

# HOW THIRD PARTY

## FOOD AUDITING WORKS

A **THIRD-PARTY AUDIT** IS PERFORMED BY A CERTIFYING BODY THAT'S INDEPENDENT OF THE CUSTOMER-SUPPLIER (OR RETAILER-SUPPLIER) RELATIONSHIP. AUDITS CAN BE FOR **GENERAL FOOD SAFETY, AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, EMPLOYEE WELFARE, ANIMAL WELFARE, OR FOR CERTIFICATIONS LIKE ORGANIC OR KOSHER, AND OTHERS.** THE DIFFERENT CERTIFICATIONS MAY VARY IN THEIR APPROACH, BUT HERE ARE

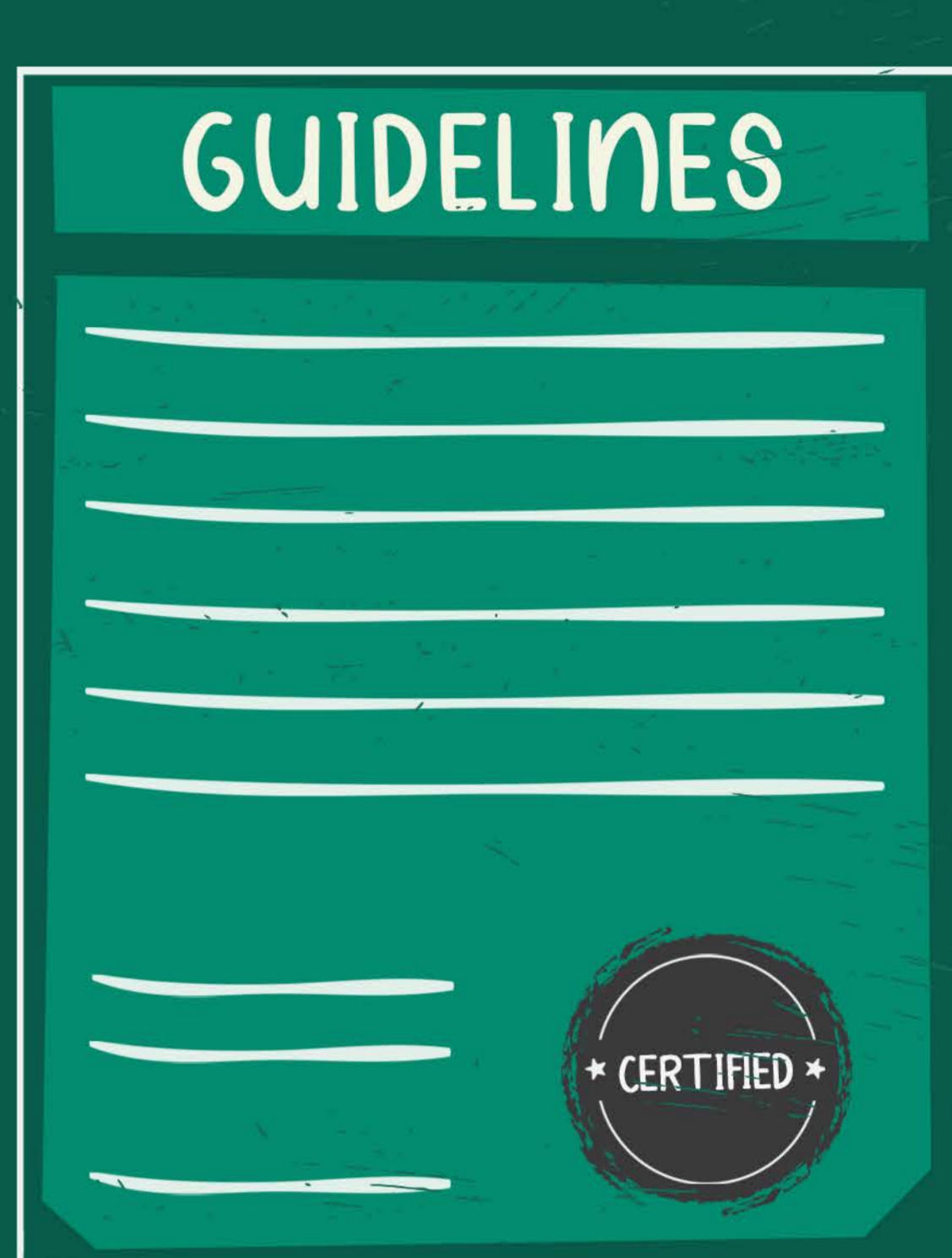
### 4 KEY STEPS.

