



OCIA International, Inc.

1340 N. Cotner Blvd. | Lincoln, NE 68505 | USA
Phone: 402.477.2323 | Fax: 402.477.4325
info@ocia.org | www.ocia.org

USING THE NOP (USDA) SEAL

When you request NOP certification with OCIA, your operation may label its products or ingredients as organic and may use the “USDA Organic” seal on advertisements, labels, tags and/or packaging, **ONLY** if the product meets the requirements set by the USDA’s National Organic Standards. **USDA labeling requirements are based on the percentage of organic ingredients in a product.** See USDA Organic Regulations, § 205.302 for more information on calculating the percentage of organically produced ingredients.

The USDA Organic Seal may appear on organic agricultural products that are certified 100 percent organic (“100 percent organic”) or products that are certified as containing at least 95 percent organic ingredients (“organic”). Products meeting the requirements for “100 percent organic” and “organic” may display these terms and the percentage of organic content on their principal display panel. Use of the USDA Organic Seal is optional. Products certified to the National Organic Program are not required to display the USDA Organic Seal.

Processed products labeled “made with organic (specified ingredients or food groups(s))” and containing at least 70 percent organic ingredients may display the percentage of organic content, but they **cannot** use the USDA seal anywhere on the package. Processed products that contain some organic ingredients (less than 70%) may identify organic ingredients in the ingredients statement, but they **cannot** use the USDA Organic seal or OCIA International seal anywhere on the package.

For “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” labels, the labels may indicate specific organic ingredients or food groups. For “made with organic” specified ingredient statements, no more than three organically produced ingredients may be listed. For “made with organic” food group statements, no more than three of the following groups may be listed: beans, fish, fruits, grains, herbs, meats, nuts, oils, poultry, seeds, spices, sweeteners, and vegetables or processed milk products.

All multi-ingredient products which make any organic claims must include an ingredients statement in the information panel. Products labeled as “Organic” or “Made with Organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” must identify the organic ingredients in the ingredients statement.



Labeling Requirements

Your label’s information panel must show below the name and address of the handler (bottler, distributor, importer, manufacturer, packer, processor, etc.) of the finished product, the statement “Certified organic by OCIA International” or similar phrase, with no other printed material or information being placed between the certifying agent’s name and the name of the manufacturer or distributor. Certifying Agent seals may **NOT** be used to satisfy this requirement. The

business/internet address or telephone number of OCIA International may be displayed on the information panel of the final product.

Products labeled as “organic” must list the organic ingredients as “organic” when other organic labeling is shown. Water and salt included as ingredients must not be identified as organic.

Seal Size: If you are also displaying the OCIA logo on your packaging, it may not be more prominently displayed than the USDA seal (see USDA Organic Regulations, section 205.308).

Color: (1) On a white background with a brown outer circle and with the term, “USDA,” in green overlaying a white upper semicircle and with the term, “organic,” in white overlaying the green lower half circle; or

(2) On a white or transparent background with black outer circle and black "USDA" on a white or transparent upper half of the circle with a contrasting white or transparent "organic" on the black lower half circle.

(3) The green or black lower half circle may have four light lines running from left to right and disappearing at the point on the right horizon to resemble a cultivated field.

Position: The position of the USDA Organic mark is not regulated by the National Organic Standards. You may use the USDA Organic seal in advertising material.

*******IMPORTANT NOTICE*******

- **A sample of a label must be sent to OCIA International for review and approval prior to printing and use.**