

Organic Notice: Recognised Entities, Verification & Evaluation (Tranche 2)

Discussion document

December 2025



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Contents

Page

1	Introduction	2
2	Background	2
3	Submissions	2
3.1	Why we are consulting	3
3.2	We need your feedback	3
3.3	Why is your feedback important?	3
3.4	Who should give feedback?	3
3.5	How to have your say	3
3.6	Your feedback is Official Information	4
3.7	What happens next?	4

1 Introduction

The Ministry for Primary Industries have begun work to develop notice content to supplement both the Organic Standards and Organic Products and Production Regulations.

The notice content includes technical information for operators and recognised entities and will be structured into sections based on information that is relevant to these two groups.

The notice content will undergo public consultation in the following three tranches:

- **Tranche one:** technical content for operators to supplement the Organic Standards Regulations
- **Tranche two:** requirements for recognised entities, verification and evaluation, to supplement both the Organic Standards and Organic Products and Production Regulations.
- **Tranche three:** requirements for operators on organic management plans, record keeping and imports to supplement both the Organic Standards and Organic Products and Production Regulations.

Requirements for official assurances, statements of compliance, notices issued under section 63 of the Organic Products and Production Act 2023 and the sampling and testing programme set out in Part 6 of the Organic Products and Production Regulations will undergo consultation in 2026.

2 Background

The topics covered in this second tranche of Notice includes:

- Recognition
- Accreditation
- Quality management systems
- Competencies
- Record keeping
- Verification
- Evaluation

3 Submissions

You are invited to have your say on the proposed draft Organic Recognised Entities, Verification and Evaluation Notice (Tranche two).

Public Consultation closes on 2 March 2026 at 5:00pm.

3.1 Why we are consulting

Consultation provides an opportunity for you to comment on the design and content of the proposed notice. Your submission will help us to assess whether we need to amend or refine the proposals.

3.2 We need your feedback

In addition to your general feedback on this second tranche of notice content, MPI is also seeking feedback on a proposed amendment to the Organic Products and Production Regulations 2025 to support verification for official assurances where these are required for import into a destination market.

Currently, the regulations only enable verification of operators (and their products) on a scheduled frequency. They do not enable the verification for official assurances on a requested basis. This omission means that MPI would be unable to require recognised third-party agencies to verify consignments' eligibility for export.

The intention is, that when an official assurance is sought, a recognised entity will verify the eligibility of the products for the destination market. Section 3.13 of the notice sets out the way this verification will be carried out, and the things to be considered. The amendment to the regulations will allow for these requirements.

The parts of the regulations that are relevant to verification for official assurances will also apply.

3.3 Why is your feedback important?

Your feedback helps to ensure that the requirements set out in this second tranche of Organics Notice content is accurate and reflective of how recognised entities operate. MPI will consider all feedback provided and review how your feedback can be integrated into the final Notice.

3.4 Who should give feedback?

MPI encourages feedback from all impacted parties:

Recognised agencies and persons: It is important that the requirements set out in these supplementary notices are workable for recognised entities.

Organic operators: It is important for operators to know what requirements recognised entities will need to meet and what to expect from verification and evaluation.

3.5 How to have your say

You can comment on the second tranche of proposed Organics Notice content.

New Zealand Food Safety encourages submitters to make your submissions electronically. Submissions can be emailed to: organicsconsultation@mpi.govt.nz

If you wish to send your submissions in writing, these can be mailed to the following address:

Organics Notice: Tranche Two
New Zealand Food Safety
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526

Wellington, 6140

Please include the following information in your submission:

- your name and title (if applicable);
- your organisation's name (if applicable); and
- your address and contact details.

The following points may be of assistance in preparing your comments:

- where possible, comment should be specific to a proposal;
- please include any reference numbers from the notice so these can be used to link comments to the document;
- reasons and data to support your comments are welcomed;
- examples to illustrate points is encouraged.

3.6 Your feedback is Official Information

Any submission you make is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Your submission can be released upon request unless there are grounds for withholding it. Grounds for withholding information are outlined in the OIA, and can include:

- that information is commercially sensitive; or
- that you wish personal information such as names or contact details to be withheld.

You may wish to indicate any grounds for withholding information contained in your submission.

New Zealand Food Safety will take such indications into account when determining whether to release information. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer from your IT system will not be considered as grounds for withholding information. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA may be reviewed by the Ombudsman.

3.7 What happens next?

Once the consultation period has closed, New Zealand Food Safety will analyse submissions and consider whether any changes are needed to the proposals. We will seek any further clarification where necessary and once complete, we will post a summary of submissions on our website.

The Notice will be in place early 2026.

Key dates	Action
17 December 2025	Consultation opens
2 March 2026	Consultation closes
February 2026	Consideration of submissions
March 2026	Summary of submissions published and issue of Notice