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Changes to ACOS

Recent changes have been made by Australian Organic Limited to the ACOS which may impact ACO certified operators. These changes include:

- **Cosmetics** – ACOS no longer contains specific reference to cosmetics. As a consequence, cosmetic products will need to be certified to the COSMOS or National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce Standards,
- **Allowed Input products** – changes to requirements regarding the use of the word “Organic” on allowed input products,
- Changes to **Allowed or Prohibited Substances List**, and
- Updated **Derogation Terms**.

The updated standard ACOS 2019 v.1 and more information can be found on the [ACO website](#).



COSMOS Changes for Cosmetics Products

The new International COSMOS Standards version 3.0 was released late last year.

Operators Certified to COSMOS may require some changes implemented by 31st December 2019.

You can see the current updated Standard via the "Resources" tab on our website.

[Download COSMOS V3 today](#). Please review the Standard as you may be impacted.

Labels for products approved as a COSMOS ORGANIC product need to identify organic PPAI ingredients and organic CPAI ingredients in the INCI list.

IMPORTANT NOTE - For Exporters

A recent direction from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture has advised that an Organic Produce Certificate (OPC) cannot be issued after a shipment leaves Australia unless there is an authorisation received from the Government authority of the Importing Country.

Due to volumes and processing time, all OPC requests must be received by us prior to 2PM AEST to ensure same day processing. Please also ensure that there is a relevant person available to answer any questions that we may have regarding the application, otherwise same day certification cannot be guaranteed.

From 1st July, an Urgent Processing Fee will apply for all OPC applications requested after 2pm that require same day processing.

Please note that ACO cannot guarantee incomplete OPCs or priority OPCs received after 4pm AEST, will be processed prior to the next business day.

COSMOS ORGANIC



COSMOS NATURAL



COSMOS CERTIFIED



Certifications available

ACO Certification Ltd (“ACO”) is Australia’s largest organic certification body and is accredited nationally to the “National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce”, the “Australian Certified Organic Standard” and a host of other domestic and international organic standards. ACO certifies organic producers in all states of Australia and internationally to the highest organic certification standards. These international/other programmes to which you may be eligible include:

- United States (USDA NOP)
- Korea
- COSMOS
- IFOAM
- CHINA (COFCC)
- Freshcare
- European Union
- Japan (JAS)

Please call us on phone 07 3350 5706 or via email at info@aco.net.au to find out more information about these certifications, pricing and how they may benefit your business.

Allowed Input Logos – You can choose which logo suits your business best!



ACO Audits

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ACO AUDITORS

ACO takes Work Health and Safety of our Staff and Auditors very seriously and their safety is of paramount importance to us. Although ACO auditors are aware of safety hazards at farming/manufacturing/processing facilities, we appreciate if Certified Clients can inform ACO auditors of any precautions they need to take or hazards they need to be aware of at the commencement of each audit visit.

UNANNOUNCED AUDITS

As required by all accreditation bodies, ACO is obliged to conduct unannounced audits on at least 10% of certified operators every year to provide additional surveillance and maintain the integrity of certified organic products. We appreciate your cooperation with the unannounced audits if asked.

Resources for Certified Clients

There are number of readily available resources that certified clients can use to obtain information about products and operators certified to different organic standards (eg. Certified Inputs, Producers, and Processors).

Most accredited certifiers publish a list of certified operators on their website. Some useful resources are:

1. USDA NOP Integrity Database: All products and operators certified to the USDA NOP standards worldwide are listed on <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/>
2. ACO website: All ACO [Certified/Suspended/Decertified/Withdrawn](#) operators can be found on the website.
3. ACO regularly updates our website with any news or information that you might need to know. You can find our "News" page under the "Resources" tab.



ACO Certificate of Compliance Changes

ACO certificates of compliance no longer display percentages. This change provides clarity for reformulated products that have minor changes to composition but still meet the organic claim of the reformulated product. This is now generically stated as 'certified organic' as opposed to 'Certified organic - XX.X%'. This change in the certificate now brings it in line with other international organic certification bodies.

New Logos

You may have seen our advice sent last month, Please refer to this notification for details of the new logo changes. If you have not received a copy of this notification, you can read it [here](#).



ACO clients may wish to nominate for the

57th Australian Export Awards



What are the Australian Export Awards (AEA)?

- Australian Export awards are organised by Austrade to recognise the important contribution of, and celebrate the success of Australian exporters.
- Each state and territory run their own state-based export awards program. Winners of the state and territory awards programs automatically become national finalists and progress to the AEA in the 13 national categories.
- The 2019 national categories are: Agribusiness, Food and Beverages, Professional Services, Creative Industries, Technology and Innovation, E-commerce, International Education and Training, Emerging Exporter, Sustainability, International Health, Manufacturing and Advanced Materials, Minerals, Energy and Related Services, Regional Exporter, and Small Business.

Benefits for National Finalists and Winners

- Boost your reputation among local and international customers
- Increase your profile with the Australian Government
- Network with fellow exporters, and learn from each other's export experience
- Improve staff morale with public recognition of the business's success
- Critically review your business planning during the application process and identify ways to improve export strategies and operations
- Gain national media exposure
- Use the AEA winner/finalist logo in domestic and international marketing campaigns to highlight your achievement
- Attend the AEA awards ceremony and meet senior government officials and industry leaders
- Attend exclusive business events

Who should apply?

- Australian businesses exporting their products and services overseas can apply in the 13 award categories.
- Applicants can apply in multiple categories. Full eligibility found at exportawards.gov.au/Apply/Eligibility-guidelines

New Operator Testimonial Golden Fields Nutrition Australia

"We are super excited to have certification for Golden Fields. Thanks to all at ACO for helping step us through the process – as always it has been super professional and helpful. We appreciate the support and leadership you give to the Organic Industry!"

Ashley Hawley
Production Manager

New people at ACO

CLIENT SERVICES

ACO is saddened to announce the departure of our Client Services Manager, Kellie Lewis. Kellie has been part of ACO for over 10 years, and an integral part to our business, she will be missed as she takes on her next adventure in life.

Your new point(s) of contact will be Kalinda Hanna (Client Services Team Leader) and Kristi Rasmussen (Client Services Officer). You can contact the client services team for any and all matters regarding your certification using the contact details listed on our [website](#).

MANAGEMENT

We are pleased to announce the commencement of Mr Mark Shaw as ACO's new Executive General Manager leading the ACO team. Mark commenced with us in June, and comes with many years senior management experience in corporate roles and in his own businesses. Mark replaces our Chief Change Officer Steve Barnard whose role has come to an end.

CERTIFICATION TEAM

ACO has been working to best facilitate the needs of our clients and in doing so, has organised a new internal certification team structure to support you. We now work within sector focused teams along the following sectors: Producer, Processor and Cosmetics. This allows more timely consideration of certification matters and more consistency in our knowledge base and decision making/service levels. Contact details for the team have not changed.

