

NOC MEMBERSHIP & AFFILIATION CATEGORIES

FINAL 9-26-08

- 1) **MEMBERS:** NOC membership is open to organizations and businesses who agree to the following criteria and rights/responsibilities.
 - a. Criteria:
 - i. Must be an organization dedicated to the integrity of the organic standards and organic agricultural production, marketing, education, or promotion and must work directly with farmers, ranchers or organic consumers;
 - ii. Must support positions taken by NOC and its Washington Representative on behalf of NOC, or be willing to “stand aside” when the member organization cannot support a NOC position;
 - iii. Must not work against the agreed-upon policy positions of NOC;
 - iv. New members are sponsored by a member and accepted through a consensus process by current membership; and
 - v. Membership is capped at 20 organizations to facilitate consensus and to ensure rapid approval of policy positions. The limit on number of member organizations can be adjusted based on an evaluation of work-load, budget and revenue needs, and opportunities for new members that are strategically important.
 - b. Rights/Responsibilities
 - i. Must pay dues;
 - ii. Must adhere to confidentiality with regards to NOC discussions except when the members are released from confidentiality;
 - iii. May claim representation by NOC Washington Representative;
 - iv. Voting member of NOC on priorities, membership and other coalition business as needed;
 - v. Must make decisions regarding issue positions in a timely manner when asked to do so;
 - vi. Must be willing to activate their constituencies for priority issues; and
 - vii. Must help move forward at least one issue priority
- 2) **NOC AFFILIATES:** This affiliation category is for organizations who wish to coordinate policy and outreach work with NOC but are not full members. The goal of the affiliation category is to provide a way for organizations and business that are not full NOC members to work together to support common positions on organic legislative and policy issues and to identify further opportunities for coordination between NOC and other organizations.
 - a. Criteria
 - i. Must be an organization, or business dedicated to the integrity of the organic standards and organic agricultural production, marketing, or

promotion and must work directly with farmers, ranchers or organic consumers;

- ii. Must be sponsored by a member, and approved by a 3/4 majority of NOC members;
- iii. Must make a financial donation to NOC to support its operations not to exceed \$500;
- iv. Can take same policy positions on issues that differ from NOC;
- v. Not a voting member of NOC; and
- vi. Does not take part in NOC internal business.

b. Rights/Responsibilities

- i. Will work with NOC in a collaborative relationship. This working relationship may pertain to all of the work of NOC, or just a subset of the NOC issues or positions;
- ii. Are not represented by NOC Washington Representative and may not suggest or present the organization or cooperative business as represented by NOC's Washington representative. On specific issues where there is complete agreement with a NOC position, an organization may choose to be listed along with NOC member groups in documents, sign-on letters, or in conversations held by our Washington Representative; and
- iii. May be identified as a NOC affiliate on websites and other materials, but may not identify itself as a member of NOC or engage in any fundraising activities based upon NOC affiliation.

3) **NOC NETWORK:** This affiliation category is for organizations that wish to coordinate with NOC but are not members or affiliates. The goal of the Network is to provide a way to share and spread information on organic issues, identify opportunities for coordination between NOC and other groups, and improve outreach to members of the public on organic policy issues.

a. Criteria

- i. Must be an individual, organization, or business dedicated to the integrity of the organic standards and organic agricultural production, marketing, or promotion and must work directly with farmers, ranchers or organic consumers;
- ii. Must be invited and/or verified by at least two members
- iii. May not always be able to take the same policy position as NOC members;
- iv. Not a voting member of NOC; and
- v. Does not take part in NOC internal business.

b. Rights/Responsibilities

- i. May work with NOC in a collaborative relationship on issues or positions. Are not represented by our Washington Representative and may not suggest or present the organization or business as represented by NOC's Washington Representative;

- ii. Unless stated otherwise, may distribute materials received as part of NOC network without restriction; and.
 - iii. A NOC Network organization cannot represent itself as a NOC member or affiliate on websites or other material.
- 4) **ADVISORS:** This category is open to individuals and organizations for the purpose of advising NOC on an individual issue, or in general from a particular stakeholder group such as industry, certifiers, or farmers.
 - a. Criteria
 - i. Individuals and organizations must be dedicated to the integrity of the organic standards and organic agricultural production, marketing, or promotion.
 - ii. Must be accepted through consensus process by current membership.
 - iii. Not a voting member of NOC
 - iv. Do not take part in NOC internal business unless specifically invited.
 - b. Rights/Responsibilities
 - i. NOC Advisory Committee participants may not represent themselves as ‘members’ or ‘affiliates’ of NOC.
 - ii. NOC Advisory Committee participants will not have their name used as ‘members’ or ‘affiliates’ of NOC, or in any other way unless specific permission is granted by the participant.
 - iii. Individuals may be retained to serve as an expert by NOC on a particular issue. Any such individual or advisory committee affiliate must adhere to confidentiality with regards to NOC discussions except when the individual is released from confidentiality.