

**Can an application for certification be accepted as long as the crop has not been harvested yet?**

No. Inspection must be conducted some time prior to harvest, when the proper implementation of the OSP may be verified on site. It is not appropriate for an operation to contact an ACA for initial certification after the crop is already in the ground or, worse, almost ready for harvest. Production must be to an approved OSP; that means the OSP must be in place, the seeds approved, buffer zones approved, transition verified before certification may be issued.

[e-CFR](#)