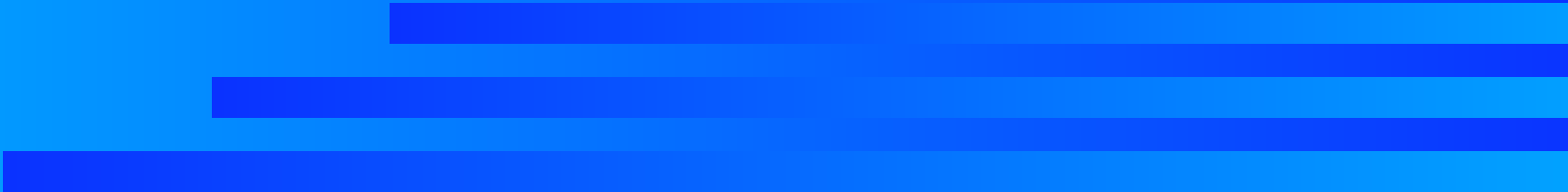


OVERVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS OF STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS

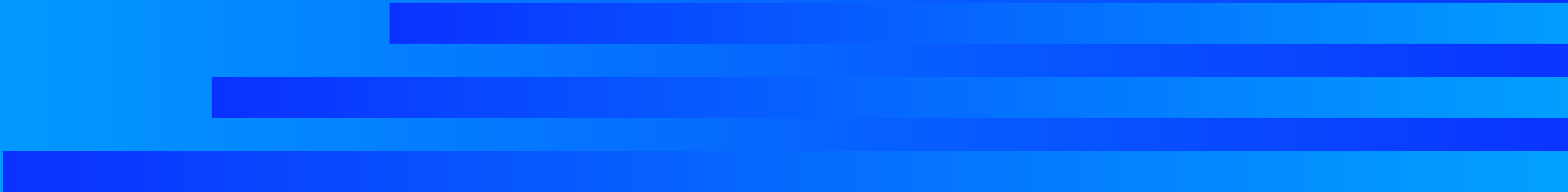
Ken Commins

IOAS

International Standards for Organic

- Codex Alimentarius Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Marketing and Labelling of Organically Produced Foods
 - IFOAM Basic Standards for Organic Production and Processing
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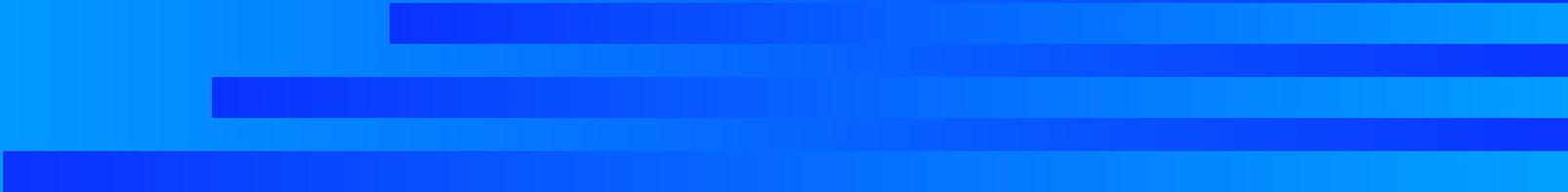
Codex Guidelines - History

- Food Labelling Committee
 - Worked from 1992 to 1999 to produce first approved Guidelines
 - Livestock added in 2001
 - Work in progress
- 

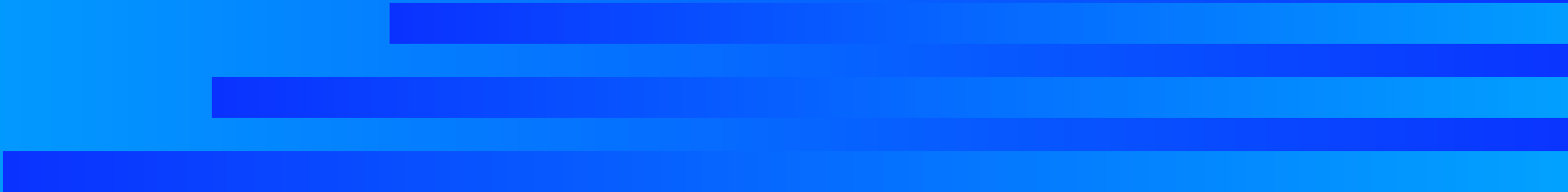
Codex Guidelines - Content

- Format similar to EU Regulation 2091/92 which served as first template
- Content strongly influenced by EU regulation and IFOAM
- Contains a number of general sections
- Detailed rules in several annexes
- Some general requirements regarding inspection and certification systems and import control.

