Evaluation of third countries certification bodies for EU-recognition: the example of an EA accreditation body

Dr. Jochen Neuendorff
On behalf of DAkkS
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- Approach to the assessment of certification bodies certifying products with equivalent guarantees in third countries
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Introduction to DAkkS
The German Accreditation Body DAkkS

• Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008 requires one accreditation body per EU member state
• Establishment of DAkkS GmbH in October, 2009
• Integration of other accreditation bodies in December, 2009
  – Shareholders:
    1/3 German Federal Republic
    1/3 German Federal States
    1/3 Federation of German Industries (BDI)
www.dakks.de

Head office:
DAkkS GmbH
Spittelmarkt 10
10117 Berlin

Other offices:
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38116 Braunschweig

Gartenstraße 6
60594 Frankfurt
Approach to the assessment of certification bodies certifying products with equivalent guarantees in third countries (Art. 33 (3) Reg. (EC) No. 834/2007)
Accreditation process (EN 45011)

Initial assessment
  ↓
  max. 6 month

Initial accreditation
  ↓
  12 month

Surveillance 1
  ↓
  12 month

Surveillance 2
  ↓
  12 month

Surveillance 3
  ↓
  12 month

Assessment for re-accreditation
  ↓
  max. 5 years
Equivalence assessment
Equivalency
Welcome to OrganicXseeds UK, the official UK database of organic seed availability

The database is a requirement of EU Regulation (EC) No. 1452/2003 which regulates the use of seeds and seed potatoes in organic farming. The database is funded by Defra and managed by the Soil Association, working in partnership with FiBL and NIAB.

You can use the site to search for available organic seeds, vegetative propagation material and seed potatoes. The site is designed to be used by organic farmers and growers to find organic seed, certification bodies to help authorize derogations and seed companies looking to sell certified organic seed. If you search the database and find the varieties you need are not available you must seek a derogation from your certification body before purchasing non-organic seed.

Instruction to use the database [pdf file]

Search tips:
If you know what variety or crop you are looking for ... simply use the quick search box. Simply type the crop, or variety in to the quick search box on the left making sure that the spelling is correct. Then click on the magnifying glass.
Organically Produced Foods
Organic standards applied in third countries

• Simple, understandable, transparent and equivalent to the EU-legislation on Organic Farming
• Line by line comparison, Excel table
• First step: Internal judgement of deviations by the third countries CB
• Second step: Assessment of equivalence by a DAkkS technical assessor and decision on equivalence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Ch</th>
<th>Art</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Res.</th>
<th>Original text</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Description of implementation in third countries or justification</th>
<th>Clause</th>
<th>English translation</th>
<th>Original Version</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>153</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>whole products derived from Annex I, livestock and poultry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>154</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Livestock production rules</td>
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<td>In addition to the general provisions laid down in Annex I, this breeding category shall be subject to the following specific requirements:</td>
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<td>156</td>
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<td>With respect to the origin of the semen:</td>
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<td>157</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Origin of organic animals</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>158</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Note: for all articles marked with *, this article does not define specific rules for the following species:</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>In the case of beef breeds, animals shall be held under conditions that ensure that the health of the animal is not impaired by stress.</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Origin of non-organic animals</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>For instance, preference shall be given to the use of domestic breeds and their local varieties.</td>
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<td>Origin of non-organic animals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In accordance with Article 6(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, seaweed species and products thereof are not considered to be organic products</td>
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Office audits
Office audits

Integration of specific EU information requests

- Structure including critical locations
- Sampling policy
- Unannounced and follow-up visits
- Information exchange with other certification bodies and authorities
- Handling of nonconformities and complaints etc.
Witness audits in third countries
Witness audits

Integration to the accreditation / surveillance process

• Representative operators in third countries
Reporting
Reporting

Use of

• Regular assessment reports

• Supplementary assessment reports
Outlook
Outlook

• An improved information flow between EU-Commission and accreditation bodies is required.

• The DAkkS accreditation and surveillance procedure for certification bodies certifying in third countries has changed already according to the new EU information requirements. Specific trainings for the technical assessors involved are offered.
Outlook

• The Federal Ministry for agriculture and consumer protection wants DAkkS to play an active role in the international co-operation between accreditation bodies to support an effective surveillance of certification bodies active in third countries.

• DAkkS is willing to co-operate with other accreditation bodies to draw up a code of good practice to ensure a harmonized approach.