



International Organic Accreditation Service

A Brief Overview

History

- Incorporated in Delaware 1997
- Non-profit organization with one member - IFOAM
- Established as an international sector-specific accreditation body

Aims

- **The aims of the organization include:**
 - **To provide accreditation against internationally agreed criteria and standards**
 - **To improve the quality of certification in the organic sector**
 - **To make the IOAS services and expertise available to governments and other interested parties.**

Structure

- Board of Directors
- Executive Committee
- Executive Director
- Assistant Executive Director

- Program Manager
- 2 Accreditation officers
- Accreditation Committee

Board and Committee Personnel

- **7 Person Board**
- **N. America, Asia, Europe**
- **Drawn from several sectors including retail, trade, consumer & consulting**

- **8 person accreditation committee**
- **N.America, Asia, Latin America, Europe**
- **Sectors include State accreditor, private certifier, accreditation auditor, academic**

Professional and administrative personnel

- 5 professional staff drawn from experienced people around the world
- 1 support staff
- Head office in USA
- Satellite offices in UK, Spain and Australia
- Centralized computer system and intranet

Nature of the business

- Voluntary system
- Industry self regulation
- Cost price based
- *Pro bono* involvement
- International in nature
 - Accept applications from anywhere in world
 - Monitor international certification bodies across national boundaries

Programs

IOAS offers two accreditation programs

- **IFOAM accreditation program**
 - Started in 1992
 - Since incorporation operated by IOAS under contract from IFOAM.

- **ISO 65 accreditation**
 - Launched in January 2003.

IFOAM Accreditation

■ Accreditation against the IFOAM norms


– IFOAM Basic Standards

- IFOAM Basic Standards are international standards for standards**
- Accreditation includes review of the standards being used by the certification body**

– IFOAM Criteria

- Criteria derived from ISO Guide 65**
- Additional requirements related to issues specific to inspection & certification in organic sector**

IFOAM Accredited Certification Bodies



Region	Accredited	Applicants
N. America	4	1
Europe	11	1
Latin America	4	
Asia	3	
Australia & NZ	4	
E. Europe	3	
Middle East	1	
Total	30	2

ISO 65 Accreditation

- **New program**
- **3 applicants**
- **Offering both joint and stand-alone accreditation**
- **Accreditation against ISO Guide 65 with certifier elected scope providing IOAS has the necessary expertise**
- **Response to both private and public sector**

Basic Procedures

- **Procedures follow normal accreditation process**
 - Application
 - Document screening
 - Noncompliances & corrective actions
 - Visit including witness and review audits
 - Noncompliances and corrective actions
 - Accreditation contract
 - Annual surveillance
 - Re-application every 4 years
- **Same procedures adopted for ISO 65 accreditation**

Procedural Management

- Based on quality policy and quality system
- Laid down in quality and policy manuals
- Procedures and policies according to ISO Guide 61

Other services

- **EU regulation 2092-91/ ISO65 compliance reports**
- **Comparison of standards and regulations commissioned by both governments and private sector**
- **Review of Danish government certification system**

Extension of Services

- **Considerable overlap between regulatory and private sector requirements**
- **Need to reduce duplication by cooperation**
- **IOAS is engaged in negotiations with some governments for extension of its services into the regulatory sector**
- **Need to provide confidence through oversight.**

Confidence measures

- Review of compliance with ISO Guide 61 by contracted external expert
- IAF application
- NIST NVCASE review

Thank you