



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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IFOAM Accreditation Programme

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Countries of activity and scope of accreditation

It has come to our notice that enquirers, including government authorities are referring to our web site to verify scope details of certification bodies only to find that there may be a discrepancy with reality. With respect to government authorities, this can have far reaching consequences in terms of import access for operators and their products which you certify from such countries. Currently we update this information based on your annual returns or when advised in the interim. All accredited certifiers are reminded that clause C5 of your accreditation contract requires you to inform IOAS of any changes in procedures, scope and areas of activity. This is in addition to the annual reporting of such information.

In an effort to facilitate this process and ensure up to date information on our web site on the scope and countries in which accredited certification bodies are active, the IOAS is proposing to send out an email reminder to all ACBs every 3 months to ask you to check your details on our web site. It will then be your responsibility to inform us of any discrepancies or changes that may have occurred.

On a related note, all accredited certification bodies are reminded that your accreditation covers certain categories of certification (crop production, processing and handling etc) and that if you wish to add a new category, you must inform the IOAS in time to permit evaluation of standards, procedures etc before the first certification decision. IOAS procedure PR0512 on extension of scope is included in your electronic manual.

Thanks for your co-operation.

David Crucefix
Assistant Executive Director