



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

National Organic Program Update: Strengthening Organic Enforcement

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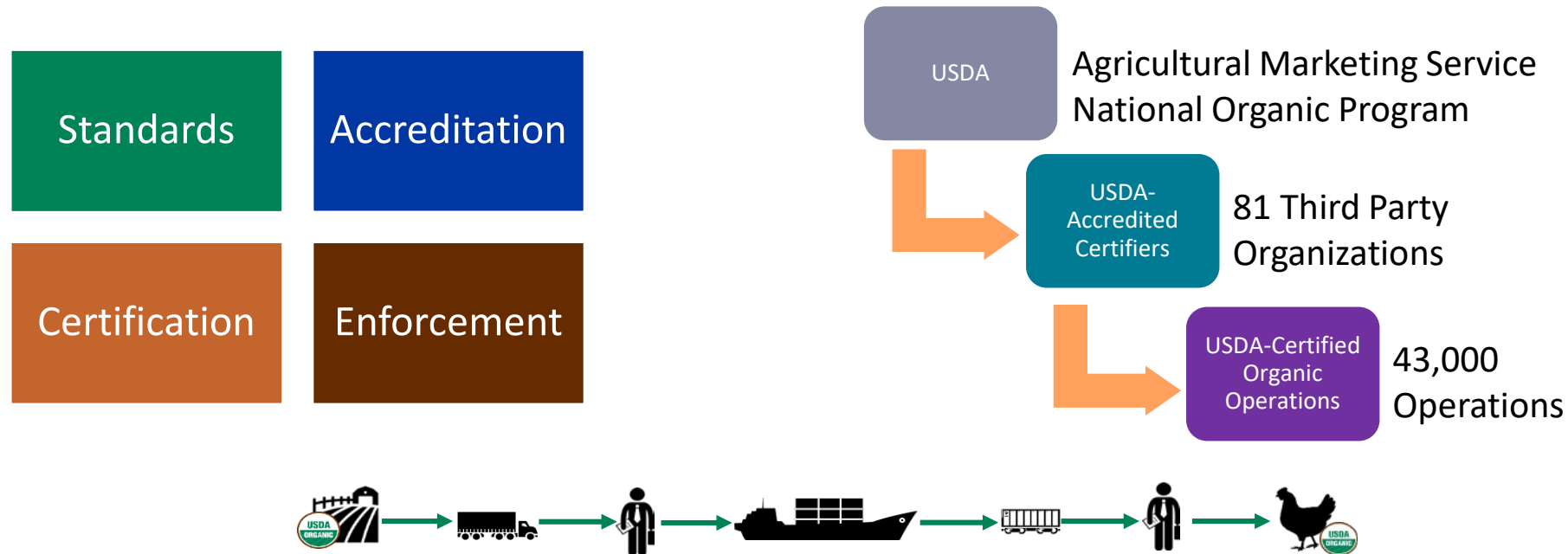
Agricultural Marketing Service

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS also provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country.



What is the USDA Organic Program Mission?

- Established by Congress in 2001, the National Organic Program (NOP) develops and enforces uniform national standards for organically-produced agricultural products sold in the United States.
- Operating as a public-private partnership, NOP accredits private companies and helps train their inspectors to certify that farms and businesses meet the national organic standards.



Strengthening Organic Enforcement: New Rule

As the organic sector grows - so does supply chain complexity...

The U.S. organic market in 2018 broke through the \$50 billion mark for the first time, with sales hitting a record \$52.5 billion, up 6.3 percent from the previous year



1. More certified organic businesses

Additional businesses will need to get organic certification. This includes businesses that do any of the following:

- Buy or sell organic products
- Negotiate sales between buyers and sellers
- Import or export organic products
- Split, combine or repackage loads

Exceptions that would not require certification: Retail, transport and storage

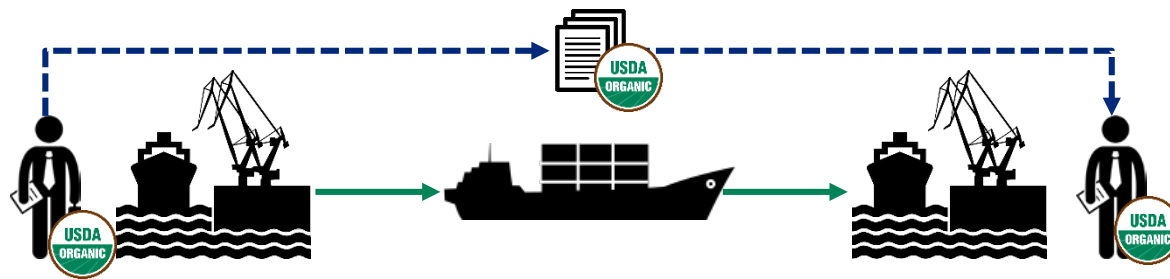


2. Importing requirements

An electronic Import Certificate will be required for each organic shipment.

