



Guide to the Harmony Certification Process

Version 1.0 (September 2026)

Introduction

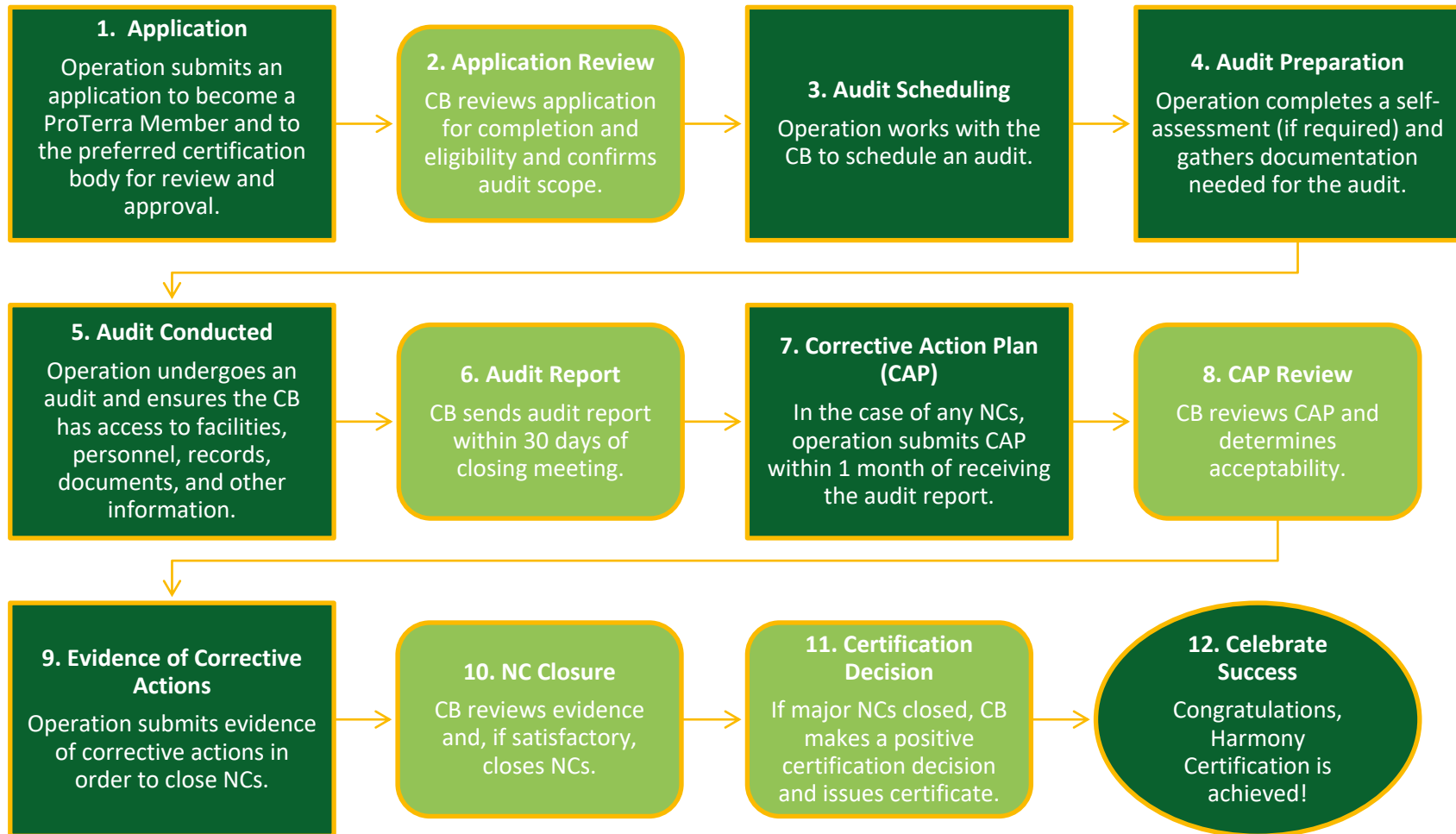
Thank you for your interest in Harmony! Whether you are a farmer, cooperative, mill, or manufacturer, the Harmony certification is a robust and credible way to show your commitment to the environment and to more thoughtful wheat production practices.

