5. CERTIFICATION – LABELLING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

5. Certification – Labelling of Organic Products

INTRODUCTION

This section will present the concept and procedures for the certification of organic products, the certification inspection stages and the conditions for recognizing products as organic.

EXPECTED RESULTS

When you have finished this chapter, you will be able:

- To accept and understand the necessity for the inspection and certification of organic production and the labelling procedure for organic products.
- To understand and describe the main points of regulation No. 2092/91 and its amendments regarding certification of organic production and the procedures for labelling the produced organic products
- To understand and be able to implement the required steps – actions for including your farm in the inspection – certification system for organic products and the organic product inspection and certification processes at all stages

KEY CONCEPTS

Organic products, Certification, Organic product labelling, Logo

5.1. Introduction of the institutional framework for the Inspection and Certification of Organic Products

The **certification of organic products** is necessary to be able to use the term **"organic"** for a **product.**

Based on the current European institutional framework compliance with the EU Regulation on organic farming is required for all products that bear the EU logo for organic farming. Community Logo

Community Logo (Common Label for Certification of Organic Products by EU Member States)

It is also mandatory to include on the labelling the code of the inspection bodies that inspect and certify operators for organic production.

This labelling regime was designed to inspire trust in consumers of EU Member States regarding the organic production of the products they purchase. The EU logo was designed with the aim of increasing visibility of organic products by consumers and functions in a way similar to other national logos which you may see in your own country. According to the Council Regulation on organic methods of production and labelling of organic products, it is mandatory for products produced according to the EU Regulation on organic farming to have the logo on their label.

5.1.1 Inspection and certification of organic products

The organic product inspection and certification system in the EU countries is based on the Council Regulation on organic methods of production and labelling of organic products which annuls prior Regulation No. 2092/91 "on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs".
Every operator who produces, prepares or imports organic products from third countries with the purpose of marketing them, must:

a) notify this activity to the competent authority of the state in which the activity is carried out;

b) submit his undertaking to the inspection system provided for organic products.

Member States shall set up an inspection system operated by one or more competent inspection authorities and/or by approved private bodies to which the operators producing, preparing or importing organic products from third countries shall be subject.

The inspection authority and the approved inspection bodies ensure that at least the inspection measures and precautions are applied to undertakings subject to their inspection and do not disclose information and data they obtain in their inspection activity to persons other than the person responsible for the undertaking concerned and the competent public authorities. In accordance with the respective EU Regulations no product is placed on the market as an "organic" product without prior inspection and certification. Each EU Member State shall suggest **one or more competent authorities or approved private bodies for the inspection and certification of organic products** and it shall also designate **an authority responsible for approving and supervising these bodies**.

Responsible for observing the Inspection System in each EU Member - State are approved Organic Product Inspection and Certification Bodies, which in their turn are inspected by the competent bodies and authorities of each country.

When the inspection regime is first implemented, the operator must make a full description of the unit and its activity, and determine all specific measures to be taken by the undertaking to ensure compliance with the Regulation. Organic Product Inspection and Certification Bodies must carry out, at least once a year, a full inspection of the included unit, while they can also take samples and carry out laboratory tests for detecting substances that are not authorized for use under the Regulation. Inspection Bodies may also make more inspection visits throughout the year, whether announced or unannounced. After the end of the inspection, a relevant report is drawn up, signed both by the representative of the Inspection Body and the unit's representative.

The production and labelling of organic products within the EU markets follows a strict certification process. Farmers must first register with a recognized supervisory inspection and

certification body or authority of their country, and according to an agreed conversion plan, must go through a minimum two-year transitional period before they start producing products – crops that can be marketed as organic. During this period, the farm is considered to be in a "transitional stage".

If the farmers wish to produce both conventional and organic, they must clearly separate these two operations throughout every stage of production. Both farmers and processors must at all times respect all the standards and rules of the EU Regulation. They must be subjected to inspections by the recognized inspection and certification bodies and supervisory bodies or authorities, in order to ensure compliance with the laws on organic farming.

Subsequently, an organic farming certification is granted to those operators who meet the criteria and they are allowed to market their products with the organic product label.

5.2. Procedures and Stages of Inspection & Certification of Organic Products – Labelling

5.2.1 Types of inspection for the certification of organic products

The certification label on an organic product proves that a **series of inspections** have been carried out – **at the field, the laboratory and on the shelf –** before it reaches the consumer. In fact, certified organic products that represent only 4% of our total agriculture, are inspected 25 times more compared to the other 96% of conventional farming.

They are submitted to the following inspections:

On-site inspection of the field

The regulation provides that the field must be inspected at least once a year. However, national certification and inspection bodies can set a higher standard, by carrying out scheduled and unscheduled inspections 2-3 or more times a year, placing emphasis on the dangerous seasons for each type of crop, namely the periods when the use of fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides would be expected. The inspections are carried out by experienced agronomists, who can locate traces of plant protection products and chemical fertilizers on a field even months after their use.

