



QCS Grower Group Fee Schedule

The following option is intended to provide a cost-effective certification for a Grower Group.

*A \$50 non-transferrable credit will be awarded for each referral which results in an application to QCS for certification. *

Option	Description	Annual Certification Fees* <i>Due with Application</i>	Inspection <i>Annually</i>	Assessments
Standard Grower Group Certification	Certification of a Grower Group Operation with existing Internal Control System (ICS)	\$3525	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost varies: see below • \$500 Deposit: collected with certification fees. Remaining cost: invoiced after inspection (Net 15 Terms) 	None
Additional Grower Group Members/Sites	Adding grower group members/sites during the certification year (not during the annual renewal). Requires submission of the Additional Grower Group Member Plan Application.	\$275	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$80 QCS service fee per inspection • Unannounced inspection may occur (see below) 	

Note: There will be an additional fee for the review of more than 5 inputs with application that are not on the Approved Materials List or other approved MRO List. This will be billed at the rate of \$70/hour. Please contact QCS for further information.

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

	Verification	Fee
International Verifications	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	\$70 each
	US-Taiwan Organic Export Arrangement (requires laboratory testing at cost)	\$150 (+ testing)
On-Farm Processing	\$180. Grower Group 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 \$590 usually charged).	
Expedited Certification	\$1875 for grower group size of up to 25 members, \$2750 for group size of 26-50, and \$3750 for group size of 51-100, for 30-40 working days turnaround time. \$550 for each applicable international verification. The application and supporting documentation must be complete and compliant to ensure these timelines. Contact the QCS office if you seek priority processing to ensure availability.	

Other Fees

Renewal Late Fee	\$100
Finance Fee	10% for every 30 days past due date
Input Review	\$70/hour for the review of inputs not on the QCS Approved Materials List or other approved MRO List (expect at least a 15-20 working day turnaround) if the review is outside of your annual renewal cycle.
Transaction Certificate	\$60 each 5-7 working days. \$90 each for 3-5 working days. \$180 each for 1-2 working days. The fee for domestic mailing (shipping and labor) will be at least \$50, and international mailing (shipping and labor) will be at least \$75. The application and supporting documentation must be complete and compliant to ensure these timelines.



Quality Certification Services (QCS)

5700 SW 34th Street, Suite 349, Gainesville FL 32608

phone 352.377.0133 / fax 352.377.8363

www.qcsinfo.org

Other Fees (continued)	
Reinstatement Fee	\$500, due with application.
Mediation Fee	\$300 for mediation resulting from an administrative noncompliance (e.g. failure to renew), \$500 for mediation resulting from technical noncompliance; due upon QCS acceptance of request for mediation.
State Registration Fees	For states that require certifier registration, the additional fees apply: CA \$25; NJ \$25; and UT \$100.
Use of FOG logo	\$100 contributing fee.

*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 \$70/hour.

For updates not specified above expect a 15 to 20 working days for the turnaround time.

DESCRIPTION OF FEES AND REFUND POLICY

Certification Fees Certification Fees are the base annual fees due each year for certification, and are in addition to the inspection fees charged. Certification fees are due at the time of initial application (1st year) and on anniversary date in subsequent years. 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. Use of Net 15 terms above refers to the terms for payment within 15 calendar days of invoice.

Inspection Fees The final cost for inspection varies based upon the size and complexity of the operation to be 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. In general, inspections for Grower Groups require around 2 days to complete, and the final cost ranges from \$600 to \$950 per day.

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 + \$80 QCS service charge) - 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 An assessment fee on gross sales is not required of Grower Groups.

Expedited Certification

Expedited certification is intended for clients that are seeking priority processing of their Organic System Plan (OSP) – 30 to 40 working days for certification. QCS defines working days as weekdays (Monday-Friday) provided the weekday(s) does not fall on a holiday. 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.



Quality Certification Services (QCS)

5700 SW 34th Street, Suite 349, Gainesville FL 32608

phone 352.377.0133 / fax 352.377.8363

www.qcsinfo.org

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

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

US-Taiwan Organic Export Arrangement QCS is required to test 1/3 of the clients verified to the US-Taiwan Organic Export Arrangement annually. As this is a requirement of Taiwan, the cost of laboratory testing is the client's responsibility. If QCS collects and submits a sample for testing the actual costs will be billed.