

## **Technical Requirements for Certification Bodies in Organic Agricultural Production and Processing**

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## 1. Purpose and Scope

Certification Bodies (CB's) seeking accreditation to provide Organic Agricultural Production and Processing certification services will be required to satisfy the requirements of ISO/IEC17065 and the requirements specified in this Technical Requirement.

## 2. Definitions, References and Acronyms

ISO/IEC17065	Conformity Assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.
IAFMD1	Certification of Multiple Sites Based on Sampling
IAFMD2	Transfer of Accredited Certification of Management Systems IAF MD3
Advanced Surveillance and Recertification Procedures	
CAB	Conformity Assessment Bodies
OAPP	Organic Agricultural Production and Processing

## 3. Background

Organic farming refers to ecologically-based production systems used to produce food and fiber. Organic farming may be most widely known for what it is not; however, it is more important to define organic farming by what it is. Organic farming can be defined by the proactive ecological management strategies that maintain and enhance soil fertility, prevent soil erosion, promote and enhance biological diversity, and minimize risk to human and animal health and natural resources. Many kinds of farm products reproduced organically including vegetables, fruit, herbs, grains, eat, dairy, eggs, fibers, and flowers.

When consumers buy Certified Organic farm products, they want to be certain or they should be certain that they are actually buying the organically produced product certified by the technical competent organic certification body.

Organic farming does not mean going 'back' to traditional methods. Many of the farming methods used in the past are still useful today. Organic farming takes the best of the conventional and combines them with modern scientific knowledge. Organic farmers do not leave their farms to be taken over by nature; they use all the knowledge, techniques and materials available to work with nature. In this way the farmer creates a healthy balance between nature and farming, where crops and animal can grow and thrive.

Certification Bodies (CB) that are to provide certification services, will be accredited according to ISO/IEC 17065. EGAC will give recognition of technical competence of the CB, to certify organization according to the Organic Agricultural Production and Processing standard.

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) operates programs for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) that provide conformity assessment services.

## 4. Introduction

This Technical Requirement (TR) will be consistent with and the additional requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and the IAF Mandatory Documents applicable for the application of ISO/IEC 17065 .

The purpose and intention of this Technical Requirements document is not to duplicate the requirements stated in other Organic Agricultural Production and Processing applicable documents.

In line with the International Standard ISO/IEC, the following modal verbs are used for the expression of provisions:

- “shall” is used to indicate a requirement;
- “should” is used to indicate a recommendation;
- “may” is used to indicate permission;
- “can” is used to indicate possibility and capability.

In case of dispute concerning application of this document, EGAC will adjudicate on unresolved matters. It is intended that after a certain period of use, the content of this document will be revised.

## **5. Competence requirements for OAPP CB Auditors**

- 5.1 Confidence and reliance in the certification process by the conformity assessment bodies (CAB) depends on the competence of those conducting the audits within the conformity assessment bodies.
- 5.2 Certification Bodies shall maintain records of qualifications and experience of its auditors. Experience involves working or providing certification services in the scope. Initial training of new Certification Body's auditors shall include witnessing of a certification audit and on-site monitoring by a qualified Certification Body personnel member.
- 5.3 Conformity assessment bodies' personnel performing Organic Agricultural Production and Processing audits must be competent on the basis of the appropriate education, training, skills and related sector scope experience for which the CAB is accredited for.
- 5.4 Personnel conducting or performing Organic Agricultural Production and Processing shall maintain and improve their knowledge and skills through continuous professional development (CPD) activities, such as training, private study, seminar and conferences. Auditors must maintain their continuous professional development records which will be assessed by the Team Leader or Technical assessor during accreditation and surveillance assessment.
- 5.5 The CAB shall have a process to ensure that all Organic Agricultural Production and Processing auditors have knowledge and skills in the following areas but not limited to:
  - i. OAPP Knowledge.
  - ii. OAPP terminology.
  - iii. OAPP principles and their application.
  - iv. Knowledge of OAPP related legislative requirements.
  - v. OAPP performance indicators.
  - vi. The ability to trace evidence of failure in the organizations.

**Table1: Competence Requirements**

Title	Education	Knowledge and Skills	Experience
OAPP Auditor	Hold at least a minimum of 4 years degree in Agriculture, Food Technology or equivalent (seenote1)	EGAC Publications and Regulations; ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO/IEC 19011.  Demonstrated Skills	Direct or related, more than 4 years in Agricultural Production And Processing.  Management System Auditing 2 years
OAPP Team Leader	Hold at least a minimum of 4 years degree Agriculture, Food Technology or equivalent. (seenote1)	EGAC Publications and Regulations; ISO/IEC 17065, and ISO/IEC 19011.  Presentation skills Audit-management skills  Demonstrated Skills	Direct or related, more than 4 years in Agricultural Production and Processing.  Management System Auditing 2 years.
Technical Expert	Hold at least a minimum 4 years degree Agriculture, Food Technology or equivalent. (see note1)	EGAC Publications and Regulations Demonstrated Skills	Direct or related, more than 4 years in Agricultural Production and Processing.
Note1: In some cases, extensive experience in the relevant field of expertise for OAPP maybe substituted for formal qualification.			

## 6. Accreditation Scopes

- 6.1 The Certification Bodies shall only claim accreditation for the scopes which they are accredited for.
- 6.2 The table below outline the scope of accreditation that will be offered by EGAC for the organic agricultural production and processing accreditation program.

**Table2: Accreditation Scopes**

OAPP
Plant
Live stock
Bee keeping
Wild Harvesting
Products for pest and disease control
Inputs materials
Processing
Handling, packaging, storage, distribution and retailing