

# Important Notification to Exporters of Certified Organic Products

## Requirement to obtain Organic Produce Certificates

The export of organic products is **prohibited** unless an Organic Produce Certificate (“OPC”) has been issued prior to departure from Australia.

Please also note the following:

- Only Australian products that have been certified to the National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce by an approved certifying organisation are eligible to be listed on an OPC.
- An OPC can only be issued for products produced or manufactured in Australia.
- ACO issues OPCs on behalf of The Department of Agriculture. This certification provides assurance to the importing country that the product has been produced in accordance with Australia’s organic export system and the importing country requirements.

## Important note about post departure OPCs

As per the Export Control Orders, OPCs **must** be issued prior to the consignment departing Australia.

ACO cannot issue OPCs post departure without prior approval from the Department. It is the exporter’s responsibility to obtain OPCs prior to departure. Please make sure you have adequate procedures and resources in place to obtain OPCs prior to departure to comply with the Department of Agriculture legal and policy framework.

In extreme circumstances, ACO may ask the Department of Agriculture to consider issuing a OPC post departure, subject to the following steps:

1. Assessment of extreme circumstances by ACO to determine whether to accept the application for the post departure OPCs (Please note, acceptance by ACO does not guarantee a post departure OPC).
2. An Additional charge of \$175 (Excl GST) will be applicable upon acceptance by ACO.
3. Exporter must obtain a written statement from the government authority of the importing country confirming acceptance of a post departure OPC.
4. ACO makes an application to the Department of Agriculture to approve the issue of post departure OPC.
5. The Department of Agriculture must approve the application to issue post departure OPC.



Please note that any OPCs received with incomplete or inadequate information will cause delays. The Department is unlikely to approve a post departure OPC in these circumstances. Please ensure complete and adequate information is provided in an OPC application to avoid any delays.

### **Export requirements to the EU and Switzerland from Australia**

All Organic Products exported from Australia **must** have a valid OPC prior to departure. This requirement is in addition to the TRACES requirement of the importing country.

TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) for transaction certificates for export to Europe became mandatory from 19 October 17.

Exporters exporting to the EU and Switzerland are required to obtain **both** TRACES COI and an OPC. Please note the OPC charges will apply in addition to COI charges.

For any questions in relation to the above, please contact

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