

**Definitions of the terms used in Organic Certification System covered in IROCB**

<b>Definitions (Annex of IROCB)</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Term:</b> Accreditation  <b>Definition:</b> Procedure by which an authoritative body or accreditor gives a formal recognition that a certification body is competent to carry out certification according to organic standards.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> ISO/IEC 17011/2004  Third-party attestation related to conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Term:</b> Appeal  <b>Definition:</b> Request by an operator for reconsideration of any adverse* decisions made by the certification body related to its desired certification status.  * <i>Explanatory note: Adverse decisions include e.g.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refusal to accept an application,</li> <li>• refusal to proceed with an inspection/audit,</li> <li>• corrective action requests,</li> <li>• changes in certification scope,</li> <li>• decisions to deny, suspend or withdraw certification, and</li> <li>• any other action that impedes the attainment of certification</li> </ul> <p><b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> ISO/IEC 17011/2004  Request by a CAB for reconsideration of any adverse decision made by the accreditation body related to its desired accreditation status.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Term:</b> Certification  <b>Definition:</b> The procedure by which a third party (certification body) gives written assurance that a clearly identified process has been methodically assessed in a way that provides adequate confidence that specified products conform to specified standards.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> ISO/IEC 17000/2004  Third-party attestation related to products, processes, systems or persons. (An attestation is the issue of a statement based on a decision following review that fulfilment of specified requirements has been demonstrated.)</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Term:</b> Certification Body  <b>Definition:</b> The body that conducts organic certification.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> ISO/IEC 17011:2004  Conformity assessment body (CAB): Body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be object of accreditation.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Term:</b> Certification Program  <b>Definition:</b> System operated by a certification body with defined requirements procedures and management for carrying out certification of conformity.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Term:</b> Complaint  <b>Definition:</b> Expression of dissatisfaction, other than appeal, by any person or organization, to a certification body relating to activities of that certification body or of a certified operator, where a response is expected.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC</p>

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	<b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b>
7.	<p><b>Term:</b> Conformity  <b>Definition:</b> Fulfilment of a requirement.  <b>Reference:</b> ISO 9000:2000  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Term:</b> Conformity assessment  <b>Definition:</b> Any activity concerned with determining directly or indirectly that relevant requirements are fulfilled  <b>Reference:</b> ISO  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> According to ISO three types of conformity assessment are distinguished:  <i>First-party assessment:</i> This is the technical term used when conformity assessment to a standard, specification or regulation is carried out by the supplier organization itself. In other words, it is a self-assessment. This is known as a supplier's declaration of conformity.  <i>Second-party assessment:</i> This indicates that the conformity assessment is carried out by a customer of the supplier organization. For example, the supplier invites a potential customer to verify that the products it is offering conform to relevant product standards.  <i>Third-party assessment:</i> In this case conformity assessment is performed by a body that is independent of both supplier and customer organizations.  <i>See definition of certification.</i></p>
9.	<p><b>Term:</b> Corrective action  <b>Definition:</b> Action to eliminate the cause of a potential nonconformity or other undesirable situation.  <b>Reference:</b> ISO 9000:2000  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Term:</b> Evaluation  <b>Definition:</b> Systematic assessment based on all relevant information obtained in order to make a certification decision. With reference to a certification decision this includes, but is not limited to the inspection.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b></p>
11.	<p><b>Term:</b> Exception  <b>Definition:</b> Permission granted to an operator by a certification body to be excluded from the need to comply with requirements of the standards.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Term:</b> Group Certification  <b>Definition:</b> Certification of an organized group of producers with a central office, similar farming and production system, working according to a common internal quality management system, which is established and subject to continued surveillance by the central office. Group certification applies to the group as a whole. Certificate is issued to the central office of the group and shall not be used by single group members.  <b>Reference:</b> According to IAF Guidance on the application of ISO/IEC Guide 62:1962 Annex 3 Multi-side Certification  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b></p>
13.	<p><b>Term:</b> Inspection  <b>Definition:</b> Visit on site to verify that the performance of an operation is in accordance with the</p>

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	<p>applicable certification requirements and standards.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> ISO/IEC Guide 2, ISO 9000:2000:          Conformity evaluation by observation and judgment accompanied as appropriate by measurements, testing or gauging.</p>
14.	<p><b>Term:</b> (Internal) Quality management system  <b>Definition:</b> Management system to direct and control an organization with regard to quality.  <b>Reference:</b> ISO 9000:2000  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> Management system is a system to establish policy and objectives, as well as measures to achieve those objectives.</p>
15.	<p><b>Term:</b> Non-conformity  <b>Definition:</b> An instance where a particular standard or certification requirement is not being met.          • Major non-conformity: breach of applicable standard          • Minor non-conformity (violation): breach of certification requirements other than standard (organic integrity of the products remains unaffected.)  <b>Reference:</b> IAC (modified)  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> ISO 9000:2000: Nonconformity: non-fulfilment of a Requirement</p>
16.	<p><b>Term:</b> Operator  <b>Definition:</b> An individual or business enterprise, responsible for ensuring that production meets, and continues to meet, the organic standard on which certification is based.  <b>Reference:</b> IAC  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> Note: ISO/IEC Guide Terminology:  <i>Supplier: The party that is responsible for ensuring that products meet and, if applicable, continue to meet, the requirements on which certification is based.</i></p>
17.	<p><b>Term:</b> Requirement  <b>Definition:</b> Need or expectation that is stated, generally implied or obligatory.          Note 1: Generally, implied means that it is custom or common practice that the need or expectation under consideration is implied for the organization, its customers and other interested parties.          Note 2: A qualifier can be used to denote a specific type of requirement (e.g. product requirement, quality management requirement or customer requirement).          Note 3: Requirements can be generated by different interested parties.  <b>Reference:</b> ISO 9000:2000  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b></p>
18.	<p><b>Term:</b> Standards  <b>Definition:</b> Document approved by a recognized body, that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods with which compliance is not mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, and packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.  <b>Reference:</b> ITF Glossary (World Trade Organization/ Technical Barriers to Trade)  <b>Comment/applicable ISO definition:</b> Note: The recognized body can be any constituency.</p>