

Branch specific information for storage keepers/conditioners for the organic inspection

Inspection contract:

Every storage keeper and processor of organic goods (e.g. grains, vegetables,...) must have an inspection contract with an ISO17065 approved inspection body.

Raw Materials:

It is absolutely necessary before purchase of raw materials which are scheduled for processing in organic goods to demand a valid certificate from the supplier. The certificate must list the corresponding ingredient as organic (organic, kbA, ecologically,...).

It may be the case that an agricultural organic company sells goods in conversion or even conventional goods. Because of this, the certificate must be regarded mindfully. The certificate should be checked for organic status and the relative harvest year of the organic goods, and if this information is unanimously with information on the bill of delivery and receipt.

Incoming goods:

Incoming organic goods must be overseen by a trained person in charge. Every supplier must list the number of inspectionbody and the organic notice in the product name on all receipts, bills of delivery, labels, etc.. This guarantees gapless inspections of any used ingredients and minimizes wrong assumption for non-organic ingredients or goods in conversion (product from a company in conversion to organic production).

Care:

As the inspected organic company it is your responsibility to check all accompanying product documents and labels and, if necessary, correct any mistakes.

Documentation:

To control the flow of amounts during the required yearly organic inspection, complete records of incoming goods should be available.

Missing documents complicate the inspection, creating higher costs through longer inspection times.

Storage/preparation/production:

To avoid the danger of mixing, organic goods must be stored by conventional goods clearly separated. The storage (hall / room / silo) must be clearly marked as such. It is recommended to always use organic storage as such, if this is not the case there is an increased danger of mixing the product with any remaining conventional goods. If organic goods are stored where conventional goods had been stored before, certain cleaning and maintenance must be implemented (and documented) to avoid contamination. This is also the case of production plants (cleaning-, preparation-, sorting-, packaging plants,...). If there is contamination after these cleaning measures are taken, appropriate system purges must be arranged. Organic goods that is affected by this purge will be devalued to conventional goods.

Outgoing goods and sale of products:

Organic goods must be recognizable as such. Labels and accompanying documents (bill of deliveries, receipts) must be equipped with the appropriate organic notice as well as the code number of the responsible inspection body (for example: AT-BIO-301 for Austria Bio Garantie).

Necessary documentations:

A quantity flow of goods will be calculated during the inspection. Based on this organic goods opening balance, all additional received goods (purchases but also returns) will be determined. Any outflow of goods (production waste, devaluations, sales) will be subtracted; the remaining data is the theoretical stock. This result will be compared to the actual stock.

To make this quantity flow calculation possible, all purchases and outflow of product must be documented accordingly. All evidence, weighing slips, bills of delivery and receipts of involved incoming and outgoing goods as well as certificates of all suppliers must be kept and made available during the inspection.

Furthermore, any cleaning measures (plant/cleaning measure/date/signature) must be clearly documented.

Treatments of empty warehouses and processing facilities with chemical fumigants (for example, PH3) must be reported to the inspection body before application.

To make quantity flow (stock rotation) comprehensible even within the company, adequate documentation for example in form of a silo book must be kept.

Big Bags

Big Bags are considered packaged goods if they comply with the requirements of the EU Seed Act as amended.

"Each packaging unit shall be provided with a closure according to stated methods and appropriate to the type of packaging. The packaging must be sealed and labeled in such a way that the packaging can not be opened and closed without destruction or damaging or tampering of the closure and labeling."

Big bags, which are not packed in the mentioned manner, are considered open goods.

If you have any questions concerning the conversion of your company to the production of organic goods, we will be at your disposal and will gladly help you implement the EU BIO regulation.

Austria Bio Garantie

branch manager for raw materials
and their processing, storage keeper, international

www.abg-cert.com