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# Center for Smart Agriculture

## Organic Certification and Inspection Systems



**Module 4: Inspection and Certification Process**  
**Session 5 : Inspections and Certification of  
Grower Groups**



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# Inspection Visit and Report

Sufficient information shall be made available to the inspectors about the operator to allow proper preparation by the inspector.

This includes, among others, earlier inspection findings, a description of activities/processes, maps/plans, product specifications, and used inputs, earlier irregularities, infringements, conditions and disciplinary measures.



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The visit and the questionnaires used during the inspection, and the reports emanating from the inspection, shall be comprehensive.

Inspection and Certification Agencies shall have access to any non-organic production unit, or units associated by ownership or management. Inspection, including document review.



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- ❖ Inspection reports and inspection shall, as far as possible, follow a specified protocol to facilitate a non-discriminatory and objective inspection procedure.
- ❖ Reports shall be designed to allow for elaboration and analysis by the inspector on areas where compliance might be partial, standards might not be clear etc.
- ❖ Inspection reports shall give adequate information on what was actually checked, including, but not restricted to:



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- Date and time of inspection,
- Persons interviewed,
- Crops/products requested for certification,
- Fields and facilities visited,
- Documents reviewed,

In addition the report shall contain:

- Inspector's observations,
- Evaluation of compliance to standards, and certification requirements.



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World Organic certification Logo, Source: Google Image



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# Methods and Frequency

Inspection methods and frequency shall be determined by, among others;

1. Intensity of production.
2. Type of production.
3. Size of operation.
4. Outcome of previous inspections and the operator's record of compliance.
5. Any complaints received by the programme.
6. Whether the unit or operator is engaged only in certified production.
7. Contamination and drift risk.
8. Complexity of production.



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## Inspection frequency

The Inspection and Certification Agencies shall have a written policy on inspection frequency and it shall include:

- ❖ Inspection of licensed operators shall take place at least once annually.
- ❖ Inspection of sub-contracted operators shall take place at least once annually.
- ❖ There shall be provisions for more inspections with respect to the factors in 6.4 above.



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- ❖ A minimum number (percentage) of unannounced inspections to be carried out and the number shall be determined along with the basis for selection of operators to be subject to such inspections.
- ❖ The manner in which the cost of "extra" inspection is to be borne.
- ❖ Timing of inspections shall not be so regular as to become predictable.



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## Inspection methods

Inspections shall regularly include, but are not restricted to:

- ✓ Visits of facilities, fields, etc.
- ✓ Review of records and accounts.
- ✓ Calculation of input/output norms, production estimates etc.
- ✓ Assessment of production system of operator.
- ✓ Interview with responsible persons.



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# Analysis and Residue Testing

- ✓ Identification of cases in which samples shall be taken for analysis where, use of a substance prohibited by the standards, is suspected.
- ✓ Indication of any random sampling requirements.
- ✓ Instructions to the inspectors on sampling requirements and methods.
- ✓ Post-sampling procedures.
- ✓ fixation of responsibility for payment of sampling.



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# Inspection Regime for Part Conversion and Parallel Production

- ✓ Part conversion is the stage or situation when conventional, in conversion and/or organic production or processing occur in the same unit.
- ✓ Parallel production is defined as any production where the same unit is growing, breeding, handling or processing the same products both of certified organic quality and of non-certified organic quality.
- ✓ A situation where "organic" and "in-conversion" production of the same product is carried out, is also parallel production.



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# Provisions for part conversion in production and processing

The Inspection and Certification Agencies shall ensure:

- ✓ That appropriate storage capacity exists to ensure separate handling;
- ✓ That the documentation regarding the production is well managed and makes a clear distinction between certified and not certified production;
- ✓ That inspections are carried out at critical times;
- ✓ That inspection is done in a timely manner;
- ✓ That accurate production estimates are available.



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## Provisions for parallel production

If a farm is engaged in parallel production, the certification programme shall ensure, in addition to the requirements for part conversion, the following: -

- ❖ Buffer zones are maintained for demarcation
- ❖ Crops are visually distinguishable or
- ❖ The crops are harvested in such a way that there are reliable methods to verify the actual harvest of the respective crops



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## Inspection for Use of Genetically Engineered Products

- ❑ Inspection and Certification Agencies shall implement a system of inspection for potential use of genetically engineered products.
- ❑ Inspection and Certification Agencies shall at least once in a year publish and distribute to all operators and inspectors a booklet listing the common name and product name of all known genetically engineered products.



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Such booklet shall include the following where appropriate to the certification being conducted:

- ✓ Seeds and planting stock
- ✓ Animal breeds
- ✓ Production inputs
- ✓ Livestock inputs x processing aids
- ✓ Ingredients



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