



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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IFOAM Accreditation Programme

Official Notice Number 2002-08

First Issued: August 1, 2002

Reissued: August 28, 2003

Updated for 2005 IFOAM Norms: February 2007

Accreditation Indications on Certificates

The IOAS has become increasingly concerned about correct public representation of the accreditation scope. This concern is enhanced by the growing number of certification bodies now operating more than one organic certification programme, only one of which is IFOAM accredited.

The IOAS is responsible for ensuring that this situation does not mislead the trade with respect to whether the certification of a product falls within the IFOAM accreditation scope or not. In exercising this responsibility, the IOAS board has decided that accredited certifiers should be required to clearly indicate the accreditation status on certificates issued under programmes covered by the IFOAM accreditation. This will enable the IOAS to inform the trade that if a certificate does not bear an indication of IFOAM accreditation, it is probably certified under a programme not accredited.

Many accredited certification bodies already comply with this requirement. For those that do not, please make the necessary adjustment for certificates issued after the end of August 2002.

Ken Commins