



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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IFOAM Accreditation Programme

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Procedures to deal with changes to IFOAM Norms

Certification bodies are contractually obliged to follow the IFOAM standards and criteria as amended from time to time. In the light of experience the IOAS will insist that accredited certification bodies have a procedure in place for review of changes to IFOAM requirements. The IOAS expects all other accredited certifiers to have such a documented procedure by August 2000.

What is expected is a procedure that requires the relevant committees or Quality Manager to review changes to IFOAM requirements following publication of new editions of IFOAM standards or Criteria and to establish a plan for bringing the certification body into line with those changes within the allowed 2 year period.

Reissue Note: This task has become much easier for some certification bodies in that the IOAS is now identifying noncompliances with new standards and criteria at the time of conducting a re-application screening. These are entered into the compliance form as “deferred NC” (DNC), meaning that they must be rectified within the 2 year period allowed for new standards and criteria. However, for most certification bodies such a screening may not take place during the two year period due to the timing of their accreditation cycle, or will take place late in the two year period. The notice is therefore being reissued.

Update note: The deadline for bringing standards into line with the 2005 IFOAM Norms is 31st December 2007.

K Commins