

IMO CONTROL PRIVATE LIMITED

IMO Control Private Limited (IMO India) is part of the IMO Group AG, with the Group Office in Switzerland. IMO Group is an international network for inspection, certification and quality assurance in the field of organic agriculture for more than 20 years. In addition, the IMO Group inspects and certifies eco-textiles (GOTS), sustainable forest management (FSC), sustainable fisheries (MSC), organic aquaculture, GLOBALGAP, Utz Certified, BDIH (Natural Cosmetics), IMO Social Responsibility & Fair Trade (Fair for Life) activities and private labeling standards.

IMO India started its activities in India in 1995 and provides cost effective organic certification according to NPOP, Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 & 889/2008, USDA - NOP, and inspection according to JAS and private labels such as Naturland, Bio-Suisse, Demeter and Soil Association. We have a team of well-qualified professionals with many years of active experience in the inspection and certification of organic agriculture and allied areas.

IMO India is duly accredited, from 2001, according to the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for carrying out inspection and certification of organic agriculture in India.

IMO India is the first Indian organic certifier to obtain international accreditation under ISO 65, in 2004, for its inspection and certification activities.

What is organic certification?

Organic certification is the process by which an accredited independent certifier provides the assurance that the specified, clearly identified production, processing and other related operations have been methodically assessed and conformity to the specified standards have been achieved.

This process includes, but is not restricted to

- on-site verification of all facilities, fields
- Documents
- Interviews with the responsible persons
- Sampling and residue analysis

There will be at least one full physical inspection every year of each production unit / operation. All the production, processing, storage, packing, marketing and export activities must undergo inspection and certification. Unannounced inspection visits are done in addition to the regular annual inspections. The operator must grant unlimited access to all facilities and documents. The certifier ensures full confidentiality of information obtained during the process of certification.

Basic Concepts

Production Unit: Production must take place in units where in land parcels, processing and storage locations are clearly separate from those of any other unit not producing in accordance with the rules laid down in the relevant standards. The operator must declare all the operations under his management (Including leased units).

Conversion period: The time between the start of organic management and the certification of crops as organic. For annual crops, it is 24 months before sowing of the certifiable crop and for perennials, 36 months before the first harvest as organic. The produce of first 12 months of conversion has to be marketed as 'conventional'. There will, at the very least, be 12 months of certified conversion (two inspections) before certification as organic.

Parallel production: Parallel production is production of the same or undistinguishable crop variety under organic and conventional management by the same operator. This is not allowed.

Identification and Separation: Clear and adequate identification and separation must be ensured between organic, in conversion and conventional activities at every stage.

Planting material: Where organic planting material is not available, conventional untreated material can be used with permission from the certifier. The certifier must approve any off farm propagation material before use.

Soil fertility management: No synthetic or artificial manure, or soil conditioners are allowed. Only materials listed in the relevant standards are allowed. Any off farm input must be approved by the certifier before use in the certified operation.

Plant Protection: No synthetic agents are allowed. The use of materials listed in relevant standards is allowed in organic agriculture. Any off farm input must be approved by the certifier before use in the certified operation.

Genetically modified materials: All genetically modified materials are not acceptable. All off farm materials must have GMO free declarations.

Consultancy and marketing support: IMO does not provide this service.

Organic Regulations

NPOP: <http://www.apeda.com/apedawebsite/organic/index.htm>

Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 & 889/2008:

http://www.imo.ch/imo_regulation_organic_eu_standard_en,2003,998.html

NOP (USA): www.ams.usda.gov/nop/

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