This document contains guidance to support interested operations in achieving Harmony certification. It provides an overview of key steps in the certification process and clarifies which party is responsible for each step. See Table 1 for a high-level overview of the process, followed by a more detailed narrative of each step below.

The following terms and definitions may be helpful in understanding the certification process:

- **Certification Body (CB):** An independent, third-party organization that is approved to provide auditing services for the Harmony Certification Scheme.
- **Corrective Action:** The actions implemented by the operation to rectify a nonconformity that has occurred.
- **Corrective Action Plan (CAP):** The plan prepared by the operation and submitted to the certification body in response to nonconformities issued. This plan includes descriptions of proposed corrective and preventive actions and the expected timeframe of completion.
- **Nonconformity (NC):** A written finding noting an operation's failure to meet an applicable requirement of a Harmony standard.
- **Operation:** Any business or legal entity within the wheat supply chain that jointly or independently seeks Harmony certification, such as a farm, mill, or manufacturing plant.
- **Root Cause:** The fundamental, underlying reason for a nonconformity that must be corrected to prevent recurrence of the nonconformity in the future.

Table 1. Overview of the certification process, outlining key steps and responsible parties.



KEY	
	Operation seeking certification is responsible
	Certification body is responsible

The Process

1. Application

The first step in the certification process is to [become a ProTerra Member](#). Membership is a prerequisite for certification; however, an organisation may also become a member without pursuing certification.

Once your membership has been approved, you can contact your preferred certification body and submit your application for certification.

2. Application Review

Once you have submitted an application, the certification body will review the application to ensure your eligibility for the certification type applied for (i.e., Group, individual, or Multisite). The application can be revised as necessary as part of this process, which may include working with the certification body to properly define the audit scope.

The applicable Harmony standard depends on the operation type: the Harmony Production Standard (formerly, Harmony Charter) is applicable if production falls within the scope of the operation, and the Harmony Chain of Custody Standard (also, Harmony CoC Standard) is applicable if production does not fall within the scope of the operation. Group certification is possible for multiple farms seeking joint certification under the Harmony Production Standard, and Multisite certification is possible for operations with multiple locations seeking joint certification under the Harmony CoC Standard.

3. Audit Scheduling

Once the audit scope is properly defined, coordination of the audit can begin. Consider the following requirements, as applicable, when working with the certification body to schedule the audit:

- All audits against the Harmony Production Standard must occur prior to harvest, while Harmony wheat is present in the field.
- Farm audits against the Harmony Production Standard must always occur onsite (not remotely).
- For Group certification, the Group Manager's initial audit must be onsite, but surveillance and recertification audits may be conducted remotely, if requested by the Group Manager and if the certification body determines that conditions (technical, documentation) allow for this.
- For Group certification, the Group Manager must conduct internal audits of 10% of the farms in the Group prior to the third-party audit.
- Initial audits against the Harmony CoC Standard must occur prior to the processing or sale of any Harmony-certified material (certified wheat or flour).
- For the Harmony CoC Standard, the initial audit must be onsite, but surveillance and recertification audits can be conducted remotely, if requested by the operation and if the certification body determines that conditions (technical, documentation) allow for this.

4. Audit Preparation

If your operation type is required to complete a self-assessment or conduct internal audits prior to the third-party audit, ensure you

leave sufficient time to do so. Annual self-assessments or internal audits are required for the following operation types:

- Farms that are part of a Group (self-assessment against Harmony Production Standard, submitted to the Group Manager).
- Operations seeking individual certification against the Harmony CoC Standard (self-assessment or internal audit against the Harmony CoC Standard).
- Multisite Managers (self-assessment or internal audit against Harmony CoC Standard).

Note: for Group and Multisite certification, internal audits of 100% of the Group or Multisite members, respectively, are also required before the third-party audit occurs.

