

Notice of a Technical Correction of IAC 8.2.5 of the IFOAM Accreditation Criteria

The Norms Management Committee after consultation with the relevant IFOAM Bodies approved in April 2006 a technical correction of IAC 8.2.5 of the 2005 IFOAM Accreditation Criteria.

IAC 8.2.5 now reads:

8.2.5 In cases where the product is not a certified agricultural organic product, the certification mark may only be used when it is accompanied by explanatory language that clarifies the nature of the certification/~~approval~~.

Background and Rationale

IAC 8.2.1 to 8.2.3 deal exclusively with “**Approval Systems** for Brand Name Inputs.”

IAC 8.2.4 and 8.2.5 deal exclusively with “**Certification** of Brand Name Inputs” by providing requirements in addition to those for approval systems. IAC 8.2.4 and 8.2.5 do **not** deal with **approval systems**. The word “**approval**” should therefore **not** appear **in IAC 8.2.4 or in 8.2.5**.

Furthermore, IAC 8.2.3 clearly **prohibits** “any indication of the approval on the product (the brand name input) itself.” This also means that products approved under an **approval system** cannot bear any kind of certification mark.

IAC 8.2.5 contradicts this by stating that a certification mark may be used “when it is accompanied by explanatory language that clarifies the nature of the certification/**approval**”.

The original wording of IAC 8.2.5 was adopted by the CC during the revision of the 2002 IAC. The CC has informed the NMC that it never intended to allow the use of certification marks on products that were approved in approval systems.

The NMC therefore decided that this is a technical error, which will be corrected by removing the word “approval” from IAC 8.2.5.

As of the 1st of June 2006 this technical correction will have been incorporated in all electronic versions and future hardcopies of the 2005 IAC and Norms. For all copies of the IAC and Norms (electronic and print version) published before that date reference is made to an Erratum which will be published on the IFOAM website and placed in the print version of the Norms.