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Roberta Baskin
WJLA-TV
Investigative Reporter

Jaclyn Bowen
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
9191 Towne Centre Dr. Suite 510
San Diego, CA
92122

May 20, 2008

Dear Ms. Baskin,

It was a pleasure speaking with Sandy Bergo this afternoon about QAI and USDA organic certification. QAI is accredited by the USDA to provide organic certification services to the organic food industry. Since 1989, QAI has been providing independent, third party organic certification services to the organic food industry.

The QAI Certification Program is designed to certify every step of the organic chain:

- from the land on which the product is grown;
- to the producers growing the product;
- to the post-harvest facilities preparing the product;
- to the processing and handling facilities transforming the product.

Per our conversation, I did want to confirm that QAI has not certified any products in China. However, there are other foreign and domestic USDA accredited certification agents that may have. [See www.ams.usda.gov for complete list.]

By law, QAI is required to accept all certification decisions of other accredited certifiers. (NOP 202.501 General Requirements for Accreditation. (a)(13. "Accept the certification decisions made by another certifying agent accredited or accepted by USDA, pursuant to NOP.500").

Further, by law, a certified operation must maintain records concerning the production, harvesting, and handling of agricultural products that are or that are intended to be sold, labels, or represented as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specific ingredients of food group(s))." Each certifier verifies USDA NOP compliance for their client and one-step-back in the supply chain. Therefore, QAI confirms the USDA certification status of all QAI's client's direct suppliers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Thank you again for your interest in organic and Quality Assurance International.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Bowen
QAI General Manager



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An NSF International Company