Control Union Philippines, Inc.
Certification Programmes for Organic Production

1. The organisation Control Union Certifications

Control Union Certifications (CUC) is an independent, internationally operating organisation that carries out inspections and issues certificates for sustainable production methods. CUC promotes the proper designation of products which have been produced / processed according to sustainable production methods by means of supervising, testing, inspecting, assessing and certifying them. To co-ordinate its operations as closely as possible with the local situation, CUC employs representatives worldwide. For further information, please visit the site below:
https://certifications.controlunion.com/en

Control Union Philippines, Inc. (CUPI) is an independent, unequivocally identifiable entity with Control Union. The company is managed by directors appointed by the shareholders.

2. What differentiates CUC from other certification bodies?

With more than 70 office worldwide, Control Union offers you a global one-stop-shop for a wide range of certification programmes. Our certificates are accepted by authorities in nearly every country. We understand the importance of impartiality and objectivity, and how to professionally manage conflicts of interest.
Within Philippines, CUPI offers a wide rage of certification programs for operators in agriculture, food, forestry, and fisheries industries.

3. Organic certification programmes

Organic certification programme requires the **full inspection of the entire production/processing chain** by an *accredited* certification body. Farmers, processors, traders and every involved parties in the organic production chain must be inspected and certified each year by an accredited certification body. This ensures that the organic production requirements of the market are met. Should you be a company or operator seeking to farm organically or manufacture organic products and gain organic certification, CUPI will annually inspect all of the premises and production methods involved in your organic production. This will enable your end product to be labelled as organic.
CUPI is accredited to carry out inspection and certification services according to Philippine National Standard PNS/BAFS 337:2022, PNS BAFS 42:2019, PNS BAFS 183:2023, PNS BAFS 291:2019 , and according to Department Circular No. 01 Series of 2018 (Annex E) and Department Circular No.09 Series of 2020 - National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture.

The accreditation and certification documents can be found at the publications section of our website.
https://cucpublications.controlunion.com/Publications.aspx?Program_ID=0

4. Certification in practice

In practice the following phases have to be completed before certification is achieved:

Information phase

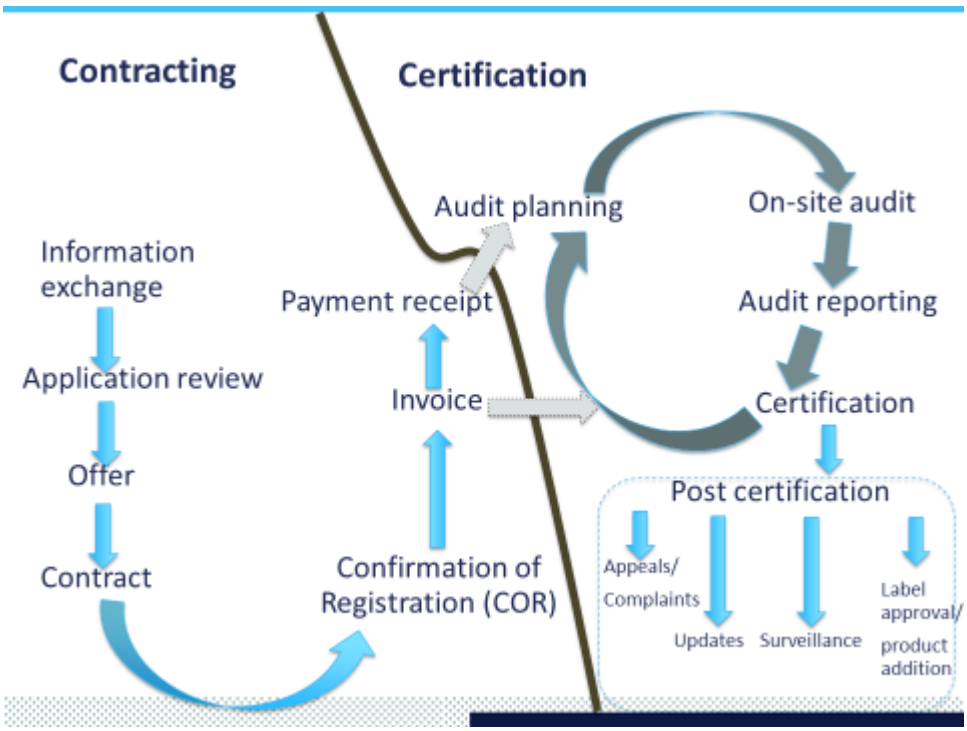
1. If you wish to apply for the CUPI programme, please fill in the application form and return the completed form to one of the branch offices of CUPI. The application form can be downloaded from our website or we can send you for your request. Please select the certification you would like to apply for.
2. CUPI will review whether we can send you an offer based on the information as mentioned in the application form.

Contract phase

3. CUPI will make an offer for the inspection and certification services for one calendar year and send it to you, together with the Terms of Contract.
4. When you accept the offer, you return a signed copy of the offer letter to CUPI. You have now entered into an agreement with CUPI to join a CUPI certification programme.
5. CUPI sends you a confirmation letter with an overview of your registration and will inform you about the details of the certification program, if needed.

