IFOAM Accreditation Programme

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Update Note: The criteria are now more clear in requiring that input/output audits must be undertaken. Please see criteria 6.3.3f and 6.6.1d

**Input/ Output analysis in processor and trader inspections**

The Accreditation Committee has become increasingly aware that regardless of what their policies may state, many certification bodies do not in fact insist on input/output analysis as a regular part of inspection of processors and handlers. Often the inspectors merely record whether such audits are possible without conducting a sample audit.

The criterion 6.3.3f requires that this be a regular function of inspection. In the AC’s view effective processing and handling inspections would contain checks on the documentation system which allows traceback and a check on the documentation system to enable input/output analysis and that a test case of each is usually done

The IOAS will be paying close attention to this issue in the annual surveillance and re-evaluation visits. If inspection reports do not already do so, they should be amended to ensure a record of whether a sample input/output analysis was conducted and whether it was successful. To ease the burden on inspectors operators should be informed of the need to maintain records in a manner that facilitates the audit process.

For US certifiers we have requested the IOIA to place greater emphasis on this in training sessions. For those with in-house inspectors we recommend placing this issue on the next training agenda.

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