

OPEN CALL

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NASAA Standards/Technical Committee (NSTC)

NASAA Organic has an open call to interested individuals to be part of its NASAA Standards/Technical Committee (NSTC).

The Standards/Technical Committee is responsible for:

- Recommending Standards policy and changes to the NASAA Organic Board
- Advising NCO on technical matters, including interpretation of the Standards where required
- Revising the NASAA Organic Standards (NOS) on a bi-annual basis referencing such changes to the National Standard (NS) and the IFOAM Basic Standards, or drafting additional standards to NOS should that be required
- Drafting additional sections for the NOS regarding new commodities on an, as needs basis;
- Informing operators, members and general public of dates for submissions, in line with committee meeting dates for consideration
- Review submissions for changes/alterations to the NOS or other standards that NASAA Organic may develop
- Prepare as needed, submissions to alter the National Standard, AS 6000 and the IFOAM Basic Standard.

Expressions of interest are sought from suitably qualified individuals to be appointed to the committee.

Selection criteria

Essential

Applicants interested in appointment to the NSTC must demonstrate experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Knowledge and expertise in Standards development and review; and statutory and policy arrangements
- Animal science, animal welfare science or veterinary medicine
- Legislation and public policy relevant to the certified organic/bio-dynamic industry
- The management of an agribusiness under certified organic management, or in an organic supply chain
- Community education and awareness relevant to certified organic/bio-dynamic principles.

General

Personal attributes including:

- Leadership qualities and experience suitable for an advisory role
- Demonstrated ability for strategic thinking and planning, including decision-making based on relevant evidence, science or research
- Knowledge of statutory and policy arrangements
- Demonstrated understanding of issues in primary industries, the community, environment or conservation
- Ability and willingness to commit adequate time to NASAA Organic business activities
- Understanding of government processes and public policy development.

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NASAA Organic

As Australia's original organic industry association, we are proud to provide market and industry development, advocacy, education, policy and advice services. This includes the NASAA Organic and Biodynamic Standard and Australia's most internationally recognised Australian organic certification label, NASAA Certified Organic.

Our subsidiary certification company, NCO (NASAA Certified Organic), provides superior market access through its wide international distribution and global recognition. NCO currently has a total of 1200 operators, with over 230 of these being international businesses.

Submissions

Submissions should be ***no more than 3 pages***, stating your interest in being part of the NSTC and addressing the Selection Criteria. In addition, you may also wish to submit a CV of ***no more than two pages***.

Applications must be submitted by email to Alex.Mitchell@nasaa.com.au by 5:00 pm AEST Friday 29 October 2021.

Contact information

Alex Mitchell
General Manager, NASAA Organic
Email: Alex.Mitchell@nasaa.com.au
Phone: 0451 248 361

NASAA Standards/Technical Committee

Terms of Reference

1. FUNCTION.

The Standards/Technical Committee is responsible for:

- Recommending Standards policy and changes to the NASAA Organic Board;
- Advising NCO on technical matters including interpretation of the Standards where required;
- Revising the NASAA Organic Standards (NOS) on a bi-annual basis referencing such changes to the National Standard (NS) and the IFOAM Basic Standards, or drafting additional standards to NOS should that be required;
- Drafting additional sections for the NOS regarding new commodities on an, as needs basis;
- Informing operators, members and general public of dates for submissions, inline with committee meeting dates for consideration
- Review submissions for changes/alterations to the NOS or other standards that NASAA may develop;
- Prepare as needed, submissions to alter the National Standard, AS 6000 and the IFOAM Basic Standard.

2. BRIEF AND LIMITATION.

- The Standards/Technical Committee shall make recommendations to the NASAA Board in relation to revision and the creation of new Standards.
- Where NCO refers any ingredient or process (which is not listed in the NOS or NS) to the Standards/Technical Committee for advice and recommendations, advice of the subcommittee will be ratified by the NASAA Board before it is implemented.
- NCO will report to the Standards/Technical Committee, on a quarterly basis, any exemptions or precedents granted to operators. The Standards/Technical Committee will review the exemptions or precedents to consider if a Standards change is required and make recommendations to the NASAA Board.

