



National Organic Program (NOP) Review Standards for Lab Analyses

This information sheet serves as a reference for lab analyses for crop products reviewed to the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) standards. Lab reports must be labeled in a way that is consistent with the product name. Any lab report must declare the methods and units and must be less than one year old. See *COR Standards for Lab Analyses* for standards that apply to Canada Organic Regime (COR) reviews.

Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments (CF) and Crop Management Tools and Production Aids (CT)

For all liquid fertilizer products:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis for total nitrogen (not TKN).	Liquid fertilizers with >3% nitrogen lab results or label claims are subject to semi-annual inspections. Additional fees apply.
If the product has more than 3% nitrogen, provide independent, verifiable lab analysis for ammonia, unless the ammoniacal nitrogen claim on the label is already >3%.	Liquid fertilizers with >3% ammoniacal nitrogen levels are restricted to communicate potential risks to soil and water quality.

For all crop products containing alkali extracted humic acid:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis for humic acid content unless humic acid claim is on the label.	Alkali extracted humic acid products should have at least 1.5 times as much humic acid as KOH.

For all crop products containing compost, manure, vermicompost, mulch, mined minerals, soil or ash:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis for levels of arsenic, cadmium and lead in the final product on an "as received" basis.	See Table 1 below.
Present results in parts per million (ppm).	

Table 1: Maximum Concentrations of Elemental Contaminants (ppm)

Products that are or contain:	Arsenic (As)		Cadmium (Cd)		Lead (Pb)	
	*Caution Statement	**Cannot be listed	*Caution Statement	**Cannot be listed	*Caution Statement	**Cannot be listed
Compost, Manure, Mulch and Transplant Container Media (CF/CT) and Mulch, for use as crop weed control (CP)	10	149	20	40	90	290
Mined Minerals, Soil and Ash (CF/CT)	20	300	40	80	180	580

* Level at which OMRI issues a "Caution" statement for a given product on the *OMRI Products List*[®] regarding the potential for long-term contamination based on elemental contaminant content.

** Level at which a product is ineligible for listing on the *OMRI Products List* due to danger of soil contamination.

OMRI may request heavy metals analysis for other materials depending on recommended application rates.

For all crop products containing compost, vermicompost, microbes, or products of microbial processes, or animal by-products, including fish:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis that documents fecal coliform level of finished product. Results for fecal coliform must be reported as cfu/g or MPN/g (or per ml for liquid products).	Fecal coliform results must not exceed 1,000 MPN/g fecal coliform. Products that do not meet these pathogen indicator levels will be identified with a caution statement or restriction.
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis that documents Salmonella level of finished product. Results for Salmonella must be reported as MPN/4g or cfu/4g, (or per 4ml for liquid products), or positive/negative if by DNA or immunological methods.	Salmonella results must not exceed 3 MPN/4g or equivalent negative result if by DNA method. Products that do not meet these pathogen levels will be identified with a caution statement or restriction.

For all crop fertilizer products containing acid stabilized liquid fish or squid:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis of the product's pH level on an "as received" basis. If the product is a multi-ingredient product, pH test should be of the acid stabilized fish or squid prior to blending with other ingredients.	Final pH of liquid fish or squid must not be less than 3.5.

For all crop fertilizer products applying for listing in the Manure, processed category:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis that documents the moisture level of the finished product on an "as received" basis.	Processed manure products must be dried to a maximum moisture level of 12% . Failure to meet this level will result in the product being classified as and subject to the use restrictions of Manure, raw, uncomposted.

For all paper-based crop planting aids:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
If available, provide independent, verifiable ASTM D6866 lab analysis that documents the biobased content of the finished product.	Paper-based crop planting aids should contain no less than 80% biobased content. If ASTM D6866 is not available, additional ingredient information may be needed to evaluate the biobased content of the product.

Crop Pest Weed and Disease Control (CP)

For all products applying for listing in the Mulch, for use as a crop weed control category:

Information Requirement	Review Standard
Provide independent, verifiable lab analysis for levels of arsenic, cadmium and lead in the final product on an "as received" basis. Present results in parts per million (ppm).	See Table 1 above.