

IROCB

International Requirements for
Organic Certification Bodies

I R O C B pronunciation guide



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Basics of IROCB

- Tool for recognizing/approving organic certification bodies based on a commonly agreed set of international organic certification performance requirements .
- A normative document based on ISO 65 and with additional organic sector requirements

Basics of IROCB

- Main use:
 - By governments to approve imports certified by foreign certification bodies
 - In private systems, to enable clients of a certification body to trade organic products/ingredients certified under other control systems.
- Other uses:
 - Influence convergence of certification requirements over the long term
 - As a norm for direct accreditation

IROCB Development and Consultation

- 2005 5th Meeting and expert workshop (Tunisia):
 - Paper: Situation and Scope for Harmonization of Certification Requirements (described the landscape of current certification requirements)
- 2006 6th Meeting and expert workshop (Stockholm):
 - Paper: International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies (table of elements)
- 2007
 - 7th ITF meeting: 4th draft of International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies

Summary of Consultations

- 2 written consultations with broad group of stakeholders (2007)
 - Codex Organic Working Group Lists
 - IFOAM Lists
 - ITF Members
- 2 written consultations with ITF members ahead of 6th and 7th meetings (2006 and 2007)
- 2 expert workshops (at 6th and 7th meetings)
- 1 consultation with certification bodies (Feb. 2007)
- 1 expert working group meeting to advise author on 4th draft (2007)

ITF Meeting Bali, 2007

- Intensive group work on the IROCB
- Resolved outstanding issues
- Agreed that next revision would be final version.
- Agreed that comments from this point forward should be on uptake and implementation
- Asked for written guidance on promoting IROCB
- Requested to send representative to ISO CASCO Working Group 29 (revision of ISO 65) to inform ISO about IROCB and take up some issues.

IROCB in 2008

- Consultant prepared Final IROCB based on ITF 7th meeting, Feb 2008
- Steering Committee discussed IROCB with NOP and EU Commission, February 2008
- Final version sent to ITF members, March 2008
- ITF/IFOAM representative promoted IROCB at ISO CASCO Working Group, April 2008

IROCB in 2008

- Guide for Promoting IROCB sent to ITF members, March, 2008
- IROCB User Guide including in ITF Information Kit, August, 2008
- ITF Approval and Launch of IROCB, October 2008