

in-teg-ri-ty /**in-tēg ri ti/ [in-teg-ri-tee]**
 -noun 1. adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty. 2. the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished. 3. a sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition.

com-mit-ment/**kə-mīt mənt/[kuh-mit-muh nt]**
 -noun 1. the act of committing. 2. the state of being committed. 3. the act of committing, pledging, or engaging oneself. 4. a pledge or promise; obligation. 5. engagement; involvement.

service /**sɜr vis/ [sur-vis]**
 -noun 1. an act of helpful activity; help; aid. 2. the performance of any duties or work for another; helpful or professional activity. 3. something made or done by a commercial organization for the public benefit and without regard to direct profit.

Integrity:

ICS offers certification with integrity, honesty, and a dedication to the philosophies organics originated from.

ICS is often considered to be one of the strictest certifiers. This is because ICS cares about our clients and organic consumers.

We want our clients to be able to say proudly, and without any doubt "My product is organic." And we at ICS take pride in being able to provide point of purchase assurance to all consumers.

Commitment:

ICS is committed to organic values, to our clients, to our communities, and to the environment.

We were here when the organic industry began forming standards and have been involved in the decision making of such standards since then.

We are a constant in the organic industry and our clients feel secure in the knowledge that we will always be here with an open door to assist them with all their certification needs.

Service:

ICS believes in giving the best service possible to everyone.

Since we don't attend all the exhibitions or advertise in all the magazines, many haven't heard of us or what we do. This is because we feel the need to put our money towards our services and clients first.

With our highly trained, experienced staff and our more streamlined, technology-based certification process, our Customer Care Specialists have more time to concentrate on clients' needs.

Accreditations & Approvals

ICS is accredited to: **NOP, ISO 65, and IFOAM**
 ICS can facilitate your paperwork for **Bio Suisse and JAS**
 FVO program complies with: **USDA NOP**
 ICS attains consistent **EU import approval across programs.**

Do you have a specific organic or sustainable certification need? Contact ICS. We have several programs currently available, and will work with you to help you get the assistance you need on any programs we don't offer.

Steps to Certification:

Certification can be a confusing maze of paperwork and requirements. At ICS, we consider it part of our job to help you understand the requirements, and to guide you through the steps of certification. We custom design our services to meet the needs of our individual clients and their unique operation. Our service commitment is to do everything in our power to make your life simpler, while still providing you with a first class quality, internationally recognized, organic guarantee.

Please keep in mind that although the paperwork may seem extensive, the ICS Production Plan is organized to be a useful tool in helping you manage your organic operation.

1: Certification Assessment:

Complete and return the Certification Assessment to ICS. This assessment is used by our Business Development Team to determine how to best meet your needs, and to generate a cost estimate so that you know what your costs will be before you pay anything.

2: Application:

Your application will be sent to you with your cost estimate. Complete, sign and date the application, your cost estimate, and the Certification Assessment (if you haven't already) and return to ICS with your first installment.

3: Certification Package:

Upon receipt of your application, a Customer Care Specialist (CCS) will be assigned to work with you. Your CCS will send you a certification package including your production plan, the requirements and policies for certification, and an ICS Contractual Agreement, which will need to be signed and returned to ICS. Complete the production plan in full and return to ICS with your next payment (growers: this is the second installment listed on your cost estimate. Non-growers: send in the last installment).

4: Review of Production Plan:

Upon receipt of your production plan, payment installments, and signed contractual agreement, your CCS will review your production plan to ensure it is complete. Note that if you need any assistance with completing any of the paperwork, please call your CCS.

5: Certification Process:

The Production Plan modules and supporting documents will be presented to our Certification Committee for review. The Certification Committee may require you to adjust your plan to comply with requirements and policies. Your plan must be approved by the Certification Committee prior to scheduling of your inspection.

6: Inspection Verification:

The next step is inspection to verify the information presented in the Production Plan. ICS may sub-contract inspections to ICS approved inspection bodies or persons. Upon verification from the inspector, the Certification Committee finalizes a decision on your operation.

7: Label Review, Contract Signing, and Issuing Certificates:

Assuming that your operation is approved, your Customer Care Specialist will review your labeling, if applicable, to make sure that it complies with regulatory and ICS requirements. Upon label approval and payment of any outstanding fees, your CCS will countersign and return your contractual agreements along with your certificates. NOP certified operators will then be authorized to market product as NOP certified and use the USDA Organic logo. If you are an FVO certified operator, you will then be authorized to issue certificates to your buyers and to use the FVO name and/or logo on your product (FVO program only). If you wish to use the IFOAM logo (FVO program only) you will need to request and sign an addendum to the Contractual Agreement.

***Please note time frames provided by your CCS during each step of the process.
Unless a rush fee is paid, files get reviewed and inspected, and certificates get issued, in the order in which
the files and information are received by ICS.***