

**INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE
ON HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ITF)**



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Discussion Paper

**OVERVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS OF
STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS**

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1 Introduction

This paper has been prepared as a background document for the meeting of the International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalency in Organic Agriculture to be held in October 2003. Its purpose is to provide a general overview of the current situation with respect to regulations, standards and conformity assessment systems for organic agriculture and processing.

The subject matter of several sections of this document was previously addressed in the Reader for the February 2002 Conference on International Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture published by IFOAM. In compiling this overview the author has drawn heavily on the previous texts updating the data as appropriate. In many ways what follows is a synopsis of the documents in the IFOAM publication. The reader seeking a more in-depth treatment of these subjects is directed towards the Reader.

2 Current Standards and Regulations

2.1 International Standards

2.1.1 Codex Alimentarius

The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established in 1962 by FAO and WHO with the goal of harmonisation of food standards on a global level. In July of 1992 the Codex Commission decided that the Food Labelling Committee should discuss and develop the 'Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Marketing and Labelling of Organically Produced Foods'. A first draft for a wider consultation (Alinorm 91/37) was distributed. In accordance with the general objectives of Codex the intention was to facilitate the harmonisation of organic standards at the international level. The guidelines aim to prevent misleading claims and ensure fair trade practices.

As an inter-governmental body only member governments have decision-making powers in Codex. However, international organizations have observer status and in the case of the guidelines for organic they played an active part in its development.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 23rd Session in 1999 adopted the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods, with the exception of the provisions for livestock and livestock products. The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 24th Session in 2001 adopted the sections concerning livestock and livestock products and bee-keeping and bee products for inclusion in the Guidelines

The main sections of the Guidelines establish the framework within which the more detailed standards in the annexes apply. These sections include, *inter alia*, the specific labelling requirements; the general rules of production and preparation; requirements for inclusion of input materials in the annexes; and criteria for the development of lists of inputs by countries.

Several annexes set down the detailed requirements for production, processing and handling of organic products. These include the rules for the management systems for organic crop production, livestock husbandry and processing (Codex Annex 1) and the permitted agricultural and processing inputs (Codex Annex 2)

In addition to the standards for production and processing, the Guidelines contain some provisions regarding inspection and certification systems and import control.

In the context of harmonisation efforts, two aspects of the Codex Guidelines should be noted (Doyran 2003):

- Codex standards, codes and related texts have received wider acknowledgment following the conclusion of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), as Codex was specifically mentioned under SPS, while the reference to international standards in the framework of TBT applies to Codex;

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- the foreword to the guidelines places certain limitations on its role within the arena of international trade: ‘These guidelines are at this stage a first step into official international harmonization of the requirements for organic products in terms of production and marketing standards, inspection arrangements and labelling requirements. In this area the experience with the development of such requirements and their implementation is still very limited. Moreover, consumer perception on the organic production method may, in certain detailed but important provisions differ from region to region in the world. Therefore, the following is recognized at this stage the guidelines do not prejudice the implementation of more restrictive arrangements and more detailed rules by member countries in order to maintain consumer credibility and prevent fraudulent practices, and to apply such rules to products from other countries on the basis of equivalency to such more restrictive provisions.’

Codex revision procedures are set down in section 8 of the document. A review of the guidelines is conducted once every four years. The lists of permitted inputs for production and for processing contained in its Annex 2 are subject to review every two years. Both governments and recognized international organisations are invited to make proposals on an ongoing basis.

2.1.2 IFOAM

The IFOAM Basic Standards for Organic Production and Processing (IBS) were first published in 1980. Since then they have been subject to biennial review and republication. The most recent edition of the IFOAM Basic Standards has been published together with the IFOAM Criteria for Certification Bodies in the ‘IFOAM Norms for Organic Production and Processing’ (2002). These documents are registered with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as international standards in the field of organic agriculture.

