aCert
European Organization for Certification

CERTIFICATION REGULATION

for the production of Organic Products in Third Countries Equivalent to European Regulations (EC) 834/2007, 889/2008 and 1235/2008

Article 1
Scope of Regulation

This Certification Regulation applies to the control system that A CERT implements in Third Countries. It describes all the control measures that operators applying in the Third Countries A CERT is operating organic inspection and certification scheme in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Regulation (EC) 889/2008 on organic production and labeling of organic products.

Article 2
The Inspection and Certification Body A CERT European Organization for Certification SA

1. The Inspection and Certification Body A CERT *European Organization for Certification* S.A. (called A CERT or simply Certification Body below) was founded in Thessaloniki in 2005 with the legal form of SA (Societe Anonyme). A CERT has as prime activity the conduction of audits and the certification of products and management systems.

2. A CERT's objectives:

   - The promotion of sustainable development and organic agriculture
   - Environment's protection
   - Assurance of the production of high level consuming products for the consumers' sake.
   - Maintenance of confidentiality, objectivity and impartiality

3. A CERT's operational principles:

   a. Confidentiality-Confidence

      A CERT undertakes the responsibility for keeping the information that it selects from the organizations during the process of inspection and certification confidential. Information exchange between A CERT and third parties becomes after organization's written consent. In cases of briefing by the overseeing and checking authority regarding the current legislation, the organization is informed about the information that has been provided.

   b. Impartiality - Objectivity

      A CERT is not involved in supplying, designing neither promotion of the kinds of products it certifies. Furthermore, is not involved in the provision of consulting services. A CERT's internal and external personnel, is free from any kind of commercial, economical or other type of pressure that could influence their judgment. A CERT provides to the interested organizations relative information about the interpretation of the certification process. The total operation and the content of A CERT's certification system are being checked by the overseeing/checking authority. In the framework of the internal audit the above are being checked by the Independence Control Committee (I.C.C.) which is a collective body that is constituted after A CERT's invitation to all the interested parties, functions as an independent body for internal control and sits once per year, according to its Operation Regulation. Its composition is of that kind so that any individual interest dominates, while all considerably interested parts have the opportunity to participate. Except of its controlling work, the I.C.C. contributes in the policy creation and principles with regard to the content and the operation of the certification system.

   c. Transparency

      The processes which A CERT applies ensure the transparency, through a range of publications in which all interested parts have free access. These publications include, except the other, this Certification Regulation and the Registration List of the certified Organizations. Moreover, the published documents and all information required are submitted to the responsible authorities, in order the achievement of A CERT's obligations to be ensured, according the current legislation.

   d. A CERT may not proceed with certification in case during the audit there are objectives that the safety of the produced products is endangered and the legislation about production, storage and distribution of food is being violated.

   e. The requirements, the evaluation and the Control Body decision for certification are limited to issues that are strictly related to the test certification scope.

Article 3
Definitions

The definitions laid down in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 shall apply for the purposes of the present Annex to the Certification Regulation.

Article 4

Audit, Certification and Surveillance

A. The registration procedure includes:

1. Application:

All interested organizations have the right to apply for certification. Interested organizations receive from the certification Body, or via the certification body's web site (www.a-cert.org), information which includes:

a) the Certification Regulation,
b) the relevant Annex of the Certification Regulation, according the certification that is being wished,
c) the relevant Pricelist, according the certification that is being wished,
d) the Application Form,
e) the document Declaration – Description of the business according the certification that is being wished, and all documents that are connected to it.

Furthermore, in the website of the Body you can find: Reg. (EC) 834/2007 and 889/2008, 1804/1999, 1788/2001, 1452/2003, 392/2004, etc. The interested party can receive all them also per post with his charge.

The interested party fills in and takes to A CERT all documents mentioned in the points d to e. This procedure is active also in case of change of the certification scope as well.

In case the interested party is already certified by another Certification Body, A CERT asks for a copy of its files by the previous Certification Body. Afterwards, the certification procedure is being followed as for the entities that ask for initial certification. An entity is not allowed to have in parallel valid certification agreements with more than one certification body, for the same scope.

