

Introduction:

The policy brief is an important reference document for the clients/operators to be informed on the requirements for which their operations will be evaluated against and will be the basis of the decision on their certification.

This document is intended to give interested persons or companies an overview of the relevant standards and additional requirements of OCCP ICSI that needs to be complied with by all clients applying for this scope. This covers production of live animals or unprocessed animal produce: primary and postharvest agricultural products of animal origin intended for food; including beekeeping. The recommended practices for the organic production were separated per type of animal to address their specific needs and concerns. Activities also include transport, slaughter, packaging, and labeling to ensure organic integrity [as well as raw milk and milking practices for organic ruminants](#). Any updates on the requirements brought about by the updating of the standards mentioned in this document shall be considered in evaluating this policy brief and updating it, as necessary.

Minimum Standard Requirements

*** The requirements here will apply for all animals. Any additional requirement are indicated in the specific standards established for the particular animal:**

1. Animal Husbandry Management

- Husbandry management shall take into account the behavioral needs of the animals and provide for:
 - Sufficient free movement, fresh air and natural daylight according to the needs of the animals;
 - Protection against excessive sunlight, temperatures, rain, and wind according to the needs of the animals;
 - Enough lying and/or resting area, access to fresh water and feed according to the needs of the animals.

* **Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- The standards specify recommendations to follow PNS/BAFS 267:2022 (Swine — COP — GAHP) while it is mandatory to comply with the Animal Welfare Act (Section 6 of the RA No. 10631, series of 2012)
- Requirement for separation of herd animals were changed to mandatory requirements
- Specified now the reference to DA-DC 09:2020 for cleaning/disinfecting agents to be used for animal housing, facilities, equipment and other tools
- It is also recommended that the tethering of animals be allowed until the safety and welfare of the animals is secured.

** **Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- The standards specify recommendations to follow PNS/BAFS 184:2016 (GAHP for chicken – Broilers and layers), PNS/BAFS 271:2019 (GAHP for duck), and RA No. 10631 series of 2012
- Maintained the prohibition of Landless poultry husbandry systems and/or complete confinement Requirement

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)**-effective 25 November 2025

- It is mandatory to comply with DA Administrative Circular (AC) No. 4, series of 2019 (The dairy safety regulations)
- The tethering of animals may be allowed as long as it provides for the behavioral needs of the animal

2. Conversion Period

- If livestock are to be sold organic products, the livestock must be organically reared according to the rules laid down in the standards
- Simultaneous conversion of the farm which includes the production area of the animals and the land used for feeding, must be followed as required in the standards. Status of animals can be affected by the conversion of the land (Also refer to Explanatory Manual released by DA-BAFS)

***Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- The conversion of swine was changed from just meat to different types of operations including live animals

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- The conversion of poultry changed the starting age for the animal to be reared organically and specified until what age as a minimum it should be continually reared as such before it is harvested. This differs per type of poultry

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)**-effective 25 November 2025

- The conversion of swine was changed from just meat to different types of operations including live animals. The meat from beef cattle/buffalo was reduced from the original requirement

3. Breeds and Breeding

- Breeding goals are such that animal diversity should be maintained
- Indigenous breeds should be preserved and promoted
- The following techniques are not allowed: Embryo transfer techniques and genetic engineering
- Breeding stock may be brought in from non-organic farms with specified conditions and assurance that biosecurity protocols and measures are observed. The revision removed the maximum allowed percentage of brought in breeding stock for the year but encouraged a replacement rate for each animal.

*** Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- The use of sexed semen and semen extender is recommended to be allowed and carried out only by competent and trained personnel. The treatments with reproductive hormones was removed from the prohibited list of techniques
- The standards recommend for swine replacement rate of at most 50% per year

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- Specified preference for organically sourced breeds
- Choice of breeds no longer included some considerations from the original standards. It also now included a listing in Annex A for Locally available breeds for organic poultry production
- Required to follow the recommended male to female ratio of poultry for breeding

- Specified that a trained personnel is required to carry out any artificial insemination activities. However, artificial insemination using segregated, separated, or modified sperm is not allowed.

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)**-effective 25 November 2025

- The use of artificial insemination techniques, such as conventional (unsexed) or sexed semen is allowed but it has to be carried out by a trained personnel
- The standards recommend for animal replacement rate of at most 5-10% per year for large ruminants

4. Mutilations and Animal Identification

- Mutilations are prohibited but exceptions are given in specific cases that these can improve the welfare, health or hygiene of the animals or for safety reasons.
- Animal identification is required and methods of identification of animals are specified
- Trained/Qualified personnel must carry out these practices and it shall be done at the most appropriate age and any suffering to the animal is reduced to a minimum.

*** Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- Listed allowed identification methods specific to swine that must also comply with Section 3 of DA AO No. 41, series of 2020

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- Specified that the identification of poultry is required by batch or lot at any given production
- Added leg banding as an allowed identification
- Trimming of beaks have been specified as allowed and required to follow AO No. 12, series of 2002 (Code of practice and minimum standards for the welfare of chicken)

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)**-effective 25 November 2025

- There is no listed identification methods for ruminants but specified that these shall be humane and in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 as amended by RA 10631.

5. Animal Nutrition

- Each animal must have access to pasture/range area
- Removed the required percentage of organic feed/non-organic feed ratio per year.
- Requirements were defined for the following aspects of sources of animals feeds:

a. Pasture Management

- subject to conversion requirement of 90 days apply when the pasture has been used for conventional production and established 2 years or less. Otherwise, it is exempted from conversion provided that the required proofs are submitted
- management of the pasture must be in accordance with a set of conditions
- Practice in the pasture must not harm the animal (e.g., spraying, pesticide use, sowing, cropping, etc.)

b. Crop production for feeds

- subject to conversion requirement of 180 days apply when conventional crop production has been practiced in the area. Otherwise, it is exempted from conversion provided that the required proofs are submitted
- the production practices is required to follow PNS/BAFS 337:2022
- covered requirements for seeds/planting materials, soil amendments and planting media (with reference to PNS/BAFS 291:2019 on production of OSA) as well as pest control

c. Permitted Raw Materials

- materials to be used for animal nutrition must be listed in the Section B of DA-DC 09:2020
- specified that vitamins and minerals, provitamins, and chemically well-defined substances having a similar effect (e.g., crystalline amino acid [DL methionine]-which is not in the DA-DC 09:2020) may be used as long as it meets the conditions set in DA-DC 09:2020

d. Organic Feed Production

- specified that when feeds are produced, it must follow the standards related to this ([PNS/BAFS 382:2024 \(Organic livestock and poultry feeds — Code of practice-effective November 20, 2025\)](#))

*** Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)-** -effective 9 November 2024

- Included an informative table on Common and locally available feed ingredients for swine
- Pasture management is required to follow Clause 6.4 of PNS/BAFS 262:2018
Crop production for feeds Listed in Annex A Common and locally available feed ingredients as a reference
- Specific requirement on Feeding of milk and fostering
 - Removed the requirement for providing organic milk and the restriction on use of non-organic milk only in emergency cases and without antibiotics and synthetic additives. Use of milk from non-organic sources and dairy milk substitutes are now allowed when the sow is unable to provide for the requirements of their piglets
 - fostering is also now allowed in the standards. This means that piglets can be removed from its own natural mother so they can survive by having another sow for access to a teat and suckle

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)-** effective 9 November 2024

- Pasture/Range Management Specified that 6 hours is the minimum time when the poultry have access to pasture/range per day. Required rotation to the land from becoming contaminated and or denuded, and to allow it to recover from use. Furthermore, the section clearly indicated that the use of synthetic pesticides are prohibited
- Crop production for feeds listed in Annex B Common and locally available feed ingredients as a reference

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)-**effective 25 November 2025

- Required that regular or daily access to pasture or range when no other factors pose a negative effect on the animals
- Specific requirement that the Forage shall be maximized and any nutrient deficiency can be supplemented by the concentrate
- Harvest of wild produce as feed ingredient shall be in conformance with clause 7 (Wild harvest) of PNS/BAFS 337:2022 (OCPPP — COP) and clause 8 (Harvesting and postharvest) of PNS/BAFS 362:2023 (Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAP) — COP).
- Crop production for feeds also specified the requirements under PNS 337:2022 for contamination management, Split production and parallel production as well as Maintenance of organic management
- The recommended nutritional requirements for ruminants are provided in Annex C (Nutritional requirements of ruminant species)
- The diet should be offered to the ruminant in a form (e.g., composite, Total Mix Ration [TMR], and concentrates) allowing them to execute their natural feeding behavior.
- Specific requirement on Feeding of milk and fostering
 - Removed the requirement for providing organic milk and the restriction on use of non-organic milk only in emergency cases and without antibiotics and synthetic additives. Use of milk from non-organic sources and dairy milk substitutes are now allowed.

