

Policy for Revision of the IFOAM Norms

Status: Final Draft of 30 August as approved by IFOAM World Board in August including changes resulting from membership comments on 1st draft. For approval by IFOAM membership.

Purpose

To ensure that the decision making regarding the IFOAM Norms (IFOAM Basic Standards and IFOAM Accreditation Criteria) is based on efforts to achieve consensus in line with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.

Scope

All changes to the IFOAM Norms, including:

1. regular revisions
2. inclusion of new items in the IFOAM Norms
3. urgent revisions
4. changes resulting from Norms Interpretations
5. changes to the lists of Inputs, Additives and Processing Aids

For every type of revision above this policy describes under:

- a. *Initiation:* The parties eligible and the main steps to be taken for making a proposal for a revision.
- b. *Decision to Commence:* The party eligible to take the decision to commence with the revision.
- c. *Revision Process:* The **main** components and parties involved in the actual revision process.
- d. *Decision Making:* The main parties involved in the revision and procedures for approving a revision (e.g. membership vote).
- e. *Implementation:* The period within which approved changes have to be implemented by Norms users.

Definitions

Official Publication: The date of the publication of the English version of the Norms as defined in the print version.

Other Stakeholders: Non-members as listed in IFOAM Policy 61.

Members/Membership: IFOAM members.

Responsible Committee: The committee responsible for revising the IFOAM Basic Standards or the IFOAM Accreditation Criteria.

Revision Plan: Document, which outlines the main revision areas and changes and basic timelines for the revision of an IFOAM Norm.

New Area: Categories of production or processing (e.g. catering, turf management) or products (e.g. paper) or concepts (e.g. Climate Change) not currently addressed in the Norms.

1. Regular Revisions

- a. *Initiation:* The Responsible Committee, taking into account input from IFOAM members, other stakeholders and other relevant bodies and sources, assesses

periodically whether a revision is needed and makes a recommendation (Draft Revision Plan) to the Norms Management Committee. The Norms Management Committee makes a recommendation to the WB (Revision Plan).

- b. *Decision to Commence:* The World Board based on the Revision Plan.
- c. *Revision Process:* There will be one, or in exceptional cases two revision drafts, subject to consultation with the IFOAM Membership and Other Stakeholders. The respective last revision draft (2nd or 3rd) will be subject to motions from the IFOAM membership.
- d. *Decision Making:* There will be a motions reconciliation process resulting in a final revision draft which will be subjected to an IFOAM Membership vote. Decision by simple majority of the votes cast.
- e. *Implementation:* Within two years after Official Publication.

2. Inclusion of New Areas¹

- a. *Initiation:* Five IFOAM members and/or Other Stakeholders, the Responsible Committee, at any time.
- b. *Decision to commence:* The World Board if there is a need and clear benefit for the organic sector. Negative decisions will be subjected to the next General Assembly for ratification.
- c. *Revision Process:* As laid down in 1c above.
- d. *Decision Making:* As laid down in 1d above.
- e. *Implementation:* As laid down in 1e above.

3. Urgent Revisions

- a. *Initiation:* Any IFOAM member, the Responsible Committee, or Other Stakeholder.
- b. *Decision to commence:* The Norms Management Committee, based on recommendations of the Responsible Committee and the IOAS if the criteria for an urgent revision are fulfilled.
- c. *Revision Process:* There will be one revision draft subject to consultation with the IFOAM membership and Other Stakeholders.
- d. *Decision Making:* The World Board based on a recommendation by the Responsible Committee. The use of Urgent Revisions will be reported to the General Assembly.
- e. *Implementation:* Immediately or within the implementation period as laid down under 1e above.

4. Changes Resulting from Norms Interpretations (Policy 28)

- a. *Initiation:* Resulting from a needs assessment by the Responsible Committee the Revision Plan will address how interpretations are taken up in the next norms revision.
- b. *Decision to commence:* According to 1b above.
- c. *Revision Process:* According to 1c above.
- d. *Decision making:* According to 1d above
- e. *Implementation:* According to 1e above.

¹ All changes not referring to including new areas, e.g. adding, removing or changing single standards can only be made in the course of regular or urgent revisions.

5. Changes to the lists of Inputs, Additives and Processing Aids

According to Policy 60.

Publication of new Norms and other Changes

The revision plans and all decisions related to Norms revisions shall be announced promptly. Approved Norms shall be published promptly.

Complaints

Complaints with regard to this Policy and its related Procedures are handled according to IFOAM Policy 27.

Procedures

Further detailed procedures will be defined by IFOAM².

Approval of this Policy: By membership vote on (date to be included)

Responsible for revisions of this Policy: The IFOAM World Board.

² Detailed procedures shall be established and approved by the NMC.