The certification body will send you an audit plan for your review prior to the audit. The plan will include key information about the audit, including audit objectives, scope, and criteria; audit schedule; whether the audit is onsite or remote; and audit personnel.

Prepare as needed based on the audit plan provided by the certification body. This may involve gathering records and documentation and ensuring the proper personnel are made available for the audit. Certain records or documentation may be requested by the certification body in advance of the audit to increase the efficiency of the audit.

5. Audit Conducted

An auditor or audit team assigned by the certification body will conduct an initial audit based on their training, technical expertise,

and the rules of the Harmony Scheme. The audit structure will involve:

- Opening meeting, which includes review of the audit plan;
- The audit, which includes interviews, facility walk-through (if onsite), as well as document and record review; and
- Closing meeting, which includes presenting nonconformities identified (if any).

It is important that you collaborate with the auditor throughout the audit process, including ensuring that the auditor has access to facilities, personnel, records, documents, and any other information needed to complete the audit.

6. Audit Report

The certification body will send you the final audit report within 30 days of the closing meeting. The audit report includes details around audit findings and nonconformities (if any), including the grading of nonconformities and the timelines for addressing them. Nonconformity grading (major vs minor) is explained in the Harmony Certification Protocol, and timelines for nonconformity closure are described below.

7. Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

For each applicable nonconformity, you will be required to submit a root cause analysis and corrective action plan (see definitions in the introduction) within one month of receiving the final audit report. For the Harmony CoC Standard, you are required to address all nonconformities. For the Harmony Production Standard, you are required to address all applicable nonconformities (it is only necessary to meet half of the Optional requirements in the

Harmony Production Standard, so it may not be necessary to address all nonconformities). Note that you can already begin addressing nonconformities immediately after the audit, rather than waiting for the audit report, since the auditor will have provided a preliminary list of nonconformities in the closing meeting.

8. CAP Review

The certification body will review and evaluate the proposed root cause analysis and corrective action plan to determine whether the plan is acceptable or needs further work. You may make changes to the plan based on the certification body feedback received.

9. Evidence of Corrective Actions

To close the nonconformities, you will need to submit evidence of implementation of your corrective action plan to the certification body for review and approval. Evidence of corrective actions can be submitted right away with the plan or can be submitted once the certification body has approved the plan.

10. Nonconformity Closure

The certification body will review evidence of corrective actions. If the actions and evidence are sufficient, the certification body will close the applicable nonconformities.

For 2026, all nonconformities must be closed within **two months** of receiving your final audit report. For 2027 onwards, see the requirements in the Harmony Certification Protocol. For any corrective actions that it is not possible to complete the action within the two-month time frame, the certification body may, at their discretion, close the nonconformity based on the plan alone.

In such cases, the certification body must follow up (onsite and/or documentation review) to verify the implementation of the actions.

11. Certification Decision

Once nonconformities are addressed – or in the event of an audit without nonconformities, after the closing meeting – the certification body will make the certification decision. All major nonconformities must be closed for a positive certification decision to be made. When a positive certification decision is made, the certification body will issue a certificate valid for 3 years. For Group certification, all farms within the Group will be listed on the certificate. For Multisite certification, all sites will be listed on the certificate.

12. Celebrate Success

Congratulations, you have now achieved Harmony Certification! If your operation is a farm, you can now sell Harmony-certified wheat. If your operation is a mill, you can now receive Harmony-certified wheat grain and process it into certified flour. If your operation is a plant, you can now sell Harmony-certified products. If you intend to make any claims around your Harmony certification, please review the Guidelines and Requirements for the Use of the Harmony Logos and Seals.

Maintain Certification

To maintain your certification, your operation must undergo a recertification audit every three years and an annual surveillance audit in the years between certification audits (i.e., a three-year certification cycle). In addition, you must keep the certification body informed of any changes to your operation that could impact your certification status or auditing approach. For Group and Multisite certification, this includes any changes to membership. Contact your certification body with any questions about achieving or maintaining your Harmony certification.