



MOFGA CERTIFICATION SERVICES, LLC.

**Application for Compost Approval
under the USDA- National Organic Program**

This application is for commercial compost producers who are seeking approval of compost for use on certified organic farms.

MOFGA Certification Services reviews compost facilities and their products for compliance with the USDA's National Organic Program specifications regarding compost (NOP §205.203, NOP §205.602, NOP 5021).

Our review and approval process is not a product endorsement, and MCS makes no evaluations or claims concerning how these crop inputs perform for farmers.

A. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

1. Name of person responsible for application (this should be the individual in charge of compost production)

2. Name of facility owner, if different from above

3. Phone number _____

4. Facility Mailing Address

5. Email address _____

6. Facility Physical Address

Driving Directions to Facility:

B. COMPOST PRODUCTION INFORMATION

***Please note that if you make different types of compost and seek approval for more than one type, you must provide ingredient information requested below for each compost blend.*

1. INGREDIENTS

a. List all feedstocks and additives below and note if you add it to the pile regularly or only occasionally. *If you are seeking approval for more than one compost product, please submit the name of each product along with the information requested in the table below.*

Feedstock	Source	Percent of Pile (by weight or volume?)	Regular or Occasional

b. List any other inputs added to the compost pile, and how often these materials are added.

c. Describe sources of potential contaminants in feedstocks (example: municipal grass clippings, biodegradable plastics, etc.)

2. COMPOST PRODUCTION

Attach additional documents if needed.

a. Describe the composting site. Please provide a map.

b. Describe the composting method (e.g., static pile, windrow, etc):

c. List equipment used in compost production and handling and describe its use in the compost process.

d. If equipment is not used exclusively for compost production, please describe the other uses of equipment used for compost production.

e. Describe the frequency of turning of compost materials.

- f. Describe the length of the curing phase.

- g. Describe any procedures for screening or foreign material removal.

3. TEMPERATURE and MONITORING

Attach a sample log that includes temperature monitoring for at least the first 2 weeks of compost activity that demonstrates the mesophilic and thermophilic stages. Records should note batch numbers and indicate dates of initial building of the pile and all turnings.

4. ANALYSES

- a. Attach a copy of recent analyses that include at least the following:
 - * Conductivity * C:N * pH * Phosphate * NO3 * potash * NH4

- b. Attach other analyses, if available:
 - Solvita test for maturity
 - biological pathogen indicators such as E. coli
 - heavy metals
 - pesticide residue or other toxic contaminants

***Please note that MCS may request the above tests to verify compliance with NOP §205.203, NOP §205.602, NOP 5021*

5. CONTAMINATION AND COMMINGLING

- a. Does your operation include activities other than compost production? If so, please explain.

- b. Does your operation handle materials that are prohibited in organic production or produce composts that are not intended for use on organic farms? If yes, please describe these products.

- c. If you answered yes to item b above, describe how you prevent contamination of approved compost.

C. MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF COMPOST PRODUCT(S)

1. PRODUCT OFFERINGS

- a. Please provide a list of all the compost products you make and market. Circle the ones that are intended for approval by MOFGA Certification Services.

- b. Please list the volume of each product you produce annually.

2. MARKETING

a. Please describe how you sell your products. For example, do you sell/ distribute bagged products for resale at gardening centers, catalogs or other retail sales? Do you make bulk deliveries to individual farms or producers?

b. Please attach copies of marketing materials for your compost, including product labels. Additionally, note any changes you intend to make on the label following approval by MOFGA Certification Services. If the changes are made after approval is granted, you must submit the label proofs to us prior to printing.

Please Note:

- Composts or soil mixes must not be labeled or advertised as Certified Organic. Compost may be labeled as “Approved for use on organic farms”, or similar.
- Approved compost products may display the MCS Approved Compost logo only. The MCS Certified Organic logo must not be used to market compost products.
- The MOFGA Certification Services Approved Compost logo must not be altered from its original form.

c. Do you give MOFGA Certification Services permission to list your approved compost products in our newsletter or other publications?

3. LICENSING

a. Please include a copy of all applicable state licenses for your operation.

b. If your products are approved or certified to other standards, please identify those other approvals or certifications and attach supporting documentation.

D. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. FEES

The application fee for Compost Review is \$300 and should be included with the application. This fee covers roughly a two year period.

***Additional charges for site visits will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Additional fee considerations include, but are not limited to: inspector travel costs, multiple site visits and/or complexity of the facility. An estimate of additional fees is available upon request.*

2. INSPECTION

An on-site inspection of facilities, processes, and records must be conducted before compost approval can be granted.

3. DURATION AND RENEWALS

The duration of approval for compost production will be **two years**. Renewals of compost approval

must to be submitted by the compost producer to MOFGA Certification Services at the end of the two year period. All products for which approval for certified organic production is sought must be included in the application. Compost facilities with products that have been approved for use in certified organic production will receive a letter of approval that **must** be available to the public upon request. Any changes to the compost production or feedstocks **must** be submitted and approved by MOFGA Certification Services before the product can be marketed as approved for organic farms.

4. LABELING

Composts or soil mixes approved through MCS's compost review program are approved for use in organic agriculture. Composts or soil mixes **must not** be labeled or advertised as Certified Organic, and the MCS Certified Organic logo **must not** be used to market the product. Use of the MCS Approved Compost logo is only permitted once approval has been granted.

E. COMPOST REGISTRATION AGREEMENT

I (Print Name) _____, an authorized representative of the applicant for compost review, declare that all the information provided in this application is true and correct and not misrepresented in any way. I acknowledge that I am responsible for compliance with all applicable laws related to compost production and the obligation to notify MOFGA Certification Services of any changes to the information provided in this application, to keep and provide access to records, and to provide access to facilities for inspections, sampling and audits. I acknowledge that the approval of compost or compost-based materials by MOFGA Certification Services does not imply an endorsement of the products approved.

Signature _____

Title _____

Date _____

Send Application Forms and Fee To:

MOFGA Certification Services
Compost Review Program
PO Box 170, Unity, Maine 04988
-or-
certification@mofga.org