On-site inspection example

On-site inspection of a watermelon producer

The inspector’s actions are the following

- He first selects the period when spraying for the specific crop is usually implemented.
- The visit must be avoided if there has been recent rainfall.
- He visits the fields included in the organic farming program and examines whether there are any traces on the leaves from residues of plant-protection products (spots, burns on the plants, etc.) while he also inspects the area around the fields for any used packages of unauthorized products
- He visits the producer's storage and checks for any formulations not allowed in organic farming.
- He inspects the input invoices. After all the above actions and following a discussion with the producer, he will decide whether the conditions for organic farming are met or not.

Laboratory inspection

If the inspector-agronomist deems it necessary, he takes a sample from the field (dirt, produce) and asks for its laboratory analysis for traces of fertilizers and plant-protection products. The analysis is always done at an accredited laboratory, where the sample is sent anonymously. Sampling may be carried out, for example, in fields neighbouring with conventional farming fields, where there is a risk of contamination – one of the greater risks faced today by organic farmers which reminds us that organic products are not produced in glass spheres. The law provides for an annual sampling of at least 5% of organic farmers. However, national certification bodies can set higher goals, by carrying out more inspections and in fact doubling or tripling the above percentage. The interesting part is that organic farmers themselves, as well as organic product dealers often carry out their own laboratory inspections in order to certify the purity of their produce and retain the trust of their consumers.

Example

Laboratory inspection in certified laboratories is yet another important tool for inspectors. Sampling may include the dirt of the crop, the plants themselves as well as the final product. It is an objective and reliable method of inspection for the inspector.

Inspection on the shelf

The inspections of certification bodies are not limited to the field. They also extend to the shelves. For example, a sample may be taken from a shop where a producer's products are sold (certification bodies know where each producer markets his products), as well as from a processing unit, even the olive oil tank (in the case of olive oil, it is the main organic product of our country which is mostly exported).

Document inspection

Each organic farmer must keep a log and a record of all documents (invoices, receipts, etc), related to his production. The examination of the documents is important, and fills in the picture which the inspector has formed from the on-site inspection of the field.

Example

If someone asks out loud in a farmer's market "Who has good produce?", without doubt the majority of producers will say they do. But who can prove, and in what way if it is true? They must have evidence and records that document that they complied with all the regulations imposed by certification standards.

In the case of organic farming, the log, records and all the documents (invoices, certificates, laboratory tests) together with the other inspections, form a complete image of the undertaking.

Inspection by public authorities

Organic product certification bodies are inspected by public authorities on an annual basis. The inspections pertain to the records of the organic farmers kept by the certification organizations. There are however inspections (on-site and samplings) of the producers themselves, as well as the trading locations (wholesale and retail) of the organic farming products.

5.2.2. Organic product inspection stages

The inspection of organic products starts out at the field and takes place throughout all stages (namely production, packaging, processing and trade) of organic products.

A) Inspection of producer

Each year, before the agricultural period, the producer notifies the Inspection Body about his production program per agricultural parcel.

He must also keep accounting books for all inputs used during the production procedure (type, quantities, origin, method of use, etc), as well as for the sales of agricultural products (type, quantities, destination).

B) Inspection of processing and packaging units

The inspection is carried out by mutual agreement between the Inspection Body and the processor or packager. This agreement includes:

- The measures to be taken at unit level;
- The description of the facilities used for the processing, packaging and storage of agricultural products before and after the above operations.
- Keeping of accounting books, which allow the inspector to verify the suitability of the used materials as well as the correspondence between the quantities of the raw materials and the quantities of the products placed on the market.

Furthermore, the origin, type and quantities of the added improvers or processing agents used during processing are inspected, as well as the composition of the final products.

We must handle an organic product appropriately through all its stages: producer-storage-transportation-processing at the processing unit-trade-consumption. If the conditions of the certification standard are not met at any link of the chain, the final product shall not be considered certified. For these reasons, it is imperative that inspection continues after farming and reaches the consumer's table.

C) Inspection of importers of products from third countries

This inspection includes:

- The full description of the importer's facilities and the import activities, as well as the points of entry of the products in the European Union.
- Book-keeping.
- The importer's commitment to comply with the procedures of article 11, Regulation 2092/91.
- Informing the Inspection Body for each lot imported into the European Union.

Particularities of inspection

If agricultural products are produced both by the organic and conventional farming methods on the same farm at the same time, then the agricultural parcels and storage areas must be clearly separated. The inspection is carried out at the entire farm, whereas the same varieties of the same crop cannot be grown both organically and conventionally.

