



INITIAL CERTIFICATION TIMELINE

First-time applicants can submit their initial application at any time throughout the year. The entire process of initial organic certification takes about 3 to 6 months once a completed application is submitted to a certifier. This timeline is heavily influenced by how complex your product profiles and supplier lists are, and whether all necessary documentation for ingredients and suppliers are submitted with the application. In general, more complete applications will be processed faster than ones that require more back and forth between certifier and applicant.

Initial Certification Timeline	
Event	Timeline
First-time application for certification	3 to 6 months from application to decision, can vary significantly
Expedited Application	1 to 6 weeks from application to decision, varies widely by certifier
Response to your certifier's requests for additional information	3 to 4 weeks to respond, can vary depending on type of information requested
Initial Inspection	Typically held within 1-3 months of submitting a completed application
Answer Follow-up Questions Post-Inspection	3 to 4 weeks to respond, can vary depending on type of information requested
Certification Decision Letter Issued	Typically about a month after all follow-up questions have been answered, varies greatly by certifier and application