



1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 2646-South, STOP 0268  
Washington, DC 20250-0201

June 23, 2011

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD (NOSB)**

**FROM:** Miles McEvoy  
Deputy Administrator  
National Organic Program (NOP)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Miles McEvoy". The signature is written over the text of the "FROM:" field.

**SUBJECT: Qualifications of Inspectors**

The NOP regulations require that certifiers ensure that employees and contractors have sufficient expertise in organic production and handling techniques to successfully perform their duties (7 CFR 205.501(a)(5)). To help clarify what qualifies as “sufficient expertise” for organic inspectors, the NOP requests that the NOSB Certification, Accreditation, and Compliance Committee (CACC) develop a committee proposal outlining the criteria that inspectors should be required to meet prior to conducting inspections of organic production and handling operations. The criteria should describe the baseline standards for education and experience needed for various types of inspections, including crops, wild crops, dairy, other livestock, grower groups, food processing and other handling operations. Requirements for continuing education should also be considered.

The NOP suggests that the CACC consult with the International Organic Inspectors Association ([www.ioia.org](http://www.ioia.org)) for their input on the subject, given their long experience in training organic inspectors. The NOP also recommends that the CACC refer to the following reference in development of their proposal: IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual, 2000, Riddle J. and J. Ford.

The NOP appreciates the assistance of the CACC in working on this matter.