

**Info for ALL COMPANIES**

### **Extension organic certificates**

As from 2015 organic certificates will no longer be extended at the end of each calendar year, but instead after every annual inspection.

Until now the organic certificate was valid until 31st December of the current year. Because of the new regulation, following the favourable annual inspection the validity period of your certificate is extended to a maximum of 24 months, i.e. until 31st December of the following year.

Apart from this, our way of working remains unchanged. Should you wish to add new organic references to the certificate in the meantime, you can do so as before, by providing us with the relevant information about the product. If certain references should be deleted, you may also simply request this by email. Please keep in mind that we need enough time to treat your demand in a qualitative way. If your demand is urgent, please specify this.

### **Reporting obligation**

If there is doubt concerning the organic quality of a product or ingredient, e.g. due to an analytical result with pesticide residue or if there is no reference to organic on documents or the packaging, you must inform us immediately. As we wish to optimise our internal operation, **we created an email address especially for this matter:**



**Always send your message per email to [bio\\_notifications@tuv-nord-integra.com](mailto:bio_notifications@tuv-nord-integra.com)** (from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April onwards). This email address is checked several times per day. If you send an email to your inspector, you run the risk he or she is conducting an audit and will only read your message on a later moment.

### **Protocol pesticide residues**

In 2015, the professional organizations (Bioforum Vlaanderen and Boerenbond) and the controlbodies for organic production worked together on a protocol pesticide residues. The aim of this protocol is to clarify and to harmonize the process and interpretation of analytical results of pesticides on organic products. This protocol is available both on the website of Bioforum Vlaanderen as on the TÜV NORD Integra website [Biologische verwerking / verdeling / import - Certificatie in de voedingsindustrie | TÜV NORD INTEGRA](#)

### **Risky Products**

The last six months at different levels problems with the following products were observed: wheat grass powder, barley grass powder and spirulina, all with Chinese origin. We consider these products as risky. If you purchase this type of products, we would like to point out the increased risk.

Also organic products from Ukraine and neighboring countries are considered risky. See below under the section Import in this newsletter.

### **Interesting figures on the Biocontrol Year 2015.**

In 2015 we counted 1001 subscriptions for certification based on the organic legislation. An operator can join TÜV NORD Integra as a farmer, processor and/or a sales outlet. We conducted in 2015 836

inspections at those operators and took 473 samples.

Of the 473 samples, 27 were after investigation, considered as non-conform.

Of the 1836 inspections, 986 controls showed no defects. During the other inspections, non-conformities were detected, which led to a sanction. A summary of the sanctions pronounced:

Sanctions organic certification	Amount 2015
Remark	746
Demand for improvement	516
Warning	85
Enforced inspection	89
Downgrading of parcel	1
Downgrading of lot	41
Decertification of product	10
Decertification of company	1
Prolongation of conversion period	4

An overview of the number of companies certified compared to previous years, can be found in our annual report, which will appear soon. Keep it certainly tuned! What we can say is that year after year the number of organic operators is on the rise, and 2015 was no exception. As committed inspection body, we are obviously very happy with this.

### The sanction system

The penalties are determined based on “The decision of the Flemish Government on organic production and labeling of organic products (12/12/2008)”. The sanction system of organic certification has a structure in which you are assigned a higher penalty for repetition of the same non-conformity. For example: If you do not perform or you do an incomplete entrance control, you will receive a comment the first time this is observed. If this observation is repeated, you will receive a request for improvement, etc. Many types of non-conformities may eventually, if you do not take corrective action, for example, result in "decertification of the product". With this sanction you lose for a specified period, the organic certificate for a particular product.



It is therefore important that **you always take the necessary corrective measures to avoid the recurrence of a problem and an unnecessary heavy penalty.**

## Info for PROCESSORS

### Measures to prevent contamination

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, as processor of food or feed you are obligated to take precautionary measures to prevent the risk of contamination by unauthorised substances or products. These measures are the application of adequate procedures drawn up on the basis of systematic identification of crucial processing phases, or i.e. on the basis of a risk analysis.

The separation procedure is an example of such measures which are to be developed and implemented based on a risk analysis. These measures to prevent contamination also include the cleaning procedure and origin inspection procedure.

It is possible contamination happens more often than you think. The regular reporting of the presence of e.g. pesticide residues in organic products at such a degree that supports the suspicion of contamination, illustrates this.

That is why it is important that you as the person in charge within your company **undertake a thorough analysis of your production process from the receipt of the raw materials up to the finished product with a view to determine the process steps with a real risk of contamination of the organic product.** Once these risks have been identified, you can develop and apply the necessary procedures to prevent contamination.

