



## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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### **IFOAM Accreditation Programme**

#### **Official Notice Number 2004-10b**

Issued: October 1st, 2004

Updated for 2005 Norms: February 2007

#### **Decision-making by inspectors**

Ifoam criterion 1.3.10 states that:

‘The certification body shall have clear division of the functions of inspection, certification and appeals’

Inspectors are fact finders and not final decision makers. Increasingly, inspectors are raising non-compliances and the inspection and certification procedure requires corrective actions by the operator before the file is reviewed by a certification officer or committee.

The IOAS want to make clear that the raising of non-compliances by the inspector and action on them by the operator is acceptable providing that the language in which the non-compliances are presented to the operator makes it clear that these are not final decisions and that the final decision on the appropriateness of the actions and overall decision on certification lies with the certification office. In other words, the certification office has the power to overturn any requirements or recommendations issued by the inspector and the operator must be aware that this is the case.

In addition, the certification body must be able to demonstrate that inspectors’ recommendations are being reviewed and that a documented certification decision is being issued.

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