

**INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE
ON HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE
IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**



GLOSSARY

Term	Definition	Reference	Comment
Standards	Document approved by a recognized body, that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labeling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.	WTO/TBT	<u>Note:</u> The recognized body can be any constituency.
Technical Regulation	Document which lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.	WTO/TBT: <u>Note:</u> technical regulations can refer to, or be based on, standards.	
Conformity Assessment	Any activity concerned with determining directly or indirectly that relevant requirements are fulfilled.	ISO	
Requirements for Conformity Assessment	Any procedure or criteria used directly or indirectly to determine that the relevant technical regulations or standards are fulfilled.	ISO modified	

Harmonization	The process by which standards on the same subject approved by different bodies establish inter-changeability of products, processes and services, or mutual understanding of test results or information provided according to these standards. The process may include the application of identical standards or technical regulations, mutual recognition or determining equivalence.	WTO modified	Note: in international law the term “harmonization” refers to the process of establishment, recognition, and application of internationally recognized measures or standards. Used most often in reference to tariffs (as in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), technical standards, or sanitary and phytosanitary measures applied to imported food products. Source: Agricultural Law Dictionary.
Definition of Equivalence	The acceptance of different standards or technical regulations on the same subject that fulfill common objectives.	ITF	
Recognition	Arrangement (either unilateral, bilateral, or multilateral) for the use of results of conformity assessments.	ISO Modified	