



QCS Processing and Handling 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.

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

		Annual Certification Fees NOP, COR or EU 834 Due with Application				Inspection Annually	
Option	Description	1st Year & Renewal				1st Year & Renewal	
OPTION 1 Base Handler	Certification of an Individual Processor/Handler Location	Gross sales (dollars)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost varies: see below. • \$500 Deposit: collected with certification fees. • Remaining cost: invoiced after inspection (Net 15 Terms). • \$80 QCS service fee per inspection. • Unannounced inspection may occur (see below). 	
		Number of Products	<\$500,000	\$500,001-\$1,000,000	\$1,000,001-\$5,000,000		\$5,000,001-\$50,000,000
		1-10	\$1,200	\$3,800	\$5,000		\$8,000
		11-25	\$1,600	\$5,000	\$8,000		\$12,000
		26-100	\$3,200	\$6,300	\$12,000		\$25,000
		100+	\$4,800	\$8,000	\$16,000		\$40,000
		>\$50,000,000 in sales		\$80,000			
OPTION 2 Multi-Unit Umbrella	Certification of a Primary Location and Additional Associated Location(s) (Each requires separate Organic System Plan and inspection).	Site	1st Year & Renewal		Assessment fee		
		Primary	\$750		Primary pays for itself plus additional locations and annual caps: 1-5 locations \$20,000 6-10 locations \$40,000 11+ locations \$60,000 \$50 million or more in sales: \$80,000		
		Each Additional Location	\$825 each				
OPTION 3 Broker or Contract producer (1 ID mark/brand)	Certification of an operation that solely brokers product, or is a contract producer / manufacturer for 1 ID mark / brand.	1st Year & Renewal					
		Rate	\$5,075				

Note: There will be an additional fee for the review of more than 75 single ingredients or 40 multiple ingredient products. This will be billed at the rate of \$70/hour. Please contact QCS for further information.

For updates, expect 15 to 20 working days for the turnaround time.



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Additional Certification Options (ADD-ONS): Fees due with application and upon annual renewal.		
	Verification	Fee
Grass Fed-Organic	Certification to the Organic Plus Trust (OPT) Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program for Grass-Fed Organic Meat and Dairy Products	\$325
International Verifications	US-Canada Organic Equivalence, US-Korea Organic Equivalence	\$150 each
	US-Japan, 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
Expedited Certification	\$1,875 for processing only per location 30-40 working days. \$1,975 for processing combined with any other one scope (crop, livestock, etc.) 30-40 working days. \$3750 for processing per location 15-20 working days. \$4750 for processing combined with any other one scope 15-20 working days. \$550 for each applicable international verification. The application and supporting documentation must be complete and compliant to ensure these timelines. Contact the QCS office if you seek priority application processing.	
Other Fees: As applicable		
Renewal Late Fee	\$100	
Finance Fee	10% for every 30 days past due date.	
Additional Products OR Label Review OR Percentage Letters OR Updates to the OSP or certification documents	\$70/hour 15-20 working days. \$180/hour expedited 3-5 working days, or \$360 for 1-2 working days. The application and supporting documentation must be complete and compliant to ensure these timelines. (QCS reserves the right to decline 1-2 and 3-5 working days services depending on availability). Please contact the QCS office for these services during the certification year (not with the annual renewal). If the request is withdrawn, ½ of the hourly rate will be billed.	
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 initial 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 \$150.	
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 (1st year) and on anniversary 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.



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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 production processes in use, length of time certified, number of certified products, whether certifying multi-ingredient vs single ingredient products, number of suppliers, whether any international equivalencies are requested, whether there's parallel uncertified production, 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 moderate processing/handling inspection is going to cost a minimum of \$750, and is expected to fall within the range of \$750 to \$1000 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
Handler/Processor	575-750	750-1000	1000-1275	Varies based on site specific requirements (please contact the QCS office).
Retail Establishments & Restaurants	800-900	900-1000	1000-1275	

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.

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 to 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 Equivalence 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.