If non-organic products are also processed or packaged in the same unit, then this unit must have separate storage areas for organic products, both before and after the relevant operations. These operations must be carried out at complete order, separated either in time or in space from the corresponding operations for non-organic products. Provided that the operations are not carried out frequently, the Inspection Body must be warned in time and in advance. Furthermore, all necessary measures are taken for distinguishing lots and avoiding any mingling with non-organic products.

Everything that applies for organic product farmers, applies also for the inspection and certification of wild food plants or parts of plants. Before the inspection, the harvester of wild plants and the Inspection Body:

- Fully describe the harvesting areas.
- The harvester and, where deemed necessary, third parties provide guarantees for ensuring the aforementioned conditions for wild plant harvesting.

5.2.3 Labelling of Organic Products

Through the certification system, the certification body inspects the origin of a product with the special label, ensuring that Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91 is met in all operations, from production in the field to the final placement of the product on the market. Organic farming products, in accordance with the European Legislation, bear a special label regarding the organic method of their production. This label includes:

- the **name of the undertaking** that produces, packages or trades the product and the certification code;

- the indication "**product of organic farming**" or "**product of organic farming in transition**", depending on the certification stage;

- the **name (logo) of the certification body** which must be recognized by the competent authority of each EU Member State.

Labelling is a mechanism that guarantees the authenticity of organic products. Both the logo and labelling provide the necessary confidence that the goods are produced in line with the EU organic farming regulation, or in the case of imported goods, that a set of rules and standards equivalent to Community regulations has been applied.

Labelling procedure

The production and placement of organic products with labels and logos on the EU market follows a strict certification process that must be complied with. Conventional farmers must first undergo a conversion period of a minimum of two years before they can begin producing agricultural goods that can be marketed as organic. If they wish to simultaneously produce conventional and organic goods they must clearly separate the two undertakings throughout every stage of production.
Both farmers and processors must at all times respect the relevant rules contained in the EU Regulation. They are subject to inspections by the EU inspection bodies or authorities that can confirm that these rules were complied with. Finally, only those farmers that are granted organic certification are entitled to label their goods as organic. The regulation contains clear and strict rules about labelling and logo use, to minimise any confusion among consumers, or potential misuse. Any terms such as organic, bio, eco, etc., including terms used in trademarks, or practices used in labelling or advertising liable to mislead the consumer or user by suggesting that a product or its ingredients satisfy the requirements set out under this Regulation shall not be used for non-organic products.

To provide further confidence, by law all products labelled as organic must bear the name of the last operator who has handled the product, e.g. the producer or the processor and the name or code C329 of the inspection body.

Logos of organic products

The EU organic logo and the national logo of each EU Member State are used to supplement the labelling and increase the visibility of organic food and drink for consumers. Therefore, consumers buying products bearing the EU logo can be confident that:

- at least 95% of the product's ingredients of agricultural origin have been organically produced;

- the product complies with the rules of the official inspection body;
- the product has come directly from the producer or packaging unit;
- the product bears the name of the producer, the packager or processor and the name or code of the inspection body

The placement of the EU logo is voluntary, but shall become mandatory after the new EU regulation on organic farming enters into effect in early 2009 for pre-packaged products. It shall remain optional for imported products after 2009. Where the Community logo is used under the new regulation, there must be an indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials were farmed.

This indication may be: "EU", "Non-EU", or the name of the specific country, inside or outside the EU, where the product and its raw materials were produced. If operators wish to sell their products in another EU Member State on their own, they must place an additional logo recognized by these markets. By the use of the EU logo they shall avoid such double work, as it shall be recognized across Europe.

5.3. Required steps – actions for inclusion in the Inspection & Certification System for Organic Products

The procedure for the inclusion of a farm in the Certification System up to the stage of the 1st initial inspection, is the following:

5.3.1 Expression of interest

The interested party provides information about the activities intended for inclusion in the Inspection and Certification System. The Certification Body supplies the interested party with all information about the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 as well as all other relevant Community and National Laws.

Interested parties have free electronic access to the Body's site, where they can find both the specifications of National and Community Legislation on organic farming and the General Regulations and other Special Regulations of the Body, as well as all brochures and leaflets. They can also have, if they wish, printed copies of the Certification Application, General Certification Regulation, Special Certification Regulations, Special Regulation for the Use of Labels and Price Lists.

5.3.2 Inclusion Application

Operators and undertakings wishing to be included in the Certification System must submit a filled-in Inclusion Application, by providing all the information required in it. They shall attach all documents required for documenting the stated information (Operator inclusion statement, property titles, survey maps, licenses of operation, installation plans, certificates, legalizing documents, etc.) They must also submit an Inclusion Statement that is binding as to the truth and compliance with the general and special provisions of National and Community Legislation on organic farming.

