



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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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.

K Commins
March 2000