



Organic Regulations & NOP Import Certificate Updates

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
April 2025

New Organic Rules Are In Place (March 19, 2024)!



Strengthening Organic Enforcement Final Rule..... Protect organic integrity and bolster confidence in the organic seal



Increase the number of certified entities to fill gaps



Strengthen recordkeeping and supply chain traceability



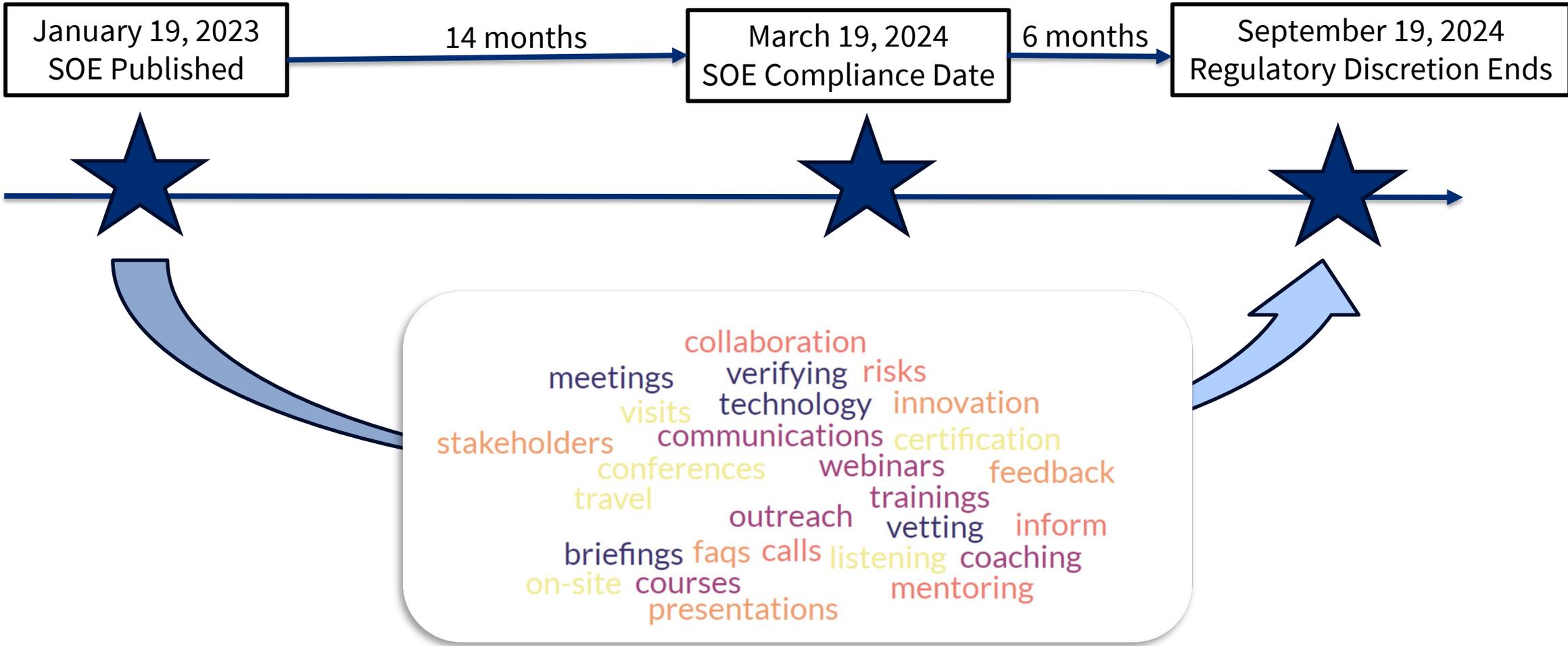
Require use of electronic import certificates



Strengthen oversight of accredited certifiers



Strengthening Organic Enforcement - 20 Month Timeline



Two Types of Organic Certificates



Operation Level Certificate:

Assesses Business Status:
Are You Certified Organic?

Operation Registry

Electronic Import Certificate (NOPIC):

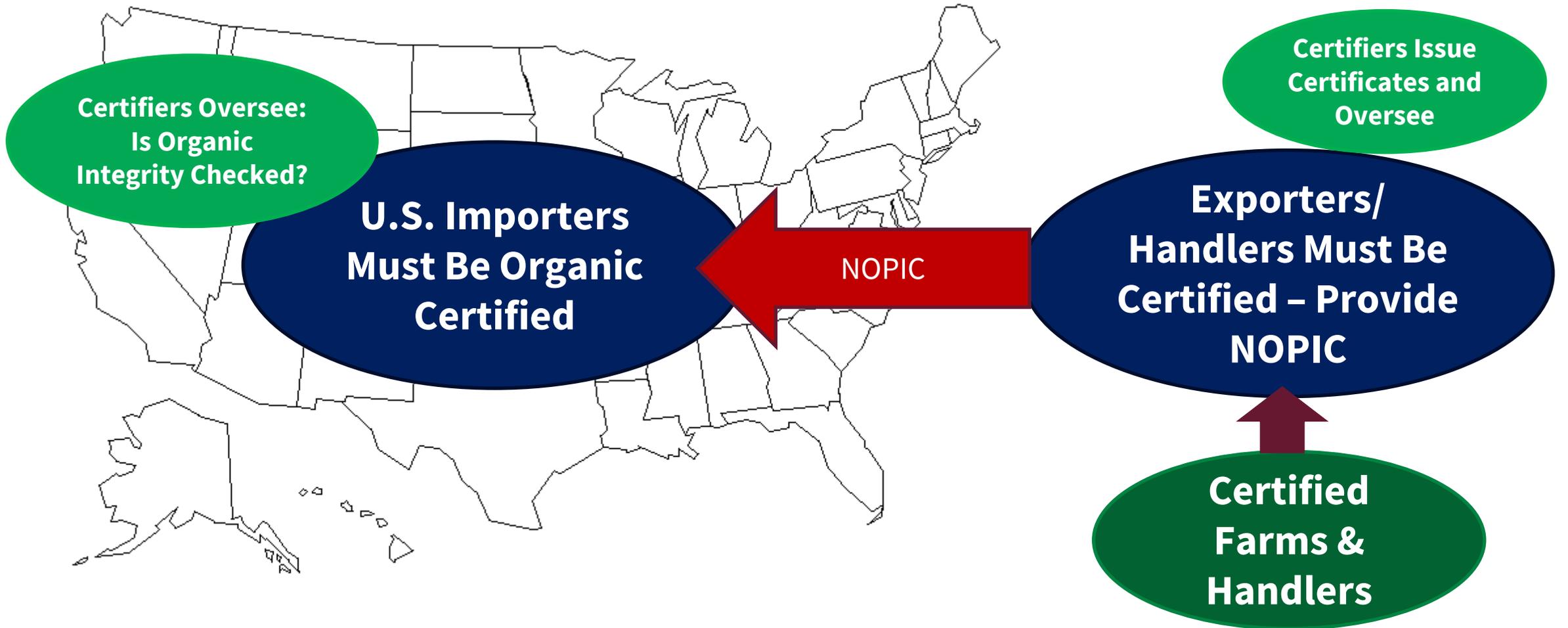
Has A Certifier Authorized this
Export to U.S. as Organic?

