



## Agricultural Marketing Service

### Organic Integrity in the Supply Chain: Resource List for Organic Certifiers and Certified Handlers

The size and complexity of organic trade has grown over time, and many U.S. businesses rely on imports to create organic products that consumers want. As the market grows, many growers, processors, and handlers are working in multi-business supply chains, often across borders. **Organic handlers and their certifiers play a vital role in ensuring the integrity of organic products from farm to market.**

The **global organic control system** includes: strict production standards; accreditation of certifiers; certification of farmers, processors and handlers; and enforcement. The USDA organic regulations include organic system plan requirements, recordkeeping requirements, comprehensive process audits, and inspections that trace organic product from market to farm.

**Organic Integrity Reminder**  
Inspectors are expected to conduct thorough trace-back audits and mass balance audits to verify traceability and record-keeping requirements.

The [Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program \(NOP\)](#) has published a number of resources for organic certifiers and handlers related to inspections and recordkeeping. Access them below:

- [Organic Integrity in the Supply Chain: Short Video](#) and [Training for Handlers](#). These videos review the responsibilities of organic handlers in verifying that organic imports comply with U.S. standards.
- [The Path](#): Interactive scenario-based training program for organic certifiers and inspectors. The training follows an organic inspector through an annual inspection with a certified organic farmer.
- [What to Expect at an Inspection](#): This producer-focused video series allows crop and livestock operators to “experience” an inspection firsthand and better prepare for their own inspections.
- [Recordkeeping Case Studies](#): Organized recordkeeping is key to certification. These case studies review four successful recordkeeping models from different types of farms.
- [Video: Recordkeeping for Organic Certification](#): Reminders about the importance of recordkeeping in organic certification, and tips about maintaining an effective records system.
- [NOP 2602: Recordkeeping for Certified Operations](#): This instruction outlines recordkeeping requirements and provides examples of records that should be maintained by certified operations.
- [NOP 2609: Unannounced Inspections](#): This instruction for certifiers provides guidelines for effective unannounced inspections.
- [NOP 4009: Who Needs to be Certified](#) and [NOP 5031: Guidance: Certification Requirements for Handling Unpackaged Organic Products](#): These documents clarify certification requirements for operations that produce or handle agricultural products to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.