



Quality Certification Services (QCS)

PO Box 12311 Gainesville FL 32604

p 352.377.0133 f 352.377.8363

www.qcsinfo.org

QCS SPECIFIC TRADE PRACTICES CERTIFICATION

Do you implement a specific trade practice that you want your consumers to know about? For example, do you want your consumers to know that your employees are not exposed to pesticides, that you pay your employees a living wage, or that your operation is powered through solar energy?

Under its Specific Trade Practices program, QCS will certify up to 6 specific trade practices characteristic of your organic operation. You identify the trade practices that you wish QCS to certify, and we will include them in your regular audit and review. QCS will issue you a certificate listing the specific trade practices that we were able to verify.

How Does it Work?

1. The applicant notifies QCS of the specific trade practices that they wish to have verified.
2. QCS verifies the claims as part of the applicant's annual organic auditing and review process. QCS can only verify specific trade practices that meet the following conditions:
 - The trade practice must be objectively verifiable. In other words, QCS must be able to verify the practice based on observable facts.
 - The trade practice must be self-contained. In other words, QCS must be able to verify the practice without reference to other standards.

Process:

To apply for Specific Trade Practices Certification, simply include a cover letter with your application describing each trade practice that you wish to have reviewed. You may submit up to 6 practices. Your specific trade practices will be reviewed along with, and in the same manner as, your organic application.

Fees:

The QCS Specific Trade Practices Fee is \$50.00/hour for first four hours of review. Subsequent review will be billed at @40.00/hr + Inspection costs (usually inspection is done at the same time of your organic inspection).

For more information regarding Specific Trade Practices certification, please feel free to contact Quality Certification Services Main Office - Specific Trade Practices Program.