2. Contract Signing:

After the approval of the application by the General Manager and among 30 days from its submission, the interested party and more specifically its legal representative, is being asked to sign the contract with the Body. The purpose of the contract is the definition of the contractual obligations of the parties, for the effective implementation of A CERT Organic Standard in order to produce reliable organic products and protect the environment. According the contract the Body undertakes the obligation to inspect according the applicable national and EC Legislation the exploitation of the client, what contributes to the sustainable management of the land and the production of organic products, with at least one on side audit per year and the contracted client undertakes the obligation to satisfy the requirements of A CERT Organic Standard, as applied any time.

Integral part of the contract is:
a) this Regulation Certification,
b) the relevant to the certification scope Annex of the Certification Regulation,
c) The regulations of how to use the certification logo, which is received by the client before signing the contract,
d) the relevant to the certification scope Pricelist and the Price analysis, where the exact amount to get paid and the way to pay to the Body are being stated. In case of plant production the list of fields is being attached too.

After signing the contract the company is registered in the inspection and certification system of the Body and parallel it gets registered to the Registry of the affiliated companies, where it stays until the grant of the certification. If applicable, the contracted company has to refer the start of its activities in organic farming during 10 days from the signing of the contract to the relevant Authority of the country where it is sited. Certified copy of this acknowledgement has to be brought to the Body for its files.

3. Inspections:

Among 60 days from the signing of the contract for certification, the Body conducts the on-site inspection according A CERT Organic Standard and according the inspection procedure of the Body, which aims to:

- to verify the registered Declaration-Description Form data and the data submitted by the company's application,
- to evaluate the activities of the company, according to the standard ISO/IEC 17065 and the requirements of A CERT Organic Standard as regards the organic production and detection whether the requirements of existing national and European legislation for organic production are being satisfied,
- to identify non-conformities and require corrective actions to take place to remove them, to ensure the firm's compliance with the Rules for the requested scope of certification.

The date for conducting the inspection is being arranged by the Body taking into consideration the client's availability. The client is being informed about the final date of the inspection and the inspection team, which consists of one or more inspectors, at least 15 days before its conduct. In case of disagreement for the date, t shall get re-arranged, but the new

date cannot exceed the 15 days from the first date that has been announced to the client. The client may raise an objection to a member or members of the inspection team, in writing and reasoned way. In case of acceptance of the request by the Body, the member or members for which the objection has been stated get replaced. The company must notify the Body for any objection, whether it refers to the date or the inspection team, no later than ten (10) days prior to the conduct of the inspection. During the inspection the consultant of the client may be there, if the client informs the Body accordingly. The consultant has no right to participate in the inspection procedure.

The inspection for the start registration includes:

- full on site inspection of the production factors and production processes,
- on side inspection of the facilities,
- accounting documentation control,
- May be sampling in order to detect not allowed substances. The sampling is obligatory when there are suspects for use of not allowed products,
- control precautionary measures to be taken to avoid contamination by unauthorized products or substances.

Upon completion of the inspection, a report gets completed about its outcome, and the chief inspector informs the auditee about the outcome of the inspection by delivering a copy of the report. In case non conformities gets noted during the inspection, the company has to make the necessary corrective actions within the time limit specified by the Body. The Corrective actions are being evaluated by the Body and possibly a new inspection takes additionally place. If the company fails to remedy the non-compliance within the agreed period, this may result in non-certification of products and / or in terminating the contract with the Body.

B. Certification:

All documentation that has come to the Body through the registration procedure and all other relevant documents that have been selected as well, are being reviewed by an independent assessor, who might be a member of the Scientific Council. The assessor fills in the assessment report and gives it to the Certification Manager who is responsible for granting the certification.

After the decision made by the Certification Manager to grant the Certification, the company gets registered in the registry of the certified by A CERT companies, and is able to get a product certificate. There is no change to issue certificate to a company that has not corrected all the non-conformities that might have appointed during the inspection. Granting the certification automatically means granting of the right to use the certification logos (Logo of the Commission and logo of A CERT). The Body controls the labeling of the organic products it is certifying and has no responsibility towards the rest information written on the labels, where the general legislative requirements apply.