Each Application that is submitted must accurately specify the Standards and the field or fields of Certification, and may include one or more units and products. If the application is accepted the procedure continues. The Inclusion Application submittal procedure is also followed in case of change in the activities (reduction, expansion, correct recording of unit information).

After the Inclusion Application is submitted, the Certification Cost must be paid in full or an advance thereof, in accordance with the relevant Price List of the Body. In any case, in the period intervening between the Inclusion Application submittal and the signing of the Private Cooperation Agreement, everything included in National and Community Legislation on the Certification of Organic Products applications.

5.3.3 Evaluation of Inclusion Application

Inclusion Applications and the accompanying documentation are examined by the Coordinators or other authorized personnel of the competent Certification Departments. During the evaluation of the Application, additional information may be requested from the Operator, in order to determine the products to be certified or other unclear issues.

If the Operator who submits the Application is already included in the Inspection and Certification System and wishes to change certification bodies, the new Body asks the previous Certification Body for the information of the operator's personal file, together with the relevant certificate on the certification status of the inspected units. In cases of transfer from another Certification Body, the Application is accepted if it is documented that:

- The Operator has left the previous Inspection and Certification Body legally and has settled all financial obligations towards it. If there are such pending issues, they must be resolved within fifteen days from the transfer Application date.
- There is no scheduled on-site or other inspection pending before the transfer Application, there is no pending evaluation of inspection findings or tests nor is there any sanction process in progress.
- There is no administrative sanction for the prohibition of the use of the related conditions, indications, labels and logos included in National legislation on organic farming or prohibition for the exercise of activity for the production, preparation, storage, trade and import from third countries of organic farming products.

If the Application is rejected, the operator is notified in writing about the reasons of such rejection, while he may submit a new Application under the condition that the rejection reasons have been removed.

5.3.4 Private Cooperation Agreement

If the Contracting Party agrees with the cooperation terms at the latest within one month (30 days) after the submittal of the Initial Application and all the necessary documentation, he signs a Private Cooperation Agreement on a special form of the Body and receives a copy. The Private Cooperation Agreement consists of the following, their content disclosed to the Contracting Party before signing, which are attached to the signed Private Cooperation Agreement:

a) The Activity Program, related to the direction and activity of the undertaking, as amended and in force each time.

b) The current General Certification Regulation.

c) The current Special Regulations, related to the activity of Contracting Party's undertaking. es and is implemented

d) The current Price List, related to the Contracting Party's activities and

e) The current Special Regulation for the Use of Labels.

Each operator concludes a Private Cooperation Agreement with only one Inspection and Certification Body for all categories of activities. The categories are production (plant or animal), preparation, storage and import from third countries of organic products.

5.3.5 Initial Inspection

The signing of the Special Cooperation Agreement is followed by the Initial Inspection, its purpose being the verification of the measures, information, commitments, as well as all types of information and documentation submitted or invoked by the Contracting Party in his initial Application and the relevant Statement.

The Initial Inspection of a new Operator is carried out within 60 days from the signature of the Private Cooperation Agreement. The exact date of the Initial Inspection is set via a telephone communication by authorized personnel of the Body, in cooperation with the Contracting Party, whereas if the Contracting Party disagrees it is set by the Body's Coordinator.

If during an inspection visit (annual or extra) the Operator informs that he would like to extend the certification, he fills in a relevant Extension Application which is communicated to the Body in any way possible (e.g. fax, etc.) and is evaluated. If it is accepted, the inspector is informed in any way possible (even by phone in extraordinary cases) in order to carry out the Initial Inspection.

If the evaluation and acceptance of the Extension Application is not completed, the Initial Inspection cannot be carried out.

5.4. Procedures after the initial Certification of Organic Products – Monitoring

5.4.1. Granting Initial Certification

After the Initial Inspection, the documentation that has been collected is evaluated by the competent Certification Department which makes the relevant recommendations to the Certification Board. The Board's positive decision on granting a Certification includes the Contracting Party in the Certification System, as of the date of granting the Certification and allows on the one hand the issue of a Compliance Certificate and on the other hand the Contracting Party's registration in the Registry of Operators or Undertakings Included in the Certification System.

If an included operator does not implement or meet the terms and conditions set out in his inclusion decision, no Certification document is issued. If the Contracting Party then proves that he

has met the above conditions and requirements the competent Certification Department may make a new positive recommendation to the Certification Board.

5.4.2. Certification Extension

When a certified undertaking wishes to extend its certification field, the procedure described above is followed.

5.4.3. Certification Monitoring

After the Certification is granted and the Contracting Party is included in the Certification System, the Certification Board and the competent Certification Departments are responsible for monitoring the Certification. The purpose of the monitoring is:

- to ensure the continuous response of the production, preparation, import works of the corresponding units and products with regard to their compliance with the specifications of the Standards based on which the Certification was granted by the Body's Certification Board.

