

ECOGLOBE LLC	General Information on JAS Organic Certification Program	Code:	JAS-INF-ORG-001-10012021-20.2
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## Dear Client,

Thank you for considering ECOGLOBE as your future JAS certifying agency.

The following text is meant to inform you about the rules and regulations of the Japanese JAS Organic Program (JAS).

This introduction covers the following topics:

- ❖ General Requirements of JAS Organic program and JAS certification
- ❖ JAS References
- ❖ JAS standard and certification specific requirements
- ❖ Accepting Certification Decisions by other JAS-accredited Certifying Agents
- ❖ Whom to address at ECOGLOBE

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely

Filip Ashikyan  
General Director  
ECOGLOBE LLC

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## General Requirements of JAS Organic program and JAS certification

ECOGLOBE LLC is accredited by the competent Japanese authority MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) and is Registered Overseas Certification Body for Organic JAS (ROCB).

Organic production requirements for Japanese market are part of the general Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS). They are regulated by the number of norms and regulations listed below:

- ❖ For Agricultural products: Notification 1605; Technical Criteria 1830.
- ❖ For Processed Food: Notification 1606; Technical Criteria 1831.
- ❖ For Feed: Notification 1607; Technical Criteria 1830.
- ❖ For Re-packers: Technical Criteria 1833.

All listed documents can be found published online in Japanese and English on web site of MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), the authority in charge for Organic JAS program.

Please visit <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/jas/specific/organic.html>

## JAS standard and certification specific requirements

General steps for organic certification for different schemes are mainly similar.

However, below some specific steps for JAS:

- ❖ Submission of **JAS application**.
- ❖ Signing **JAS Agreement** in addition to certification contract.
- ❖ Attending **JAS training (seminar) (online or onsite)** by **Production Process Manager** and **Grading Manager**.
- ❖ **Grading System and Grading Manager**. JAS requires a formally established "**Grading System**", which is a process identical to internal auditing. The aim of Grading System is to ensure compliance with the JAS requirements throughout the operation (production) system. It is expected that operator has key role players for JAS, a **Production Process Manager** ensuring organic production process and a **Grading Manager** ensuring internal auditing system of compliance with JAS. The internal controls conducted by **Grading Manager** refer to each and every production lot prior to authorizing application of JAS label and JAS mark. Such grading audits conducted before lot is exported to Japan or sold to another buyer/company using JAS mark. The **Grading checklists** are filled in by Grading Manager.
- ❖ Operator (farm, farmer groups and processors) submit **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for grading** in addition to the Organic System Plan. ECOGLOBE has designed some examples for such SOPs, which can be further used by Clients of ECOGLOBE.
- ❖ **Even in case the operation should hold a valid EU or NOP certificate, an onsite JAS inspection must take place, to verify implementation of the grading system.**
- ❖ Once all JAS requirements, including grading, are fulfilled by applicant, ECOGLOBE will issue a **JAS certificate**, as well as "**JAS mark**" (synonym to "JAS logo" and "JAS seal) with **ECOGLOBE** title.
- ❖ All products sold as "**JAS organic**", must carry the "**JAS mark**".
- ❖ Under the JAS mark (logo) on the certificate the number assigned by ECOGLOBE should be placed, as well.
- ❖ At the time of issuing JAS certificate, clients receive from ECOGLOBE the electronic version of the **ECOGLOBE JAS logo**.
- ❖ On packaged consumer products JAS mark must be applied on each package. Alternatively, JAS mark tag must be attached.
- ❖ On bulk containers JAS mark must be placed on the invoice and/or bill of lading. Alternatively, page bearing the JAS mark can be attached when invoice and bill of lading cannot be altered.
- ❖ The JAS mark **cannot not be altered**, except the color of mark by choice of operator. JAS mark can be

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- placed in any part of the label. Use of JAS mark in advertisements is allowed.
- ❖ ECOGLOBE approves all labels with use of JAS mark.
  - ❖ **Product label.** Beside the “JAS ECOGLOBE mark”, the label must include the information on product, the organic status, lot number, quantity (-ies)/volume, company or farm name, country of origin.
  - ❖ **Transaction certificates.** ECOGLOBE will require to obtain transaction certificate for each shipment to Japan or to any other market with JAS mark applied on label and in trading documents.
  - ❖ **Validity of JAS certification.** JAS certificates do not expiry, but they must be updated annually.
  - ❖ **Annual reporting.** JAS certified operators should inform ECOGLOBE about the quantities of "graded" JAS products. Such reports cover economic year starting April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> of next year. Reports with summarized information for the previous year must be submitted to the ECOGLOBE by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - ❖ **If the reports with the required information are not submitted in time, the recertification is not possible.**
  - ❖ **List of JAS documents that can be obtained from ECOGLOBE:** JAS application; JAS training certificate; JAS Grading SOP (examples for operator’s use); JAS annual reporting format; JAS Grading checklists (to record each sold lot with JAS mark).
  - ❖ **Specific JAS production standard requirements.**
    - ⇒ JAS prohibits use of natural fertilizers which have been chemically transformed, e.g. alkaline extracts of humic acids from **leonardite**, or lignosulfonates used as chelating agent for liquid fertilizers
    - ⇒ The List of allowed substances is provided in Notification 1605.
    - ⇒ The first year of conversion of a farm needs not be monitored by a certifier. No certificate may be issued for the first year in conversion.
    - ⇒ Fallow or virgin land can be certified organic only after it has been cultivated organically during at least one year.
  - ❖ In countries other than those that have equivalence agreements with Japan, all operators involved in supply chain must be JAS certified.
    - ⇒ However, the Grading procedures (internal control over supply chain) for farmers and farmer groups can be taken over by processing or export companies.
    - ⇒ JAS certification is not mandatory for the exporters that don’t process, package or label the JAS organic products.
  - ❖ Countries having equivalence agreement with Japan are Argentine, Australia, Canada, EU (all member countries), New Zealand, Switzerland and USA.
    - ⇒ Operators in these countries may rely on the grading procedures conducted by the importer in Japan holding JAS certificate. In this case there is no need for operators from these countries to be certified for JAS. It is enough to be certified organic according to these country requirements.
    - ⇒ Another opportunity is that final processor in one of these countries is certified for JAS and their suppliers are certified organic according to these country requirements.
    - ⇒ The re-packers of organic non processed agricultural products need to be certified.
    - ⇒ Livestock origin products (milk, egg, meat) need to be JAS certified being originated in these countries.
    - ⇒ Even in case the operation holds a valid EU or NOP certificate, an onsite JAS inspection must take place, to verify implementation of the grading system.

### Accepting Certification Decisions of Other JAS certifying Agents

ECOGLOBE will to accept certification decisions by other JAS accredited certifiers.

### Whom to address at ECOGLOBE

ECOGLOBE LLC Office for general questions

Ms. Eliza Petrosyan, Assistant JAS Organic Program Manager

80 Aram Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

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ECOGLOBE LLC Office for technical questions  
JAS Organic Program Manager in ECOGLOBE:  
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