



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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Oversight mechanisms

IOAS expects oversight by the responsible body, frequently the (main) certification committee, where decisions are taken by individual staff. This applies whether the staff is located in the main, or a regional office.

IFOAM criterion (2005) 1.2.5 requires that:

'Where decisions are delegated to individual certification officers, the certification body shall have reporting and review procedures that enable the Governing Board or the certification committee to exercise control over and responsibility for such decisions'

Oversight does not mean receiving a summary report of the decisions taken every quarter. IOAS expect an oversight to be well defined and documented, involving file checks to verify that decisions are being made in line with certification body procedures and standards and that there is consistency in decision making. This review may occur as part of scheduled internal audits.

K Commins