

We are an NOP accredited certifying agency. Our competition is not. However, they are conducting certifications and then sending the paperwork to an NOP-accredited certifier and that certifier is issuing a certificate? Is this allowed?

No. All certification processes must be done under the authority of an NOP-accredited certifying agent. This is necessary so that the accrediting body has the opportunity to review the process at any step of the operation. Contracting work to be done by other agencies must be included in the operation policies and procedures submitted to the USDA and approved prior to implementation. NOP does not approve of subcontracting services to another agency unless the service is included in the ACA's approved application for accreditation.

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