

## Standards Manual IFOAM Program

### Additional and Complementary Requirements to ARGENCERT Standards Manual for compliance with IFOAM Program

#### General

- 1) All the operator's personnel know and understand the measures applied to preserve the organic integrity of the product and the contamination risks involved.
- 2) Inspections, whether scheduled or unannounced, shall occur at least once a year at critical times, including harvest or during processing.

#### Crop Production

- 3) In case indistinguishable varieties are produced both organically and conventionally, this situation must be exceptionally allowed by ARGENCERT on a case by case basis
- 4) In split operations (organic and conventional) GMOs are not permitted even in the conventional sectors.
- 5) In perennial crops the soil must allow the development of green cover for refuge and to promote the biodiversity during the whole year.
- 6) In addition to SM Chapter 2.0, producers shall design and implement measures to maintain and improve landscape and enhance biodiversity quality, by maintaining on-farm wildlife refuge habitats or establishing them where none exist. The removal of soil from the farm is prohibited. Incidental removal of soil when harvesting crops is permitted.
- 7) Also, producers should avoid straining and / or excessively exploit water sources and seek to preserve the quality of the resource. They should recycle rainwater where possible and monitor water extraction. The removal of soil from the farm is prohibited except for incidental removal of soil when harvesting crops.
- 8) Clearing or destruction of High Conservation Value Areas is prohibited. Farming areas installed on land that has been obtained by clearing of High Conservation Value Areas in the preceding 5 years shall not be considered compliant with this standard.
- 9) Land preparation by burning vegetation or crop residues is prohibited. Regional or other exception may be granted in cases where burning is used to suppress the spread of disease, to stimulate seed germination, to remove intractable residues, or other such exceptional cases.
- 10) The production of terrestrial plants shall be soil-based. The production of such crops in hydroponic systems is prohibited. Herbs, flowers and ornamentals in pots that are sold directly to the final consumer can be produced on permitted growing media.

**Protected cropping:** Artificial light is only allowed for plant propagation and as a complement to sunlight to extend the day length to a maximum of 16 hours. Operators shall monitor, record and optimize any energy used for artificial light, heating, cooling, ventilation, humidity and other climate control.

11) Category "in conversion" is granted at not less than 12 months under certification follow-up, including virgin lands. The start of the conversion period shall be calculated from the date that the application has been approved by ARGENCERT. The conversion period may be calculated retroactive to the application only on the basis of evidence of full application of the standard for a period at least as long as:

- 12 months before sowing or planting in the case of annual production
- 12 months before grazing or harvest for pastures and meadows
- 18 months before harvest for other perennials.

12) Organic seed and plant materials must be organic except that it is not available. In such cases conventional materials may be used provided they have not been treated with substances not included in the norm. In case only treated materials are available, the case must be submitted to ARGENCERT for approval.

Propagation may be based on generative propagation (seeds) as well as vegetative propagation that can be derived from various plant organs e.g.

- a. partitioned tubers, scales, husks,
- b. partitioned bulbs, brood, bulbs, bulbils, offset bulbs etc.,
- c. layer, cut and graft shoots
- d. rhizomes
- e. meristem culture

13) In case of seed and plant material to be sold as organic, it must have been under organic follow-up during one generation if annual crops and 18 month or two growing periods (which ever is longer) in case of perennials. Vegetal propagation materials, bedding materials and substrates must only consist of substances listed in Annexes B and C.

Technical interventions in the plant genome are not allowed (for example, ionizing radiation; transfer isolated DNA, RNA, or proteins).

All multiplication practices except meristem culture shall be under certified organic management.

14) Pesticide products prepared in the farm will be used only when the basic methods for organic production fail, and they shall not present the risk of altering the organic character of the product; they will comply with the criteria for input approval in Appendix 3 of the IBS.

15) Mineral fertilizers may only be used in a program designed to meet the needs of long-term fertilization, in conjunction with other techniques, such as the incorporation of organic matter, green manures, crop rotation and use of nitrogen-fixing plants. Its use must be justified by appropriate soil and foliar analysis or be diagnosed by an independent expert.

16) Organic products cannot be labelled as "GMO free". They can only be indicated in the label that the product was produced without using GMO inputs. Contamination of organic product by GMOs that results from circumstances beyond the control of the operator may alter the organic status of the operation and/or product.

