

## Procedure for Deviation Request

**Purpose:** To establish standard policy and procedure for processing deviation requests to the ROC Framework by the ROA Internal Rules Committee (IRC).

### Eligibility

A producer or operator who operates under an approved Regenerative Organic Certified™ (ROC) organic system plan may file a *Deviation Request* from certain ROC Framework criteria and associated guidelines if it only applies to agricultural products certified to ROC or targeted for certification to ROC. The deviation will only apply to the producer who maintains a valid ROC certificate for the operation or has received its first ROC audit. The deviation only applies to the ROC Framework criteria.

### Application

To apply for a deviation, the eligible operator shall submit a completed and signed [ROC™ Deviation Request Application](#) to their ROC certifying body during the inspection or certification process. The fillable PDF form is also available upon request by the CB at [qualityassurance@regenorganic.org](mailto:qualityassurance@regenorganic.org). Only one deviation at a time can be included with an initial application.

### Process

The ROA Internal Rules Committee (IRC) will normally convene within 14 days of receiving the *ROC Deviation Request Application* from the CB. The committee consists of the 1) ROA Program Director, 2) ROA Quality Manager, and 3) ROC Certification Manager.

The ROA IRC may request additional information as needed from the certifying body or subject matter experts to assist in the decision-making process.

The committee will record their decision on the *ROC Deviation Application form* and return it to the certifying body for communication to the client. Requests and corresponding decisions should be supported and/or backed by applicable peer-reviewed research as much as possible.

The entire process shall take no more than 30 calendar days. Due to the complexity of the deviation request(s), the IRC might require additional time to collect additional data and issue a decision. All decisions of the ROA internal rules committee are final. There is no possibility of an appeal.

All correspondence and questions regarding this procedure should be sent to [qualityassurance@regenorganic.org](mailto:qualityassurance@regenorganic.org).

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