Inspection and certification phase

6. After CUPI has received the invoiced client fee, it shall plan the first inspection visit.
7. After all the necessary inspections have been fulfilled CUPI shall provide you with a report of findings. Based on the contents of this report of findings, CUPI shall decide whether or not to grant you a certification.
8. Each year following the official certification, CUPI will perform inspections to determine whether the requirements for certification are still met. Every year is evaluated whether the previously issued certificate can be continued, has to be amended, or even has to be withdrawn. Control Union reserves the right to conduct Surveillance audits as per A5.8 a) of Department Circular No. 01 Series of 2018.



5. Timeline for certification

Step*	Activity	Responsible party	Time duration	Remarks
1	Application	Prospect	Depends on response of Prospect	
2	Application review and sending Offer	CUPI	1-2 working day	
3	Offer acceptance	Future client	Depends on Future client's response	
4	Confirmation of registration and Invoicing	CUPI	1 working day	
5	Payment of invoice	Client	Depends on Client's response	Payments have to be made before conducting the audit
6	Planning the audit and informing to the client	CUPI	1 working day	The assigned auditor will send the audit plan
7	Logistic arrangements for field visit and factory visit	Client	Depends on the location of units and travel distance	
8	Physical audit and reporting	CUPI Auditor	Number of days mentioned on Service agreement (Offer)	Other costs incurred for analyses, couriering of documents and samples will be invoiced after the audit.
9	Report review and certification decision	CU Certifier	Max. 6 weeks from the last date of inspection, if 100% compliant	In case of non-compliances are found, certification could be completed within 3 months.
10	Sending inspection report and certificate to the client	CU Certifier	3 working days	

6. The inspection visit

Once you have contracted with an inspector of CUPI, he/she will contact and visit you for a first inspection. The inspector reports the findings in writing. This information will be treated strictly confidential. CUPI will take the final certification decision on this inspection report. During the inspection, the following techniques are used:

- interview with the people responsible for production/processing;
- inspection of fields, premises, processing equipment, storage, etc.;
- inspection of paperwork; bookkeeping, weighing tags, labels etc.;
- samples taken for residue analysis.

7. Main points of attention during inspections

Farm(s):

- Cropping plan and rotation; acreage per crop;
- History of each field where organic products are grown (proceeding crops; fertilization including the use of fertilizers; pest and disease management including the use of pesticides; weed control including the use of herbicides);
- Manuring and storage of manure;
- Origin of seed material and planting material;
- Weed control and pest- and disease control;
- Separation of organic and non-organic products/fields;
- Identification and traceability of products during the production chain;
- Harvest estimates;
- Storage facilities;
- Livestock housing and husbandry management practices (number of animals, housing/feeding practices);
- Bookkeeping and administration;
- Use of logo(s).

Processing plant(s):

- Origin of organic raw materials;
- Storage of organic raw materials; separation, indication and traceability of organic and conventional raw materials;
- Recipe of organic products;
- Description of processing procedures and methods; separation organic/conventional processing;
- Storage of products; separation and indication of organic/conventional finished products;
- Cleaning procedures in processing plant;
- Transport in and out of the processing unit;
- Administration and bookkeeping (comparison of purchase and sales), invoices.
- Use of logo(s).

8. Additional and subcontracted inspections (other International Organic Certifications)

Furthermore, we can verify and – if criteria are met – issue international Organic Certification according to the following standards and regulations.

EU organic requirements
(EU Reg. 834/2007, 889/2008)

USDA organic requirements
National Organic Program (NOP) of the USDA

Japanese organic requirements
(JAS notifications)

Control Union Certifications

Korean Organic
(Env. Friendly Agr. Promotion Act (EFAPA) / Food Industry Promotion Act (FIPA))

Apart from the above inspection and certification programmes, we are proud to be able to offer you a range of international inspection programmes. For these programmes CUPI carries out the inspections, but the certification decision is made by the applicable organisation. These subcontracted inspection services include inspections conforming to the standards of:

- Naturland → Additional inspection – EU Organic certificate required
- KRAV (globally) → Additional inspection – EU Organic certificate required
- Bio Suisse (globally) → Additional inspection – EU Organic certificate required
- Demeter → Additional inspection – EU Organic certificate required

For further information on these specific inspection services please contact your local CUPI office on Control Union website: http://controlunion.com/en/contact/cl

9. More information

In case you have additional questions or are interested in our further inspection and certification programs, please do not hesitate to contact us. CUPI will be pleased to be of your service with regard to inspection and certification of your organic production. We hope to welcome you soon in our certification programme!

10. References/links

BAFS: http://www.bafps.da.gov.ph/

Control Union Certification publication: http://cucpublications.controlunion.com/Publications.aspx

European Commission on organic farming:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_en

EUR-Lex: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Eurostat:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Organic_farming_statistics

Guidance & Instructions for Accredited Certifying Agents & Certified Operations:
https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/handbook