17) Inputs, processing aids and additives shall be traced back one step in the biological chain to the direct source organism from which they are produced to verify that they are not derived from GMOs.

18) The operator shall employ measures including barriers and buffer zones to avoid potential contamination and limit contaminants in organic products.

19) The operator under certification must notify the neighbours adjacent to the certified operator's unit as to its organic management so that precautionary measures can be taken to avoid contamination of the organic production as the result of any non allowed treatment in the neighbour's field.

20) Lists of inputs in ARGENCERT Norm, Annexes B, C, D, E, F, H, I, J and K are closed and positive lists.

21) The operator must notify ARGENCERT about previous certifications with other/s CB/CBs for the same scope and send ARGENCERT the most recent certification decision issued by that/se CB/CBs.

22) The use of nanomaterials is prohibited in organic production and processing, including in packaging and product contact surfaces. No substance allowed under this standard shall be allowed in nano form.

23) Where post harvest chemical treatment is prescribed by law for phytosanitary purposes, treated seed and plant material may be used

## **Social Justice**

24) Products based in a system if it violated human rights or in clear cases of social injustice will not be certified as organic.

25) In case of having more than 10 workers, the operator must have a written employment policy and maintain records to demonstrate full compliance with the requirements of this section. Workers will have access to their own files.

26) Operators must show compliance with the requirements of the Argentine social laws in relation to workers:

26.1 No forced or unwanted labour or application of any pressure such as retaining part of the workers' wages, property or documents.

26.2 Employers' or subcontracted parties' personnel have the right to associate and organize for the collective discussion of salaries and working conditions.

26.3 They will give equal opportunity and treatment to employees and contractors and not act in a discriminatory manner

26.4 Shall not interfere with the right of their employees, suppliers, farmers and contractors to organize and to bargain collectively, free from interference, intimidation and retaliation

27) Operators shall provide written terms and conditions of employment to both permanent and temporary employees. The terms and conditions must specify at least: wages, frequency and method of payment, location and type of work, hours of work and overtime, holiday pay, sick pay or sickness benefit and other benefits such as maternity and paternity leave. The terms must be in a language and presentation understandable to the worker.

In cases where:

- the operator is unable to write, or
- workers are hired for periods of less than 3 days, or
- emergency labor is needed to address unpredictable problems oral mutual agreements on the terms and conditions of employment are sufficient.

28) Operators shall have a disciplinary procedure with a system of warning before any suspension or dismissal. Workers dismissed shall be given full details of reasons for dismissal.

29) Employees shall be granted the right to take at least one day off after six consecutive days of work. Operators shall not require workers to work more than the contracted hours and Argentine legislation. Overtime shall be remunerated in the form of supplementary payments or time off in lieu.

30) Operators shall not

- a) require an employee to work who is ill or requiring medical attention and shall not sanction an employee for the sole fact of missing work due to illness. He shall pay employees wages and benefits that meet Argentine legal minimum requirements or, in the absence of this minimum, the sectorial benchmark
- b) use child labor. As an exception, children are allowed to experience work on their family's farm or business or a neighboring farm provided that:
  - a. such work is not dangerous or hazardous to their health and safety;
  - b. it does not jeopardize the child's educational, moral, social, mental, spiritual and physical development;
  - c. children are supervised by adults or have authorization from a legal guardian.

31) Workers shall have adequate access to potable water. Residential employees should be provided with habitable housing and access to potable water; to sanitary and cooking facilities and to basic medical care. If families reside on the operation, the operator shall also enable access to basic medical care for family members and to school for children.

32) Workers shall be provided with adequate protection from noise, dust, sunlight and exposure to chemicals in all production and processing operations

### **Processing, storing and transportation**

Substances and techniques that reconstitute properties lost by the processing and storage of organic products, conceal negligent processing, or may otherwise be misleading as to the true nature of products must not be used. Water may be used for re-hydration or reconstitution.

When non-organic products are prepared or stored in the preparation unit, the operator shall inform the control body.

33) Extraction shall only take place with water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide, nitrogen. These shall be of a quality appropriate for their purpose.

34) Filtration techniques are restricted to those that do not react or chemically modify the product at the molecular level. The use of filtering material based in asbestos or the use of substances that can negatively affect the product are forbidden.