- to verify the continuous correct use of the Certificates or other Certification documents and Labels, such as the one described in the Body's Standards and Regulations.

The Monitoring of the Certification is carried out through:

- on-site inspections (scheduled or unscheduled) at the operations/units of the Contracting Parties;

- sampling checks at the market for products certified by the Body;

- samplings and tests;

- evaluation of the documentation during the procedure for the issue of the Certificates and the other Certification documents.

The Certification Board also monitors the Certification, with sampling checks of the Contracting Party's documentation.

5.4.4 Monitoring Inspections

The Certification is monitored, among other things, through on-site Inspection Visits that fall under Annual and Additional inspections.

They are carried out by personnel especially authorized by the Body, the inspectors, while the findings and discoveries are recorded in forms controlled by the Body. When an inspector is assigned to carry out the monitoring inspections, the Coordinator or the person in charge of the competent department examines in particular the inspector's Duty Conflict – Incompatibility Statement, in order to take the appropriate measures.

A special certification procedure is followed on a case-to-case basis for operators that are also employees, members, members of bodies, committees, affiliated parties of the Body, according to a relevant Procedure of the Body.

Annual Inspection

The Annual Inspection is carried out during the farming period of the farmed goods for plant production, within the breeding year if it is an animal production unit, or within the preparation

period if it is a preparation unit. Its date is set by the Body's authorized personnel, in cooperation with the Contracting Party and in any case by the competent Coordinator.

The Annual Inspection must be carried out within one month at the latest after the first notice to the Contracting Party, except in cases of force majeure, and is carried out in implementation of the relevant provisions of National and Community Legislation, as in force each time. The inspector carries out a full inspection of the unit's facilities and inspects any area or document or account or other books he deems necessary to complete the inspection, which is used for activities related to the production unit under inspection.

Additional Inspections

Additional Inspections for monitoring the certification are auxiliary to the Annual inspections, and are carried out at least to 10% of the operators under contract with the Body.

Additional Inspections for monitoring the certification fall under Scheduled and Unscheduled inspections, depending on the warning period given to operators. Operators are selected, among other things, based on risk criteria for the type of operation, the operator's history or randomly, etc

Unscheduled Inspections are carried after giving the Contracting Party a 24-hour warning or no warning at all. They may be carried out without the presence of the Contracting Party, if he cannot or refuses to attend or if the Body finds it advisable.

Market inspections

They are carried out for enhancing consumer confidence, protecting the Certification System and compliance with the requirements of the Standards. The procedure of market inspections is related to Certified Products, which are mentioned in the Body's Certification System.

The person in charge of the Specimen Handling Department is responsible to notify the operator about the results of the tests, especially if they constitute non-compliance with the Standards, providing the right of Objection. If an Objection is submitted, when the Contracting Party doubts the results of the laboratory test, provided that the prohibited substance detected in the first test allows it, the counter-specimen is sent for analysis to the same laboratory. The counter-specimen is analyzed if the Contracting Party pays the relevant cost, which is returned if the counter-specimen's results justify the Party. If prohibited substances are detected in the counter-specimen, not detected during the first test of the specimen, the laboratory finding is considered final and the related Sanctions are imposed.

iii) Tests and Associated Laboratories

The associated laboratories that perform tests must be accredited according to ISO/IEC for the specific methods. The presence of prohibited substances is determined based on the Limit of Quantitation, the specific test, the active substance, the product. The Limit of Quantitation must be as low and as close to 0.01 mg/kg as possible, a value described in Directive 91/321/EEC of 14 May 1991 on infant formulae and follow-on formulae, which is the strictest quantitation internationally. The results of the tests are evaluated correspondingly by the Specimen Handling Department in order to examine both the reasons of the presence of the prohibited substances and the measures that must be taken in the framework of the Certification System.

Examples related to the chemical analysis for the detection of residues of plant-protection substances in fruit in mg/kg

• Organochlorinated 0.001

• Organophosphorus 0.01

• Pyrethroids 0.002

• Triazines and thiocarbamates 0.005

• Plant growth regulators 0.02

iv) Evaluation of laboratory findings

If the results are greater or equal to 0.01 mg/kg, the data are examined, information is obtained from the contracting operator and any other involved party, and the related Sanctions are imposed.

To evaluate the results of a test, the uncertainty percentage is taken into account, as recorded by the laboratory in the results of each test. The review of the issue takes into account ILAC-G8:1996 Guidelines on Assessment and Reporting of Compliance with Specification (based on measurements and test in a laboratory)

The above inspections pertain on the one hand to the correct use of labels with regard to the Body's Standards and Regulations, and on the other hand to finding whether the products are in fact those certified by the Body.

