



International Federation of  
Organic Agriculture  
Movements

3 June, 2004

Dear IFOAM Affiliates and other IAC Stakeholders:

Enclosed is the first revision draft of the 2002 IFOAM Accreditation Criteria for Bodies Certifying Organic Production and Processing (IAC). As an affiliate/member of IFOAM or otherwise an interested party, you are invited to comment on this revision draft. The draft includes two documents, which are the Criteria themselves and the Guidance Notes that accompany the Criteria. The introduction to the Criteria explain the relationship between the Criteria and Guidance Notes.

Instructions for Commenting:

- It is essential that you cite the relevant section and subsection numbers when making detailed comments. This is the case for both documents.
- IFOAM encourages you to make comments as specific as possible, and include suggestions for new wording in the form of edited text (preferably in MS Word review format that tracks changes to text.), along with rationale for your suggestion.
- If you are making a very general comment about the whole Criteria or about an entire Section, please indicate that with a heading.
- If at all possible, please submit your comments in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format, as this will be easiest for the IFOAM staff and Criteria Committee to handle. We can also quite easily handle very short comments sent in the text of an email.
- Email submissions are strongly encouraged. Please send these comments to Matthias Fecht, M. [Fecht@ifoam.org](mailto:Fecht@ifoam.org).
- If you are unable to use email, please mail your comments to Matthias at the IFOAM Office (see address below).
- There is a 90 day period for comments. ***The deadline for submissions is 1 September.***

All comments received will be promptly acknowledged. If you have not received an acknowledgement to your comments by the 1 September deadline (or shortly thereafter if you comment very close to the deadline), then please contact Matthias Fecht to verify that your comments were received by IFOAM. This is a preventative measure because in the past, technical errors in cyberspace have caused electronic comments to be lost in transmission.

The Criteria Committee will consider all comments and publish a commentary explaining its response to comments. The commentary will likely be published along with the second draft of the IAC.,

If you have any questions about the process or the meaning of the draft document, please contact me by email, [D.Bowen@ifoam.org](mailto:D.Bowen@ifoam.org), or by telephone at 1 414 352 5789 (-5 hours GMT in the US).

With best regards,

Diane Bowen  
Organic Guarantee System Manager