



The Equitable Food Initiative EFI Certification Statuses

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Responsibility for these Requirements

The EFI Standards Committee has responsibility for this document and will periodically review and update it.

Users should verify that they are using the latest copy by checking on the EFI website at: www.equitablefood.org.

Versions Issued

Version No.	Date	Description of Amendment
v1.0	Dec 1 st , 2020	First public-facing version

About the Equitable Food Initiative (EFI)

EFI is a non-profit skill-building and certification organization that brings growers, farmworkers, retailers, and consumers together to create a safer, more equitable food system. This unique approach sets standards for labor practices, food safety and pest management while engaging workers at all levels to address issues and challenges in the produce industry.

Our Mission Statement

To bring together growers, farmworkers, retailers and consumers to transform agriculture and the lives of farmworkers.

We Believe:

- That being a farmworker is a valuable and honorable profession.
- The skills and contributions of farmworkers create a healthier work environment and produce safer food.
- The future of agriculture lies in collaboration among growers, farmworkers, retailers and consumers.
- By transforming agriculture, we will transform lives.

THE CONTEXT

Certification status is one of the primary methods for communicating to the market the level of social, food safety, and pest management assurance that can be expected from an organization engaged with EFI. In the process of obtaining or maintaining certification there are many key points where decisions made by the Grower, Certifying Body (CB), or EFI will impact the certification status. Therefore, EFI has expanded beyond the binary designations of *Certified* and *Not Certified* in order to more effectively communicate whether an operation has completely met all requirements of EFI and, if not, who has made that determination, what are the contributing factors, and whether a path towards full certification remains open and viable.

Certification Statuses

1. Certified

- 1.1. Operations are allowed to use the EFI label and make a business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) claim regarding EFI certification.

2. Certification Under Review

- 2.1. This denotes that the **EFI Additional Diligence Protocols** have been activated on an audited or certified operation and further information-gathering has been initiated by EFI.
- 2.2. This status DOES NOT indicate that the operation has been found to be out of conformance with the EFI Standards.
- 2.3. In the case of certified operations, B2B and B2C claims can still be made. However, EFI reserves the right to inform Buying Partners about the change in status and the justification.

3. Certification Suspended

- 3.1. A suspension can occur at the behest of the CB or EFI when there is ongoing nonconformance with the EFI Standards.
- 3.2. Use of the label or any market claim must cease while a certification is suspended.
- 3.3. Certification Suspended is considered to be a temporary status that gives an operation the opportunity to correct nonconformant conditions. If they are unable or unwilling to do so in the timeframe determined by EFI then a Denied or Revoked status will be assigned.

4. Certification Denied

- 4.1. Employed when a CB or EFI deems mandated corrective actions insufficient for certification.
- 4.2. An operation who has been denied certification may request to be re-audited per the relevant rules in the EFI Certification Requirements and Program Summary.

5. Certification Denied/Revoked with Open Nonconformities

- 5.1. This status is applied by the Executive Director of EFI when a Grower refuses to engage in good faith on credible corrective actions that effectively address identified issues.
- 5.2. Moving out of this status will be considered on a case-by-case basis and can be expected to require the stated commitment of the operation's full management team to the principles and requirements of the EFI program plus additional oversight by the CB and EFI.

6. Certification Voluntarily Withdrawn

- 6.1. This status indicates that an operation, of its own volition, is no longer participating in the EFI program, using the label, or making a market claim.