

THE 5 MOST COMMON ERRORS ON ORGANIC LABELS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Certified organic by... (COB) statement

- The required “Certified organic by (name of certifier)” (COB) statement is missing
- The required “Certified organic by (name of certifier)” (COB) statement is placed incorrectly
The COB statement must be placed directly BELOW the handler information with nothing between:

Example: Distributed by 123 Food Inc.
 101 Main St.
 Someville, NY 12345
 www.123food.com
 Certified organic by A Bee Organic

Ingredient List

- Organic ingredients are not identified as “organic” in the ingredient list.
- Non-organic ingredients are identified as “organic” in the ingredient list.

USDA Seal

The USDA Seal is not the correct color

The USDA Seal is displayed on a “Made with organic...” package. Not allowed!

USDA Seal and certifier logo both displayed with certifier logo larger. The USDA Seal must be at least as prominent as the certifier logo.

“Look-alike” seals displayed. Not allowed!

Percentage statements

Percentage statement is not correct type size (1/2 of the largest type on the panel)

Percentage statement is highlighted. Not allowed!

Percentage statement is different color. Not allowed!

FDA label requirements not followed

FDA label requirements are required on organic labels.

How to avoid errors:

Hire a designer familiar with the organic label regulations.

Train staff designer to organic label regulations.

Hire a consultant to design and/or review labels.

Submit all label proofs to the certifier for review prior to printing.

If you are exporting, be aware of the label regulations for the country to which you are exporting. Inform the designer and the certifier.

If ingredients, including suppliers, change, submit ingredient information to the certifier for review. Label changes may be needed.

What documentation is needed to review and approve labels?

- A label proof for each label, including different sizes and flavors. Proof must include both front and back of label.
- A product formula (profile, recipe) that list all ingredients in the product- organic, non-organic, non-agricultural, and processing aids, the weight of each ingredient, and the total weight of the formula.
- A current organic certificate for each organic ingredient.
- Organic compliance statements for non-organic agricultural ingredients. (Non-GMO, no ionizing irradiation, no sewage sludge).
- Commercial availability statements for non-organic agricultural ingredients.
- Organic compliance statements for non-agricultural ingredients listed with annotations on the National List.
- If flavors are not organic, a Natural Flavor Affidavit must be completed for each flavor by the flavor manufacturer.

If you are doing a Private Label we need additional forms completed.

- *ABO PLA-CoPacker* - The Private Label Agreement-A Bee Organic Certified Handler to be completed and signed by A Bee Organic Certified Operation
- *ABO PLA-Customer BrandNames* - The Private Label Name & Seal Use Agreement completed and signed by the Brand Name Representative.