#### ★ PLANNING ★

LONG BEFORE ANY ON-SITE INSPECTION, **THE FOOD PRODUCER (OR HANDLER)** MUST REVIEW THE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS THEY ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW.

A **TRAINED INSPECTOR** IS GIVEN A **COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE** OF THE STANDARDS THEY ARE AUDITING TO.

ALSO BEFORE THE ON-SITE VISIT, **THE PRODUCER** HANDS OVER ANY **RELEVANT INFORMATION** ABOUT THEIR PLANS, PRACTICES AND SYSTEMS.

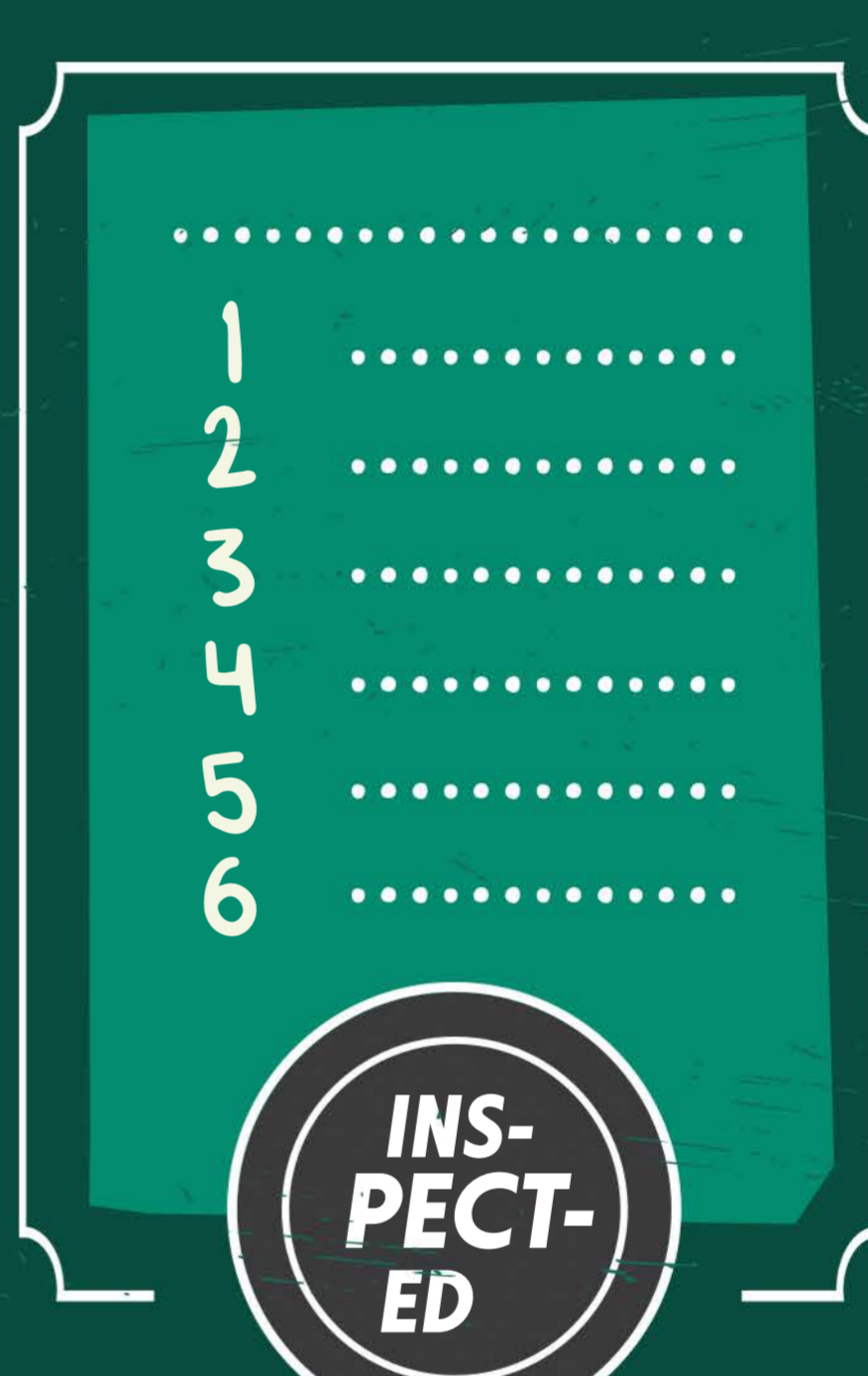


ORGANIC CERTIFICATION HAS AN ADDITIONAL STEP WHERE AN OPERATION'S ORGANIC SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE OFFICIALLY REVIEWED BEFORE SCHEDULING THE INSPECTION.

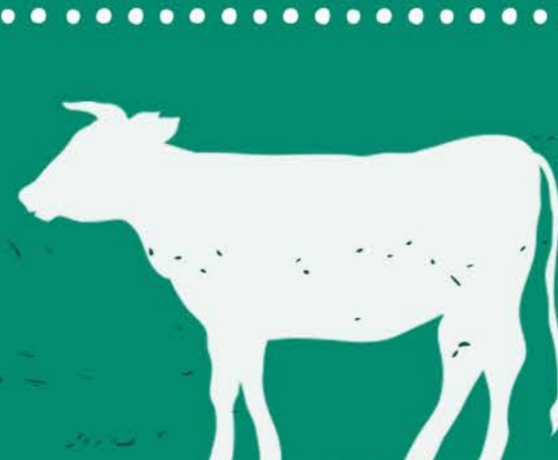
#### ★ INSPECTION ★

**THE INDEPENDENT CERTIFIERS** SEND **QUALIFIED INSPECTORS** TO PERFORM AN ANNOUNCED OR UNANNOUNCED, **TOP-TO-BOTTOM ON-SITE INSPECTION.**

DIFFERENT CERTIFICATIONS WILL EMPHASIZE DIFFERENT AREAS, BUT MOST INSPECTIONS INCLUDE A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE NECESSARY RECORDS AS WELL.



