



Sanctions Catalog *for Licensees of Demeter Association*

I. Introduction

Demeter Association Inc. owns the certification marks of Demeter® and Biodynamic® and is accredited by the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International for inspecting and certifying farmers, handlers and traders to Demeter Biodynamic® Standards in the United States.

Demeter Association Inc. is responsible for oversight and administration of all aspects of Demeter including the certification process, review, and adherence to all Biodynamic Federation Demeter International requirements, and development and implementation of new certification policies and procedures as needed.

Compliance with the Demeter Biodynamic Standards is the basis for certification of the above types of activity. These standards meet the minimum requirements set by Biodynamic Federation Demeter International.

Demeter will have consistent actions handling issues that arise during the inspection and certification process. This sanction catalog details the systematic, objective, and consistent process in place to ensure that all licensees are treated equally. In addition, Demeter must have policies and procedures in place to resolve the situation when a licensee does not meet the Standard. Further details about the certification process as a whole can be found in the Policy and Procedures Manual. Demeter issues sanctions in writing via the Findings Report but may issue them at any time.

2. Appeals

An operator wishing to appeal a certification decision writes to the Demeter office. Specific items to be appealed must be listed and detailed. The Demeter staff will acknowledge receipt of appeal.

A copy of the appeal is forwarded to the inspector who wrote the original report, if applicable. S/he is asked to make written comments to further clarify each appeal item. If the incident is not the result of the inspection process, then the concern is taken to the Director of Certification for review. The Director of Certification may render a decision on the appeal if impartiality can be maintained or may convene an appeal committee of individuals that match the nature of the appeal that is chaired by the Vice President of the Demeter Board.

The operator is informed whether the appeal has been accepted by the Director of Certification. If, for whatever reason, the Director of Certification is not able to render a final decision, the matter will be rendered by the appeal committee.

3. Sanction categories

One or more of the sanctions may be issued:

- Recommendation
- Observation
- Minor non-conformity
- Major non-conformity
- Decertification

1. Biodynamic Standard updates have not yet been implemented

The Demeter Standard is normally revisited and revised annually at a minimum and more often as necessary. A standards revision or collection of standards revisions will be presented to certified entities with a noted date of implementation. A period of one year will be granted for adjustment to the revisions by certified entities. The applicant needs to demonstrate, where applicable, a plan for adjustment has been implemented and must be fully in place by the date one year from the implementation date of the Standard. Demeter Policies & Procedures Manual (pg 14)

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity
4 th offense	Decertification

2. Non-Responsive to Findings Report

A Certification Specialist sends the operator a Findings Report, which includes details of all outstanding actions required of the operator in order to bring their operation into compliance with the standards. The operator or new applicant is required to acknowledge the Certification Specialist's decision and to sign off on acceptance of any requirements. Based on a review of the information, the applicant may submit additional written explanations and comments, where appropriate. Demeter Policies & Procedures Manual (pg 17)

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity - moved to inspection, this will cost the operator more for onsite time
4 th offense	Decertification

3. Inputs in use without prior approval

Input(s) in use that complies with the Biodynamic Farm Standard but not on an operation's approved materials list.

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense and beyond	Minor non-conformity

Input(s) in use which are allowed through the National Organic Program, but do not comply with the Biodynamic Farm Standard and on an operation's approved materials list.

Not all materials approved by OMRI, WSDA, etc. comply with the Biodynamic Farm Standard. Use of off-list products could result in decertification. Biodynamic Farm Standard I.B.6

1 st offense	Minor non-conformity – <i>Cease Use</i> issued
2 nd offense, same input	Major non-conformity
2 nd offense, different input	Minor non-conformity – <i>Cease Use</i> issued
3 rd offense and beyond	Major non-conformity that may result in loss of certification for the coming year

Input(s) in use without documented need on file

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity

Prohibited input in use – Material not allowed through the National Organic Program

Any offense	Major non-conformity – revocation and decertification of effected fields and products. 3-year transition will need to occur to bring land back into certification
2 nd + offense	Decertification of entire operation may occur

4. Biodynamic Preparation use is inadequate

The compost preparations need to be applied to acreage to be harvested either via applications of Biodynamic compost or via an approved field spray or compound preparation. At a minimum, either Biodynamic compost or an approved field spray needs to be applied at least once every 3 years. Preparations 500 and 501 need to be applied at least annually to all harvested crops . Biodynamic Farm Standard I.C.4

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity
4 th offense	Decertification may occur

5. Inadequate or improper record-keeping

Adequate records must be kept concerning all aspects of farm operations for five years and records must be readily auditable. All records must be made available to Demeter upon request. Biodynamic Farm Standard VII.J

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity
4 th offense	Decertification may occur

6. Placing products on the market without product approval by Demeter

All labels using Demeter Association certification marks must be approved prior to use. Demeter Labeling Standard

Product is in line with the Standard

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity
4 th offense	Decertification may occur

Product is not in line with the Standard

1 st offense	Decertification of the product, recall up to the level of wholesale
2 nd offense	Same as first offense + decertification of entire operation may occur

7. Product labels have not been approved by Demeter prior to printing

All labels using Demeter Association certification marks must be approved prior to use. Demeter Labeling Standard

Labels meet the labeling standards

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense and beyond	Minor non-conformity

Labels do not meet the labeling standards

1 st offense	Minor or Major non-conformity depending on severity and recall of product may occur
2 nd offense	Major non-conformity and recall of product may occur
3 rd offense	Decertification of product and recall of product may occur
4 th offense	Decertification of entire operation may occur

8. Products at inspection or approved recipes/IPP and working recipe/IPP are not compatible

Product labels and recipes must be approved by Demeter. If changes are made to the ingredients, then the label and the Individual Product Profile (IPP) need to be re-submitted for approval. Changing ingredients without approval is prohibited. Biodynamic Farm Standard VI.B

Product is in line with the Standard

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity
4 th offense	Decertification of product may occur

Product is not in line with Standard

1 st offense	Minor or Major non-conformity depending on severity, product recall may occur
2 nd offense	Major non-conformity, product recall may occur
3 rd offense	Decertification of entire operation may occur

9. Social Responsibility

As part of the annual inspection and certification process all licensees shall make a self-declaration in their Biodynamic System Plan or separately confirm that these guidelines have been met. Biodynamic Farm Standard: Introduction, page 6-7

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity
4 th offense	Decertification of entire operation may occur

10. Incomplete documentation on file

Any anticipated changes in agricultural management or any measures that could have a significant influence on the farm must be discussed with Demeter. Biodynamic Farm Standard VII.H

1 st offense	Observation
2 nd offense	Minor non-conformity
3 rd offense	Major non-conformity
4 th offense	Decertification of entire operation may occur

11. Renewal documentation not submitted in a timely manner.

Renewal documentation is due in the first quarter of the year. Certification is contingent upon the receipt of a fully filled-out Renewal Packet and the completion of a satisfactory on-site evaluation conducted during the growing season. Biodynamic Farm Standard VII.H

30 days late	Late fee of \$50 will be assessed
30-60 days late	Late fee of \$150 will be assessed
After 60 days	Late fee of \$200 will be assessed
After June 30 th	Major non-conformity will be issued – Certification is no longer valid