

Documents Required for Labels Using the Term “Organic”

All labeling applicants with products made after October 21, 2002 that submit labels bearing an organic reference to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) for approval must also submit one or more of the following with their label application:

- 1) **Organic crop certificate** – certifies that the grapes, fruit, or other agricultural produce used in the finished product have been organically produced to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/ National Organic Program (NOP) standards. This document is all that is required when an *organic ingredients statement* is the sole organic reference on the label.
- 2) **Organic processor or handling operation certificate** – certifies that the winery or facility making the finished product uses accepted USDA/NOP methods. When this document is required for label approval it must be accompanied by proof of ACA preview (see #3 below). Labels that only bear an *organic ingredients statement* do not need this document.
- 3) **ACA preview** - indicates that a USDA-Accredited Certifying Agent (ACA) has reviewed the applicant’s organic alcohol beverage labeling itself, reconciled it with the applicant’s certification, and verifies that the labeling is in compliance with USDA/NOP requirements. This document must accompany the organic processor or handling operation certificate (see #2 above) when that document is required. Labels that only bear an *organic ingredients statement* do not need this document. The ACA Preview must show actual images of the labels along with a stamp or signature of the ACA to verify that the product label complies with the appropriate standard.

Organic certificates are documents that are issued by a USDA-Accredited Certifying Agent to farms and processing operations that meet the standards of the USDA National Organic Program. A full list of current ACAs is maintained by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the USDA.

For imported products, there are foreign companies that are accredited certifiers as well as foreign producing and/or handling operations that are certified to USDA/NOP standards. Organic certificates submitted to TTB must be in English or have a complete translation attached, and must specifically state compliance with USDA/NOP standards as prescribed at 7 CFR part 205.

TTB will automatically reject/return for correction any label application that is submitted without appropriate certifying documentation.