#### ★ REVIEW ★



**THE INSPECTOR** PRESENTS THEIR **REPORT**, INCLUDING ANY NECESSARY RISK ASSESSMENTS AND SAMPLES TO A **CERTIFYING AGENT FOR REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT.**

SOME RESULTS, SUCH AS FOOD SAFETY AUDITS, ARE DETERMINED AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION.

#### ★ THE RESULTS ★

IN SOME INSTANCES, THE **CERTIFYING BODY** WOULD NOW PRESENT THE RESULTS TO **THE FOOD PRODUCER OR HANDLER.**

IN OTHER CASES, **THE AUDITOR** SIMPLY GATHERS INFORMATION AND TAKES PHOTOS, AND THEN UPLOADS THEIR FINDINGS **FOR REVIEW.** **THE DETERMINATION** IS THEN EITHER MADE BY THE **AUDITING COMPANY** OR A **REVIEWER** ON THEIR BEHALF. THIS EXTRA STEP IS USEFUL TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE AUDITOR BIAS.

DEPENDING ON THE **TYPE OF CERTIFICATION** SOUGHT AND THE INSPECTION'S FINDINGS, **THIRD-PARTY AUDITS** CAN RESULT IN **CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION, RECOGNITION, AN AWARD, LICENSE APPROVAL, OR OTHER DESIGNATIONS.**



OTHER AUDITS, SUCH AS THE AUDITS OF EGG FARMS, ARE REVIEWED AND EITHER A CERTIFICATION IS ISSUED, OR CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ARE ASSIGNED THAT MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE A CERTIFICATION IS ISSUED.