- The calves that are fed with non-organic and dairy-based milk substitutes shall undergo organic management and weaned only after a minimum time that considers their natural behavior

- fostering is also now allowed in the standards. This means that the offspring can be removed from its own natural mother so they can survive by having another mother for access to a teat and suckle

6. Biosecurity Measures

- Biosecurity measures clearly indicated now as mandatory which was previously just a recommendation. It now included establishment of facilities aside from the previous requirement for proper warning signages
 - Disinfection at entry and exit point
 - Changing of footwear
 - Washing and showering
- There must be written protocols for biosecurity and continuous monitoring and assessment of the effectiveness of biosecurity measures is required
- Required proper handling and disposal system for dead animals
- Recommended for the observance of 24hour downtime based on disease risk situation

7. Animal Health

- The farm owner shall ensure the health and well-being of the animal
- Animal health care requires supervision by a duly licensed veterinarian.
- Natural remedies and complementary medical methods shall be the first choice
- Treatment must not be withheld for economic reasons (for example, if treatment jeopardizes the organic certification of the animal). **Maximum treatment is specified per animal**
- It allowed the use of prophylactic or metaphylactic drugs prescribed by a licensed veterinarian when natural remedies are not effective. This has changed from generally not allowing use of drugs for preventive purposes
- Maintained that the use of antibiotics for prophylactic/preventive purposes is not allowed but added when **it can be used for therapeutic and prophylactic use**: an endemic disease is known or expected to be a problem which cannot be control by other means
- Increased the withdrawal period to 21 days when medical insert do not specify withdrawal period. Specified further that the product can be claimed as organic only after the withdrawal period is completed.
- Included mandatory records such as Veterinary Drug Order/ Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship
- Vaccinations are now allowed as authorized by the competent authority
- Prohibited substances: steroids, synthetic growth promoters and enhances substances of synthetic origin for production, stimulation or suppression of natural growth.
- Allowed Veterinary Medicines can be found in DA-DC 09:2020 Section B.3

*** Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)-** -effective 9 November 2024

- The recommended nutritional requirements for swine are provided in Annex B
- Specified requirement on the use of oxytocin which is not allowed except when there are dystocia cases.

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)-** effective 9 November 2024

- Added that the health and well being of the poultry animals must be assured by selecting breeds from a closed-herd system

- Provided a reference in Annex D for the Nutritional requirements for poultry species

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)**-effective 25 November 2025

- Specified requirement on the use of oxytocin which is not allowed except when there are dystocia cases.

8. Free range areas, Livestock Housing and Manure Management

- Housing for animals will not be mandatory in areas with appropriate climatic conditions to enable animals to live outdoors
- When housing is established, then it must give due consideration to the behavioral needs of the animal AND GAHP (Good Animal Husbandry Practices) standards
- Manure is required to be managed such that it does not cause contamination or environmental degradation
- Competent authority may establish maximum application rates for manure for pasture to ensure that timing and application methods do not increase the potential for run-off into adjacent production areas and bodies of water

*** Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)**- -effective 9 November 2024

- Maintained the indoor stocking densities but changed the outdoor stocking density to just one reference of minimum of 6sqm/head
- Recommended to follow the requirements for housing under Clause 7 of PNS/BAFS 267:2022 (Swine — COP — GAHP).
- It is recommended that manure be composted and used as fertilizer which follows the PNS/BAFS 291:2019 COP for the production of OSA).

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)**- effective 9 November 2024

- Included a recommendation for percentage of natural covers in the ranging area
- When there is housing it is required to follow the PNS/BAFS 262:2018 (Free range chicken).
- Maximum indoor stocking densities included
 - an additional requirement for mobile housing for broilers which is lesser in the previous standard
 - an additional requirement on number of layers per nest hole
 - Increased the required perch space for layers and added a requirement of the height from the closest floor or perch
 - Differentiated requirement for native chicken, ducks and quails
 - Maximum outdoor stocking densities was increased per sqm with differentiated requirement for native chicken, ducks and quails . Decreased the number for turkeys

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)**-effective 25 November 2025