- Integrated into CBP's ACE system
- Filed as part of the entry summary
- Maximizes the use of existing import systems & processes

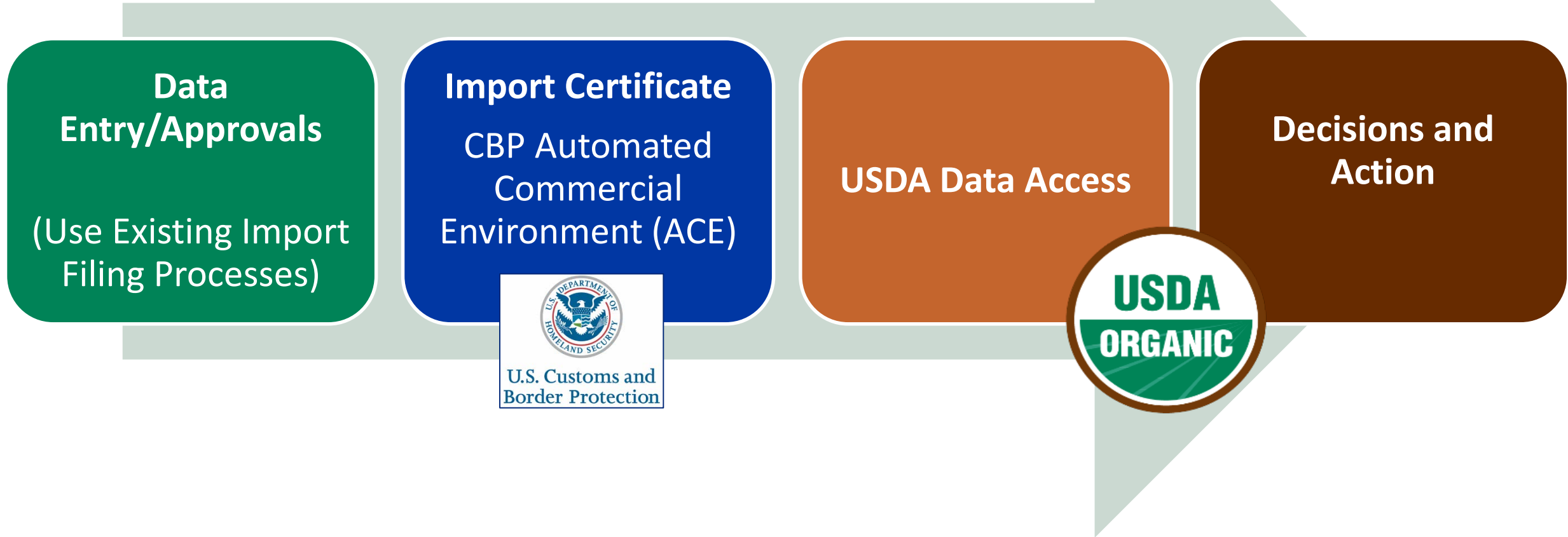
Modernizes trade to ensure full traceability and tracking of imports



Import Certificates: Technology Steps



Early Pilot Testing: 2020



3. Labeling on nonretail containers

Shipping and storage containers will need to:

- Identify product as “organic”
- Name the certifier of the product
- Production lot number (currently required)

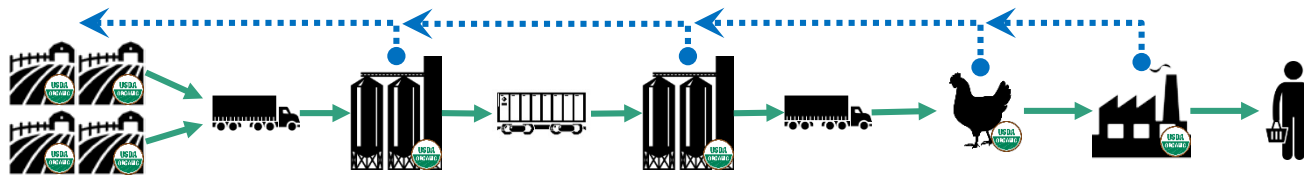
Why?

- Accurate identification of organic products
- Prevents mishandling
- Reduces risk of fraud



Certification, import certificates, and nonretail labeling:

- Provide traceability throughout the supply chain
- Close potential vulnerabilities
- Enable faster fraud detection
- Protect the value of organic products
- Protect the integrity of the USDA Organic Seal



- Proposed Rule Publication – Expected Early 2020
- Comment Period - 60 days
- **Any business affected by the Proposed Rule is encouraged to submit comment during the comment period**
- Best practices for comments:
 - Describe concern and impact
 - Offer alternative solutions
- All comments will be public and viewable at www.regulations.gov