



FACT SHEET

Voluntary National Seal

What is the National Seal?

The National Seal is a voluntary logo that represents certification to the National Standard for Organic & Bio-Dynamic Produce 2015.

Do I need to do anything?

No. However if you wish to use the National Seal alongside your existing ACO Bud logo and/or other certification logos you can.

Is it mandatory to use?

No. It is not mandatory to use the National Seal on your products. However if you do wish to use the National Seal it must be used with the ACO Bud logo on your certified organic products.

Will this mark replace other marks or certification requirements for importing countries?

No. You will still be required to apply marks such as the USDA mark, the EU mark, etc. to meet importing country requirements. This mark may only be used in conjunction with an accredited certifier mark such as ACO's Bud logo.

How do I go about using the mark?

You can contact ACO to request an application document by emailing info@aco.net.au. You can then submit your proposed labelling & documentation to the ACO office for approval.

Does it cost anything to use?

There is no cost to use the National Seal. OISCC, as the owner of this mark, is not currently charging for the use of the National Seal. Therefore ACO at this point will also not be charging for the use of this logo.

Who owns and regulates the National Seal?

The National Seal is owned by OISCC, which in turn is owned by the certification services sector, of which ACO is a financial member.

What is OISCC?

OISCC (Organic Industry Standards and Certification Council) is the Peak Council for standards, certification and accreditation matters that liaises directly with the Federal Department of Agriculture. ACO is a financial member of OISCC.

Is there any similarity with other marks in other countries?

There are a number of countries that have introduced marks which may be used on organic products with differing applications and consequences. In the USA the USDA logo is not mandatory but has been used prevalently in a country serviced by some 100 certifiers. In the EU, while the EU mark is not mandatory, it is a mark that consumers look for, recognise, and trust. This is particularly the case in the major markets of the UK, Germany and France.

For further information please contact ACO on (07) 3350 5716 or info@aco.net.au.

