. Products that appear to comply with the USDA National Organic Program Final Rule will be listed on the Americert International Organic Input Review Registry for a period of one year. Operations must reapply and go through the approval process annually to maintain a listing on the registry. There is a per product fee charged for the verification process.

III. Limitations on Use of Registry Approval Status

Any operator applying for listing on the registry should be aware of the limitations of the registry approval. Approved manufacturers may use the registry status and the registry approval certificate on their website and other marketing materials so long as Americert International approves the materials and they are not misleading. One important limitation that manufacturers must be aware of is that each USDA approved certifying agent has an independent authority and responsibility to review materials for their own certified growers and producers. As such, a listing on the Americert International registry is not a blanket approval. Each certifier may choose to accept the Americert International registry listing or they may insist on doing their own review when one of their clients chooses to use the product in question. Accordingly, registrants should make this limitation clear to their own customers. A certified organic operation should never use a new input or material in their certified organic operation until they have informed their certifier and received the certifier's approval.

Fee Schedule for Input Review

Manure, Compost, Vermicompost Products: \$295.00 Registration Application Fee

Other Fertility Products (Including Plant Growth Regulators): \$495.00 Registration Application Fee

All Other Products: \$395.00 Registration Application Fee

Note: Liquid Fertility Products with 3% or greater nitrogen content also require an annual onsite inspection which costs \$250 per product plus travel expenses. Advance payment for the inspection in the amount of \$250 should be included with the application for registry approval.

Please contact Americert for the forms necessary to apply for registry approval.