**Tip!**

### Quaternary Ammonium Compounds, DDAC and BAC

Contamination with residues also takes place with regard to Quaternary ammonium compounds. The compounds DDAC (Didecyldimethylammoniumchloride) and BAC (benzalkonium chloride) are found on both organic and conventional fruits and vegetables. The contamination occurs through plant strengtheners and post-harvest treatment agents containing these compounds without being stated on the label.

In addition, BAC and DDAC are present in many cleaning and disinfection products. Eg: disinfectants for milking machines, cleaning agents for the food ..

**Tip!**

**If you use cleaning products with DDAC off BAC, we recommend that you take the necessary precautions to avoid contamination.**

## Info for PROCESSORS, WHOLESALERS and IMPORTERS

### Notify us of your production planning

If you produce both organic and non-organic products in your company, you must notify us of your production planning.

Being aware of your production planning, will increase the effectiveness of our inspections. After all, an unannounced inspection during production is more useful than an inspection at a moment nothing organic-related is happening in your company. Useful and effective inspections contribute to the protection of the entire organic sector and that is to everyone's benefit.

**Tip!**

**You produce organic products at regular intervals** (e.g. every Monday and Thursday):  
It is highly likely you have already informed your inspector of this.  
If these intervals were to change, you must inform your inspector.

**Tip!**

**You produce organic products at irregular intervals** (e.g. made to order):  
You must inform us of your production 7 days in advance via the following link on our website [Logins | TÜV NORD INTEGRA](#) (dutch) or [Logins | TÜV NORD INTEGRA](#) (French).  
Click on production/reception notification and enter your customer number and password.  
Forgotten or lost your password? Check with your inspector.

This **production notification is a legal obligation** for every preparer and wholesaler of non-pre-packed products producing, storing or selling both organic and non-organic products (*Decree of the Government of Flanders of 12/12/2008 concerning the organic production and the labelling of organic products*).

**Tip!**

**If you encounter difficulties to comply with this legal condition, contact your inspector and do not wait until the following inspection.**

During an inspection, production notification is an inspection item. If the inspector finds you do not notify us of your production planning in a timely manner, this will be noted as **non-conformity** and you will face a **sanction**. If this is repeatedly determined within your company, this can evolve into a

more severe sanction in the long run, such as a more stringent inspection or decertification of the product. Such a severe sanction because of a measure so easily taken is surely regrettable. Therefore, we would like to urge you to sort out everything regarding production notification, if this is not yet the case.

## Info for IMPORTERS

### Approved third countries and inspection bodies in relation to import

The list of approved third countries and approved inspection bodies as set out in Regulation 1235/2008 changes from time to time. This past summer as well, the greatest change being that the periods for recognition were extended.

You can consult the list via internet at [www.eur-lex.europa.eu](http://www.eur-lex.europa.eu) and search for Regulation 1235/2008 (Consolidated Regulation). However, it is not always easy to map out all changes this way.



**That is why you can request an Excel file at TÜV NORD INTEGRA in which all changes have been incorporated!**

### Import from the Ukraine and neighbouring countries

The European Commission has recently adopted directives to tighten the inspection on import from the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation. These measures will apply with effect from 1/1/2016. If you import directly from one of these countries, contact Ingrid Harre of TÜV NORD Integra ([iharre@tuv-nord-integra.com](mailto:iharre@tuv-nord-integra.com)).

## TEAM

As you might have already known, after 13 years of service Annick Cnudde left TÜV NORD Integra on 1 April 2015 to take on a new challenges elsewhere. Her position of Section Manager Organic Processing has been taken over by Hilde Van Duffel. She is already known within the organic sector, as she already fulfilled this position between 2000 and 2009.

On 1 January 2016 auditor Karl Van Win also left TÜV NORD Integra to take on new challenges elsewhere. He worked for TÜV NORD Integra for 8 years as auditor and certifier for organic processing.

We wish the both of them the best of luck and much success in their new challenge!

In May this year we will welcome 2 new colleague-auditors organic processing. Timmy De Peyper and Silke Jacobs will be trained from May on, after which they will start as independent auditors organic processing.

### Kindest regards from the Team organic processing and sales outlets of TÜV NORD Integra,

An Van de Walle, Bert De Caluwe, Ellen Tavernier, Geert Bleuzé, Geert Groessens, Hilde Van Duffel, Ingrid Harre, Jan Houben, Jo Vander Roost, Karine Moens, Lynne Dewachter, Sabine Dekelver, Sanne Rom, Sigrid Neys and Veerle Serlet

This digital newsletter was written by the organic team of TÜV NORD INTEGRA. For more information about the above headings, you can always contact us at 03/287 37 50 or [info@tuv-nord-integra.com](mailto:info@tuv-nord-integra.com)