3. COMPOSITION.

- The NASAA Standards/Technical Committee shall comprise of members appointed by the NASAA Organic Board.
- The appointment of delegated members to the Standards/Technical Committee shall be according to expertise and skills basis as required from time to time.
- Nominated members of the Standards/Technical Committee shall have at least 2 of the following areas of expertise or skill:
 - A diploma, certificate, degree or more in a scientific field of relevance;
 - Proven experience in agriculture, food processing or handling;
 - Involvement in issues of land use and management at a public or private level;
 - Knowledge and/or experience in auditing and quality assurance, consumer affairs, chemical safety, pests and diseases, weeds and pest plants, fertility and fertilisers, transport, packing and marketing;
 - Knowledge of organic standards and procedures in the certification industry.

NASAA Standards/Technical Committee

Terms of Reference

COMPOSITION Cont.

- The committee shall comprise of up to 5 members, plus 1 NCO representative member and a Secretary. The General Manager of NASAA Organic will be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- Additional related specific expertise members maybe appointed for a specific time if that expertise is not already represented on the Standards Committee.
Specific expertise will include:
 - Viticulture
 - Beekeeping
 - Aquaculture
 - Health and Beauty
 - Winemaking
 - Processing
 - And any other expertise as may be required from time to time.

Membership of the Standards/Technical Committee shall where possible include broad coverage of the areas of expertise listed above at any time.

- A quorum shall comprise of four members.
- The Committee shall be chaired by a Chairperson appointed by the NASAA Organic Board and co-ordinated by a Secretary.
- Where there is a conflict of interest, a member shall declare such interest and may make comment, but will withdraw from the decision.

4. APPOINTMENT TO THE STANDARDS/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

- Appointments to the Standards/Technical shall be made by the NASAA Organic Board for a period of 4 years with half the committee retiring each 2 years;
- Where specific technical expertise is required, suitably qualified members may be appointed to the Committee for a shorter time
- Tenure of appointment is subject to review by the NASAA Organic Board at the meeting following the 1st July each year on a rolling basis.

5. ROLE OF THE STANDARDS/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON.

The Chairperson shall be responsible to the NASAA Organic Board for the functioning of the Standards/Technical committee.

He/she shall:

- Draw up a plan of work and associated budget to be presented to the NASAA Organic Board by 1st July each year;
- Monitor the performance of Standards/Technical members in conjunction with the Standards Certification Officer
- Report to the NASAA Organic Board from time to time on Standards/Technical Committee matters.

NASAA Standards/Technical Committee

Terms of Reference

6. ROLE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STANDARDS/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

- The Secretary shall co-ordinate the meetings and agendas of the Committee in conjunction with the Chairperson;
- The Secretary shall convene teleconference/skype meetings of the Committee from time to time to progress matters whether urgent or ongoing;
- The Secretary shall minute meetings of the Committee and shall supply such minutes to the NASAA Organic Board for information
- Matters for ratification shall be supplied to the NASAA Organic Board as an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

7. MEETINGS OF THE STANDARDS/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

- Meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson and the Secretary on a needs basis to consider urgent matters and those which can be adequately progressed by teleconference.
- In addition, the Standards/Technical Committee shall convene formally as a Committee at least once a year.
- All such meetings shall be minuted.

8. PROVISION OF DOCUMENTATION FROM MEMBERS.

All members shall provide to NASAA Organic the following:

- A current CV
- A declaration of pecuniary interest, which shall be renewed annually, and
- A confidentiality agreement.

9. REMUNERATION.

- The Chairperson shall be paid an Honorarium of \$1,000.00 per annum
- Members attending Standards meetings shall be paid a sitting fee of \$250/day or pro rata depending on the length of the meeting (eg 2-3 hour meeting would mean a payment of \$125.00)
A six hour meeting will equate to one day.
- The payment structure recognises that members will be required to do background reading/research prior to meetings.