



QCS Grower Group Fee Schedule

The following option is intended to provide a cost-effective certification for a Grower Group.

*A \$25 credit will be awarded each year if your application and fees are submitted before your renewal deadline.

Option	Description	Annual Certification Fees* <i>Due with Application</i>	Inspection <i>Annually</i>	Assessments
Standard Grower Group Certification	Certification of a Grower Group Operation with existing Internal Control System (ICS)	\$3525	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cost varies: see below ● \$500 Deposit: collected with certification fees. Remaining cost: invoiced after inspection (Net 15 Terms) 	None
Additional Grower Group Members/Sites	Adding grower group members/sites during the certification year (not during the annual renewal). Requires submission of the Additional Grower Group Member Plan Application.	\$275	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$75 QCS service fee per inspection ● Unannounced inspection may occur (see below) 	
Additional Certification Options (ADD-ONS): Fees due with application and upon annual renewal.				
	Verification			Fee
International Verifications	EU 834, Canada Organic Regime (COR)			\$200 each
	US-Canada Organic Equivalence, US-Taiwan Organic Export Arrangement., or US-Korea Organic Equivalence			\$150 each
	US-Japan or US-EU, or US-Switzerland Organic Equivalence			\$50 each
	Bio Suisse			\$350
On-Farm Processing	\$175.00. Grower Group 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 for the Add-On. 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 \$300-\$350 usually charged).			
Expedited Certification	\$875. Grower group size of up to 25 members, \$1875 for 26-50 group size, \$2875 for 51-100 group size. \$550 for each applicable international verification. Contact the QCS office if you seek priority processing to ensure availability.			
Other Fees				
Renewal Late Fee	\$100			
Finance Fee	10% for every 30 days past due date			
Reinstatement Fee	\$500, due with initial application.			
Transaction Certificate	\$60 each. Includes domestic overnight mailing; additional expense for international mailing will be billed.			
Mediation Fee	\$250 for mediation resulting from an administrative noncompliance (e.g. failure to renew), \$450 for mediation resulting from technical noncompliance; due upon QCS acceptance of request for mediation.			

*QCS reserves the right to charge additional fees, as applicable, for all other administrative and certification related services not specifically listed. Administrative time is billed at \$60/hour.



Quality Certification Services (QCS)

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DESCRIPTION OF FEES AND REFUND POLICY

Certification Fees Certification Fees are the base annual fees due each year for certification, and are in addition to the inspection fees charged. Certification fees are due at the time of initial application (1st year) and on anniversary date in subsequent years. A \$25 credit will be awarded each year if your application and fees are submitted to QCS before your renewal deadline. 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.

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 grower group 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.

In general, inspections for Grower Groups require around 2 days to complete, and the final cost ranges from \$600 to \$950 per day.

A \$500 deposit is due at the time of the initial application (1st 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.

Assessments An assessment fee on gross sales is not required of Grower Groups.

Expedited Certification

Expedited certification is intended for clients that are seeking priority processing of their Organic System Plan (OSP) – 15 to 20 working days for certification. 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 an inspector has been assigned, one half of certification fee may be credited. If withdrawn after inspector has been assigned, certification fees are nonrefundable. Upon withdrawal of application and written request, the inspection deposit will be credited (as long as inspection hasn't taken place). Inspection fee nonrefundable after inspection has taken place. Expedited certification fees are nonrefundable. If you are denied certification, fees are nonrefundable and all invoices must be paid according to terms. Inspection charges must be paid if the inspection was conducted.