The introduction to the IFOAM Basic Standards states that these standards ‘provide a framework for certification bodies and standard-setting organizations worldwide to develop their own certification standards and cannot be used for certification on their own. Certification standards should take into account specific local conditions and provide more specific requirements than the IFOAM Basic Standards.’ They should therefore be considered as standards for standards in the field of organic agriculture and processing.

The introduction also makes clear that the standards are a reflection of the current state of organic production and processing methods. As such they should be viewed as a work in progress rather than a final statement.

The standards in the IBS are derived from the ‘Principal Aims of Organic Production and Processing’, which are laid out at the beginning of the document. These principles not only form the basis of the IBS but have also been the guiding principles for national regulations and for international norms such as the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines for organically produced foods

The main sections of the IBS deal with standards for crop production, animal husbandry and processing and handling of organic products. The livestock section establishes generic standards for all livestock. The exception is bee-keeping which is dealt with in a separate section. Additional sections of the standards set out the requirements for ecosystems; labelling

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and social justice. Lists of products for use in fertilization and soil conditioning; products for pest and disease control and weed management; and approved additives and processing aids are contained in three annexes. An additional two annexes provide criteria for evaluating additional agricultural inputs and processing inputs.

Each section of the IBS is presented as General Principles, Recommendations, and Standards. The General Principles are the goals that organic production and processing works towards. The Recommendations provide standards that IFOAM promotes but does not require. The Standards are the minimum requirements that must be fully incorporated into certification standards

The IBS also contains a number of draft standards including standards for aquaculture, textiles and forest management. These are published within the IFOAM Norms as a reference for those establishing private standards or official regulations.

The IFOAM Basic Standards do not contain inspection and certification requirements as these are set down in the IFOAM Accreditation Criteria, also published within the IFOAM Norms. The criteria were first published in 1992 and have been revised periodically since then.

The criteria are developed directly from ISO/IEC Guide 65 'General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems'. However, IFOAM identified a need for further elaboration of the ISO document. This was partly because certification of organic agriculture is certification of a production process rather than of an end product, but also because of the generic nature of the ISO Guide, which is meant for use in all sectors but is predominately oriented toward the industrial and manufacturing sector. The ISO Guide itself anticipates such a need. The introduction to the Guide indicates that the criteria should be 'considered as general criteria for organizations operating product certification systems' and that 'they may have to be amplified when specific industrial or other sectors make use of them.'

A recently completed comparison of the IFOAM Criteria and the ISO/IEC Guide 65 brought to light the many areas of concern in certification of organic that are not covered in ISO 65 (Commins 2003). The IFOAM Criteria contain several special sections covering situations specific to the inspection and certification of organic products. These include the conformity assessment requirements related to conversion periods, genetically modified organisms, partial conversion and parallel production, grower groups and the 'chain of custody'. An additional section lays out the requirements and procedures for a certification body to accept the prior certification of another certification body.

IFOAM has established a procedure to allow variations within IFOAM standards to accommodate diverse regional needs. This will permit regional standards to be developed and go through the process of becoming an 'approved IFOAM standard'. Such standards will be for direct use for certification (not a standard for standards). In approving such a standard any variations from the IBS will be evaluated against established criteria for variations. Both the procedure and the criteria for variations are set out in section 4 of the norms. By means of this procedure IFOAM is attempting to answer the question as to how an international standard can allow for the geographical and cultural diversity of the world.

The Procedures for Revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards are contained within the IFOAM Norms document. Drafting of revisions is the responsibility of a standards committee. The revision process includes public circulation of drafts and a decision making procedure that

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allows for the submittal of motions and, if consensus is not reached, voting by the membership. Although the published procedure does not state the frequency with which revisions shall occur it is understood to be at least every three years (the period between IFOAM General Assemblies).

A study commissioned by IFOAM found that the IFOAM Basic Standards fell within the definitions of an international standard in the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). The IFOAM Basic Standards and the IFOAM Criteria are registered with the International Standards Organisation (ISO) as international standards.