5.4.5 Tests

a) Scheduling samplings and tests

Certification Monitoring includes sampling tests on specimens of water, soil, plant and animal tissues, agricultural products, products from the unit, the market and anywhere else deemed necessary, at a minimum 5% of the inspected operators, as laid down in National Legislation. The following basic criteria are used for scheduling samplings and tests:

a. Random selection

b. Scheduled tests, their selection taking into account, among other things: the number of Certified Operators, geographical distribution, activity and size of undertaking, the volume of the produced products, the history of the undertaking, the risk, the critical stages of the production procedure, complaints by consumers.

c. In cases of contamination indications

d. When there are suspicions on the use of substances not included in the list of allowed substances of Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007

ii) Samplings and Handling of Specimens

Two specimens are taken by authorized personnel of the Body, a specimen and a counter-specimen, which are sent to the Body. The Body then forwards the specimen for analysis. The tests are performed by laboratories that are included in the Body's approved Laboratories' List, and their results are notified to the Contracting Party. If for any reason the Contracting Party cannot or does not want to attend, or it is not deemed necessary to invite him to the sampling, this is carried out as if the Party was present and the usual Procedure is followed, with its ensuing provisions and consequences.

Information about the associated laboratories and the Limits of Quantitation they use for the tests, is available to all operators, both during the inclusion procedure and during the certification. The Body is responsible to inform about all changes.

Example

In evaluating the data of the example of the previous paragraph related to the detection of plant protection substances in fruit we can say:

• Organochlorinated 0.001 is under the limit of 0.01 mg/kg

• Organophosphorus 0.01 is at the limit

• Pyrethroids 0.002 under the limit

• Triazines and thiocarbamates 0.005 under the limit

• Plant growth regulators 0.02 over the limit

In the case of the organochlorinated, pyrethroids, triazines, thiocarbamates, we can say that they are under the allowed limits and end the evaluation.

In the case of plant growth regulators and organophosphorus, we take into account the uncertainty percentage as the laboratory records it in the results of each test before we make the final conclusion on the result.

5.5. Issue and use of Organic Product Certificates

5.5.1 Compliance Certificate

i) Granting and Use

The Compliance Certificate declares initial compliance and observance of the requirements laid down in the Specifications of Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007. It is the official recognition of compliance to date, that the production, preparation or import requirements are met by the corresponding units.

The Compliance Certificate is issued by the competent Certification Department of the Body, after the decision of the Certification Board consenting on the inclusion is issued.

The Compliance Certificate is issued for all operators under contract with the Body who comply with Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, at their request. The Compliance Certificate is effective until the next inspection, which must be carried out within a year and always according to the special requirements of Community and National Legislation.

ii) Commitments of the holder

The holder of the Compliance Certificate is committed to use it as follows

1. To inform on the initial compliance and fulfilment of the requirements set and required by Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, for the specific operations or units, while in no case can it be related to other process or units of the Contracting Parties.

2. In no case must the Compliance Certificate be related to specific products in a manner that gives the impression that the products themselves are certified, or be used as or in replacement of the Product Certificate for carrying out specific commercial actions.

3. To immediately stop using the Compliance Certificate if he leaves the Body or when the Body demands it by a relevant decision or when its effect has expired.

5.5.2 Product Certificate

i) Granting and term

The Product Certificate confirms that the total or partial specific quantity of a product agrees with the Specifications of Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007. The Product Certificate is the basic necessary Certification document for carrying out commercial actions. The Product Certificate is issued in a predetermined form by the competent Certification Department to the Contracting Parties who have been granted Certification, at their request, provided that there are no financial issues pending, no sanctions have been imposed, no Fundamental Non

Compliance has been discovered and no case is pending for examination by the Sanction Committee. For the issue of the Product Certificate the Contracting Party must send or submit to the Organization any information or documentation which the Body deems necessary, otherwise its issue procedure may be suspended until the requested documents or information are sent. The Product Certificate as a rule has an effect of 1 year, while in special cases it can be less or more than a year, and reach up to two (2) years. The term depends on the type of Product as well as its produced quantity for the specific productive period.

ii) Time of issue and included information

The Product Certificate also includes the name and address of the operator, the type of products, the expected quantity for the specific productive period, all the purchases or sales of the product, as well as anything else stipulated by the Law. In the case of olive oil certification, its marketing inside the EU requires the use of descriptions and definitions (extra virgin, virgin, lampante).

According to the relevant procedure of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food in this case, the interested operator classifies the quality of the olive oil for which he requests the organic farming Product Certificate and the Inspection and Certification Body must repeat the quality class stated by the operator in the issued certificate.

A. With regard to plant products, the Product Certificate is issued at the start of the harvest and has a term that depends on the type of product and during the harvest period or conservation period. The certified product is mentioned in the Product Certificate both under its common and scientific name, and reference must be made to its variety.

