



Quality Certification Services (QCS)

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QCS Grower and Livestock Fee Structure

The following options are intended to provide a cost-effective certification for operations of various sizes and types. Please select the option for which you qualify and which represents the best value. *University and research institutions pay only for inspection (no certification or assessment fees).*

A \$25 non-refundable credit will be awarded each year if your application & fees are submitted by your renewal deadline

Option	Description	Annual Certification Fees Due with Application			Inspection Annually	Assessments Due January & July
		Acreage	1 st Year	Renewal	1 st Year & Renewal	0.5% of Gross Organic Sales for the Period
OPTION 1 Standard Grower	Certification of an Individual Grower Operation	0-20	\$275	\$225	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost varies: see below • \$300 Deposit: collected with certification fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost varies: based on sales (see below) • Annual minimum assessment is \$150.00 (\$75 due per period)
		21-99	\$325	\$275		
		100-500	\$400	\$350		
		> 500	\$500	\$450		
OPTION 2 Multi-Unit Umbrella	Certification of a Primary Location and Additional Associated Locations (Each require separate Organic System Plan and inspection)	Location	1st Year	Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining cost: invoiced after inspection (Net 15 Terms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual cap on assessment is \$6000 (\$15,000 for Multi-Unit Umbrella, Option2)
		Primary	\$425	\$375		
OPTION 3 Grower and Livestock (Non-Dairy)	Certification of A Single Livestock Producer Operation (Price Includes Grower Certification)	Acreage	1st Year	Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75 QCS service fee per inspection • Unannounced inspection may occur (see below) 	
		0-100	\$400	\$350		
		101-500	\$475	\$425		
OPTION 4 Dairy Producer Flat Rate	Certification of a Single Dairy Producer (includes certification of feed/grazing pasture, not crop production)	Annual Flat Rate	1st Year	Renewal	Included	Included
			\$1070			
Additional Lands / Scope Expansion	Adding land or new type of production outside of the renewal period.	\$250 Requires submission of the Additional Lands Application or appropriate Organic System Plan.			Varies. See Options 1-3 above	N/A

Additional Certification Options (ADD-ONS): Fees due with application.

	Verification	Fee
International Verifications	EU 834, Canada Organic Regime (COR), US-Canada Organic Equivalence, US-Taiwan Organic Export Arrangement., or US-Korea Organic Equivalence	\$75 each
	US-Japan or US-EU, or US-Switzerland Organic Equivalence	No fee
	Bio Suisse	\$350
On-Farm Processing	\$125. Grower or livestock operations who conduct on-farm cleaning, packaging and preparation of their own certified products and whose total annual sales of such products does not exceed \$30,000 may qualify for the Add-On. Under this option, the Processor/Handler Application may or may not be required depending on the complexity of the processing or handling done (contact QCS for a determination) -- but regardless of whether such an application is required, operations who qualify for On-Farm Processing pay only the Add-On fee (instead of the \$300-\$350 usually charged).	
Expedited Certification	Grower OR Livestock Certification (per entity) – no acreage distinction	\$875
	Grower AND Livestock Certification (per location) - no acreage distinction	\$1,475
	Additional Lands/Scope Expansion	\$725
	International Verification	\$550 each

Other Fees

Reinstatement Fee	\$300 if suspended for administrative reason, \$500 if suspended for technical reason, due with application.
Transaction Certificate	\$45 each. Includes domestic overnight mailing; additional expense for international mailing will be billed.
Mediation Fee	\$250 for mediation resulting from an administrative noncompliance (e.g. failure to renew), \$450 for mediation resulting from technical noncompliance; due upon QCS acceptance of request for mediation.

*QCS reserves the right to charge additional fees, as applicable, for all other administrative and certification related services not specifically listed. Administrative time is billed at \$45/hour.



DESCRIPTION OF FEES AND REFUND POLICY

Certification Fees Certification Fees are the base annual fees due each year for certification. The amount of fees to be paid depend on the fee option chosen from the above table and are in addition to the inspection fees charged and the assessments (where applicable). Certification fees are due at the time of initial application (1st year) and on anniversary (renewal) date in subsequent years. A flat rate fee may be negotiated at QCS's discretion. A \$25 non-refundable credit will be awarded each year if your application and fees are submitted to QCS by your renewal deadline. Certification fees take into account the requirement for QCS to conduct additional inspections (primarily unannounced) and sampling at a percentage of QCS certified operations, as described in the organic standards.

Inspection Fees The final cost for inspection varies based upon the size and complexity of the operation inspected, the distance that must be traveled, the ability to group with other nearby inspections, and the individual inspector assigned. Operation complexity is determined in the initial review phase. It should be noted that most operations are rated by QCS as simple or moderate for inspection purposes. Complex inspections are not as common, and usually are very large, multi-parcel, split operations. The chart below should be used as a general guide to how much an inspection may cost.

Operation Type	Operation Complexity		
	Simple	Moderate	Complex
Grower Only	425-600	650-800	850-975
Grower and Handler	475-625	725-850	900-1050
Grower and Livestock	575-700	725-850	900-1050
Grower, Handler and Livestock	600-725	750-925	950-1075
Livestock Only	475-625	725-850	900-1050

A \$300 deposit is due at the time of the initial application (1st year) and on submission of renewal applications. Clients will be invoiced at the conclusion of the inspection for the following, described below:

(inspector fee & travel expenses + \$75 QCS service charge) - less deposit

In addition to fees for the inspector's time, all travel expenses are paid by the party to be inspected. This may include travel time, gas, mileage, car rental and/or airfare, meals, lodging, tolls, etc. We encourage clients to submit their application in a timely manner so that inspections can be coordinated as to save on travel expenses. The inspection service fee is retained by QCS for associated costs, and is the only portion of the amount charged to the inspected party that is not paid to the inspector.

Assessments Assessment fees are mandatory, and based upon the amount of gross sales of QCS-certified organic product(s). These fees are due January 31st and July 31st annually. The assessment fee is 0.5% (one-half of one percent) of gross sales during the given period:

Period 1 (January 1 – June 30) and Period 2 (July 1 – December 31)

Clients will be provided with notice and all necessary paperwork at least 30 days before the deadline. The total annual minimum assessment is \$150 (or \$75 per period). Assessments are capped at various levels depending on the certification option chosen from the above chart. The maximum annual assessment for an individual certified location is capped at \$6,000. The maximum annual assessment for multi-unit umbrella is capped at \$20,000.

Expedited Certification

Expedited certification is intended for clients that are seeking priority processing of their Organic System Plan (OSP) – 15 to 20 working days for certification. QCS' ability to complete the certification process in this time frame depends on submittal of a completed application/organic system plan, supporting documentation and fees; a willingness to respond quickly with any additional information requested by QCS; inspector availability; and availability of client to be present at inspection. Expedited certification fees are in addition to certification fees. Additionally, fees for expedited inspections may be higher than regular inspections due to last minute travel arrangements. The inspected party must pay all inspection fees including additional travel expenses incurred to accommodate the expedite inspection. Please see certification fee schedule for more detailed information regarding inspection fees.

Refund Policy If the application is withdrawn before an inspector has been assigned, one half of certification fee may be credited. If withdrawn after inspector has been assigned, certification fees are nonrefundable. Upon withdrawal of application and written request, the inspection deposit will be credited (as long as inspection hasn't taken place). Inspection fee nonrefundable after inspection has taken place. Expedited certification fees are nonrefundable. If you are denied certification, fees are nonrefundable and all invoices must be paid according to terms. Inspection charges must be paid if the inspection was conducted.