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General Comment

Organic Inspectors

How long does it take you to:

- Prepare and submit your report to a certifying agent following an on-site inspection?"

I have been an organic inspector for 12 years. Currently I perform approximately 120 inspections per year with around 60% processors and the rest growing operations. I would consider over 50% of the processors and 25% of the growing operations medium to large scale with the remaining operations falling in the small to medium size.

The time required to complete an inspection report varies between certifying agencies and organic operations. If I were to equate the inspection process of various certification agencies into similar approaches (report completed offsite after inspection) I would estimate that for a normal medium based operation you could expect 1 to 2 hours preparation, 4 to 6 on site time, and another 2 to 4 hours follow up or a split of 20% prep, 50% onsite, and 30% follow up. With that said problem or complicated inspections require significantly more follow up time due to the detail and narrative explanations required. I have found that my follow up time can easily equal or double the onsite time with a split of 10% prep, 40% on site and 50% or more follow up. Smaller inspection typically require fairly equal amounts of time. 1 hour prep, 1 hour onsite, and 1 hour follow up.

Prep time includes scheduling and review of entire OSP and all supporting docs.

Follow up includes report writing, organizing OSP updates in the manner required by the certifier, and report submittable. The recent move by certifiers to switch to all electronic OSP and Report submission has resulted in slightly higher follow up times. This is a direct result of having to electronically extract, sign, combine, etc.... the OSP updates before uploading. With that said I greatly prefer the electronic process.

