



# Quality Certification Services (QCS)

5700 SW 34th Street, Suite 349, Gainesville FL 32608

phone 352.377.0133 / fax 352.377.8363

www.qcsinfo.org

## QCS Grower and Livestock Fee Structure

The following options are intended to provide a cost-effective certification for operations of various sizes and types.

Please select the option for which you qualify, and which represents the best value.

*University and research institutions pay a flat rate of \$1250 for certification and inspection.*

\*A \$50 non-transferrable credit will be awarded for each referral which results in an application to QCS for certification. \*

Option	Description	Annual Certification Fees NOP, COR or EU 834 <i>Due with Application</i>		Inspection <i>Annually</i>
		Gross Sales	1 <sup>st</sup> Year & Renewal	1 <sup>st</sup> Year & Renewal
<b>OPTION 1</b> Standard Grower or Livestock  <i>For both scopes (Grower and Livestock) add \$100.</i>	Certification of an Individual Grower and/or Livestock Operation	0-\$25,000	\$750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost varies: see below</li> <li>• \$300 Deposit: collected with certification fees</li> <li>• Remaining cost: invoiced after inspection (Net 15 Terms)</li> <li>• \$80 QCS service fee per inspection</li> <li>• Unannounced inspection may occur (see below)</li> </ul>
		\$25,001-\$50,000	\$875	
		\$50,001-\$100,000	\$1,225	
		\$100,000-\$250,000	\$1,875	
		\$250,001-\$500,000	\$3,125	
		\$500,001-\$1,000,000	\$5,625	
		\$1,000,001-\$5,000,000	\$8,925	
> \$5,000,000	\$12,625			
<b>OPTION 2</b> Multi-Unit Umbrella	Certification of a Primary Location and Additional Associated Locations (Each require separate Organic System Plan and inspection)	<b>Location</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year &amp; Renewal</b>	
		Primary	\$20,750	
		Each Additional Location	\$750 each	
<b>OPTION 3</b> Dairy Producer Flat Rate	Certification of a Single Dairy Producer (includes certification of feed/grazing pasture, not crop production)	<b>Annual Flat Rate</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year &amp; Renewal</b>	Included
			\$1,565	
Additional Lands / Production Expansion	Adding land or new type of production outside of the renewal period.	\$250 Requires submission of the Additional Lands Application or appropriate Organic System Plan.		Varies. See Options 1-2 above

*Note: There will be an additional fee for the review of more than 5 inputs with application that are not on the Approved Materials List or other approved MRO List. This will be billed at the rate of \$70/hour. Please contact QCS for further information.*

### **Additional Certification Options (ADD-ONS): Fees due with application.**

	Verification	Fee
Grass-Fed Add on for Ruminant Livestock	Certification to the Organic Plus Trust (OPT) Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program	\$295
International Verifications	US-Canada Organic Equivalence or US-Korea Organic Equivalence	\$150 each
	US-Japan or US-EU, or US-Switzerland Organic Equivalence	\$70 each
	US-Taiwan Organic Equivalence (requires laboratory testing at cost)	\$150 (+ testing)
	COR organic equivalency arrangements	\$150 each
On-Farm Processing	\$180. Grower or livestock operations who conduct on-farm cleaning, packaging and preparation of their own certified products and whose total annual sales of such products does not exceed \$30,000 may qualify. Under this option, the Processor/Handler Application may or may not be required depending on the complexity of the processing or handling done (contact QCS for a determination) -- but regardless of whether such an application is required, operations who qualify for On-Farm Processing pay only the Add-On fee (instead of the fee for a Processor/Handler, starting at \$1,200).	
Expedited Certification	Grower OR Livestock Certification (per entity) – no acreage distinction 30-40 working days. <i>For both scopes (Grower and Livestock) add \$100.</i>	\$1875
	Grower OR Livestock Certification (per entity) – no acreage distinction 15-20 working days. <i>For both scopes (Grower and Livestock) add \$100.</i>	\$3750
	Additional Lands/ Production Expansion	\$725
	International Verification	\$550 each



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<b>Other Fees</b>	
Renewal Late Fee	\$100
Finance Fee	10% for every 30 days past due date.
Input Review	\$70/hour for the review of inputs not on the QCS Approved Materials List or other approved MRO List (expect at least a 15-20 working day turnaround) if the review is outside of your annual renewal cycle.
Transaction Certificate	\$60 each 5-7 working days. \$90 each for 3-5 working days. \$180 each for 1-2 working days. The fee for domestic mailing (shipping and labor) will be at least \$50, and international mailing (shipping and labor) will be at least \$75. The application and supporting documentation must be complete and compliant to ensure these timelines.
Reinstatement Fee	\$500, due with application.
Mediation Fee	\$300 for mediation resulting from an administrative noncompliance (e.g. failure to renew), \$500 for mediation resulting from technical noncompliance; due upon QCS acceptance of request for mediation.
State Registration Fees	For states that require certifier registration, the additional fees apply: CA \$25; NJ \$25; and UT \$100.
Use of FOG logo	\$100 contributing fee.

QCS reserves the right to charge additional fees, as applicable, for all other administrative and certification related services not specifically listed. Time is billed at \$70/hour.

For updates not specified above expect 15 to 20 working days for the turnaround time.