2.2 Regulations

2.2.1 Status of different countries

The status of different countries regarding implementation of government regulations is shown below. More details about the departments responsible for regulations can be found in Appendix 1.

1 Countries with fully implemented regulations

For the purpose of this listing, ‘fully implemented’ has been defined as meaning that the authority has approved certification bodies or carries out certification themselves under the law.

A total of 37 countries have fully implemented regulations for organic agriculture and processing. The geographical breakdown is as follows:

European Union (15)

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
The Netherlands
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom

Rest of Europe (11)

Cyprus
Czech Republic
Hungary
Iceland
Lithuania
Norway

Poland
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Switzerland
Turkey

Asia and Pacific Region (7)

Australia
India
Japan
Philippines
South Korea
Taiwan
Thailand

The Americas & Caribbean (3)

Argentina
Costa Rica
USA

Africa (1)

Tunisia

2 Countries with finalised regulations not yet fully implemented

For the purpose of this listing, ‘Final, not yet fully implemented’ means that there is a law and that the detailed standards and rules have been finalised, but the authority has not yet approved certification bodies or carried out certification under the law. Eight countries fall under this heading.

Europe (2)

Croatia
Estonia

Asia and Pacific Region (1)

Malaysia

The Americas & Caribbean (4)

Brazil
Chile
Guatemala
Mexico

Africa (1)

Egypt

3 Countries in the process of drafting regulations

For the purpose of this listing, drafting regulations means that the standards and rules and/or enabling law are still in draft stage. This includes countries (15) in the process of promulgating a first draft.

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Europe (4)

Albania
Georgia
Romania
Yugoslavia

Asia and Pacific Region (3)

China
Hong Kong
Indonesia

The Americas & Caribbean (4)

Canada
Nicaragua
Peru
St. Lucia

Africa (2)

Madagascar
South Africa

Middle East (2)

Israel
Lebanon

| Region | Fully implemented | Final not implemented | In draft |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| EU | 15 | | |
| Rest of Europe | 11 | 2 | 4 |
| Asia & Pacific | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| Americas & Caribbean | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Africa | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Middle East | - | | 2 |
| Total: 60 | 37 | 8 | 15 |

The above categories are of course simplistic. In reality the situation is more complex. Countries may have a finalised enabling law without having developed the rules for implementation. In some cases the law has defined detailed standards while in others it sets out only guidelines, with the establishment of the standards and system for approval of certification bodies left to the administration. In other countries a national standard has been developed and finalised before the passage of any law. In one country the government has implemented a regulatory system based entirely on administrative measures rather than the law.

2.2.2 Main importers: an overview

The EU Council Regulation 2092/9, the National Organic Program Rule 7 CFR Part 205 ('US')(FR 65 80548) and the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) of Organic Agricultural Products all cover crop production, and processing and handling of organic products. The EU and NAP regulations also cover livestock. The Japanese livestock standards are in draft stage.

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All three regulations include provisions regarding wild harvesting. EU covers mushrooms and beekeeping. The Japanese and US do not.

US exempt producers and handlers with less than \$5000/year total organic sales from certification requirements, although they must comply with the regulation. EU and Japan do not allow such an exemption.

None of the regulations require retailers to be certified. US exempt handlers that process products containing less than 70 per cent organic ingredients from certification. EU does not specifically exempt such handlers, but the EU prohibits such operations from identifying 'organic' ingredients on the information panels of products. Similarly the Japanese standard requires that at least 95 per cent of ingredients be organic.

The EU regulates not only the term organic (or equivalent in other EU languages) but also any other terms, which suggest that the product has been produced organically. The US and Japan regulate only the term organic or Japanese equivalents.

The format of the EU and Japanese Regulations are somewhat similar, resembling the Codex guidelines. This is partly a result of the Japanese basing their regulation on Codex and Codex being heavily influenced by the EU Regulation. The US regulation follows a different format. Of greater significance is that the EU and Japanese Regulations contain listings of all allowed input substances for both agricultural production and processing. For farm inputs, the US lists 'allowed synthetics' and 'prohibited nonsynthetics', thus allowing use of all nonsynthetic inputs that are not specifically listed. A determination of whether an input is 'nonsynthetic' or 'synthetic' is necessary in order to establish whether it may be used as a nonlisted input.