B. With regard to animal products, the Product Certificate is issued depending on the productive period of the animals. For animals and meat products, the identification details must be recorded, with regard to traceability, in accordance with the law.

C. With regard to processed agricultural products, the Product Certificate is issued at the start of the preparation period.

D. With regard to animal feed, the Product Certificate includes the details referred to in Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007.

iii) Use

The holder of the Product Certificate must use it as follows:

1. Prove that the products are Certified under the Specifications of Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007.

2. In such a way as to not undermine the Body's public image and also not to act or make statements with regard to the product's Certification which may be considered misleading for

the consumer or prohibited. Misleading the consumer or using the Certificate when it is prohibited, constitute Fundamental Non Compliance and incurs the related Sanctions.

3. When the Product Certificate is used for purchases and sales, it must then be accompanied by an official tax document which must include:

a. The buyer, the name and the quantity of the product:

b. The product characterization as to the organic farming method, with special reference to the Certification stage.

c. The Certification Body's Name and Code.

d. The number of the Product Certificate.

4. Immediately stop using the Product Certificate if he leaves the Body voluntarily or when the Body demands it by a relevant decision or when its effect has expired.

5.5.3 Revocation of Certification Documents

The Body may revoke all types of Certificates or other granted Certification documents by a justified decision:

a) if Fundamental Non Compliance of the Contracting Party is proven, with regard to the Standards and obligations arising from the General Certification Regulations and the Special Regulations of the Body and sanctions are imposed.

b) if it is discovered that the Contracting Party is using the Certification documents in a manner that is misleading or incompatible with their intended use.

c) if it is discovered that there are significant changes in the information recorded in the Certificates during their term of effect.

d) if the Contracting Party is not fulfilling his financial obligations to the Organization.

e) if the Private Cooperation Agreement is terminated.

When the decision for revocation of the certification documents is notified to the Contracting Party, the Party must immediately return to the Body the original Certification documents and must not use them as of that time in any direct or indirect way.

If the use of the revoked Certificates is continued, the Body may use any legal method to obtain the above Certificates and claim a compensation for any incidental or consequential damages suffered by the illegal use of the above certification documents. The Body also reserves every right to take any administrative measure it deems necessary to protect its interests against the Contracting Party.

Example

In this example we refer to the part of the training related to the implementation of AGRO 3.2 (Certification of pig meat).

Specifically, there is reference to the subject of training, the location where it shall take place and the names of the trainers. It is followed by documentation with the files of the trainees attached, the training program and its curriculum.

AGRO 3.2 (Certification of pig meat)

1.1. Training programs are implemented either at the Unit's facilities, with invited speakers or speakers from the existing staff, or by employees participating in seminars and conferences organized by scientific or professional bodies.

1.2. The training subjects cover:

1.2.1. The safe use of the various pharmaceutical products, disinfectants and other cleaning formulations.

1.2.2. The good treatment and care of the bred animals, as well as the possible consequences of the treatment to the animals on the final product.

1.2.3. The recognition of possible illnesses, behaviour anomalies, health problems of the animals, or other problems and reporting them to the persons in charge.

1.2.4. The physical, chemical, biological risks to the health of employees during their work at the pig farming unit, the methods of prevention and treatment.

1.2.5. Good Hygiene Practice Rules for the production and handling of animal feed.

1.2.6. Requirements for the production of animal feed for use in a pig farming unit.

1.3. A record is kept of the training and further training of the Unit's staff, which includes the subject, date and duration of training for each person separately (EN-4.1/03). This record is kept in the Unit's training file, and the employee's personal file is respectively updated.

1.4. Proposals for training programs are submitted by the Unit's supervisor according to EN-4.3/02. The Pig Farming Director, veterinary and heads of the various Departments participate in the preparation of the program, depending on the training subject.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1.5. The Supervisor of the pig farming unit is responsible for preparing the training programs, the selection of the trainees as the case may be, the selection of the subject depending on the needs, the selection of the trainers, as well as the participation of the undertaking's employee's in conferences or other training programs organized by professional or scientific bodies. For this purpose, the Supervisor cooperates with the veterinary in charge of the unit as well as the individual heads of Departments. The training proposal is submitted to the undertaking's management, which is finally responsible for approving the program.

1.6. The Undertaking's Management is responsible for approving the training programs, their frequency and for the final approval of the trainees and the trainers.