- When there is housing it is recommended that the following GAHP standards are followed:
 - a) Clause 8 (Animal housing) of PNS/BAFS 200:2023 (Beef cattle and buffalo COP — GAHP);
 - b) Clause 5.3 (Animal housing and facilities) of PNS/BAFS 199:2017 (Code of GAHP for dairy cattle and water buffalo);
 - c) Clause 5.3 (Animal housing and facilities) of PNS/BAFS 201:2017 (Code of GAHP for goats);
 - d) Clause 5.3 (Animal housing and facilities) of PNS/BAFS 202:2017 (Code of GAHP for sheep).
- The stocking density for outdoor space was changed from animal unit per hectare to required square meters per animal for easier computation. This is classified per age and size of animal which is between 4.5 m²/animal to as much as 30 m²/animal for large ruminants;
- The stocking density for Indoor space is also available for each type of animal. For the large ruminants, this can range from 1 m²/animal to 10 m²/animal.

9. Pest management for Animal Facilities

- The premises is required to maintained so as to prevent vermin infestation and have pest control programs to reduce or eliminate pests
- pest control methods using chemicals may be allowed provided that the contamination is controlled or prevented.

10. Transport and Slaughter

- Each ruminant shall be traceable and identifiable at each step in the transport and slaughter process.
- Changed the reference for required transportation of the animals specific to each type of animal
- Animals shall always be handled or restrained in such a way to protect them from fear, stress, pain and injury (including with the use of tools)
- Appropriate separation measures shall be implemented to prevent commingling and contamination during transport and slaughter
- The standards now specified that the slaughter is required to be done in NMIS-registered slaughterhouses/Locally Registered Meat Establishments (LRME). This means that backyard slaughtering is not allowed.

*** Organic Swine (PNS/BAFS 371:2023)-** -effective 9 November 2024

- Transportation of the swine to follow Clause 16 of PNS/BAFS 267:2022 (Swine — COP — GAHP).
- Transport of meat is also required to follow section 15 of DA AO No.19, series of 2010 (Guidelines on Good Hygienic Slaughtering Practices [GHSP] for LRME

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)-** effective 9 November 2024

- Transportation of the poultry to follow PNS/BAFS 184:2016 (GAHP for chicken – Broilers and layers) and PNS/BAFS 271:2019 (GAHP for duck) which is also applicable to quail and turkey
- Transport of eggs is required to follow PNS/BAFS 209:2017 (COHP for Table eggs)
- Transport of meat is also required to follow section 15 of DA AO No.19, series of 2010 (Guidelines on Good Hygienic Slaughtering Practices [GHSP] for LRME
- The poultry dressing plant is required to follow the technical regulations of the Regulatory Body/Competent Authority
- Included the use of electric water bath stunner as allowed in the poultry dressing plant

***** Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)-**effective 25 November 2025

- Transportation of the ruminant recommended to follow
 - a) Clause 13 (Animal transportation) of PNS/BAFS 200:2023 (Beef Cattle and Buffalo — COP — GAHP);
 - b) Clause 5.7 (Animal transportation) of PNS/BAFS 199:2017 (Code of GAHP for dairy cattle and water buffalo);
 - c) Clause 5.7 (Animal transportation) of PNS/BAFS 201:2017 (Code of GAHP for goats); and
 - d) Clause 5.7 (Animal transportation) of PNS/BAFS 202:2017 (Code of GAHP for sheep).
- Transport of meat is also required to follow section 15 of DA AO No.19, series of 2010 (Guidelines on Good Hygienic Slaughtering Practices [GHSP] for LRME

11. Packaging

- The requirements for packaging are now part of the standards which also focuses on non-contamination of the product and environmentally friendly materials

**** Organic Poultry (PNS/BAFS 370: 2023)- effective 9 November 2024**

- The packaging is also required to follow Section 6 of PNS/BAFS 314:2021 (Animal carcass – chicken – grading) and Section 9 of PNS/BAFS 321:2021 (Shell eggs [chicken and duck] – Product standard – Classification and grading). This provision is also applicable to quail and turkey.

12. Labelling

- The labelling is recommended to conform to the Codex requirements CXS 1-1985, rev. 2018 (General standard for the labeling of prepackaged foods) and CXS 346-2021 (General standard for the labeling of non-retail containers of foods)
- RA 11511 indicates that only certified and guaranteed by 3rd party organic certification systems (DA-accredited) can label the product as “organic” accompanied by appropriate mark, and sold upon registration with concerned regulatory agencies. The Philippine Organic Mark, name logo or seal of the OCB and the accreditation number issued by BAFS including the trade name should be part of the label. Other labeling requirements of the concerned regulatory agencies must also be complied
- DA-DC 01.2018 specifies the guidelines on the use of the Philippine Organic Mark. According to DA Department Circular 01 series of 2018 Annex E The Philippine Department of Agriculture Organic Mark may be used packaging of certified products and product documentation (e.g., technical specification and catalogue pages).