Codex Guidelines - other considerations

- Codex referenced in WTO SPS . TBT agreement refers to international standards
 - Guidelines for Organic allows countries to apply stricter measures including for imports
 - Revision process allows amendment of input lists every two years and the revision of the complete guidelines every 4 years
- 

IFOAM Basic Standards for Organic Production and Processing

- First Published 1980
 - Have been revised biennially by IFOAM General Assembly
 - Now published together with IFOAM Criteria in the "IFOAM Norms"
 - Basic Standards means they are standards for standards - provide framework for certification standards
- 

IFOAM Basic Standards -content

- Contain "Principal Aims of Organic Production and Processing"
- Main section contains standards for crop production, processing and livestock husbandry
- Additional sections on ecosystems, labeling and social justice
- Annexes contain list of permitted inputs for organic production and processing
- Includes draft standards on aquaculture, textiles and forest management

IBS - other considerations

- IBS fall within the definition of an international standard in the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).
- Application of IFOAM Basic Standards verified within the IFOAM accreditation system
- IFOAM has established a system for approval of regional variations.
- Revision process guided by standards committee with stakeholder input

IFOAM Criteria

- Developed between 1990- 1992
- Developed directly from ISO/IEC Guide 65 'General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems'
- In addition to general requirements contains several sections covering situations specific to the inspection and certification of organic products
- Periodically revised with stakeholder input

National Regulations

- Total of 60 regulations on organic in some stage of development
- Survey categorised regulations as:
 - ▶ Fully implemented - meaning regulation and conformity assessment in place and functioning
 - ▶ Finalised, not yet implemented - meaning detailed rules finalised but conformity assessment not in place
 - ▶ Draft - meaning regulation being developed

Existing Regulations

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

Differences between regulations

- Domestic and export differences
 - Voluntary or mandatory
 - Scope differences
- 

Major importing country regulations

- The EU Council Regulation 2092/91
 - the National Organic Program Rule 7 CFR Part 205 ('US ')(FR 65 80548)
 - Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) of Organic Agricultural Products
- 

Importing country regulations - content similarities

- All cover production, processing and wild harvesting
- None of the regulations require retailers to be certified
- All include lists defining what inputs may be used for both production and processing
- All three regulations contain provisions for approval of private certification bodies to implement the law and provisions for enabling imports from other countries.

Importing country regulations - content differences

- EU and US include livestock - Japanese livestock standards in draft stage.
- US exempts producers and handlers with less than \$5000/year sales from certification requirements - EU and Japan do not
- EU and Japan formatted similarly. US format different
 - ▶ Former contain allowed agricultural inputs while US lists "allowed synthetics" and "prohibited non-synthetics"

Private Standards

- First private organic standards published in UK in 1967
- Motivations: consumer protection and fair competition
- Standard setters often farmers' associations and then verified compliance - developed into certification bodies
- Result was that many certification bodies developed each with their own standard. There are over 65 private standards for organic

Private standards - consequences of historical development

■ Advantages

- ▶ Good example of a self regulating industry
- ▶ Appropriate to locality
- ▶ Dynamic - quick reaction to new issues and products
- ▶ Innovative - covering new areas such as textiles

■ Disadvantages

- ▶ Problems with mutual recognition
- ▶ Consumer confusion

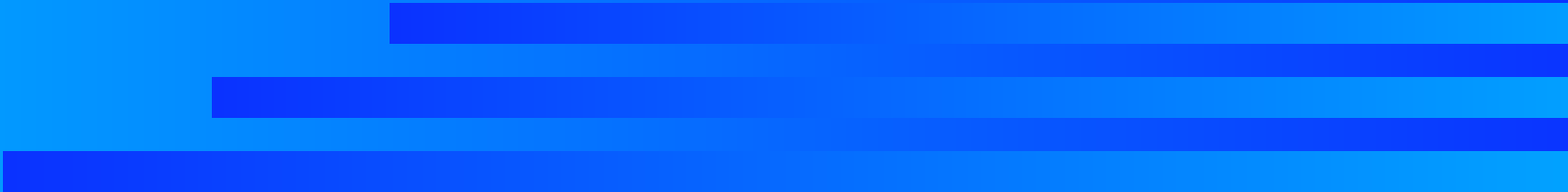
Conformity Assessment systems in organic field

- Regulatory conformity systems
- Private conformity systems

Regulatory conformity systems

- EU Regulation established general system - has been followed by most other regulations
 - ▶ Defining feature - allows for recognition of private certification bodies by a designated authority according to specified criteria
- US differs somewhat in that it involves approval of "agents" to operate defined certification program

Regulatory conformity systems - scope

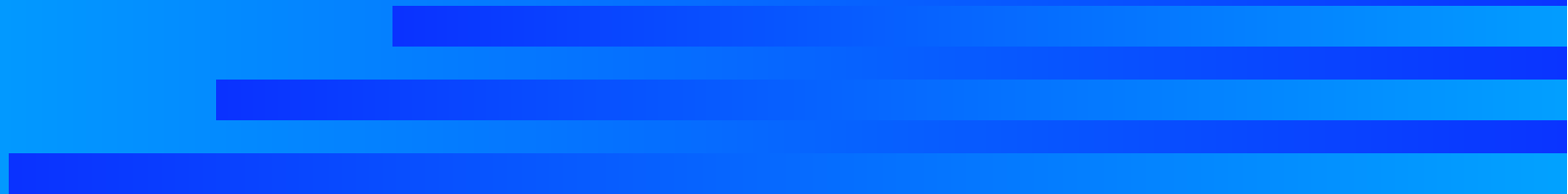
- EU directly approves only EU certification bodies. External Bodies only recognised indirectly through approval of another country
 - US and Japan allow for formal approval of foreign certification bodies.
- 