All three regulations contain provisions for approval of private certification bodies in implementing the law and provisions for enabling imports from other countries.

2.3 Private Standards

The Soil Association in the UK published the first private organic standards in 1967. These were more a set of guiding principles rather than the detailed production and processing standards prevalent today.

It is important to realize that this initiative and other private standards that were developed in the US and elsewhere shortly thereafter, were driven by the need of organic farmers in the region to have a common definition of organic. This was both to provide assurance to the growing consumer sector and to prevent fraudulent claims and unfair competition. Farmers' associations published all of the earliest organic standards. Along with publishing standards the association then set about verifying compliance with those standards. The result was that certification bodies that were established during the 1970s and 1980s also published their own standards. These standards provided an identity to the farmers association and helped to ensure the loyalty of the farmer.

The result of this heritage is that there are a great many private organic standards for production and certification around the globe. A recent special directory edition of the newsletter 'The Organic Standard' identified 364 bodies offering organic certification. Of these 65 stated that they had their own standards. The number is likely to be higher as some

certification bodies that are known to have published their own standards did not answer this question.

While this plethora of standards has created some difficulties with respect to mutual recognition and trade, there have also been some advantages. As the standards are being set in the specific region in which the certification body operates, they tend to be more appropriate for the local ecosystems and local culture than standards set distantly. It has also resulted in the vigorous development of organic standards. Standards set within a small organisation can more easily react to new developments or new input products being placed on the market.

One result of this dynamism is that private organic standards have been developed for activities generally not covered in regulations. These include textile processing, aquaculture, forestry and others. Regulations by their nature are more inclined to exclude these activities and adopt a more narrow scope.

The private standards have determined the content of the IFOAM Basic Standards which in turn have had a major influence on the EU Regulation 2092/91 which itself has influenced the content of most other organic regulations and the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines. Historically, organic standards can therefore be viewed as having been developed from the bottom up rather than being imposed from above.

The large number of organic standards should not be taken to mean that there are necessarily large differences between these standards. The IFOAM Basic Standards and the EU Regulation 2092/91 (as the first implemented regulation of a large importing region) have instructed the content of private organic standards around the world. Differences tend to relate more to which sections of the standards are given most emphasis. For example in countries where organically reared livestock is in its infancy the private livestock standards are likely to be more basic than in regions where livestock plays a more important role. Differences also reflect the local consumer expectations. For example, countries where consumers have a strong awareness of animal welfare are likely to have more developed standards related to this issue.

Recently there has been some effort within the private sector to move away from the 'certifier own standard' model and instead to develop regional standards. An example of this is the American Organic Standard (AOS). Such private regional standards may offer the advantages of adaptability and dynamic development without some of the problems that come with a large number of private standards.

3 Conformity assessment system

3.1 Regulatory conformity assessment systems

3.1.1 Determination of conformity

As the first fully elaborated regulation the EU Council regulation 2092/91 established the general system for determining conformity to the regulation. In establishing their regulations other countries have generally followed the EU example. The defining feature of this system is that it allows for recognition of private certification bodies by a designated authority according to specified criteria. The designated authority differs in countries according to the internal government structures, but in most cases the designee is the department of agriculture.

