



ENVIRONMENTAL CARE & SHARE, INC.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Organic Material Review Institute VS USDA-National Organic Program
OMRI VS USDA-NOP

The National Organic Program (NOP) of the USDA oversees and 'certifies' products produced by farms and businesses complying with "Organic®" regulations under the USDA-NOP program.

"Organic®" products are generally limited to 'something you can wear or eat', i.e. wool or cotton clothing; meat, vegetables, fruits, coffee/tea, spices, etc. And, they may not contain or even come in contact with a substance that could contaminate them and, therefore, disqualify them from being Certified 'Organic®' (note registered mark). Each State Department of Agriculture and the USDA-NOP will have a list of qualified, registered inspectors & certifiers.

To accommodate the needs of producers, handlers and processors to comply with the NOP regulations the USDA/NOP developed a program of standards and vetting for the review and approval of these 'inputs', known as Organic Input Materials (OIMs). The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, became one of the first to qualify in 1997. Its responsibility is to be sure OIMs comply with USDA/NOP, and now, also, the Canada Organic Regime (COR) standards and/or Mexican Organic Products Law (LPO).

The examination of such products must prove back 'three generation' of formulation, that all ingredients used are either already Certified Organic® or considered Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) – a term first introduced by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as part of the 1985 Food Additives Amendment to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), to exempt certain food ingredients from the definition of food additive. Once a product has been vetted by OMRI, it is 'listed' on the *OMRI Products List*. OMRI Listing also includes compliance with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), and with the International Organization of Standardization, ISO 65 accreditation from the USDA in 2008.

We, at **Environmental Care & Share, Inc (EC&S)** are very proud that our entire lineup of products are Listed by OMRI as safe enough for Certified Organic® use by producers, handlers and processors.

So, in short: USDA/NOP will qualify 'what you eat or wear' as Certified Organic®, while OMRI qualifies what goes into those 'what you eat or wear' products, so they can qualify under Certified Organic® standards in the first place.

Best wishes,

Lynn M. De Vaney

Please consider the Environment

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