The correct certification granting is being checked by the Integrity Control Committee.

C. Surveillance Inspections:

After granting the certification, A CERT might proceed with surveillance audits in order to assure the continuous satisfaction of the requirements of the Regulation and to assure the compliance of the certified company activities on organic production, manufacture or importation from third countries.

The surveillance includes:

1) Regular Inspections:

They are being performed at least once per year and certainly within the growing period of crop species for crop production, in the year for breeding for animal production and in the manufacturing period for manufacturing companies. The date is determined in consultation with the business. In each case, the inspection must be made within fifteen (15) days from the first announced by the Body date. The inspection team makes a full physical inspection of the company, its accounting documentation and possibly sampling in accordance with A CERT Organic Standard.

2) Special inspections:

The selection of companies undergoing unannounced inspections each year shall be based on risk analysis developed by the Body Control and inspections are planned in accordance with criteria that determine the level of risk. The Body Control shall ensure that each year shall be carried out on a random basis, additional inspections to at least 10% of total integrated enterprises. In addition, 10% of all inspections that take place annually shall be unannounced. Reason for a special inspection can be any information suggesting the ineffective implementation of the requirements of the Regulations by a company, or where there is a risk to replace organic products with products that are not being produced, manufactured or imported from third countries in accordance with A CERT Organic Standard. Inspections of this kind can be done by informing the company a day earlier and there is no change for the company to request a change of this date.

3) Sampling:

The Body carries out annual sampling in the percentage of all companies with certified products as required by the applicable national legislation. At each sampling, the staff of the Body shall take the sample and send it to A CERT. The Body then forwards the sample for analysis in an accredited laboratory it cooperates with. For the case of verifying the results backup samples maintained in the laboratory, up to 30 days. The exact time depends on the type of sample and the relevant substances that it gets analyzed for. During all inspections the inspection team shall take sample for analysis if they create suspicion for use of unauthorized products or possible contamination by unauthorized products. In these cases the minimum number of samples (5% of the total inspections) that need to be taken and analyzed shall not applied.

In case of monitoring non-compliances during the surveillance inspection, depending on their extent and severity, the company should proceed to take corrective actions within a specified timeframe set in consultation with the Body. The corrective measures will be reviewed by the Body, something that may include additional inspection. If the company fails to remedy the non-compliance within the agreed time, this is a cause for sanctions enforcement.

Article 5
Conversion

1. The conversion period of a farm on which organic production is started shall start at the earliest when the operator has signed a Certification Agreement with A CERT and subjected his holding to the control system in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labeling of organic products and Regulation (EC) 889/2008 laying down detailed implementing rules.

    i. during the conversion period all rules established by Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 shall apply;
    ii. for plants and plant products to be considered organic, the production rules must have been applied on the parcels during a conversion period of at least two years before sowing, or, in the case of grassland or perennial forage, at least two years before its use as feed from organic farming, or, in the case of perennial crops other than forage, at least three years before the first harvest of organic products.

2. A CERT may decide to recognize retroactively as being part of the conversion period any previous period in which the farm parcels were natural or agricultural areas which were not treated with products not authorized for organic production. This period may be taken into consideration retroactively only where satisfactory proof has been submitted to A CERT allowing it to satisfy itself that the conditions were met for a period of at least three years.

3. In order to determine the conversion period referred to above, the following conditions shall concur:

    i. A CERT will only review applications for retroactive recognition of a conversion period, only if the operator submits a written declaration requesting so. In such cases, the burden of proof lies on the operator.
    ii. A CERT is not obligated to recognize any period immediately preceding the date of the start of the conversion period, if no satisfactory evidence is submitted by the applicant.

