

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Rules Related to Cultural Practices for Branding Products of the Farm (250-RICR-40-20-9)

Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-40-20-9

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Repeal

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: October 5, 2026

End of Public Comment: November 4, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-17.1

Chapter 21-20

in accordance with 42-35; and The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The regulation is obsolete. This regulation authorized DEM to apply to USDA for organic certifier accreditation to conduct organic certification of farms and handlers according to federal regulations when the National Organic Program went into effect in 2002. DEM has not conducted organic certification under this regulation since discontinuing USDA accreditation as an organic certifier as of 11/1/2023. USDA organic certification services previously provided by DEM now are provided by private certifiers.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed repeal until November 4, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

SCOTT N. MARSHALL, DVM
Department of Environmental Management
DEM, Division of Agriculture/Animal Health
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) the benefits and costs of a reasonable range of regulatory alternatives reflecting the scope of discretion; (2) alternative approaches; (3) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (4) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.