WAREHOUSE and UNCERTIFIED HANDLER DECLARATION

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) section 205.101(b)(1) permits organic operations to use non-certified handling facilities provided that organic products are packaged or otherwise enclosed in a container prior to being received at the handling facility and that products remain in the same package or container and are not otherwise processed while in control of the handling facility. Uncertified handling operations are responsible for maintaining the identity and organic integrity of all organic products in their possession, as well as supplying verification of certified organic status of these products. Organic products handled at uncertified facilities must be traceable to the last certified entity in the supply chain. Records to verify the movement of organic products in the custody of uncertified handlers must be available upon request.

This form must be completed by the manager of the uncertified facility. Both the uncertified facility and the certified operation must maintain copies of this affidavit. Storage/Warehouse Affidavits must be updated every 2 years.

If a question does not apply to your operation, please write ‘n/a’.

Date: ___________________________
Name of Uncertified Handling Facility: _______________________________________
Facility Authorized Representative: _______________________________________________
Physical Address: _______________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________  Website: _______________________________________

Organic Handling Provided for the following MCS Certified Operation:
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Type of Handling activities performed at the facility:
  ____ Dry storage  ____ Cold storage  ____ Freezing  ____ Wholesaling  ____ Distributing
  ____ Labelling  ____ Breaking into small lots  ____ Other: ________________________________

1. Do you handle organic products that are not enclosed in a package or container when you receive them?  
   ____ Yes  ____ No  If Yes, please explain:

2. Do you open packages or containers that contain organic products?  ____ Yes  ____ No  If Yes, please explain:

3. Do you re-label any organic products, including the application of labels that obscure the original product label or lot number?  ____ Yes  ____ No  If Yes, please explain:

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4. Do you ever combine or split loads of bulk or unpackaged organic products?
   ___Yes ___No If Yes, please explain:

5. Do you process any organic products? Processing includes but is not limited to repacking, sorting, culling, hydrocooling, hydro vacuum, washing, chopping, ethylene or any kind of controlled atmosphere treatment.
   ___Yes ___No If Yes, please explain:

6. Do all organic products remain in the same package or container for the entire time they are in your possession? ___Yes ___No If No, please explain:

7. What do you do when incoming packages or containers of organic products are damaged?

8. Describe measures implemented to prevent commingling of organic and nonorganic products:

9. Describe measures you take to prevent contamination of organic products from substances such as cleaners, sanitizers, and pest control products:

10. Explain how you maintain audit trail records sufficient to track organic products back to their certified organic source, including original lot number:

11. Do you import or export organic products?

12. Describe how frequently you change organic suppliers and how the certified organic operation can verify the source, volume, certification, and import compliance of each shipment. You may attach sample documents to demonstrate your system.

13. Do you agree to provide copies of audit trail records to the certifier upon request?
   ___Yes ___No If No, please explain:
§ 205.100(c) Any operation that: (1) Knowingly sells or labels a product as organic, except in accordance with the Act, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in §3.91(b)(1) of this title per violation. (2) Makes a false statement under the Act to the Secretary, a governing State official, or an accredited certifying agent shall be subject to the provisions of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

I declare under penalty of perjury (under the laws of the United States of America) that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature of Facility Manager/Owner ____________________________

Date ____________________________

Printed Name ____________________________

Certified organic operations must maintain records sufficient to demonstrate compliance. Certified operations may only source from uncertified handlers who provide full supplier traceability back to the last certified operation for each shipment. This means:

● Purchase invoices, BOL, and other audit trail records must designate products as organic and include a description of the product and amount transferred.
● Uncertified handler audit trail records must link directly back to the last certified operation, including transport, storage, processing/handling, shipping, and/or distribution. Documents generated by the last certified operation proving purchase/delivery/transfer to the uncertified handler must be available.
● The last certified operation must be listed on invoices and/or lot numbers applied by the last certified operation must match lot numbers on uncertified handler audit trail records.
● For each delivery, uncertified handlers must provide a complete, current organic certificate for the last certified operation, as well as import documentation as relevant.
● All certified and uncertified suppliers must be approved by the certifier as part of the certified operation’s Organic System Plan (OSP).

Traceability will be verified as a part of the certified operation’s audit and review. If organic product cannot be traced back to the last certified operation, the certified organic operation making purchases will not be allowed to source organic products from the uncertified handler.