35) "Inert gases" in pest and disease control mentioned in Annex C of ARGENCERT Standards manual are referred to the control of pests in grain silos and deposits. Fumigation with ethylene oxide, methyl bromide, aluminum phosphide or other substance not contained in Annex C are prohibited for pest and disease control within processing and handling facilities

36) As complement to cleaning materials mentioned on Annex H, the following substances may be used for IFOAM (with specific limitations):

- Acetic acid
- Alcohol, ethyl (ethanol)
- Alcohol, isopropyl (isopropanol)
- Calcium hydroxide (slaked lime)
- Calcium hypochlorite (An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination)
- Calcium oxide (quicklime)
- Chloride of lime (calcium oxychloride, calcium chloride, and calcium hydroxide)
- Chlorine dioxide (An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination)
- Citric acid
- Formic acid
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Lactic acid
- Natural essences of plants
- Oxalic acid
- Ozone
- Peracetic acid
- Phosphoric acid (Only for dairy equipment)
- Plant extracts

Potassium soap (An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination)  
Sodium carbonate  
Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) (An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination)  
Sodium hypochlorite (An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination)  
Sodium soap (An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination)

- 37) The contact of an organic product with bins or deposits that have been in contact with fungicide, preservative or fumigant products is prohibited. Multi-component products, live or unprocessed (such as vegetable boxes) may be sold or marketed as organic only if all the components are organic.
- 38) Polyvinyl and polyurethane are prohibited for packaging
- 39) The handler or processor shall identify and minimize risks of environmental pollution resulting from their activity.
- 40) The total environmental impact of production, use and disposal of packaging must be considered.
- 41) Yeast shall be included in the percentage calculations of organic ingredients.
- 42) In the case of growing or multiplying microorganism preparations, they should use only organically produced substrates, in compliance with the requirements for the organic production of microorganisms for the production of food and feed.

The following limitations have to be considered for substances that are allowed to be used as equipment cleansers and equipment disinfectants that may come into direct contact with the product:

- Acetic acid
- Alcohol, ethyl (ethanol)
- Alcohol, isopropyl (isopropanol)
- Calcium hydroxide (slaked lime)
- Calcium hypochlorite: An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination
- Calcium oxide (quicklime)
- Chloride of lime (calcium oxychloride, calcium chloride, and calcium hydroxide)
- Chlorine dioxide: An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination
- Citric acid
- Formic acid
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Lactic acid
- Natural essences of plants
- Oxalic acid
- Ozone
- Peracetic acid
- Phosphoric acid: Only for dairy equipment
- Plant extracts
- Potassium soap: An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination
- Sodium carbonate
- Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda): An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination
- Sodium hypochlorite: An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination
- Sodium soap: An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination

### **Animal husbandry**

- 43) In case of severe threaten of animal health, the animals are treated even the organic condition may be lose for using not allowed products.
- 44) Embryo transfer techniques and Cloning are prohibited as reproduction methods.
- 45) The number of hours of artificial light in animal production for all species will be the same as for poultry: natural light can be complemented with artificial light up to 16 hours (total photoperiod) with a rest period without light of at least 8 hours.
- 46) When animals are housed, building construction must provide insulation, heating, cooling and ventilation of the building that permits circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity, and gas concentrations to within levels that are not harmful to the livestock. Protection against wild and feral animals must also be guaranteed. Housed animals must be regularly visited and monitored. When welfare and health problems occur, appropriate management adjustments will be implemented (e.g. reducing stocking density) Landless animal husbandry systems are prohibited. Construction materials and methods and production equipment that might significantly harm human or animal health shall not be used. Animals may temporarily be kept indoors because of inclement weather, health condition, reproduction, specific handling requirements or at night. Lactation shall not be considered a valid condition for keeping animals indoors.

47) Supplements in animal feeding mentioned in Annexes E and F are only allowed when they cannot be supplied by natural sources in sufficient quantity and quality. Feed preservatives such as acetic, formic and propionic acids and vitamins and minerals are only permitted under severe climatic conditions.

All ruminants shall have daily access to roughage and must be grazed throughout the entire grazing season(s). As an exception, where weather and soil conditions do not permit grazing, ruminants may be fed with organic carried fresh fodder during the grazing season. The organic carried fresh fodder shall not exceed 20% of the amount of forage grazed during the grazing season. Animal welfare shall not be compromised.

