



PRESS RELEASE

Australian Organic protecting fresh fruit and vegetables

May 2016: Have you been looking for fresh certified organic fruit and vegetables but can only find them wrapped in plastic? It may seem like a paradox, but leading certification body [Australian Certified Organic](#) (ACO) explains why these measures are necessary to maintain the organic integrity of the product.

Every operation within the supply chain requires certification in order for the end product to be allowed to use the Bud logo. This means it is carried out through transportation, packaging and selling at a retail level as well.

Australian Organic's CEO Paul Stadhams clarifies: 'Fresh certified organic produce needs to be food safe and protected from contamination. If certified organic fruit and veg isn't properly packaged it can risk contaminating the organic product.'

[Australian Certified Organic](#) has strict guidelines in place regarding what can be classified as ACO certified and this includes packaging requirements. [The Australian Certified Organic Standard 2013](#) (ACOS) states: 'Organic packaging must not contaminate produce and as far as possible excludes unnecessary packaging and incorporates recycled and biodegradable materials.' Mr Stadhams adds: 'Our ACO operators have total control over the packaging they use, so long as they are complying with the ACO standards.'

Australian Certified Organic grower and pack house, Monika's Organics, handle all packaging on site, complying with ACO standards. They are able to pack on site and supply directly to supermarkets both locally and interstate. 'Our number one priority is making sure that our certified organic products are safe and protected from contamination,' says founder Monika Feibig. 'Our packaging proudly displays the ACO Bud logo as well as our signature Monika's Organics logo. We want to be considering the environment in all aspects of our business.'

Some ACO clients take it even a step further. Retailer [Wray Organic](#) consciously doesn't stock any certified organic tinned tomatoes that contain white plastic BPA lining, which is commonly found in tins. The ACOS states that tins are not to be used where leaching into certified product is possible and encourages certifiers to limit their use of tins. Brands such as [Global Organics from Kadac](#) or [Spiral Foods](#) are both Australian Certified Organic and also BPA free.

'It's pretty simple: We want our clients to produce safe, certified organic products whilst still considering the environmental impacts,' states Mr Stadhams.

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