

January 3, 2024

Dear ODA Organic Customers:

The 2024 organic certification year is here and there are a few important things to note for 2024 new applications and renewals:

1. Complete applications consist of the application (renewal or new), fee, OSP Update, plus all documents that support your updates (see the list of supporting documentation on the ODA Organic website): <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/MarketAccess/MACertification/Pages/NationalOrganicProgram.aspx>
2. ODA will be using the same application documents that we used last year for 2024, and application documents can be found on the ODA website. The fee schedule also remains the same. You can submit last year's documents for 2024 even if the document says "2023".
3. Deadlines have changed for 2024:
Renewal application materials and fees will be accepted from **January 1, 2024 through May 30, 2024**. May 30, 2024 is the renewal application deadline (for a complete application and fees).
New application materials and fees will be accepted from **January 1, 2024 through July 1, 2024** (all new applications submitted after July 1, 2024 will be considered in 2025).
4. If possible, emailing application materials is highly encouraged (**fees must be mailed or faxed**, but all other application materials can be emailed to the certification email address certification@oda.oregon.gov). See application submittal instructions on the application form.
5. Though the deadline has been extended, it's **highly encouraged to submit application materials before the deadline**. ODA will review materials and complete all certification steps from January 1st onwards. Early application submittal is especially important if you are applying for organic cost-share reimbursement funds.
6. New federal regulation, Strengthening Organic Enforcement, is fully enforceable starting March 24, 2024. Customers are encouraged to read the new regulation and ask questions before the enforcement date if you think the changes may impact your operation: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/strengthening-organic-enforcement>

7. If you're a new applicant who submitted application and fees in 2023 for 2024, we'll begin review of your application for 2024's program.

Reach out early if you have questions about 2024's new/renewal application processes.

Thank you and Happy New Year

Thanks, Laureen

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