



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

National Organic Program

Americert International

1135 NW 23rd Avenue, Suite P, Gainesville, FL 32609

meets all the requirements prescribed in the USDA National Organic Program Regulations

7 CFR Part 205

(As amended)

as an Accredited Certifying Agent

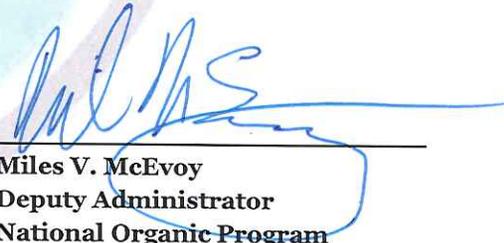
for the scope of

Crops, Wild Crops and Handling Operations

This certificate is receivable by all officers of all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture .

Status of this accreditation may be verified at <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

Certificate No: **NP4174MMA**
Effective Date: **September 4, 2014**
Expiration Date: **September 4, 2019**


Miles V. McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program



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NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM: CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORT

AUDIT AND REVIEW PROCESS

The National Organic Program (NOP) received Americert's accreditation renewal application to maintain U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) accreditation on February 21, 2014. The NOP reviewed Americert's application, conducted an onsite audit, and reviewed the audit report to determine Americert's capability to continue operating as a USDA accredited certifier.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant Name	Americert International
Physical Address	1135 NW 23 rd Avenue, Suite P, Gainesville, FL 32609
Mailing Address	Same
Contact & Title	Jonathan Austin, Certification Director
E-mail Address	Americert@gmail.com
Phone Number	352-336-5700
Reviewer(s) & Auditor(s)	Janna Howley, NOP Reviewer; Miguel A. Caceres, Onsite Auditor(s).
Program	USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
Review & Audit Date(s)	Corrective Action Review Date: October 8, 2014 Audit Dates: June 23-27, 2014
Audit Identifier	NP4174MMA
Action Required	None
Audit & Review Type	Renewal Assessment
Audit Objective	To evaluate the conformance to the audit criteria; and to verify the implementation and effectiveness of Americert's certification system.
Audit & Determination Criteria	<i>7 CFR Part 205, National Organic Program as amended</i>
Audit & Review Scope	Americert's certification services in carrying out the audit criteria during the period: August 11, 2010 to June 27, 2014.

Americert International (Americert) is a for profit business owned by the Technical Director. Americert was accredited as a certifying agent on September 4, 2009 to the National Organic Program (NOP) for crops and handling operations. All certification activities are conducted from the only office Americert has, which is located in Gainesville, FL. Americert does not have any committees or external members involved with the company.

The Americert staff consists of the Technical Director, an office manager, and four contracted inspectors who can also act as an initial and final reviewer on operations they have not inspected. Americert currently has 46 operations certified to the NOP organic standards, consisting of 32 crops and 14 handlers. All NOP clients are located in the United States, with the exception of

two operations located in Mexico; the NOP standards are the only standards applied.

NOP DETERMINATION:

NOP reviewed the onsite audit results to determine whether Americert's corrective actions adequately addressed previous noncompliances. NOP also reviewed any corrective actions submitted as a result of noncompliances issued from Findings identified during the onsite audit.

Non-compliances from Prior Assessments

Any noncompliance labeled as "**Cleared**," indicates that the corrective actions for the noncompliance are determined to be implemented and working effectively. Any noncompliance labeled as "**Outstanding**" indicates that either the auditor could not verify implementation of the corrective actions or that records reviewed and audit observations did not demonstrate compliance.

NP0221BBA.NC1 – Cleared

Non-compliances Identified during the Current Assessment

Any noncompliance labeled as "**Accepted**," indicates that the corrective actions for the noncompliance are accepted by the NOP and will be verified for implementation and effectiveness during the next onsite audit.

NP4174MMA.NC1 – Accepted - §205.406(c) states, "If the certifying agent has reason to believe, based on the on-site inspection and a review of the information specified in §205.404, that a certified operation is not complying with the requirements of the Act and the regulations in this part, the certifying agent shall provide a written notification of noncompliance to the operation in accordance with §205.662."

