



CCOF

Organic Certification Education & Outreach Political Advocacy Promotion

CCOF Inspections During Pandemic

Inspections should include an on-site component whenever possible. To safely accommodate pandemic-related circumstances, we have implemented alternative methods to enable inspections to occur. Many inspections will continue to occur fully on-site, in the standard manner. Many inspections will be *hybrid*, a combination of virtual and on-site. In some limited cases, CCOF may authorize *fully virtual* inspections. All clients must be fully cooperative with the following safety precautions during the onsite portion of inspections:

- All participants must be healthy with no respiratory symptoms in the past 10 days.
- Always observe social distancing requirements (at least 6 feet)
- Wear 95-grade masks at all times
- Minimize the number of inspection participants
- For indoor operations, schedule at a time when fewer workers are present, if possible.
- Temporary regional public health requirements must be followed and communicated to the inspector in advance

Inspectors will work with you to agree on a plan for suitable safety measures for the on-site inspection. If upon arrival clients are unable or unwilling to provide a safe inspection environment, inspectors may end the inspection to protect their safety. Incomplete inspections will result in applicable fees, as well as any follow up inspections required to verify compliance.

For fully virtual and hybrid inspections, the inspector and you will develop an inspection plan that is suitable for your operation and communication capabilities. This will depend on what digital resources are available, and best suited to the scope and structure of your records and documents. Virtual sessions will optimally include live webcams and screen sharing, in addition to telephone and email. We all need to be flexible to make the best of whatever virtual tools are available. Whenever CCOF is unable to verify essential compliance points during any inspection, a follow up inspection may be required.

Hybrid Inspections may require multiple separate sessions, such as: Pre-inspection >> Main Meeting >> On-site >> Final Meeting.

We thank you for your cooperation and flexibility as we work together during these challenging times to continue producing organic food and upholding high standards of integrity in our organic certification.

Inspectionoperations@ccof.org

