



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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ISO 65 Accreditation Programme

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ISO65 Accreditation Scope

This notice is relevant to those certification bodies who are applying, or thinking of applying, for IOAS ISO65 Accreditation and relates to the scope of the accreditation. On receiving the first applications for ISO65 accreditation, there appears to be some confusion over what this means.

Unlike IFOAM Accreditation in which the IFOAM Basic Standards are an integral part of the assessment for accreditation, ISO65 accreditation does not include any standards assessment. Instead the requirements of ISO65 are assessed with a certain certification programme and therefore standards scope in mind and this must be stated on any accreditation certificate.

The IOAS application form for ISO65 accreditation requires the applicant to indicate the relevant scope of the accreditation being applied for. The choices would normally be as follows:

1. CB Private Standards Programme - i.e. using your own standards

- If you adopt this approach you can continue working in the same way as you are now. You issue your own standard to applicants and you inspect and evaluate against them using your current inspection forms and procedures and issue your own certificate as normal.
- However if you are acquiring ISO65 accreditation as part of the process for gaining regulatory approval, you **may** still need to demonstrate that your private standards are equivalent to the relevant regulation. Whether or not you will be required to do so depends on the relevant authority.

If you chose to opt for using your own standards you should also determine whether you want the IOAS to do an equivalency of standards assessment. These will be available at the same price as they were previously.

In terms of your ISO 65 accreditation, use of your own standards may therefore lead to 2 alternative stated scopes.

In compliance with ISO65 with respect to certification against your private standards

Or

In compliance with ISO65 with respect to certification against your private standards which have been found to be equivalent to EU Regulation 2092/91 (or whichever regulatory standard you choose)

2. EU Regulation or other regulation - i.e. certification against the EU Regulation

- If you choose this approach you will have to issue the EU Regulation to your applicants, and demonstrate that the inspection and certification decision are performed in line with the Regulation including the issuing of a certificate stating compliance with the EU Regulation.
- With this approach there will be no further requirement to demonstrate that your private standards are equivalent to the Regulation as you are in fact certifying against the Regulation directly.

Please consider these options and make clear to IOAS when you apply. Of course if you have any questions, please contact us at the Jamestown office.

Ken Commins