



Is SP-1™ OMRI Certified?

The **Short** answer...

As of June, 2019, SP-1™ **is not OMRI** listed, but it **is CDFA** approved and many ACA's (Accredited Certifying Agents) have approved SP-1™ as organic.



The **Long** answer... While the short answer is “no”, the question calls for a complete understanding of the organic certification process and the ACA's who have the final say in providing the “organic” stamp.



OMRI. The **Organic Materials Review Institute**, or OMRI, is a third-party nonprofit organization that provides an independent review of products intended for use in certified organic products. To obtain OMRI certification, the applicant must apply with the institute for its products. This involves completing an extensive information profile for the product, including all ingredients and manufacturing processes.

The applicant must provide proof of all these ingredients and processes. This includes getting all ingredient suppliers to provide documentation of their manufacturing processes. In-person inspections are then conducted by OMRI staff twice per year and companies must renew the certification on an annual basis.

*It's difficult to talk about organic production without mentioning California, as they are a major contributor in terms of production and sales for the entire agricultural organic market. **OMRI certification is not accepted in California.** As the clear leader in the organic industry, California publishes their own organic certification program, known as the **Organic Input Material**, or OIM.*



CDFA: The **(California Dept. of Food and Agriculture)** will not accept third-party organic certifications, and created their own **OIM** certification which is a necessity for all Californian growers.

The OIM determines which products sold in California meet the standards of the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). To obtain OIM certification, an applicant must list all ingredients used in their company's proprietary formulations, provide detailed information on the purpose of each ingredient, and why it is used, including proprietary data and proof of efficacy. The company must then list the manufacturers of all ingredients.

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Each of the company's manufacturing partners then submit details about their manufacturing process for each ingredient directly to the state of California, which protects their trade secrets. The company then submits a detailed report on each step of its manufacturing process from start to finish, detailing how every ingredient enters its possession, where it is stored and how it is used in the company's unique formulations.

Once a company's product receives OIM certification, a host of regulatory compliance requirements follows the product for both the life of the manufacturing process and the product's shelf life.

ACAs (Accredited Certifying Agents) have the final say.



All judgments on whether a product can be certified organic or approved for use on an organic farm is governed by the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). **The USDA positions ACAs as the final authority** for determining if a crop can be certified as organic. An ACA can independently approve a material for use on an organic farm – they don't need OMRI or CDFA to do that.

So, back to our original question.

“Is SP-1™ OMRI certified”?

We now understand that a better question may be.

“Does SP-1™ need to be OMRI certified ”?

Acknowledged, **ACAs** look to certifying organizations to help them determine their organic endorsement. But as the organic market expands, most would agree that OMRI certification does not have the universal power it once had.

As an applicant, you must submit labels of products for approval to your certifier, regardless of OMRI or CDFA listings, or even if the same certifier approved it for another grower. It is strictly a farm-by-farm approval process, and blanket approval cannot be assumed.

If you have questions, or need assistance with your organic application process, please call:
