**Catalog Reviews and Product Evaluation: Ensuring Compliance with Organic Certification Standards**

The Catalog Reviews and Product Evaluation service is essential for businesses that manufacture, distribute, or import organic fertilizers, soil amendments, and biostimulants. This service helps assess whether their products meet organic certification criteria, comply with U.S. and international regulatory standards, and are eligible for inclusion in certified organic farming programs.

Key Components of the Catalog Review and Product Evaluation Process

**1. Ingredient & Formulation Assessment**

The first step in evaluating a product’s eligibility for organic certification is a thorough review of ingredients, formulation, and sourcing to determine compliance with organic standards. This involves:

* Identifying all active and inactive ingredients and their sources.
* Assessing raw material origins to confirm they are free from synthetic chemicals, pesticides, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
* Cross-referencing ingredient lists with the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances under the USDA National Organic Program (NOP).
* Ensuring compliance with OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) standards for input materials used in organic production.

For example, if a fertilizer contains fish emulsion, the review will determine if the processing methods and preservatives used are acceptable for organic certification.

**2. Labeling & Marketing Claims Verification**

Regulatory agencies closely monitor product labels and marketing claims to ensure they are not misleading and meet organic certification requirements. This review includes:

* Checking that all product claims align with organic certification standards (e.g., "OMRI Listed," "Certified Organic," "100% Natural").
* Ensuring that labels include required information, such as nutrient content, application instructions, and organic certification status.
* Confirming compliance with Federal Trade Commission (FTC) advertising guidelines for truthfulness in marketing claims.

If a product is marketed as “Organic Biostimulant for Crop Growth,” but contains synthetic plant hormones, it may require reformulation or relabeling to comply with organic guidelines.

**3. Regulatory Compliance & Documentation Review**

To gain organic certification, products must meet specific regulatory requirements at both federal and state levels. This service helps businesses:

* Prepare regulatory documentation for USDA-NOP approval.
* Ensure compliance with EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) standards, especially for microbial-based biostimulants and soil amendments.
* Meet state-level organic input requirements, such as those enforced by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic Input Materials (OIM) Program.
* Evaluate safety data sheets (SDS), certificates of analysis (COA), and manufacturing process documentation.

For instance, a product containing humic acids extracted using prohibited chemicals may be disqualified from organic certification and need a reformulated process.

**4. Laboratory Testing & Product Performance Evaluation**

Products may require independent laboratory testing to verify compliance with organic certification criteria. Testing services may include:

* Heavy Metal Analysis: Ensuring fertilizers and amendments do not exceed limits for cadmium, lead, arsenic, or mercury.
* Pathogen Screening: Verifying microbial products do not contain harmful bacteria, fungi, or viruses.
* Nutrient Composition Testing: Confirming label claims on nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium (NPK), and micronutrient content.
* Residue Analysis: Checking for pesticide residues or prohibited substances.

A seaweed-based biostimulant, for example, may need residue testing to confirm it is free from synthetic preservatives or contaminants.

**5. OMRI & Other Organic Certification Application Assistance**

For businesses seeking OMRI Listing or USDA Organic certification, the service helps with:

* Preparing and submitting the application for organic certification.
* Providing technical support during the review process.
* Addressing compliance issues identified by certifiers.
* Liaising with regulatory agencies to resolve potential certification roadblocks.

If a company wants to list an organic fertilizer with OMRI, the service ensures that all required documentation, formulation details, and safety data are correctly compiled for a smooth approval process.

**How This Service Benefits Businesses**

✔ Avoids regulatory non-compliance issues, preventing product recalls or bans.

✔ Saves time and resources by ensuring proper documentation before applying for certification.

✔ Increases marketability by obtaining official organic certifications, making products more attractive to organic farmers.

✔ Reduces risk of mislabeling or false advertising, avoiding penalties and consumer mistrust.

✔ Enhances credibility and access to organic markets, both in the U.S. and internationally.

By utilizing Catalog Reviews and Product Evaluation, businesses can confidently bring their organic fertilizers and biostimulants to market, ensuring compliance and increasing their appeal to the growing organic agriculture sector.