

Ardent Mills Strengthening Organic Enforcement Changes

Effective March 19, 2024

Strengthening Organic Enforcement or “[SOE](#)” is a regulation from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP). As the largest, comprehensive update to organic regulations since the creation of the NOP, the SOE final rule was designed to reduce fraud in the organic marketplace, strengthen oversight of organic producers, handlers, and certifiers and improve USDA’s enforcement mechanisms of organic regulations.

The NOP Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) final rule was published on January 19, 2023 and the mandatory compliance date is **March 19, 2024**.

Key Ardent Mills SOE changes include, but are not limited to:

1. Implementation of tamper-evident seals on outbound organic totes/super sacks.
2. Enhanced supply chain traceability, fraud prevention, and recordkeeping requirements.
3. Reduction of uncertified entities in the organic supply chain that will soon require organic certification (e.g. brokers, traders, warehouses, importers, exporters).
4. NOP electronic import certificates will be required for all imported organic product.
5. Nonretail/bulk containers (totes, railcars, etc.) will be traceable to audit trail documentation and records identifying product as "organic".

Please reach out to your Account Manager or AMRegulatoryRequest@ardentmills.com for further information or questions.