4. A CERT may decide, in certain cases, where the land had been contaminated with products not authorized for organic production, to extend the conversion period beyond the period referred to in paragraph 1.ii in the case of parcels which have already been converted to or were in the process of conversion to organic farming, and which are treated with a product not authorized for organic production. In this case, the length of the conversion period shall be decided taking into account of the following factors:

    i. the process of degradation of the product concerned shall guarantee, at the end of the conversion period, an insignificant level of residues in the soil and, in the case of a perennial crop, in the plant;
    ii. the harvest following the treatment may not be sold with reference to organic production methods. A CERT shall inform the other Control Bodies operating in the specific Third Country and the European Commission of its decision to require compulsory measures.

Article 6
Parallel Production

1. A plant production operator may run organic and non-organic production units in the same area, only for perennial crops, which require a cultivation period of at least three years, where varieties cannot be easily differentiated and only if the following conditions are met:

    i. the production in question forms part of a conversion plan in respect of which the producer gives a firm undertaking and which provides for the beginning of the conversion of the last part of the area concerned to organic production in the shortest possible period which may not in any

event exceed a maximum of five years;
ii. appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the permanent separation of the products obtained from each unit concerned;
iii. A CERT is notified of the harvest of each of the products concerned at least 48 hours in advance;
iv. upon completion of the harvest, the producer informs A CERT of the exact quantities harvested on the units concerned and of the measures applied to separate the products;
v. the conversion plan and the control measures referred to in Chapter 1 and 2 of Title IV of Regulation (EC) 889/2008 have been approved by A CERT; this approval shall be confirmed each year after the start of the conversion plan;

2. Apart from producers, the above mentioned conditions may also apply:

i. in the case of areas intended for agricultural research or formal education agreed with A CERT;
ii. in the case of production of seed, vegetative propagating material and transplants and
iii. in the case of grassland exclusively used for grazing.

Article 7

Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method

1. A CERT may authorize the use of non-organic seed or vegetative propagating material if not available from organic production, provided that the seed or seed potatoes are not treated with plant protection products, other than those authorized for treatment of seed in accordance with Regulation (EC) 889/2008, unless chemical treatment is prescribed for phytosanitary purposes by the competent authority of the Third Country for all varieties of a given species in the area where the seed or seed potatoes are to be used.

2. Authorization to use seed or seed potatoes not obtained by the organic production method may only be granted in the following cases and conditions:

i. where no supplier, meaning an operator who markets organic seed or seed potatoes produced in accordance with Regulation (EC) 834/2007 to other operators, is able to deliver the seed or seed potatoes before sowing or planting in situations where the user has ordered the seed or seed potatoes in reasonable time;
ii. where it is justified for use in research, test in small-scale field trials or for variety conservation purposes agreed by A CERT
iii. the authorization shall be granted before the sowing of the crop.
iv. the authorization shall be granted only to individual users (operators) for one season at a time and A CERT shall register the quantities of seed or seed potatoes authorized.

3. A CERT shall register all authorizations and shall make this information available to all interested third parties, in a report published in its website (www.a-cert-org) before the 31st of March every year. The report shall contain, for each species concerned, at least the following information:

i. the scientific name of the species and the variety denomination;
ii. the justification for the authorization;
iii. the total number of authorizations;
iv. the total quantity of seed or seed potatoes involved;
v. the chemical treatment for phytosanitary purposes, as referred to paragraph 1 of the present article.

Article 8

Catastrophic circumstances

A CERT may authorize on a temporary basis the use of sulphur dioxide up to the maximum content to be fixed in accordance with the Annex I B to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 if the exceptional climatic conditions of a given harvest year deteriorate the sanitary status of organic grapes in a specific geographical area in a Third Country, because of severe bacterial attacks or fungal attacks, which oblige the winemaker to use more sulphur dioxide than in previous years to obtain a comparable final product.

Upon approval by A CERT, the individual operators shall keep documentary evidence of the use of the above exceptions. A CERT shall inform all other control bodies recognized for the purpose of equivalence according to Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, Article 33, paragraph 3 in the respective Third Country and the Commission on the exceptions it has granted under the provisions of this article.