## DESCRIPTION OF FEES AND REFUND POLICY

**Certification Fees** Certification Fees are the base annual fees due each year for certification. The amount of fees to be paid depend on the fee option chosen from the above table and are in addition to the inspection fees charged. Certification fees are due at the time of initial application (1<sup>st</sup> year) and on anniversary (renewal) date in subsequent years. A flat rate fee may be negotiated at QCS's discretion. Certification fees take into account the requirement for QCS to conduct additional inspections (primarily unannounced) and sampling at a percentage of QCS certified operations, as described in the organic standards. Certification fees may be higher when needed to ensure compliance (including additional document review and pesticide residue testing) for what has been determined to be a high risk region or a high risk commodity; if this applies, QCS will notify the applicant/client and provide a quote of the additional compliance fees. QCS reserves the right to not review an application until all fees are received. Use of Net 15 terms above refers to the terms for payment within 15 calendar days of invoice.

**Vertically Integrated Operations Certified with QCS.** If an operation is certified as a Grower and a Processor/Handler with QCS, and is providing product to itself, it may select *OPTION 1 Standard Grower or Livestock* with gross sales of 0-\$25,000 and pay the *Annual Certification Fees* of \$750 plus the cost of inspection for the Grower, and the appropriate fee category plus inspection for the Processor/Handler.

**Inspection Fees** The final cost for inspection varies based upon the complexity of the operation inspected, the ability to group with other nearby inspections, the individual inspector assigned, and how long the inspection takes. In addition to fees for the inspector's time, all travel expenses are paid by the party to be inspected. This may include travel time, gas, mileage, car rental and/or airfare, meals, lodging, tolls, etc. We strongly encourage clients to submit their application in a timely manner so that inspections can be coordinated as to save on travel expenses.

Operation complexity is determined in the initial review phase using a standardized formula taking into account things like operation size, length of time certified, number of certified products, whether any international equivalencies are requested, whether there's parallel uncertified production, whether there's any on-farm post harvest handling, past noncompliances, past inspection length, etc.

The chart below indicates the minimum cost and the expected total price range of an inspection based on the operation's assigned complexity. For example, a simple crop inspection is going to cost a minimum of \$425, and is expected to fall within the range of \$425 to \$650 when travel expenses are taken into account. Note that actual inspection time and travel expenses may increase the inspection cost above the anticipated range. However, QCS greatly strives to keep inspection costs within these ranges.

Operation Type	Operation Complexity			
	Simple	Moderate	Complex	Very Complex
Grower Only	425-650	650-850	850-975	Varies based on site specific requirements (please contact the QCS office).
Grower and Handler	475-750	750-1000	1000-1275	
Grower and Livestock	575-725	725-900	900-1050	
Grower, Handler and Livestock	600-750	750-1000	1000-1275	
Livestock Only	475-725	725-900	900-1050	



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A \$300 deposit is due at the time of the initial application (1<sup>st</sup> year) and on submission of renewal applications. Clients will be invoiced at the conclusion of the inspection for the following: **Inspection cost + \$80 inspection service fee – deposit**. The inspection service fee is retained by QCS to cover administrative costs associated with our inspection program.

**Expedited Certification** Expedited certification is intended for clients that are seeking priority processing of their Organic System Plan (OSP) – 15 to 20 working days or 30-40 working days for certification. QCS defines working days as weekdays (Monday-Friday) provided the weekday(s) does not fall on a holiday. QCS' ability to complete the certification process in this time frame depends on submittal of a completed application/organic system plan, supporting documentation and fees; a willingness to respond quickly with any additional information requested by QCS; inspector availability; and availability of client to be present at inspection. Expedited certification fees are in addition to certification fees. Additionally, fees for expedited inspections may be higher than regular inspections due to last minute travel arrangements. The inspected party must pay all inspection fees including additional travel expenses incurred to accommodate the expedite inspection. Please see certification fee schedule for more detailed information regarding inspection fees.

**Refund Policy** If the application is withdrawn before inspection, one half of certification fee(s) may be refunded. If withdrawn after inspector has been assigned, the certification fee(s) are nonrefundable. Expedited certification fees are nonrefundable. If you are denied certification, suspended or revoked, certification fees are nonrefundable and all invoices must be paid according to terms; inspection charges must be paid if the inspection was conducted.

**Referral Policy** If an existing client refers a new client to QCS, provided the new client provides an application, fees and a statement they were referred by that existing QCS client, a \$50 non-transferrable credit will be awarded to the existing QCS client.

**US-Taiwan Organic Equivalence** QCS is required to test 1/3 of the clients verified to the US-Taiwan Organic Export Arrangement annually. As this is a requirement of Taiwan, the cost of laboratory testing is the client's responsibility. If QCS collects and submits a sample for testing the actual costs will be billed.

**Transaction Certificates** QCS expects the transaction certificate request to be submitted before shipping the product. For COIs through the TRACES system for the European Union (EU) the COI must be issued before shipping product, as required by EU regulation (EC 834/2007 Article 33, EC 889/2008 Article 84, EC 1235/2008 Article 13, and EC 2020/25). For TM-11 or NAQS requests, QCS expects the transaction certificate request to be submitted before shipping the product in order to verify compliance. If a TM-11 or NAQS request is submitted after the product has shipped, the TM-11 or NAQS document will not be issued if the product composition or labeling is found not to be in compliance with the regulation, or the equivalency or export arrangement. The transaction certificate request and supporting documentation must be complete and compliant to ensure the timelines above.