



# Template: Organic Certification Checklist for Ingredient Quality

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Based on Article: "The Role of Organic Certification in Ingredient Quality"

Website: <https://therenownedhound.com>

A practical checklist to ensure compliance and understanding of organic certification standards for ingredient quality.

## Checklist Items:

- 1. Verify Certification Status**  
Ensure that the product has USDA Organic certification from an accredited certifier, confirming compliance with the National Organic Program rules.  
Reference Section: What organic certification actually requires
- 2. Check Traceability**  
Confirm that there are traceable records from seed sourcing to final product, including input logs and harvest records.  
Reference Section: What organic certification actually requires
- 3. Review Input Approval Procedures**  
Ensure that all inputs used in the production process are either approved or non-synthetic materials that are allowed under organic rules.  
Reference Section: What organic certification actually requires
- 4. Conduct Regular Audits**  
Implement a system for regular audits and inspections to maintain compliance and verify the integrity of the organic process.  
Reference Section: What organic certification actually requires
- 5. Document Annual Certification Process**  
Keep thorough documentation of the annual organic certification process, including field maps and crop rotation records.  
Reference Section: What organic certification actually requires
- 6. Educate Stakeholders**  
Provide training and resources to stakeholders about the importance of organic certification and the responsibilities that come with it.  
Reference Section: What are pet parents really buying when they choose certified organic ingredients?
- 7. Evaluate Ingredient Claims**  
Analyze the ingredient claims on the packaging to ensure they accurately reflect the product's certification status and do not mislead consumers.

Reference Section: What organic certification does not guarantee

- 8. Understand Limitations of Certification**  
Be aware that organic certification does not guarantee a perfect diet or ingredient quality, and that it relies on the integrity of documentation and practices.  
Reference Section: What organic certification does not guarantee

- 9. Maintain a Clean Supply Chain**  
Ensure that all suppliers and partners adhere to organic standards to prevent contamination and maintain the integrity of the organic label.  
Reference Section: Where organic certification fits within a high-quality feeding philosophy