

# Processing

## Frequently Asked Questions about Organic Certification under Mexico's Organic Products Law

### **What is parallel processing?**

El procesamiento paralelo ocurre cuando los operadores procesan producto orgánico y convencional, utilizando las mismas herramientas o equipo y demostrando las medidas de seguridad que implementan para evitar la mezcla y sustitución de productor orgánico y convencional, así como la contaminación con sustancias prohibidas y asegurar la integridad orgánica del producto certificado.

### **¿Qué sucede si en una unidad de producción se realiza procesamiento paralelo?**

Se deberá presentar al organismo de certificación orgánica un sistema de separación del producto. El procesamiento orgánico sólo podrá llevarse a cabo después de la limpieza del equipo. Se deberá asegurar la separación del producto en todas las etapas del proceso, para garantizar la identificación, cuidar la integridad de los productos orgánicos y evitar que estos se mezclen con productos no orgánicos. Además, todos los registros y documentos deberán adjuntarse al plan orgánico. Parallel processing occurs when operators process organic and conventional produce, using the same tools or equipment and proving the implementation of safety measures to avoid mixing organic and conventional produce, as well as contamination with banned substances so as to ensure the organic integrity of the certified product.

### **What happens if parallel processing takes place in a production unit?**

A system of product separation must be submitted to the organic certification body. Organic processing may only take place after

cleaning the equipment. Product separation must be ensured at all stages of the process to guarantee identification and care for the integrity of organic products, as well as to avoid mixing with non-organic products. In addition, all records and documents should be attached to the organic plan.

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### **What to do if parallel processing is sporadic?**

If parallel processing is infrequent, the organic certification body, the acknowledged participative certification body, or the Secretariat must be notified 72 hours in advance, providing the organic operator identification number, and indicating the produce to be processed.