



Quality Certification Services (QCS)

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QCS Processing and Handling 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.

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 <i>Due with Application</i>			Inspection <i>Annually</i>	Assessments <i>January & July</i>
			1 st Year	Renewal	1 st Year & Renewal	0.5% of gross sales (see below)
OPTION 1 Base Handler	Certification of an Individual Processor/Handler Location		\$475	\$425	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost varies: see below • \$500 Deposit: collected with certification fees • Remaining cost: invoiced after inspection (Net 15 Terms) • \$75 QCS service fee per inspection • Unannounced inspection may occur (see below) 	Assessment varies between \$0 and \$10,000 annual cap
OPTION 2 Multi-Unit Umbrella	Certification of a Primary Location and Additional Associated Location(s) (Each require separate Organic System Plan and inspection)	Site	1st Year	Renewal		Primary pays for itself plus additional locations. \$20,000 annual cap
		Primary	\$425	\$375		
OPTION 3 Flat Rate Contract Handler Locations	Certification of A Single Contracted Processor/Handler Location associated with a Primary Certified Location	Flat Rate	1st Year	Renewal		N/A Included in flat rate
			\$2325	\$2275		
OPTION 4 Flat Rate Broker/Distributor/Co-Packer/Multi-Contract Processor	Certification of an operation that is under contract to pack/handle/process product from multiple certified operations, or that solely brokers or distributes product	Flat Rate	1st Year	Renewal	N/A Included in flat rate	
			\$5075	\$5025		

Note: There may be additional administrative charges for review of more than 100 products. Please contact QCS for further information.

Additional Certification Options (ADD-ONS): Fees due with application and upon annual renewal.

	Verification	Fee
International Verifications	EU 834, Canada Organic Regime (COR), US-Canada Organic Equivalence, US-Taiwan Organic Export Arrangement., or US-Korea Organic Equivalence	\$150 each
	US-Japan or US-EU, or US-Switzerland Organic Equivalence	No fee
	Bio Suisse	\$350
Expedited Certification	\$1,875 for processing only. \$1,975 for processing combined with any other scope (crop, livestock, etc.). \$550 for each applicable international verification. Contact the QCS office if you seek priority application processing	

Other Fees: As applicable

Additional Products	\$45/hour or \$180/hour expedited. To add certified products during the certification year (not during the annual renewal), please contact the QCS office.
Label Review	\$45/hour or \$180/hour expedited.
Transaction Certificate	\$45 each. Includes domestic overnight mailing; additional expense for international mailing will be billed.
Reinstatement Fee	\$300 if suspended for administrative reason, \$500 if suspended for technical reason, due with initial app.
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 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 are usually very large companies that produce numerous multi-ingredient products. The chart below should be used as a general guide to how much an inspection may cost.

Operation Type	Operation Complexity		
	Simple	Moderate	Complex
Handler/Processor	575-725	750-975	1000-1175
Retail Establishments & Restaurants	800-875	900-975	1000-1275

A \$500 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, less the cost of certified organic goods/ingredients incorporated into final certified product.

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. Assessments are capped at various levels depending on the certification option chosen from the above chart. The maximum assessment for an individual certified location is capped at \$10,000 annually. The maximum assessment for multi-unit umbrella is capped at \$20,000 annually.

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.