

Dear USDA-accredited Certifying Agent:

On February 14, 2019, NOP sent a notice to certifying agents regarding ready-to-use shiitake mushroom spawn. NOP is providing an extension for certifiers to implement the guidance in the notice. The original deadline for removal of noncompliant, previously-approved products from organic system plans was May 1, 2019. The new deadline is September 1, 2019.

Some certifying agents have asked for clarification about the applicable standard. For certification purposes, consider ready-to-use spawn as analogous to seedlings.

If you have additional questions, please submit them to your accreditation manager using the certifier question format.

Regards,

Cheri Courtney

Director, Accreditation and International Activities Division

USDA National Organic Program

Implementation of ready-to-use mushroom spawn guidance

Re: Notice to Certifying Agents - Shiitake mushrooms