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**IOAS Official Notice 2019-02**  
**November, 2019**  
**Criteria for Inputs Certification under ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation**  
**Repealing Official Notice 2010-01 issued in July 23, 2010**

**Applicability:** ISO17065 accreditation  
Applicable immediately

Certification of inputs suitable for use in organic production systems is increasingly common. Given that most of the schemes don't have specific requirements for input certification, the CBs decide to accredit their input programmes under ISO/IEC 17065 and against private standards or country standards. However, ISO/IEC 17065 doesn't have specific requirements for frequency of inspections. For this reason, the IOAS issued in 2010 an official notice, by which the IOAS required certification bodies applying for ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation with a scope of inputs certification to apply the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements on Input certification. These requirements foresee an initial on-site inspection and subsequent on-site inspections at least every 3 years.

However, with experience, the IOAS has realised that the application of this is getting more and more challenging and has decided to amend this previous official notice and apply instead the following requirements:

- The CB needs to document a clear and detailed technical document defining the methods and criteria for their Input approval and certification programme;
- This technical document must include provisions for when on-site inspections are conducted;
- The frequency and need of on-site inspections must be based on a documented risk assessment;
- Although the IOAS would expect an Initial inspection to be always conducted, the CB may consider some exceptional cases where such an initial inspection is not needed. In such a case, the CB needs to have clear rules for such exceptions, which need to be properly justified and recorded when granted;
- Any case where the input manufacturing includes mixing of more than one ingredient OR the process of manufacture is over and above a simple mechanical/physical process, no exception to initial inspection would be accepted.

If you have any questions related to this official notice, please contact your Client Manager.

End