This system places responsibility for determining conformity to the respective regulation on the private certification bodies. The certification bodies operate according to their own procedures and policies providing these meets the criteria for approval. An exception to this is the US system, which approves certification bodies as agents to operate a certification programme published as part of the rule. Thus, for example, while the EU reference to ISO Guide 65 would require that a certification body have an appeals procedure, the precise nature of which is left up to the certification body, the US rule establishes the procedure itself

The EU recognition system covers only those certification bodies based in the European Union. Recognition of certification bodies based outside the EU can only occur when the country in which the certification body is based has been placed on the Article 11 list of countries with which the EU has established an equivalency agreement. Most other countries follow the EU example and recognise only certification bodies based in their territory. This contrasts with the US and Japanese systems which allows for foreign certification bodies to apply directly for recognition. In the case of Japan the certification body must also have a registered office in Japan. The Japanese system also does not confer automatic recognition to certification bodies from countries deemed to be equivalent. The certification body must still register with the Japanese Ministry.

3.1.2 Criteria to approve private certifiers

The EU regulation requires certification bodies to comply with both its Annex 3 of the Regulation (Minimum inspection requirements and precautionary measures under the inspection scheme) as well as compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 65 'General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems'. The regulation itself does not require formal accreditation to the ISO Guide. As a result some member states have decided upon formal accreditation while others have not.

Annex 3 of the EU regulation contains additional requirements related to certification of organic that are not addressed in the ISO guide. An example of such a measure would be parallel production. In this aspect the EU regulation is similar to the IFOAM system, where the IFOAM criteria have additional requirements to those in the ISO Guide. A number of other countries have identical or similar requirements to those in the EU regulation.

The US and Japan have both promulgated distinct requirements. In the case of the US Rule these are quite elaborated. Some other countries have chosen to base their criteria on the IFOAM criteria. An example would be India and revised draft requirements in Australia.

3.2 Private conformity systems

3.2.1 Background

In 1992, IFOAM established the IFOAM Accreditation Programme to accredit certification bodies active in certifying organic agriculture throughout the world. Since 1997, this program has been operated by the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS), a non-profit organisation incorporated in the US. The IOAS operates the IFOAM Accreditation Programme under license from IFOAM. The first accreditation of organic certification bodies took place in 1994 when three certification bodies were IFOAM accredited.

The IOAS also offers ISO/IEC Guide 65 accreditation to certification bodies active in the organic arena.

Any certification body involved in the certification of organic production, whether private or state-run, can apply for IFOAM accreditation. Membership of IFOAM is not a requirement.

IFOAM accreditation was set up as an international accreditation system. This means that its personnel and Board are drawn from around the world and that it accepts applications from anywhere.

The IFOAM Seal was launched by IFOAM in 1999, and is a sign of the accreditation status of certification bodies active in organic agriculture. The IFOAM Seal is designed to be used as part of the logo of accredited certification bodies and may not be used separately

In addition to the IOAS a number of national accreditation bodies have conducted ISO Guide 65 accreditation of certification bodies active in the organic field. Whether these national accreditation bodies can be considered as part of the private sector depends on the country in question. In some countries they are part of the government department, in others they are semi-state bodies and in some they are private with statutory recognition.

In all cases applications for accreditation by national accreditation bodies has been motivated by recognition requirements of the regulatory sector. In particular the import requirements of some, but not all, EU countries have stressed this form of accreditation. IFOAM accreditation has on the other hand been entirely voluntary in nature and driven by the market.

The international model of accreditation practised by the IOAS has been taken up by a number of other organisations in the field of social and environmental labelling. These bodies have formed the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL). National accreditation bodies come together in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The national accreditation system concept is that each country has an official accreditation body that has sole rights to conduct accreditation within their territory. The accreditation body conducts accreditation in all sectors of the economy. The issue of international trade and

acceptance of one accreditation by an accreditation body within another territory is dealt with by multilateral agreements between the accreditation bodies. At the international level, these multilateral agreements are still at an early stage. At present, for example, there is no IAF multilateral agreement between national accreditation bodies for product and/or process certification - the only type of certification relevant for the organic sector.

The concept of international accreditation systems is that the accreditation body operates internationally in a particular sector. This brings several advantages. By limiting itself to a single sector the accreditation body can employ experts from within that sector on a full time basis. An international accreditation body also has the advantage of having no territory to protect *vis à vis* international trade.