Article 9

Labeling - Compulsory indications

Where terms referring to the organic production method are used:

(a) the code number(s) of A CERT referred to in Article 5, depending on the Third Country the applicant is operating, shall also appear in the labeling;
(b) the Organic production logo of the European Union as regards pre-packaged food may also appear on the packaging;
(c) where the Community logo is used, an indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed, shall also appear in the same visual

field as the logo and shall take one of the following forms, as appropriate:

i. 'non-EU Agriculture', where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in third countries,
ii. 'EU/non-EU Agriculture', where part of the agricultural raw materials has been farmed in the Community and a part of it has been farmed in a third country.

The abovementioned indication 'EU' or 'non-EU' may be replaced or supplemented by a country in the case where all agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed in that country.

For the abovementioned 'EU' or 'non-EU' indication, small quantities by weight of ingredients may be disregarded provided that the total quantity of the disregarded ingredients does not exceed 2 % of the total quantity by weight of raw materials of agricultural origin.

The abovementioned 'EU' or 'non-EU' indication shall not appear in a color, size and style of lettering more prominent than the sales description of the product.

The indications to the organic production method shall be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and indelible.

Article 10

Third countries, code numbers and product categories

A CERT has been awarded the following code numbers by the European Commission for the Third Countries it has been recognized as a control body for the purpose of equivalence, according to Article 33 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

Third country	Code number	Category of products					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** The letters in the categories of products above stand for the following:*
A - Unprocessed plant products
B - Live animals or unprocessed animal products
C - Aquaculture products and seaweeds
D - Processed agricultural products for use as food
E - Processed agricultural products for use as feed
F - Vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation

Article 11

List of Certified Operators

A CERT keeps a list of all operators subject to the control system in Third Countries in its website (www.a-cert.org). The list can be found together with a contact point where information is readily available on all operators' certification status. It includes all the product categories concerned, as well as all suspended and decertified operators and products. All information is available to any interested party.

Article 12

Documentary Evidence

A CERT shall provide documentary evidence to any operator who is subject to its controls and who in the sphere of his activities, meets the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. The documentary evidence permits the identification of the operator and the type or range of products as well as the period of validity.

i. All operators shall verify the documentary evidence of their suppliers.
ii. The form of the documentary evidence has been drawn up in accordance with Annex XII of Regulation (EC) 889/2008.

Article 13

Communications - Exchange of information

A CERT shall exchange relevant information on the results of its controls with other control authorities and control bodies in a Third Country, upon any request duly justified by the necessity to guarantee that a product has been produced in accordance with Regulation (EC) 834/2007.

A CERT may also exchange such information with other recognized control bodies on its own initiative.

A CERT has established documented procedures to enable exchange of information with all control bodies operating in a given Third Country, including procedures for the exchange of information for the purpose of verifying documentary evidence.

Article 14

Publication of information

A CERT makes available to the public the updated list of operators subject to the control system in Third Countries. The list contains updated documentary evidence related to each operator, indicating their certification status and the product categories concerned. It also provides a contact point where information is available on suspended and decertified operators and products. All information can be found at its official website (www.a-cert.org).

Article 15

Measures in case of infringements and irregularities

1. In case of infringements and irregularities, A CERT shall immediately communicate with other control bodies, control authorities and the European Commission, any measures it has imposed. The level of communication shall depend on the severity and the extent of the irregularity or infringement found.

2. A CERT shall take whatever measures and sanctions are required to prevent fraudulent use of the indications on organic production and the use of the European Community logo in accordance with Regulation (EC) 834/2007 and 889/2008, in the Third Countries it operates for the purpose of equivalence, according to Article 33 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

3. A CERT may require, on its own initiative, any other information on irregularities or infringements.

4. In case of irregularities or infringements found with regard to products under the control of other control authorities or control bodies, A CERT shall also inform those authorities or bodies without delay.

5. A CERT has developed and adopted a catalogue listing all infringements and irregularities affecting the organic status of products and corresponding measures that have to be applied in case of infringements or irregularities by operators under the control system, who are involved in organic production.

Article 16

Non-organic food ingredients of agricultural origin

Where a non-organic ingredient of agricultural origin is not included in Annex IX of Regulation (EC) 889/2008, that ingredient may not be used for the preparation of organic products.