Further details on organic labeling is available which includes additional certification requirements that must be also be complied

13. Traceability and Recordkeeping

- Each separate site is identified by a name or code and is recorded on ALL documents/ records
- Documentation shall clearly identify the source, movement, use and inventory of organic products including inputs used at all stages of production/processing and handling. This includes records from subcontracted activities
- Records shall follow a retention period of at least 5 years
- Records expected to be maintained for each animal has been listed in detail

14. Milking Practices for Organic Ruminants (PNS/BAFS 383:2024)-effective 25 November 2025

- Raw milk shall be from animals that have been under continuous organic management or meet the required conversion period
- The integrity of the organic raw milk shall be maintained and identifiable throughout the duration from harvest to transportation. Measures to prevent contamination with prohibited substances or commingling with non-organic
- Measures to ensure cleanliness and maintenance of transporting vehicles including delivery time to collection center or processing shall comply with the applicable DA-NDA Administrative Circular (AC) No. 04, Series of 2019 (The dairy Safety Regulations)

Specific Beekeeping Requirements (under PNS 07:2016)

** The changes in the requirements in the revised PNS 404:2025 is noted here for guidance which will be effective by to August 17, 2026. Once in effect, the PNS 404:2025 cancels all provisions related to Organic Beekeeping under PNS/BAFS 07:2016 (Organic Agriculture).

I. Beekeeping practice

- It is forbidden to mutilate the bees e.g. by clipping their wings
- ** The organic beekeeping practice provided more details including the following**
- respect the principles of organic farming;

- collection and foraging areas of bees shall be large enough to provide adequate and sufficient nutrition and access to water;
- sources of natural nectar, honeydew, and pollen shall consist essentially of organically produced plants and/or spontaneous (wild) vegetation
- health of bees should be based on prevention
- hives shall consist basically of natural materials presenting no risk of contamination to the environment or the bee products
- when bees are placed in wild areas, consideration should be given to the indigenous insect population, particularly native pollinators.

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II. Conversion period

- The conversion period is 12 months for hived bee colonies
- The wax used for creating honeycombs should be made from organic beeswax. However, in cases where organic beeswax is not available, non-organic beeswax may be used if the beeswax is free from harmful substances.

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- The colony with a newly introduced queen from non-organic production shall undergo a two-month conversion period.
- Added the provision that during the conversion period, the wax shall be replaced by organically produced wax or propolis ONLY when prohibited products have been previously used in the hive. When it is not possible to replace all of the wax during the 12-month period, the certification body or competent authority may extend the conversion period

III. Stocks

- Starter colonies should be sourced from apiaries that are free from pests and diseases
- Importation of (*Apis mellifera*) queens may be allowed from countries with no known disorders
- Importation is not allowed for *Apis cerana*, stingless bees and solitary bee species

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- Introduced bee colonies or queen should come from organic production units when available. In the absence of an organic bee colony or queen, they shall undergo the required conversion period specified
- Included the requirement that when there is importation, it shall comply with statutory requirements set by the competent authority.
- Collection of colonies in the wild is allowed but it must follow Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act). Proper documentation from competent authority must be available. In the case of feral colonies, only 30% is allowed to be taken from the wild, leaving 70% to conserve genetic resources and the bees
- Added criteria in choosing starter colonies

IV. Location of colonies/apiaries

- Wild and hived colonies should be located in organically managed fields and/or wild natural areas that is 3km radius (for stingless bees-500m radius) away from fields or other areas where chemical pesticides are used and GMO crops are cultivated
- If the location is changed due to insufficient forage, predation or habitat disturbance, the location of the colonies should be recorded) showing also the dates of transfer, location and number of colonies

** This is no longer specified in the revised standard. Instead, focus is on the location and positioning such that it protects the from direct exposure to extreme weather condition; and where

there is minimal disturbance from human activity, noise, or artificial lighting, which may stress the bees

- Only "warm" (yellow colored) light bulbs should be used in the apiary sites and foraging areas

** This is now a mandatory requirement to only use warm (yellow colored) light bulbs when necessary

V. Hive materials and design

- Beehives shall be built mainly from natural materials and present no risk of contamination to the environment or the bee products
- Use of construction materials with potentially toxic effects (e.g. treated lumber) is prohibited.

