



## DOES YOUR TRANSPORTER NEED TO BE CERTIFIED?

Whether a transporter is required to be certified organic is rooted in the risk of contamination or commingling while the product is in their possession. The USDA regulations require that transporters who have a higher risk for commingling or contamination must be certified, whereas those with low risk are sometimes exempt. It is important to know whether your transporter is required to be certified and the documentation that you must collect from them based on their status.

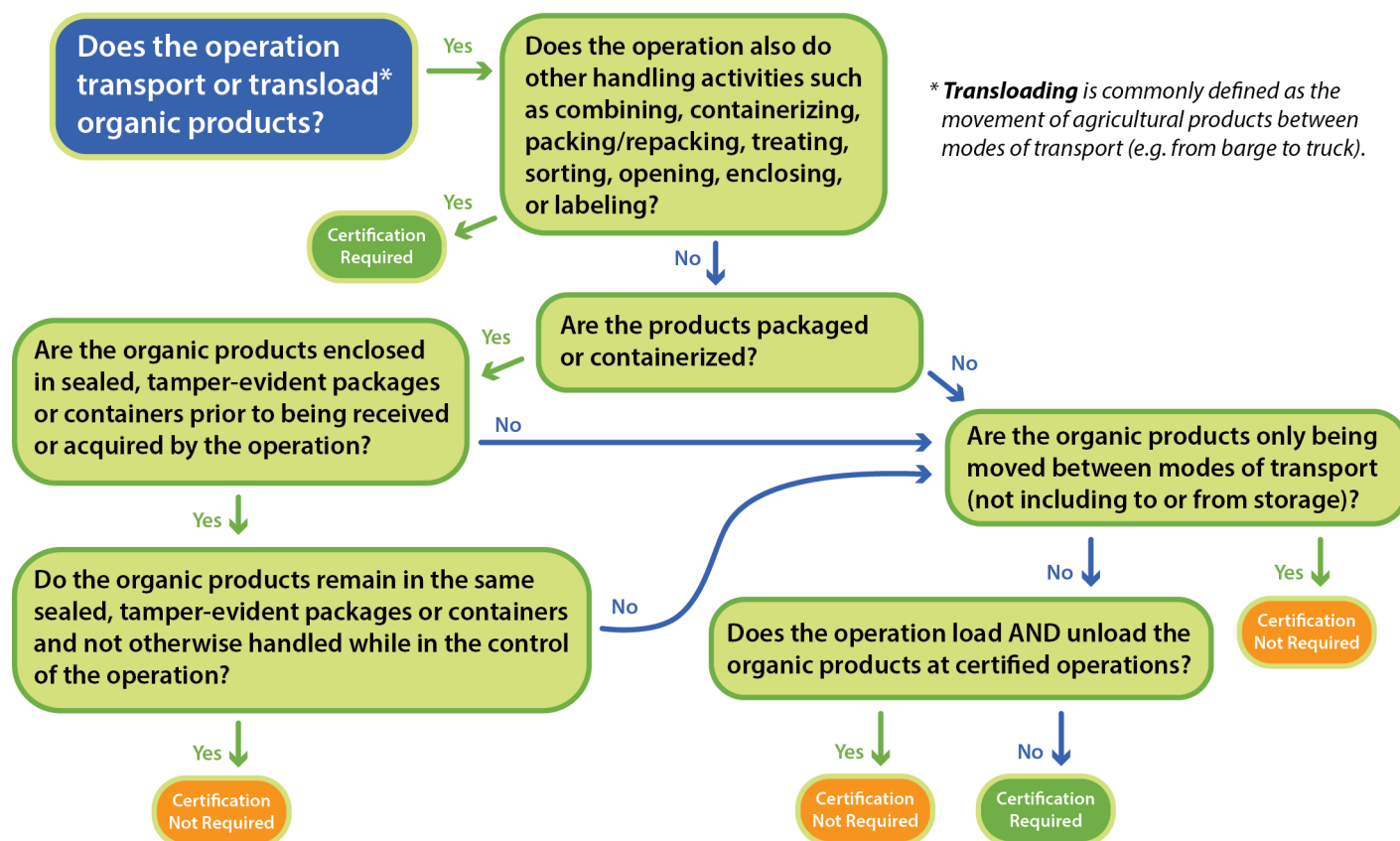
Transporters generally do **NOT** need to be certified if they:

- Simply transload between forms of transport, not including to and from storage;
- Only move sealed, tamper-evident packaged and containerized organic products; or
- Only load and unload bulk shipments at organic facilities, such as a delivery directly from a certified farm to a certified processing facility.

Transporters generally **DO** need to be certified if they:

- Perform any other handling activities like combining, containerizing, or repacking; or
- Load or unload bulk, anything other than products in sealed, tamper-evident packages or containers at uncertified facilities.

Operations that do not require certification must still follow the rules for handling organic products. They must still prevent the contamination and commingling of organic products, verify and document the status and quantities of the organic products, and keep all records necessary to document compliance with these requirements. As usual, contact your certifier if you are uncertain.



\* **Transloading** is commonly defined as the movement of agricultural products between modes of transport (e.g. from barge to truck).

### SOURCES CITED

USDA National Organic Program, [7 CFR §205.101](#).



United States Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
National Organic Program

