

BEST PRACTICES FOR SIGNAGE IN ORGANIC FACILITIES

As you design your facility layout and process flow, think about Organic Control Points (OCPs) and identify opportunities for when and where organic ingredients, products, packaging materials, etc., may come into contact with nonorganic products or prohibited substances. Develop visual ID systems for organic and nonorganic. Make the system simple and intuitive to prevent contamination and commingling.

Clearly mark all products, equipment, packaging, ingredients, areas, work-in-progress containers, etc., used for organic in your facility. If your staff needs to apply signage, make those signs easy to access where they are needed.

Ensure signs are:

- ☐ **Visible:** put them in a place where no one needs to search to find them.
- ☐ **Easy to read:** use large, clear text and minimal words. It should not require more than a moment to interpret the text.
- ☐ **Simple:** limit the number of colors and identifiers used so employees can recognize what each one means at a glance.
- ☐ **Distinct and consistent:** maximize utility by making the signs very easy and quick to interpret with consistent visual cues, like color, a symbol, or a word.
- ☐ **Accessible:** ensure staff with color blindness and low vision are able to identify signage. Avoid color combinations that are hard to distinguish, like red and green. In addition to color, include texture, a word or a symbol/graphic on signage.
- ☐ **High-contrast:** help signage pop by using high-contrast colors. For example, light gray against a white background is lower contrast than black against a white background. You can also use large, bold text to increase contrast.



SOURCES CITED

AEL Data. Guide to Designing for Color-Blind Users. Retrieved from <https://aeldata.com/guide-to-designing-for-color-blind-users/>

USDA National Organic Program, [7 CFR §205.272\(a\)](#).

U.S. General Services Administration. *Making Color Usage Accessible*. Retrieved from <https://www.section508.gov/create/making-color-usage-accessible/>