



## OneCert Prohibited Substance Policy

Certified organic farmers may encounter cases of unintentional drift of prohibited materials, cross pollination with neighboring GMO crops, or direct applications of prohibited materials. All instances of prohibited material drift or direct applications should be notified to any regulatory authorities in your area and OneCert. You may notice a prohibited substance application by observing crop die-off or change in crop appearance along the border of farm(s) or field(s), observing the actual drifting of materials during application, or through residue or GMO analysis.

For direct applications of prohibited materials, OneCert will uphold 7 CFR §205.202(b) where the affected land must complete a 3-year transition from the date of application. For instances of GMO contamination, please contact OneCert for additional action steps.

When instances of drift (*NOP 205.2 - "the physical movement of prohibited substances from the intended target site onto an organic operation or portion thereof"*) occur, see below.

---

### **What to do when drift occurs:**

- Notify any regulatory authorities in your area to report the application of drift,
- Immediately notify OneCert of the incident per §205.400(f)(1), and submit:
  - The date of the occurrence
  - The substance(s) believed to have been applied
  - The application method by which the substances have been applied
  - The affected areas of the organic parcel(s)
  - Results of any residue testing (as applicable)
  - Submit updated parcel maps for areas of drift occurrence, including an outline or highlight of the affected area, ensure buffers location and type of buffers are present and that adjoining land use is labeled around all sides of the field, etc.
  - Photographs of the organic crop damage

### **Residual Sampling:**

OneCert follows [NOP 2613 – Instruction: Responding to Results from Pesticide Residue Testing](#), which details the steps taken for positive residual test results. When residue samples are taken (e.g. by the state, the client or a third party), the results must be submitted to OneCert for evaluation. OneCert may also send an inspector to obtain a sample for residue testing. OneCert will immediately notify you of the results of the residual testing to indicate whether your crop is eligible for organic sales or not. As required per 7 CFR §205.670(g), OneCert will notify any violations to the appropriate agency.

All residual test results will be retained by OneCert and the certified operation. These test results are available to the public upon request and will be reviewed as part of the certified operation's next inspection.

### **What happens to my land?**

Your land will retain its organic status if organic control measures (establishing reasonable buffer zones and clearly defined boundaries around their organic parcel(s) as required in NOP 205.202(c)) were implemented prior to the drift occurrence.

A noncompliance may be issued to your operation if the drift was due to insufficient buffer zones or failure to implement adequate measures to prevent drift, per 7 CFR §205.202(c) and 205.272. Implementation of organic control measures that will prevent the application of prohibited material(s) from recurring will need to be addressed in the operator's Organic System Plan. This may include an increase in buffer zones, implementing agreements with neighbors for spraying, implementation of no-spray signs around parcels, etc.