Import Protection

ORGANIC
INTEGRITY DATABASE



Import Landscape



Key Insights: Import Certificates



183,051

Total NOP-ICs
Issued from OID
(3/19/24-2/28/2025)
approx. 3.7K/week

49,555

NOP-ICs
in CBP-ACE
(As of 10/4)

~88% Entries

Associated with
Valid NOP-ICs
(8/28 -9/25)

60% NOP-IC's

Issued by USDA
Certifiers; Rest under
EU, Canada, Japan

Top 12 Organic Imports

- Coffee
- Soybean
- Olive Oil
- Bananas
- Avocados
- Sugar
- Honey
- Fruit Juice
- Cucumbers
- Avocados
- Blueberries
- Maple Syrup

Some Exceptions & Clarifications



Textiles



Textiles (such as those made with cotton) are certified by third-party standards like the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) - when imported, they do not require a NOPIC unless USDA certified

Seafood



USDA organic regulations do not include aquaculture/wild fish standards, so no NOPIC required. May be labeled as organic if certified by other government

Uncertified Product with Organic Ingredient



Only Certified Organic products can receive an NOPIC – products that claim to be natural or contain <70% organic ingredients (and are not certified) do not require an NOPIC

If any import uses the USDA Organic Seal or claims to be Certified USDA Organic (Including "Made with Organic" certified products), a NOPIC is required.

- Regulatory Discretion Ended 9/19/2024
- **All organic imports must have an NOPIC**
- Importers and exporters facilitating organic goods must be fully certified – not just in progress
- Certifiers are not able to issue NOPICs with an uncertified importer and exporter
- Organic Shipments must have a valid NOPIC
 - If not, reconditioning must occur– re invoicing and relabeling is required

Compliance and Enforcement



Training and Outreach to Build Capabilities

Investigations & Resulting Actions: Operations, Certifier, Sectors

Certifier Directives, Testing, Inspections & Related Actions

USDA: NOP & Office of Inspector General + Other Agencies

Alerts and Warning Letters to Industry Buyers

Held & Rejected Imports (Brokers & CBP)

Loss of Certification (Suspension, Revocation)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Legal Penalties Covered by Trademark Protections

Significant Fees and Fines (Civil Penalties)

Prison Time

Department of Justice (DOJ)

[Organic Enforcement Activity | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

Need More Information?



<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/strengthening-organic-enforcement>

Supporting Documents

- [Final Rule](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [SOE Fact Sheet \(pdf\)](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Organic Insider: SOE Final Rule Core Course](#)
- [Side-by-Side Comparison \(pdf\)](#) (regulations as of Jan 2023 to final rule)
- [Electronic Organic Import Certificate](#)
- [SOE Final Rule Primers \(pdf\)](#) | [SOE Final Rule Primers Spanish \(pdf\)](#)
- [Proposed Rule](#)
- [Proposed Rule Historical Documents](#)

The screenshot shows the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the USDA logo and the text "Agricultural Marketing Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE". To the right of the navigation bar are links for "ABOUT AMS", "NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS", and "CC". Below the navigation bar is a green menu with links for "HOME", "MARKET NEWS", "RULES & REGULATIONS", "GRADES & STANDARDS", "SERVICES", "RESOURCES", and "COMMODITY PROCUREMENT". The main content area features a large image of a green field with a red barn in the background. Overlaid on the image is the text "Strengthening Organic Enforcement Frequently Asked Questions". Below the image is a breadcrumb trail: "HOME > RULES & REGULATIONS > STRENGTHENING ORGANIC ENFORCEMENT > STRENGTHENING ORGANIC ENFORCEMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS". On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with links for "Home", "Market News", "Rules & Regulations", "Grades & Standards", "Services", "Resources", and "Commodity Procurement". The main content area has a "Topics" section with links for "General Questions", "Organic Certification and How to Get Certified", "Exemptions", "Organic Imports and Import Certificates", "For Customs Brokers: Import Procedures", and "Sector-Specific Questions". Below this is a "General Questions" section with a question: "Q1. What is the Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) final rule and how do I learn about it?".

ORGANIC



Protected
by law

Inspected
by experts

Traced
from farm to store

Shaped
by public input

USDA
ORGANIC