Regulatory conformity systems - criteria for approval

- EU Regulation requires compliance with ISO Guide 65 and sets out additional requirements in Annex 3
 - ▶ Annex 3 mostly issues related directly to certification of organic (parallel production - chain of custody)
- US and Japan do not cite ISO 65 as a requirement and instead promulgate own requirements.
 - ▶ In case of US these are quite detailed
- Some other countries base requirements on IFOAM criteria
 - ▶ Examples are India and new Australian (draft) requirements

Private conformity systems

- Private accreditation
- Private certification

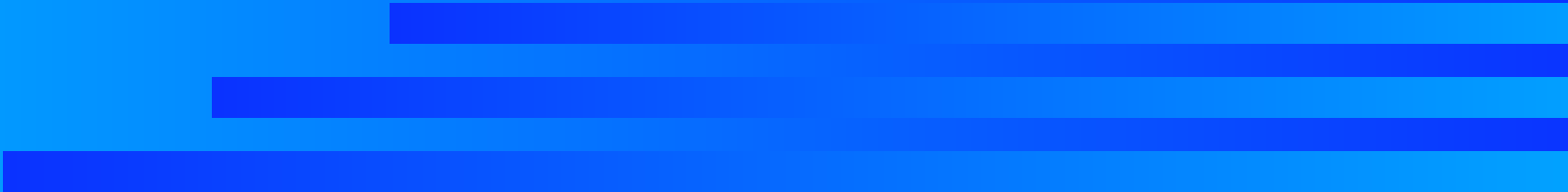


Private Accreditation - IFOAM Accreditation

■ IFOAM Accreditation

- ▶ Most established in sector - 11 years of operation. Currently run by the IOAS
- ▶ International accreditation system
- ▶ Open to both private and public certification bodies
- ▶ Currently 32 certification bodies in system representing an estimated 60% of the internationally traded organic produce
- ▶ Voluntary in nature and market driven
- ▶ Seal and ACB MLA based on IFOAM accreditation

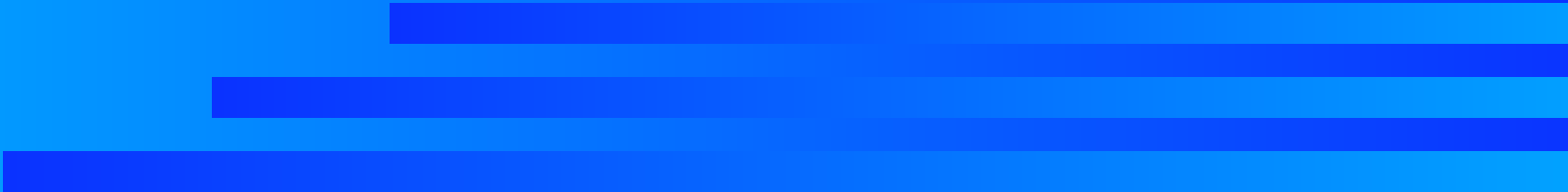
Private accreditation -ISO 65

- Offered by IOAS, national accreditation bodies and USDA
 - In nearly all cases motivation is access to EU market
 - Most active national accreditation bodies in organic sector are in Europe.
- 

International and national accreditation

- Both systems designed to facilitate trade based on recognition of a common standard being met
- International accreditation relies on mutual recognition of accredited certification bodies based on common accreditation by same accreditation body
- National accreditation system requires mutual recognition between the accreditation bodies in the different countries
 - ▶ Currently no such agreement for product certification at international level

Private certification - extent

- Nearly all certification in the organic sector is carried out by private certification bodies
 - The "Organic Standard" identified 364 private certification bodies.
 - Vast majority of these would be very small and some may not be active at all
 - Regulations have probably spurred a growth in numbers
- 

Operation of multiple certification programmes by organic certification bodies

- Prior to implementation of the EU Regulation certification bodies operated only one certification for organic
- Many certification bodies now operate several programmes in order to accommodate the different requirements of importing countries
- System is complicated, confusing and costly and a direct result of the lack of harmonisation

Labelling and certification as marketing tool

- Consumer identification with certification body logos differs from country to country but may be strong
- Many certification bodies reserve use of their logos to indicate compliance with their private standards
- Similar logo initiatives now at accreditation level - EU, US, Japan and IFOAM all allow use of accreditation mark
- Certification body logos are registered trademarks - Harmonisation needs to accommodate these

Thank you