In case this ingredient is produced using the organic production method in accordance with Regulation (EC) 834/2007 in the respective Third Country, the operator shall use an organically produced ingredient even if the product is included in Annex IX of Regulation (EC) 889/2008. A CERT has to be notified by the operator prior to using a non-organic ingredient.

Article 17

Copper compounds and their use in organic farming

Copper compounds in the form of: copper hydroxide, copper oxychloride, copper oxide, Bordeaux mixture, and tribasic copper sulphate as described in Regulation (EC) 889/2008 may only be used in organic plant production as bactericides and fungicides up to a limit of 6 kg of copper per hectare per year. Only in the case of perennial crops, an operator may derogate and exceed the 6 kg limit in a given year, provided that the average quantity actually used over a 5-year period consisting of that year and of the four preceding years does not exceed 6 kg. Prior to taking advantage of this derogation, the operator has to inform A CERT in detail providing evidence about the need to exceed the 6 kg limit in the given year and shall only implement it should A CERT issues a written notification consenting to it.

Risk mitigation measures shall also be taken to protect water and non-target organisms such as buffer zones.

Article 18

Objections-Appeals

Right for objection and appeal has inspected companies and third parties if and when they can justify their legitimate of interests.

The objection may act on the Body's staff or on a result of sampling and may be submitted using the appropriate form available by the Body for this purpose. Submission of the objection is being considered as valid, if it is being done by the surveyed during the act, or upon notification to the company of the results of chemical analysis of samples. For third parties, the submission time is decided by the Director General and if justified and judged by the Body that there is legitimate interest, it gets referred to the appropriate Committee.

The appeal may be about a decision of an organ of the Body and submitted using a dedicated for this form. Submission of the application is considered as a valid when done within ten (10) working days of notification of the decision to the company.

The Objection and Appeal Board shall meet within ten (10) working days from receipt of the objection/ appeal. The objector shall be informed in writing by the Board on the date of examination and may apply for participation in the meeting. If the request is approved by the General Manager, then he can monitor and support the submitted objection / appeal. Up to the decision by the Commission, the decision against which the appeal is are in force and any other provisional measures submitted. The Commission may require further clarification, if necessary, by the parties or require the involvement of experts to investigate the case. The Commission must take a decision within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the complaint/ appeal and inform the claimant/ applicant with the decision.

Άρθρο 19

Rights and Obligations of the Contracted Organizations with A CERT

a. Rights:

1. The contracted organization is able to justifiably request the change of the audit date or the surveillance, inside the determined time interval.
2. The contracted organization is able to request the change of the inspection team, if it can argue the objection.
3. The organizations representative is able during audit to record his reserves on the ascertainment and/or the observations of the audit team. The representative is able to record his retains or his objections in all documents that he signs during the inspection.
4. The contracted organization is able to be informed about the documentation that is

collected by the lead auditor during the audit.
5. The contracted company may request verification of the results of chemical analysis, sampling case, within a specified timeframe. In this case the costs are borne will be paid by the contracted company.
6. The contracted organization is able to use the granted certificates for professional aims, like achievement of agreements, cases of offers, confirmation of orders, for aims of promotion and in order to prove that it conforms to the requirements of the standards according to which it is certified.

b. Obligations:

The contracted company has to:

1. cooperate in a way that facilitates the Body staff by taking appropriate organizational measures during the inspection procedures and surveillance inspections, and in cases the legal representative fails to attend them, it has to designate a representative who will be present throughout of inspection. If the inspection becomes impossible or difficult by default and / or obstruction of the company, it is accounted as denial of the inspection and the case is referred in accordance with the prescribed procedure to the competent authorities for sanction measures.
2. provide during the inspection to the inspectors and to all relevant observers any access in all production facilities, processing facilities, storage facilities, in all accounting and relevant documents. Furthermore, it has to provide the Body with any information deemed necessary for the purposes of inspection.
3. keep all documents necessary to substantiate the certified activities in accordance with the requirements of applicable national and European legislation including the Codes of Good Agricultural Practices.
4. In case of failure to perform the scheduled inspection within the timeframes established, because of the company, the company is charged for refusal to carry out the inspection. Competent to take cognizance of the matter is the Sanctions Committee, which decides on sanctions in the enterprise according to the sanctions list.
5. The legal representative of the company or a duly authorized person must sign during the conduct of the inspection all documents that are indicated by the staff of the Body. Refusal to sign is counted as a refusal to carry inspection and referred to the Sanctions Committee to decide for imposing sanctions.
6. continuously implementing procedures of the activity it is inspected and certified, in order to continuously comply with the Rules under which certification is granted.
7. take corrective action to remedy non-conformities identified during the inspection by the Body within the specified timeframe. The not remedy of the non-conformities within the agreed period is reason for sanctions.
8. inform the Body Control in writing about any change that is going to make its inspected and certified activities and/or the production methods.
9. immediately notify the Body if it finds that the products it produces, processes, imports or receives from other companies do not satisfy the requirements of the standard under which they are certified.
10. For products it produces, processes or imports and for which there is suspected non-compliance to these Regulation, documented evidence that they are conventional shall be kept.
11. The contracted company is responsible for the proper use of certificates received by the Body. Must state that it holds the certificates only for the products mentioned in them and promote it accordingly. Every reference to the certification of the product in the media, including forms, brochures and / or advertisements has to comply with the requirements of the Body.
12. State the products that are certified only as to the standard for which the certification is granted.
13. not use the certification in such a way as to bring disrepute to the Body, or in any manner that may be perceived by the Body as misleading.
14. keep a record of complaints and file of the measures taken to deal with complaints. These records are subject to inspection by the inspectors of the Body.
15. In case of suspension or revocation of the certificates, the company must immediately stop using any license, advertising and any reference to certification.
16. In case of revocation of a certificate, the company must return all original documents provided certificates.
17. accept the certificates of the Body issued to other companies.
18. pack and transport the products according to A CERT Organic Standard. To receive products from other companies in accordance with A CERT Organic Standard.
19. In the case that a subcontractors of a company is inspected by another approved certification body, to allow the exchange of information among the Certification Bodies regarding the inspection operations.
20. comply with the provisions of this Certification Regulation and the Annex to Regulation Certification relevant to its activity.
21. to comply with the certification requirements and make any changes when informed by the Control Body.
22. certified products must meet the requirements of the products with the

specific certification that the last one have.
23. provide, in case that it is necessary to submit copies of the certification, copies of all documents relating to the certification or as determined by the certification scheme.
24. to inform the Body Control of any change that may affect the ability to comply with the certification requirements, such as: change of legal, commercial or organizational status, management change, change of address and production points.

Article 20
A CERT's Obligations

A CERT has to:

