

Norms Interpretations Register

Last update: April 25, 2008

Numbering	Request Date	Requesting Party	Relevant Norm	Topic	Summary of request	Decision Date	Summary of Interpretation	Rationale for decision
INT 1	March 2003	IOAS	IBS 5.5.1	Use of the Burdizzo Method for Castration of Sexually Mature Male Cattle	Is the use of the Burdizzo method of castration at an age past sexual maturity and without anethetics consistent with the requirements of IBS 5.5.1?	19. Jan 04	1. Castrations may only be done without veterinary assistance and anesthetics when the calf is below 6 months old. 2. Mature castrations above 6 months but below 24 months may only be allowed where a strong case of necessity is established. 3. Mature castrations must be done with veterinary assistance and anesthetics unless the applicable method(s) induce higher levels of shock and bruising	The IBS 5.5.1 accommodates less than ideal practices where the conditions do not support ideal or preferred practices. Allowance should be made for what can be regarded as ecologically sound and welfare based management practices under prevailing conditions.
INT 2	15. March 03	IOAS	IAC 6.7.11 d	Measures to prevent genetically engineered products in certified organic production and processing	To provide further interpretation of 6.7.11 d. 6.7.11 becomes meaningless and unenforcable if 6.7.11 d is not properly interpreted. Without clarity on the phrase "consistent with this policy" the criterion would be stating that the certifier must do a or b or c or anything else, as long as the policy is documented.	19. Jan 03	6.7.11 a., b., and c. provide a certain level of confidence regarding the prohibition of use of GMOs. The other measures provided in d., must provide a consistent level of confidence as in a., b., or c. in fulfilling the objective of 6.7.9.	See summary of interpretation. Remark: This interpretation was taken as the basis for the new wording in the 2005 IFOAM Accreditation Criteria (new numbering: IAC 6.7.9 d).
INT 3	11. Aug 04	IOAS	IBS 7.1.3	Use of a certification mark on mixed products	Does the current wording prohibit use of certification indication on products with less than 70% of	12. Nov 04	A certification mark (logo) may appear in the ingredient list but not elsewhere on the packaging.	An organic certification logo is one of several possible indications that an ingredient is organic. IBS 7.1 3 does

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					organic ingredients			not prohibit a certification body from allowing its logo to be used in the ingredient list as an indication that an ingredient is organic. Such use of logo is not specifically prohibited.
INT 4	11. Aug 04	IOAS	IBS Chapter 6	Certification of non food products	Can the standards in chapter 6 be used to certify non-food products?	07. Jan 05	The processing and handling standards are not restricted to food. Products processed in compliance with Chapter 6 can be certified organic regardless of their end use.	The title of the IBS refers only to production and processing and not to end products. Three of the five general principles in Chapter 6 do not specifically refer to food. What is not prohibited should be allowed.
INT 5	23 Feb 06	IOAS	IAC 8.2.5	Certification of Brand Name Inputs	Does IAC 8.2.5 allow the use of the term "certified organic input" on non-agricultural products?	26 April 06	1) The explanatory language required in IAC 8.2.5 needs to refer to the fact that an input is of non-agricultural nature. 2) The term "certified organic input" cannot be used on non-agricultural inputs 3) This applies to cases where the certified input bears the certification mark of the certification body but also to cases where the certification mark is not used. The term "certification mark" (used in 8.2.5) is understood in its widest sense, including any reference to the certification status, name, program, or certification mark of the respective certification body.	The use of term "certified organic input" would not clarify that the certification refers to a non-agricultural product. The opposite impression, that the input is organic, might be given. This does apply to all cases of certification of non-agricultural inputs (with or without use of certification mark) because the communication of the certification status is the crucial point and not the use of certification mark. Communication of the certification can happen by using a mark but also by just expressing that the product is certified.
INT 6	21 Sep 06	IOAS	IBS Appendix 4	Suitability of various substances on App.	Are essential Oils from plants, Alpha Bisabolol, Vitamin E-Oil, Oil	June 2007	These substances can be used based on IBS 6.3.1 as ingredient, additive or	The substances in their non-organic form are allowed in the IBS in food and

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				4 for production of organic cosmetics	extracts from plants suitable for production of organic cosmetics?		<p>processing aid, if they are organic. Organic means they are organic plant products extracted by physical, mechanical or biological techniques or permitted processing aids of Appendix 4, Table 1.</p> <p>In non-organic form they may be used as flavoring agents based on Appendix 4 as long as together with the other non-organic ingredients and additives they do not constitute more than 5% of the product. Any other use needs to be evaluated based on a dossier.</p> <p>If substances are used for extraction they shall be limited to those prescribed in 6.3.2.</p>	<p>non-food products if they are used as flavoring agents. Any use other than a flavoring agent needs a dossier. The substances meet the criteria for flavoring agents if produced or extracted by the means as described in bullet 2 under heading Flavoring Agents.</p>