The main function of accreditation is to answer the question as to how a certification body, which may be on the other side of the world, can be trusted. The national accreditation model results in this certification body being accredited by a different accreditation body. The question of trust is simply transferred as to how the other accreditation body can be trusted. In the sector-specific international model the certification bodies are accredited by the same accreditation body. The equivalence of these certification bodies is therefore established without further questions. In the case of IFOAM accreditation the Multilateral Recognition Agreement signed by the accredited certifiers illustrates this. In this voluntary agreement the certification bodies recognise each other's competence based on their common accreditation.

3.2.2 Extent

'The Organic Standard' (TOS) (2003) identified 364 bodies offering organic certification. It notes that there is an imbalance in geographical breakdown and provides the following statistics. The 364-certification bodies listed are based in 57 countries, 290 of which are located in the developed world (EU, USA, Japan, Canada and Brazil). The EU alone accounts for 106 of these. Of the total, 56 work beyond their home territory. A few work in most continents.

The extent to which many of these certification bodies are actively engaged in certifying organic production and processing is questionable. TOS identified that 97 of the organisations had no accreditation or government approvals. This means that they are likely to be very small, certifying only for the local market, and in some cases may not be active at all.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the world is not short of private organic certification bodies. The introduction of government regulations has not resulted in a reduction of private certification bodies and could well have stimulated a growth in the sector. Certainly a number of certification bodies that applied and received accreditation by the National Organic Program in the USA, were not known to be actively certifying prior to the publication of the rule.

This apparent growth in the private sector is not surprising as none of the regulations of the major importing countries required replacing private certification with government certification. Instead, the regulations have utilised the expertise of the private certification bodies to implement a regulatory system. At the same time anticipated continued growth of the organic sector has enticed many new organic certification bodies to enter the market and larger generic certification bodies to enter into the organic certification business.

3.2.3 Multiple certifications

The growth of regulations in the organic sector has resulted in certification bodies offering several organic certification programmes. It is not uncommon for larger certification bodies to be offering certification against the European Union Regulation, the United States NOP regulations and Japanese Agricultural Standard as well as offering certification against its own standard.

Some regulations have required the setting up of a different program. This is true for both Japan and the US where certification under the law requires that the certification be carried out against the legal standard itself. In the EU some countries, such as Italy, have taken the same approach. This means that certification bodies that wish to keep their private standards and logo systems have offered both systems. Operators must of course be certified to the legal requirement and then may choose to also be certified and licensed to use the private certification logo. In some other European countries, such as the UK and Sweden, the authorities have recognized that the private standard meets or exceeds the regulation. This means that operators certified under the private standard are automatically recognised as being in compliance with the legal requirements. The certification bodies are still required to offer certification against the law itself for those operators who do not wish to meet the additional requirements associated with the logo programme, but do wish to label their product as organic.

Certification bodies that operate several programmes face many difficulties. Ensuring that both the operators and the inspectors are fully aware of all the differences in standards is problematic. Issuing of transaction certificates is also complicated as a crop may be certified under more than one programme and the operator may require certificates under the different programmes for different lots.

It would be incorrect to view the multiple programmes as simply a manifestation of a service business offering its customers several services. In this case neither the certification bodies nor their clients would be likely to have choose this course were it not forced upon them. It is a direct result of the lack of harmonization of regulations and standards and of differences and lack of recognition between conformity assessment systems.

3.2.4 Marketing tool

From the early stages in the development of organic certification the private certification bodies have marketed their certification marks to the consumer as a guarantee of quality. The degree to which they have been successful differs from country to country. In some countries such as Sweden and the United Kingdom there is strong consumer identification with the certification body's mark whereas in other countries such as the USA, there is little consumer recognition of the marks.

The certification body's marks are generally officially registered as trademarks. This fact takes on an importance when considering harmonisation and equivalency issues. Solutions that deny certification bodies' rights to market under their trademarks may result in compensation demands.

