



ORGANIC FACT SHEET

# ORGANIC CERTIFICATION OF HEMP

## QUICK FACTS

- As a result of the 2018 Farm Bill, farmers in the U.S. can now grow hemp, but only in states with a registration and licensing program.
- Hemp, and many hemp products, can be certified organic.
- CBD food products, or products making a health care claim, cannot be certified organic.



MOSA Certified Organic  
122 W. Jefferson St.,  
Viroqua, WI 54665  
phone: 608-637-2526  
fax: 608-637-7032

**CONTACT** [mosa@mosaorganic.org](mailto:mosa@mosaorganic.org)  
**VISIT** [mosaorganic.org](http://mosaorganic.org)

## USDA CERTIFICATION OF HEMP

As a result of the 2018 Farm Bill farmers in the U.S. can now grow hemp under certain regulated situations.

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) has also confirmed that hemp managed organically can be certified organic.

MOSA currently certifies nearly 50 hemp and hemp processing operations. We can help you access this rapidly growing market.

## PRODUCTION CAN OCCUR IN STATES WITH A REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Hemp is now technically legal in all 50 states, but production can only occur in states that have a licensing and registration program, and production is limited to authorized growers.

To comply with state regulations for commercial and research programs, growers and processors must be licensed, registered or permitted with the state agency overseeing program. Requirements for registration, licenses and permits vary from state to state. At least 41 states have enacted legislation to establish hemp cultivation and production programs.

Visit this website for Industrial Hemp Information by State:

[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/IHOtherStates.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/IHOtherStates.aspx)

## WHAT FORMS OF HEMP CAN BE CERTIFIED AS ORGANIC?

We can certify any part or derivative of the hemp plant including hemp hearts, hemp oil, grain, seed, fiber, etc. We can also certify CBD oil and other CBD products as long as the oil extraction method complies with the National Organic Standards. CBD food products, or products making a health care claim, cannot be certified organic.

The concentration of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) can not be more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

## WHAT WILL LICENSING/REGISTRATION ENTAIL FOR GROWERS/ PROCESSORS?

To comply with state regulations growers and processors must be licensed, registered or permitted with the state agency overseeing program. Requirements for registration, licenses and permits vary from state to state and might include:

- Criminal background checks.
- Periodic renewals, usually every 1 to 3 years.
- Registering the location or Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of grow sites.
- Record keeping and reporting any sales or distributions including to whom it was sold or distributed.
- Documentation from the state agency or institution of higher education to prove the grower is participating in an approved program.
- The state agencies overseeing these programs are typically authorized to conduct inspections, test the plants and review records. State agencies may revoke licenses and impose civil and criminal penalties against growers who violate regulations.

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO CERTIFY MY HEMP CROP OR HEMP PRODUCT AS ORGANIC?

If you plan to certify a hemp crop, you will need to complete an application for certification as a “Producer.” If you plan to grow organic hemp and process it into a new form, you will need to complete an application as a “Producer-Handler.” If you purchase the raw product and only process it to its final form, then you need to complete an application as a “Handler.”

You can find the specifics of certification and the current fee schedules on the MOSA website: [“Organic Certification with MOSA.”](#)

Farms will usually, but not always, have to transition to organic before they can be certified. A crop can only be certified if the land has been managed without the use of prohibited materials (synthetic fertilizers and pesticides) for 36 months before the crop is harvested.

Land that is currently being farmed with chemical fertilizers and pesticides will likely have to undergo a full three year transition. If the land has never been farmed, or it has been some time since the last application of a prohibited material, it may immediately qualify, or take a shorter period of time to transition. To determine how long each field will take, simply determine the last date a prohibited material was applied, and then move forward 36 months. That is the date when that field will be certifiable. It is common to have fields with different transition times.

The certification process can take three months or more to complete, so it is best to apply several months in advance of your planned harvest.

Food processors, restaurants, distributors, and retailers do not have a required transition period if they are not growing their own crops (purchasing all inputs) and can apply at any time.

## WHAT ADDITIONAL PAPERWORK DOES MOSA REQUIRE?

A current copy of the license to grow or process needs to be submitted and maintained in the file. We'll collect the registration paper-



work or verification of renewal annually. In addition, the grower or processor will need to sign MOSA's [Hemp Affirmation Form](#).

## CAN MOSA CERTIFY MEDICAL OR RECREATIONAL CANNIBIS (MARIJUANA) IN LEGAL STATES?

No. Medical and recreational cannabis remains illegal at the federal level and cannot be certified organic to the USDA National Organic Standards.

## CAN MOSA CERTIFY GREENHOUSE, HYDROPONIC AND AQUAPONIC HEMP OPERATIONS?

MOSA certifies plant crops in greenhouse containers, hydroponic and aquaponic systems, however, we cannot certify the fish in aquaponic systems, nor do we certify operations with aeroponic systems. Water-based systems that utilize organic matter as substrate, or add insoluble organic fertility materials and rely on biological nutrient cycling can potentially be certified organic. These type of production systems will also need to complete a [“Greenhouse Organic System Plan.”](#)

## DOES MOSA CERTIFY OTHER ORGANIC HEMP OPERATIONS?

Yes, MOSA has been a leader in the certification of organic hemp. As of 2019, we certify nearly 50 clients that grow or process hemp in several states. We are very familiar with both the production and processing of hemp and we can help you reach your goal of producing USDA Certified Organic hemp products.

## RESOURCES:

**[Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 \(2018 Farm Bill\)](#)**

**[National Conference of State Legislatures: State Industrial Hemp Statutes](#)**

**[MOSES Guidebook for Certification](#)**