1. operate at all levels with an impartial, objective way, which ensures the confidentiality of the information it handles.
2. provide the applicant with any information needed for the evaluation and certification procedure. Notify to the company the A CERT Organic Standard as they are in force and each addition and / or modification made to them. To perform toward the company all its obligations under A CERT Organic Standard and its internal Regulation.
3. use for each job staff evaluated as capable and proper.
4. train and supervise staff it uses to carry out the inspections.
5. organize the inspection and make decisions on granting certificates and penalties.
6. inform its affiliated companies for the dates of the inspections and for the composition of the inspection team, for the decisions of the Sanctions Committee, and the dates of examination of the appeals and petitions from the Appeals Commission and its decisions.
7. issue the certification documents of Article 5 of this Regulation
8. issue a confirmation letter after request by the company stating that this company is integrated in the inspection and certification system and meets the requirements of the "Regulations". The conformation letter will be provided for all uses except from the sales of the products.
9. keep personal files per controlled company which are available for the Surveillance Authority and deliver them to it if demanded.
10. forward to EU Authorities up to January 31st of each year in implementation of A CERT Organic Standard the following information relating to the previous year: a) the control system, in which, apart from the name and address, indications of the area and the crop species and the number at livestock species, as appropriate. b) Comprehensive report on the analyses of the samples it took, c) state of the certified products (type, size, quantity, region) and d) any other information as requested by the competent authorities.
11. cooperate with other Certification Bodies for organic products by sharing necessary information and sending a copy of the archived personal company's files if the company decides to change the Body and in parallel inform the supervising and controlling authority as appropriate.
12. inform the supervisory authority for issuing certification documents, and to suspend or revoke the certification supervisor and supervisory authority in accordance with applicable national legislation.
13. provide help for second part inspections.
14. in the case of repeated operation of the Body after righteousness lodged an objection or appeal to the Appeals Committee, the costs outweigh the Body.
15. A CERT has no responsibility if requirements arise due to consumption of unsafe food from a certified company.
16. inform the operator in writing when accused by law to publish confidentially information to third parties about the operator.
17. where requested clarifications concerning the application of the Regulations, those will be provided by technically trained staff of the Body Control upon request.
18. inform the certified companies via e-mail, via the official website or via postal letter about changes in certification requirements that affect the operator.
19. When the operator and/or subcontractor are inspected by other Control Bodies, A CERT shall exchange information with them about the operator mentioned before and their tasks. In the case that a subcontractors of a company is inspected by another approved certification body, to allow the exchange of information among the Certification Bodies regarding the inspection operations.
20. In the case of transfer to another Body Control, A CERT is obliged to give to the next Body Control the relevant information about the operator's file as well as the inspection reports.
21. Conversely, if an operator transfer his business in A CERT, the previous Body Control shall ensure that the operator will deal with the cases of non- compliance referred to the report of the previous Body Control.
22. When the operator withdraws from the control system, A CERT shall immediately inform the competent authority. This also happens and in the transfer cases.

Article 21
Expiry of the Collaboration

The collaboration between A CERT and the contracted organization can expire with the following ways:

- After the expiry of the time that is entered in the Private Contract, and if its renewal is not applied by the organization.
- After the denouncement of the Private Contract by the organization. In this case the organization should written inform the Certification Body, while it commits to observe the terms of the Contract which it has signed regarding the economic obligations against A CERT.

- After the denouncement of the Private Contract by A CERT. Reasons that can lead to a denouncement on behalf of the Certification Body, are:

    1. Not achievement of the economic obligations
    2. The recommendation by the Sanctions Committee to the Supervisory Authority for elimination of the company from the Inspection System for a period not exceeding three years or disqualification to sale its products as organic for a period not exceeding one year, which after evaluation of the documentation sends the case to the first instance Commission Examination Irregularities and Violations while informing the Supervisory Authority.

A CERT reserves the right to apply to the civil courts to defend its rights, as well as to seek prosecution threatened by libel through any mean (paper, traditional or digital press, radio, etc.).

Article 22

Pricing and Credit policy

A CERT follows a unique pricing policy for all companies involved. For this purpose it issues price lists depending on the desired subject to certification, where the economic conditions of cooperation are stated in detail.

Each calendar year the tariffs may be revised by a decision of the CEO without prior notice.

Article 23

Publications

Within its obligations towards national and European legislation A CERT publishes and provides the competent Authorities with information such as:

- Certification Regulation
- Appendixes of Certification Regulation

    - I Crop Production
    - II Animal Production
    - III Processing of Organic Products and Feed

- Pricelists

    - Crop Production
    - Animal Production
    - Processing of Biological Products and Feed

- Regulation of Use of the Certification Logos
- List of Affiliated Companies
- Register of Companies with certified products. The Register includes companies which have been granted certification by the Body and contain information such as name, activity and qualified products as well as any other information as appropriate may be required.
- Register of Certified Products. This register records all the products that have been produced or imported, by category and type, and which has certified the Body.

Article 24

Communicate the Changes of the Requirements

The regulations of the Body are being reviewed and may be revised by the Quality Management Department when necessary. The Body announces in advance the proposed changes to interested parties inviting them to submit comments and suggestions for changes. After deciding on changes or revisions concerning the certification requirements they shall be communicated in writing to affiliated companies.

The Body may amend the requirements for certification and apply the changes to the Regulations and national legislation as required by it.