5.5.4 European Certification organisations - National standards and certification process

Agro-animal and processing of organic products farms to have the opportunity to market must comply with the technical rules of the Community Regulation and subject to the control of the institution authorized by the Ministry.
In Italy the organic farming began to develop in the early '80s; at the behest of producers, consumers and environmental movements. Initially the organic production put on the market, was mainly exported to Northern Europe, with the use of foreign certification standards. In 1983 born the first associations for organic farming and the growing need for uniform rules at the national level led to the establishment of the National Commission "What is organic." To meet these

demands, in 1988, it was founded the Italian Association Organic Agriculture, AIAB, who established the first national system of supervision of the associations of regional certification.
In Italy, today there are the authority called "Control Bodies" (CBs), authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to carry out checks directly in companies and certify organic production (DM 220/95).
The competent authority for organic farming is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Mipaaf), which established a special Office of organic farming that depends on the General Directorate for Agribusiness Development, Quality and Consumer Protection of the Department of Political Economic Development and Rural. The inspection authorities should operate in accordance with the international standard ISO65 (UNI CEI EN 45011) and be accredited by ACCREDIA (ex Sincert, delegate for the recognition and accreditation), the National Agency for the accreditation of certification bodies, d 'inspection and testing laboratories, which is also required to monitor the correct operation with periodic audits.
The private system inspection authorities accredited and recognized by the government, is the one adopted by the majority of EU Member States, including, for example, Germany, Spain, Italy and Austria, with control bodies with activities limited to certain regions or common.
Origins of the Czech organic sector reach to the year 1990, when the first organic farmers' associations were established. Based on the Basic standards of the IFOAM the associations set up rules for their members and started control and certification processes.
In 1992 the three existing associations made an agreement with the Czech Ministry of Agriculture on common label for organic products, which would make the certification system more effective, and established a technical commission, which consequently created official methodical instructions for organic farmers. The common organic scheme came into effect in January 1993 and since that time remained just one farmers' association, called PRO-BIO, which operates on national level as an "umbrella organization" for organic producers, processors, sellers and other interested groups. In late 1990s started a work on a new national law on organic farming, which should comply with the European rules, namely the Council Regulation (EC) 2092/1991. The legislature process resulted in the new Act No. 242/200 Coll., on organic farming that has come in force in 1.1.2001. Generally, the Czech Act on organic farming regulates those aspects, which are not covered by the EU legislation. With regard to the EU accreditation processes there was founded a new non-governmental organization KEZ o.p.s. (Control of Organic Farming, notfor-profit organization), which has been designated to control and certify organic enterprises in the Czech Republic.
Nowadays, there can be found three control authorities in the Czech Republic, those are KEZ o.p.s, ABCERT AG and BIOKONT CZ, s.r.o. All organic enterprises must have a contract with one of these control organizations.
Organic products and organic food certified by the approved control organizations are labeled with the national logo, which is called "green zebra". Besides that the certification organizations have their own logos, but they are of minor importance and therefore their use is very rare. In 2005 the logo for organic products has become a proprietorship of the Czech state and its use is administered by the Ministry. The Ministry in 2008 launched an information campaign promoting organic products and organic farming.

Answer True or False to the following questions

1. Each organic farmer must keep a log and a record of all documents (invoices, receipts, etc), related to his production

a) True

b) False

2. All products labelled as organic must bear the name of the last operator who has handled the product.

a) True

b) False

3. The agricultural parcel must be inspected at least once every 2 years.

a) True

b) False

4. The labelling of organic products does not have to include the name of the undertaking that produces, packages or trades the product and the certification code

a) True

b) False

5. Where the Community logo is used under the new regulation, there must be an indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials were farmed.

a) True

b) False

Select the correct answer to the following questions

1. The "transitional stage" of a conventional farm into an organic farm must be at least

a) 4 years

b) 1 year

c) 2 years

d) 6 years

2. Every operator who produces, prepares or imports organic products from third countries with the purpose of marketing them, must notify his activity:

a) to the Prefecture's Agriculture Directorate

b) to the Municipality where his crops/undertaking are located

c) to the certification body he wishes to apply to

d) to all the above

3. As a rule the Product's Certificate is effective for
a) 1 year
b) less than one year
c) 2 years
d) 4 years
4. Inspection and Certification Bodies for Organic Products must carry out a complete inspection of the included unit
a) twice a year
b) at least once a year
c) every three months
d) when they consider it necessary
5. Certification Monitoring is carried out through
a) on-site inspections (scheduled or unscheduled) of the operations/units of the Contracting Parties
b) sampling checks at the market for products certified by the Body
c) samplings and tests
d) all the above

ACTIVITIES

1. Record public and private bodies in your country that certify agricultural products.
2**.** Assume that you would like to be certified as an organic producer. Based on this unit, record the procedures and steps you believe you must follow.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION
1. Czech Ministry of Agriculture
http://eagri.cz/public/eagri/en/ministry/
2**.** Kontrola ekologického zemědělství
http://www.kez.cz/
3. PRO-BIO Association of ecological farmers
http://www.pro-bio.cz/
4. Abcert
http://www.abcert.cz/
5. Biokontz
http://www.biokont.cz/
6. Coldiretti
http://www.coldiretti.it
7. Federbio
http://federbio.it