

What Is Organic Certification—Australia

The certification program was set up in the 1980s by the Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) to ensure that what was claimed to be organic was just that. It required an independent set of Standards and an independent team of assessors (known as auditors) to ensure that farmers, processors and others in the production chain were complying with the rules and regulations laid down by the organic community.

Australia does not have domestic legislation for the term “organic” and is unlikely to for some years yet, so the only way to ensure something is organic is to seek and rely on the logos of organic certifying bodies, such as that of the BFA, to confirm that it has been independently certified to truly national and international standards for organic production.

If it is not certified and carrying the logo you cannot be sure that the produce is organic.

There are two levels or categories to certification:

Farmers require a minimum of three years of organic management before they can carry a certification stating “Organic”. There is a transitional certificate called “In Conversion to Organic” which can be borne after the first 12 months of organic production until the three-year period is complete. In both instances, foods bearing either label confirm that those products are being produced organically.

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