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- Hive design shall support natural bee behaviors; allow easy inspection, maintenance, and honey harvesting; minimize the risk of entry of pests or predators

VI. Apiary conservation and Supplemental Feeding

- 20% of the honey comb or stores should be reserved and not cut as food reserve of the bees during dearth period

** It is now mandatory to retain a minimum 20% of the honeycomb or stored food as reserves

- In case supplemental feeding is necessary when pollen and nectar are not sufficient, it should only be done during dearth period using honey, pollen or organic sugar
- The feed should come from organic sources such as reserves of honey and pollen left during harvesting

**It is now mandatory that supplemental feed must come from organic sources. In case this is not available, approval/permission by the certification body or competent authority is needed

VII. Pest and disease management

- The health and welfare of the hive shall be primarily achieved by hygiene and hive management
- The following methods and substances are allowed for pest and disease control:
 - lactic acid, formic acid
 - acetic acid, oxalic acid
 - sulfur
 - natural essential oils (e.g. menthol, eucalyptol, camphor)
 - biological, mechanical and physical methods (e.g. use of direct flame, steam, Bacillus thuringensis)
 - Botanicals
- Cleaning and disinfection using caustic soda, heat or other mechanical means
- Colonies infected with American Foul Brood should be destroyed through burning
- Use of antibiotics is prohibited

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- The health of bee colonies is recommended to be maintained by good agricultural practices and it is now mandatory to use preventive health measure to reduce likelihood of disease and pests
- The use of veterinary medicinal products may now be used as long as the conditions stated in the standards are met. However, treated hives shall be placed in isolation and undergo a conversion period of 12 months. All the wax shall be replaced with organically produced wax;
- Other substances accepted for use in facilities by the competent authority shall be used and shall not come in contact with the organic bee products.

VIII. Extraction of honey and storage

- The use of chemical synthetic repellents is prohibited during extraction of beekeeping products

** It now included the destruction of bees in the combs as a prohibited during harvest. The revised standards also mention that smoking materials shall be natural or from materials that may not cause any contamination to the hive colonies and bee products

- The moisture content of ripe honey should be from 21-23%
- Processing equipment is thoroughly cleaned with hot water prior to processing
- Surfaces in direct contact with honey should be constructed from sterilized materials
Honey should be packed in sterilized food grade containers**

- It is now mandatory to follow PNS/BAFS 186:2016 (PNS on code of good beekeeping practices) for the harvesting of bee products and PNS/BAFS 185:2022 (Honey — Product standard — Specification) for the bee products itself
- There is now more detailed requirements for Postharvest, **Packaging, storage, and transport focusing on preventing contamination, avoiding commingling, ensuring clear identification and traceability**
- Use of preservatives, synthetic additives, or colorants that could affect the organic nature of the product shall be prohibited
- Disinfecting and sanitizing substances that may come into contact with organic bee products shall be composed of water and substances that are listed in Section B.2 (Cleansers and disinfectants for animal housing facilities, equipment, and others) or D.2 (Equipment cleansers and disinfectants that may come into contact with food for the production of organic food) of DC No.09, series of 2020 (National list of permitted substances for organic agriculture).

** Labelling generally follows the requirements in Section 12 above

** **Record keeping and Traceability requires conformance with 4.5.10** (Records and traceability) of PNS/BAFS 186:2016 (PNS on code of good beekeeping practices) and the requirements already indicated in Section 13 above

General Standard Requirements and related procedures/policies will also be considered in the certification of these scopes:

1. Knowledge

Knowledge of the organic standards by all persons handling the organic product is critical in compliance with the standards. Lack of awareness on the requirements will have a higher risk that non-compliances will occur.

- The operator (farmer) and all personnel handling the organic product has to study the respective standards
- A copy (hard copy or electronic file) of the respective standards should be available and easily accessible to those involved
- The farmer and all personnel handling the organic product needs to have adequate knowledge on organic farming principles and technologies

2. Management Plan/Declaration of Activities

The OMP is the basic document being used for verification and it should show how the organization/company/farm operated in the past year(s) or since the last inspection (for renewing clients). If additional annexes are to be submitted in support of implementation, this should be indicated in the relevant OMP section as a reference (i.e. process flow, procedures, forms, etc). To

continue certification, the operator must submit an annual update that must outline all changes made to the operation, as well as those planned for the upcoming year. In addition, if the operator makes any changes during the year that could affect its compliance with the regulations and its organic certification, the operator must notify OCCP ICSI immediately.