More recently there have been similar labelling initiatives at the accreditation level from both the public and private sectors. IFOAM, the European Union, the United States and Japan all allow use of their approvals on packaging.

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Annex 1: Contact details for government departments responsible for organic agriculture & processing

Countries marked with an asterisk did not respond to requests for updates. The information for these countries is therefore dated at January 2002.

| Countries with a fully implemented regulation (37) | |
|---|--|
| Country | Contact details |
| E.U (15) | |
| Austria* | Dr. A. Sattler, Bundeskanzleramt Abt, VI/B/1, Radetzkystrasse 2, 1020 Wien, Austria |
| Belgium* | Mr. Ch Papeians, Ministere des Classes Moyennes et de l'Agriculture, DG4 - WTC T3 Boulevard Simon Bolivar 30, 6ieme etage, 1000 - Brussels, Belgium |
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| Finland | Mr. Tero Tolonen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Food And Health, 00023 Government, Finland, e-mail : tero.tolonen@mmm.fi |
| France* | Ministere de l'Agriculture et de la Peche, Direction Generale de l'Alimentation, Buresu des labels et des Certifications, 251, rue de Vaugirad 75732 Pairs, France. |
| Germany | Mr. Uwe Slomke, Bundesministerium für Verbraucherschutz, Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, Referat 526 - Ökologischer Landbau, extensive Bewirtschaftungsverfahren, Rochusstraße 1, 53123 Bonn, Germany, Tel.+49-(0)228-529-4160, Fax +49-(0)228-529-4262, e-mail: uwe.slomke@bmvel.bund.de |
| Greece | Mrs. Agathi Balbouzi, Directorate of Processing Standarization and Quality Control Office of Organic Products, 2 Acharnon Street, 10176 Athens, Greece |
| Ireland | Mr. Michael O'Donovan, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Ireland |
| Italy* | Mr. Ernando Montanari, DG Politiche Agricole ed Agroalimentari Nationali, Ministero dell Risorse Agricola, Agoralimentari e Forestali, Via XX Settembre 20 Rome 00187, Italy |
| Luxembourg | Mme Monique Faber, Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture, 16, Route d'Esch / BP 1904, L- 1019 Luxembourg, Luxembourg |
| The Netherlands | Mrs Gabrielle Nuytens, Ministry of Agriculture, Bezuidenhoutseweg 73, Postbus 20401, 2500 EK Den Haag , The Netherlands. G.J.G.M.Nuytens@DL.AGRO.NL |
| Portugal | Mrs. Ana Soeiro, Minsterio da Agricultura, Desenvolvimento Rural e Pescas ,Instituto de Desenvolvimento Rural e Hidráulica , Av. Afonso Costa, 3 · 1949-002 LISBOA, Portugal |
| Spain | Mrs. Esperanza de Marcos Sanz. Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación. D.G. de Alimentación. S.G. de Sistemas de Calidad Diferenciada. Pº Infanta Isabel, 1. 28071 Madrid, Spain |

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| Countries with a fully implemented regulation (37) | |
|---|--|
| Country | Contact details |
| Sweden | Göte Frid, Organic Farming MSc Agric., Swedish Board of Agriculture, S-55182 Jönköping, Sweden |
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| Japan* | Kenji Watanabe, Deputy Director, International Standardization Office - Standards and Labeling Division General Food Policy Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950, Japan. e-mail kenji_watanabe@nm.maff.go.jp |
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| Countries with a fully implemented regulation (37) | |
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| Africa (1) | |
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| Countries with a finalised regulation - not yet fully implemented (8) | |
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| Estonia* | Estonian Ministry of Agriculture, Eike Lepmets, Lai 39/41, EE - 15056 Tallinn, Estonia , Tel: +372 6 256 141 Fax: +372 6 256 200, eike@agri.ee http://www.agri.ee http://www.legaltext.ee/indexen.htm |
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| Countries in the process of drafting regulations (15) | |
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Overview of Current Status of Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems

International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture

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