



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

A non-profit organisation
40, 1st Ave West, Suite 104, Dickinson,
N.D. 58601, USA
Tel: +1 701 483 5504 Fax: +1 701 483 5508
E Mail: info@ioas.org
Web: www.ioas.org

IFOAM Accreditation Programme

Official Notice Number 2003-05b

First Issued: 15 May 2003

Updated for 2005 IFOAM Norms: February 2007

Retrospective conversion

The IOAS has reviewed its interpretation of the requirements related to retrospective conversion. Although the criteria have not changed substantially, a close examination of the revised text and the guidance notes led to the following understanding.

Criteria references: 6.7.1 to 6.7.3 and associated guidance and explanatory notes. Specific reference is 6.7.3

*The precise nature of required documentation in order to reduce the conversion periods below those specified in the IFOAM Basic Standards sections 4.2 and 5.2 is not defined in the criteria. The indisputable documented evidence referred to in 6.7.4 may be considered to be a combination of the documents supplied by the operator and the inspection report. What is of critical importance is that the inspection is not a normal inspection. The guidance notes state that in addition to the documented evidence **the inspection visit must evaluate both the existing and prior management system to determine if all aspects of the standards have been met.** The IOAS will accept limited documentary evidence supplied by the operator (for example an affidavit) providing the inspection report fulfills the above requirement.*

Explanation:

The whole farm system must be documented in the conversion inspection report for the period of the retrospective conversion. Normally historical aspects of initial inspection reports include only the history of chemical application. If retrospective conversion is being granted the inspection report must demonstrate that a full organic system has been in place for the conversion period. For example historical data for fertility management should be obtained to determine whether an organic fertility programme has been in place. An acceptable rotation plan should already be in place. If there is insufficient evidence of all standards having been met, then the application for reduction of the conversion period must be denied. ACBs should develop specific inspection reports to address these requirements.

Ken Commins