

Application for use of Non-organic Seeds, Seedlings & other Vegetative Reproductive Material

TEMPORARY VARIATION FROM THE ORGANIC STANDARDS

* This form is to be completed to request permission for a temporary variation from the AsureQuality Organic Standard Section 4.5. as well as all other applicable Organic standards including the MPI OOAP.
* Approval in writing is required prior to use of any seeds, seedling, trees, runners, grafting material etc.
	+ Once completed please return this form via email: organics@asurequality.com
* An assessment of your application will be made and the form will be emailed back to you stating whether the temporary variance from the organic standards has been granted or denied, any reasons and any conditions relating to the approval of temporary variation. Please maintain the completed form on file for review by your auditor at your annual audit.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Company Name:** |       | **Registration No:** |       |
| **Contact Name:** |       | **Ph Number:** |       |
| **Email:** |       | **PO Number:** |       |

Standards operator certified to: **[ ]  AsureQuality IFOAM [ ]  MPI OOAP [ ]  USDA NOP [ ]  COR**

**I ,** **………………… (full name) of** **…………………………………………(address/property) have not been able to source organic seeds/seedlings/reproductive material of the following (name, quantity and justification):**

|  |
| --- |
|       |

**I have contacted the following three suppliers of organic seed or propagative material to confirm organic material is not available (name, method of contacting, & date):**

|  |
| --- |
| **1.**  |
| **2.**  |
| **3.**  |

**I understand and declare that the following conditions have been met in order to maintain organic certification:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SEEDS ONLY** |  |
| **1**. Any non-organic seeds are: untreated, uncoated and non-GMO  | **[ ]  YES** **[ ]  NO** |
| **2**. Any coated seeds do not contain ingredients that do not meet organic requirements,  |  **[ ]  YES [ ]  NO [ ]  NA** |
| **3.** Treated seeds are only permitted if seeds meeting points 1 & 2 are unavailable AND it is a regulatory requirement for the specific prohibited treatment(s) such as importing requirements  |  **[ ]  YES [ ]  NO [ ]  NA** |
| **OTHER REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL:** for perennial crops must go through a conversion period of 12 months during which time no material can be removed and sold or represented as certified organic |
| If the operator is certified for a regulated market, material covered by points 3 require approval from MPI before AsureQuality can allow their use. |

**Signed**       …………………………………………… **Date**      …… /………/……..

**This section for AsureQuality use only**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Temporary Variation [ ] **Granted** | **[ ] Denied** | Reasons/Conditions of approval if any:MPI Approved for Point 3 only: [ ] ***Yes***  ***[ ] No*** ***[ ] Not applicable***USDA NOP: 3 sources entered: [ ] ***Yes [ ] No***  |
| Name:       |       |
| Position:       |
| Signature:  |
| Date:       |
| **This approval of temporary variation expires on:** |        |

**Notes for applying for Non-Organic Propagative Material**

AsureQuality may grant the use, on a restricted basis, of non-organic seeds, seedlings, runners, scionwood rootstocks, and trees, where organic material is unavailable. **You must request permission before purchasing. Failure to do so may lead to the certification of the crop being lost.**

1. Justification

Please give detailed reasons for sourcing non-organic material, as our decision will be based on this. Please note that under USDA NOP guidelines (5029), at least three suppliers of organic material must be contacted to confirm organic material is unavailable. Retain evidence of how these suppliers have been contacted e.g. letter, fax, email, phone log.

1. Variety availability

If a variety that you require is not available as organic you will need to justify why alternative varieties that are organic are not suitable

1. Potatoes

Seed potatoes must be sourced organically. Non-organic varieties will only be approved in exceptional circumstances

1. Treated seed

Treated seed can only be used in exceptional circumstances, such as due to a regulatory requirement. For the importing requirements for seed treatments refer to: MPI Import Health Standard Seeds for Sowing 155.02.05. If the non-organic seed treatment is optional then approval will not be granted and an alternative organic compatible treatment needs to be used.

1. GMO products and GE processes

All GMO products and GE processes are prohibited. This includes seeds and any treatments. It is recommended that that if treatments (inoculants) are used they are organic certified to provide assurance that they haven’t been produced using GE processes

1. Specific Country requirements

Some countries only allow the use of organic seeds. It is the operator’s responsibility to ensure importing country requirements are met. MPI must grant approval for any crops covered by the Official Organic Assurance Programme including the USDA NOP.

1. Sprouts

Sprouts for human consumption must be from organic sources

1. Perennial Crops

Perennial crops such as trees must go through a 12-month conversion period. During this period the trees must be segregated and identified as not being organic. Any material removed from these trees such as scionwood, or fruit may not be sold, or represented as being organic. Conditions relating to parallel product will apply so we will ask you to update your OMP stating how you will manage this during the conversion period.