Declarations should also include but not limited to the following:

- basis of the estimates/quantities being requested for certification
- fields/operations/products and locations of units/facilities being requested for certification as well as those managed/owned that are not included in the certification
- review of raw materials/inputs used

3. Records & Audit Trail

A complete audit trail is needed to prevent unintentional or fraudulent mixing of products and to verify that the operator (grower) has a system to track organic product until it is sold. The audit trail system should be complete enough to trace any product suspected of contamination from point of origin to the customer. They must periodically demonstrate that production and sales match

The operator farmer must maintain updated documents, containing key information to allow evaluation of compliance with standards and link between records. Documents include but not limited to the following:

1. Farm Maps- clearly give the location (complete address and/or GPS coordinates), dimensions, boundaries (including activities in adjacent fields), animal housing and range areas, feed production areas and the size of the land in terms of hectares and all those fields not included in the organic certification. Identification of the status (organic, in-conversion, non-certified) must be easily distinguished in the map.
2. Overview Maps- clearly showing locations of all fields/farms/facilities being managed and owned by the operator both for organic certification and those not included in the certification. This should give an overview of the general distance or travel time between location. Identification of the status (organic, in-conversion, non-certified) must be easily distinguished in the map.
3. Sales and Outgoing records- date sold/outgoing (both organic and non-organic), amount/quantity sold/outgoing, and the field identification/lot code;
4. Mass Balance- showing summary of production, sales/outgoing products including beginning and ending inventories. This is always recommended to be from last inspection to the current submission (Renewing clients) or from start of production/ 1year (for new clients)

These documents must be made available for inspection by OCCP ICSI authorized personnel, upon request.

4. Commitment to Quality

- Operators (farmers-Producers) need to have documented procedures for handling organic animals/products that adequately covers the requirements of the standards and organic certification to ensure that personnel (new or existing) follows procedures consistently
- There should be a system for monitoring implementation of documented procedures and action taken when there are identified non-compliances to the requirements of the standards and certification
- Certified operators should record complaints regarding the integrity of their organic product and take the necessary actions to address the complaints.

Other Relevant OCCP ICSI Documents are available which provides interpretation of standards and details of requirements that will be used in the evaluation process and shall be complied by the operator/client

4.5.11 Policy Brief Information on Scope of Certification and Inspection

4.5.14 Policy Brief Information on Organic Labelling, Use of Marks of Conformity and Certification Documents

4.5.15 Policy Brief Information on Laboratory Analysis

Forms to be accomplished and must be submitted to OCCP ICSI

4.6.1 Management Plan for Organic Crop Production- this should be accomplished when there is own feed production (Plant-based). This is accomplished per operator/client applying for certification. If there are subcontracted activities or other entities involved or facilities used in the product chain from seed production/purchase of materials to storage and use/distribution activities, then systems implemented covering all entities and facilities should be consolidated in this document

4.6.2 Organic Management Plan for Animal Production- [This is available per type of animal being requested for certification with one sheet for general information covering all types of animals.](#) This is accomplished per operator/client applying for certification. If there are subcontracted activities or other entities involved or facilities used in the product chain from stocks to storage and distribution activities, then systems implemented covering all entities and facilities should be consolidated in this document

4.6.2.1 Management Plan for Poultry and Livestock Feed Production-[this is accomplished per operator/client applying for certification. If there are subcontracted activities or other entities involved or facilities used in the product chain from receiving of raw materials to storage and distribution activities, then systems implemented covering all entities and facilities should be consolidated in this document](#)

4.7 OMP Annexes- Farm Register, Produce/Product Register (CP and AP), Facility Register, Ingredient Review, Mass Balance, Planting Material Register, Input Register, AP-Breeding Register, AP-Veterinary Treatment and other documents that may be requested

Note:

Please be aware that this is only a selection of the essential requirements of the standards and everyone is advised to get a copy of the standards and study all the requirements of the standards. The Philippine National Standards may be obtained from the DA-BAFS website and is provided as part of the information package of OCCP ICSI during inquiry/application