



# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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## Official Notice Number 2013 - 01

### All accreditation schemes

### Use of the IOAS accreditation symbol and IFOAM Seals

Issued: 31 January, 2013

As accreditation is a valued and hard-earned attestation of competence, it is important that we protect that status and ensure that its indication is used with clarity to avoid any misunderstandings. This notice is relevant to all accredited and applicant certification bodies except those under the Canada Organic Regime and any Food Safety scheme. The IOAS is the assessor in these schemes and not the accreditation body.

A number of changes have recently taken place to warrant this notice. These are:

1. IFOAM have developed new logos for each of the IFOAM accreditation and the IFOAM Global Organic System accreditation (IGOSA);
2. The IOAS has developed a new corporate logo (see top of the page) and a new and distinct accreditation symbol for use by accredited CBs.

#### **IFOAM accreditation**

To date the IFOAM seal has been available for use by IFOAM accredited CBs after they sign an agreement for use with the IOAS. IFOAM has recently redesigned the IFOAM Seal bringing it more into line with the rest of its corporate image. Apart from the change of the IFOAM Seal, there is no change in the rules for use which are defined in the Seal agreement. There is no cost for use of the IFOAM Seal.



**Action required:** The IOAS will be writing to all CBs which have a current IFOAM Seal agreement providing you with the new IFOAM Seal and asking you to sign a new Seal

agreement with us (**deadline June 30, 2013**). This will in turn require CBs to update all instances of use of the IFOAM Seal, including agreements with operators (**deadline June 30, 2014**) and use on operator products (**deadline June 30, 2015**).

### **IGOSA accreditation**

IFOAM has developed a new symbol for use by CBs accredited under the IGOSA programme which is based on the familiar IFOAM Seal with the strap line 'System Accredited' to denote that the accreditation is based on the use of an organic standard deemed equivalent to the IFOAM standard. The rules for use of the IGOSA Seal are similar to those for the IFOAM Seal and are defined in an agreement and operator appendix in the same way. There is similarly no cost for use of the IGOSA seal.



**Action required:** On accreditation to IGOSA, CBs will be invited to sign the IGOSA Seal agreement

### **ISO Guide 65/17065 accreditation**

As informed in IOAS notice 2008-01 dated January 2008 it is a requirement that CBs accredited against ISO Guide 65 issue certificates to operators which unambiguously identify the accreditation body and this has been enforced through the IOAS policy PL0515. This required use of the now old IOAS logo or a statement. The new IOAS accreditation symbol will replace the old IOAS logo. The format of the logo indicates that the activity covered is 'product certification' and also contains the unique CB contract number issued by the IOAS when you are accredited.



**Action required:** All CBs accredited by the IOAS against ISO Guide 65/17065 will receive the updated version of policy PL0515 and an electronic file of their unique

accreditation symbol along with instructions on what to do next. The deadline for updating operator certificate formats and web sites and any other publicity material is **June 30, 2013**. All certificates in circulation after **June 30, 2014** should be of the new format.

**All other accreditations**

All CBs accredited by the IOAS under any scheme (excluding COR and Food Safety Schemes) may (but you are not obliged to) use the IOAS accreditation symbol on operator certificates within the scope of their accreditation even if they are not accredited against ISO Guide 65/17065. If you use the accreditation symbol however, you must abide by all the rules of policy PL0515.

**Action required:** If you are not accredited against ISO Guide 65/17065 but you would still like to use the IOAS accreditation symbol on your operator certificate or on your web site or other publicity materials to indicate your accreditation status, please contact your Client Manager who will guide you through the process.

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