

AOSCA IP Program Requirements



Purpose:

The AOSCA Identity Preserved (IP) logo identifies products (raw or processed food or other agricultural products) that meet specified product quality requirements. Through the use of the IP logo, AOSCA agencies provide verification that an effective system for the production, handling, and/or processing of grains, foods, or other agricultural production is being utilized. Audits and/or inspections are performed to verify compliance with system requirements at specified stages of production. The program is designed to be flexible to allow customization for specific crop, end product and other specified needs. Enrolled production is traceable between pre-determined points in the production process.

Program Name:

1. The agency shall assign a unique program name to identify AOSCA IP programs.

Quality Objectives

1. Product quality characteristics shall be defined and documented.
2. Product quality standards that define acceptance and rejection criteria shall be established for each point of product evaluation.

General Program Requirements

1. The scope of production and processing to be included in the program shall be defined and documented.
2. A set of specific production requirements shall be established taking into account, the kind of product, the quality objectives and production methods to be used.
3. Critical control points in the production, handling, and processing shall be identified.
4. Responsibilities for required production processes shall be documented and communicated to participants.
5. Means of measuring, evaluating and determining conformance to product quality standards shall be documented.
6. Required actions resulting from product non-conformance at each point of product evaluation shall be established.
7. The agency shall be responsible for confirming the adequacy of all actions for determining product conformance from testing and inspection, assessing the production system, through surveillance of the product produced.

Record Requirements

1. Records shall be adequate to allow agency verification of adherence to required production and processing practices.
2. The agency shall require access to required records for agency inspection.
3. Production records shall be adequate to provide product traceability throughout the production process.
4. Responsibility for creation, retention and control of records shall be documented.
5. All actions for determining product conformance from testing and inspection, assessing the production system, through surveillance of the product produced, shall be documented.

System Audits and On-site Inspections

1. The agency shall require inspections and/or audits necessary to verify that the production system is meeting stated product quality objectives.
2. The agency shall establish and document processes for performing audits and inspections including:
 - a. Evaluation points in the system.
 - b. Identity and qualifications of evaluators.
 - c. Inspection/audit methods to be used.
 - d. Rules for the selection of samples for testing and evaluation.
 - e. Reporting methods and records generated.
3. For evaluation activities not performed by the agency, the agency shall establish and document the process used to evaluate, approve, and validate the performance of evaluators and the accuracy of evaluation results.

Annual System Review

1. The agency shall annually review IP programs to validate the effectiveness of the system in achieving the quality objectives.
2. Corrective actions shall be required for identified non-conformities.
3. Program modifications shall be submitted to AOSCA for approval.

Certificates/Labels Bearing the AOSCA IP Logo

1. Use of the AOSCA IP logo on product labels, certificates, or promotional pieces shall indicate conformity to all program requirements.
2. Certificates and labels must clearly state the program name.
3. The agency shall establish procedures for the withdrawal or removal of marks of conformity in the event of product non-conformance.
4. In the event of a revision of the IP program, the marking must clearly indicate the appropriate edition of the program so that the user is informed correctly of the product requirements.

5. The agency shall perform surveillance to control the use of certificates and labels bearing the AOSCA IP logo.
6. In cases of misuse of the AOSCA IP logo, corrective actions shall be taken to safeguard its use.

Program Approval

1. The agency shall submit the proposed IP program to AOSCA for review and approval prior to using the AOSCA IP logo.
2. Program proposals shall include:
 - a. The name assigned to the IP program.
 - b. The quality objectives and evaluation criteria to be used.
 - c. Documented program components as required above.
 - d. An example of each certificate or label to be used that bears the AOSCA IP logo.