Comments: *Of the eight labels reviewed in the office and one during the review audit, one label did not identify one of the three organic ingredients as organic. Three labels did not include the "Certified Organic By..." statement below the information identifying the handler. Two had the "Certified Organic By..." statement above the handler information and one did not identify the handler of the product on the back panel.*

Corrective Action: Americert developed and implemented a written work instruction and checklist for their staff to use regarding conducting label reviews. Americert also provided additional training to its staff on the labeling requirements under the NOP. The work instruction, label review checklist and PowerPoint training on labeling requirements were provided to the NOP.

NP4174MMA.NC2 – Accepted - §205.501(a)(3) states, "A private or governmental entity accredited as a certifying agent under this subpart must: Carry out the provisions of the Act and the regulations in this part, including the provisions of §§205.402 through 205.406 and §205.670."

Comments: *In one of six files reviewed, a crop post handling operation was allowed to use a prewash consisting of chlorine at 200ppm and dish washing soap for citrus, followed by a water rinse. Americert allowed the dishwashing soap based on soap's listing as an allowed algicide/demosser at 7 CFR 205.601(a)(7). Soap is allowed in the production of crops at 205.601(a)(7), but this listing does not have an annotation allowing the material to be used for postharvest handling. Therefore, soap is not allowed in postharvest handling.*

Corrective Action: Americert identified weaknesses in staff knowledge in interpreting the allowed postharvest materials. Americert provided a work instruction to staff addressing post-harvest materials. A copy of the work instruction was provided to the NOP. Americert also issued a Notice of Noncompliance to the operation that had been using soap post-harvest. A copy of the Notice of Noncompliance was provided to the NOP.

Applicant Name:	OIA North America, LLC
Est. Number:	N/A
Physical Address:	1730 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609
Mailing Address:	2603 NW 13th Street #228, Gainesville, FL 32609
Contact & Title:	Jonathan Austin, CEO
E-mail Address:	OIA@oianorth.com
Phone Number:	352-336-5700
Auditor(s):	Meg Kuhn, RAM – East Region
Program:	USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
Audit Date(s):	November 10 – December 17, 2010
NOP Audit Identifier:	AIA111010MMK
Action Required:	No
Audit Type:	Initial On-Site Corrective Action Audit
Audit Objective:	To verify the company’s ability to comply with the NOP regulations through review of corrective actions submitted.
Audit Criteria:	7 CFR Part 205, National Organic Program (NOP), Final Rule, dated December 21, 2000; updated June 17, 2010.
Audit Scope:	OIA North America response of corrective actions submitted.
Location(s) Audited:	Desk

AUDIT INFORMATION

One non-compliance was identified during the Initial On-Site audit. A response to this non-compliance was requested on September 27, 2010 and a response was received by the NOP on November 10, 2010.

NP0221BBA.NC1 – Adequately Addressed: NOP §205.403(c)(2) Verification of information states, “The on-site inspection of an operation must verify: That the information, including the organic production or handling system plan... accurately reflects the practices used or to be used by the applicant for certification or by the certified operation.” *The observation of the crop inspection (demonstration inspection) showed that the inspector did not identify or issue a non-compliance that the OSP did not accurately reflect all of the practices being used by the certified operation. In addition, the initial inspection, review, and final certification did not identify any non-compliance for the incomplete OSP used by the operation. Some of the deficient areas observed during the demonstration inspection but not completely or accurately described in the OSP included the following:*

- 1 *2 insecticide inputs were not listed on the OSP.*
- 2 *Cleaning/sanitizing products were not clearly described.*
- 3 *The handling/packing process of the vegetables was not clearly described.*
- 4 *The OSP stated the entire farm but prohibited substances were applied to weeds around the trailer house (non-organic growing area). It was noted however, that this product was not used in the greenhouses with the organic vegetables. It was however noted that the inspector did go over*

some of the incomplete or deficient areas during the exit interview of the demonstration inspection.

Corrective Action: OIA North America responded across three systems: operation, inspection, and management review. The operation was cited a non-compliance for the deficient areas noted during the witness audit. Inspectors are being provided training (via online or in person) stressing the importance of reviewing all aspects of the OSP at all inspections, including initial, renewal, and any additional inspections for whatever reason. At the management level, OIA North America issued a policy memo informing inspectors, OIA NA staff, and certified operations of the policy for inspecting operations including changes made to the OSPs during inspections, how changes communicated would be provided in writing to inspectors and operators, and the requirement that inspectors be provided with changes to operators' system plans prior to inspection. This response is to be verified at the next on-site audit; however, if effectively implemented, OIA NA's plan demonstrates compliance with NOP accreditation requirements.