48) If in spite of precautionary measures an animal becomes sick or hurt, it will be treated quickly and adequately, in isolation if needed, and in a favourable environment. The operator will not retain the use of medication to avoid unnecessary suffering even if its use causes the animal to lose its organic condition.

49) Pests and diseases in livestock housing shall be managed using the following methods according to these priorities:

- a. preventative methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat and access to facilities;
- b. mechanical, physical and biological methods.
- c. substances (other than pesticides) used in traps.
- d substances listed in Appendix H of this standard

50) Livestock transportation must be done under adequate conditions of temperature and humidity, respecting the specific conditions for the species, and the quality of the transport and animal handling equipment.

51) Those responsible for transportation and slaughtering shall avoid contact (sight, sound or smell) of each live animal with dead animals or animals in the killing process.

52) Each animal shall be effectively stunned before being bled to death. The equipment used for stunning shall be in good working order.

53) Feed produced on the farm unit during the first year of organic management may be classed as organic for the calculation of feeding allowances. This refers only to feed for animals that are being produced within the farm unit. Marketing of such in-conversion feed is prohibited

54) "In-conversion" ingredients may be used in multi-ingredient feed. However the ingredient list must identify their status and the total percentages of "in-conversion", organic and non-organic ingredients on a **dry matter** basis.

#### 55) In **apiculture**

Mutilations such as wing clipping of queens are prohibited.

The use of smoke must be reduced to a minimum, and with natural materials that meets the requirements of IFOAM standards

The hives shall not be placed within a foraging distance (5 kms) of fields or other areas with a high contamination risk (e.g. conventional fields, industrial zones and highways). In case of reposition or increase of the production unit, up to an annual maximum of 10% of conventional colonies is allowed.

When bee colonies are converted to organic production, introduced bees shall come from organic production units if available. Bee products may be sold as organically produced when the organic requirements have been complied with for at least one year.

The practice of destroying the male brood is permitted only to contain infestation with Varroa (mites) and the destruction of bees in the combs as a method of harvesting of bee products is prohibited.

In addition to paragraph 9.4.2, Chapter 6 of the MN and, in cases where all the wax was not able to be replaced within one year, the conversion period shall be extended to cover the total replacement of the wax.

The following requirement replaces ARGENCERT Standards Manual, point 3.4.

To be sold as "product of organic agriculture", animal products must be obtained from animals born and raised on organic holdings and fed organic feed during all their lives (complete cycle) except that:

Offspring may be considered organic only if their mother has been organically managed throughout the pregnancy.

Milk may be considered organic only if the dairy animal has been organically managed throughout the pregnancy preceding lactation.

Eggs may be considered organic only if the poultry has been organically managed from 2 days old.

In the case of any other conventional animal as cows for meat or dairy, their meat will never be sold as "organic". Animals for meat shall be raised organically from birth, except for poultry: when organic poultry is not available, 2 day old conventional poultry may be brought in.

Young stock from mammals shall be provided maternal milk or organic milk from their own species and shall be weaned only after a minimum period as specified: a. Calves and foals: 3 months, b. Piglets: 6 weeks, c. Lambs and kids: 7 weeks

Herd animals must not be kept in isolation from other animals of the same species, except for small herds for mostly self-sufficient production. Operators may isolate male animals, sick animals and those about to give birth.

### **Wild products**

The operator must issue instructions to the collectors and any local agents (middlemen), define the collection area and inform them about the standards and other requirements for certification.

The collectors must sign a statement as proof that they have followed the instructions. In case of existing middlemen, they must have a contract with the operator.

The operator shall be familiar with the defined collecting or harvesting area, including the impacts of collectors not involved in the organic scheme.

The operator must keep records of the quantities collected and have a map large enough to identify the area and distinguish it from other non-organic crops to avoid commingling with non-certified production.

ARGENCERT will interview the collectors and/or a representative sample of them and will gather relevant information about the area of collection from landowners, local agencies, NGOs, etc.

### **Labeling**

The label for in-conversion products shall be clearly distinguishable from the label for organic products. Only single ingredient plant products may be labeled as "in-conversion".