

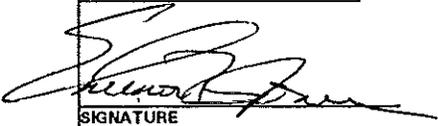
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT

SP 01-01, National Organic Program

A.R.S. § 41-1091(B) Notice

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

<p>ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</p> <p><u>SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT</u></p> <p>Office of the Director</p> <p>NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM</p>	<p>DIVISION/ PROGRAM <u>1</u></p> <p>POLICY <u>SP 01-01</u></p> <p> SIGNATURE</p> <p><u>4/19/2001</u> EFFECTIVE DATE</p>
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1. POLICY

The National Organic Program (NOP), developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requires that agricultural products labeled as organic originate from farms or handling operations certified by a state or private agency that has been accredited by the USDA. The NOP regulations are effective April 21, 2001, and will be implemented over an 18-month period.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture, in compliance with statute, will not compete with the private certification agents, and will not seek to become an accredited certification agent. The Department has adopted a neutral position regarding certification of organic producers and handlers, enforcement issues, and the overall program. This policy enables the Department to continue to serve the agricultural community in an advisory and consulting manner. All questions related to certification and enforcement of the NOP should be directed to the USDA.

2. AUTHORITY

A.R.S. § 3-107 Organizational and administrative powers and duties of the director

A.R.S. §§ 3-301 through 306 Arizona Organic Food Certification Program