

## **Specific Requirements by the Council of Agriculture from Personnel of Organic Agricultural Products Certification Bodies and Testing Laboratories**

### **1. Certification auditors**

- 1.1 The personal characteristics of the certification auditors shall satisfy relevant requirements set forth under ISO 19001.
- 1.2 Persons working as agricultural products certification auditors shall be above college graduate of related majors or its equivalent, and comply with one of the following qualifications:
  1. Passed the national examination in agriculture related fields.
  2. More than two (2) years of experience in agricultural products (agricultural food products, fishery products or livestock products) related standards or regulations establishment, amendment or review.
  3. More than two (2) years of experience in agricultural products (agricultural food products, fishery products or livestock products) production, processing, research, development, techniques, marketing, inspection or quality management.
- 1.3 The agricultural products certification auditors must obtain relevant training certificates for conformity assessment auditing and participated in the work experience for agricultural products (agricultural food production, fishery products or livestock products) certification on-site verification (or auditing, assessment) for more than five (5) days, of which the on-site verification (or auditing, assessment) work experience should be completed within two (2) years before the date of the application for accreditation.
- 1.4 Certification bodies should establish particular knowledge and technique requirements for agricultural products certification auditors, including:
  1. Applicable regulations and criteria;
  2. The theory and application of organic agricultural products, organic agricultural processed products;
  3. Knowledge in agricultural products production processes and techniques.
- 1.5 In order to satisfy the requirement for on-site verification (auditing) capability, certification bodies should mandate agricultural products certification auditors that they must pass necessary trainings. These trainings usually include the following items:

1. The relevant knowledge in the theory and application of organic agricultural products, organic agricultural processed products;
2. Other relevant documents of specifications of organic agricultural products, organic agricultural processed products;
3. Applicable regulations;
4. On-site verification (auditing) techniques, methodologies;
5. Case analysis.

The training time for the above mentioned contents shall be at least 40 hours, and shall be limited to the participation after January 1, 2005 of trainings offered by 1. the COA and its subordinating agencies, 2. the COA project consigned organizations and 3. colleges and universities.

- 1.6 Graduates of non-agriculture related majors who are in charge for certification auditors shall double their experience for the above mentioned work experience, training and auditing.
- 1.7 Members of auditing team designated by certification bodies in handling organic agricultural products, organic agricultural processed products certification shall have more than half of them in compliance with certification auditor qualification established by this program, and with their professions in equivalence to their education, training and work experience, auditing experience. If the professions of the auditing team members are different from the audited items of certification applicant operated agricultural products, technical experts shall assist the audit team to handle the on-site auditing to provide particular knowledge and professional techniques.

## **2. Technical experts**

- 2.1 The characteristics of technical experts can be referred to Clause 7.2 of ISO 19011.
- 2.2 Unless otherwise specified, technical experts shall be college graduates of agriculture related majors and comply with one of the following qualifications:
  1. More than five (5) years of experience in agricultural products (agricultural food products, fishery products or livestock products) related standards or regulations establishment, amendment or review.
  2. More than five (5) years of experience in agricultural products (agricultural food products, fishery products or livestock products) production, processing, research, development, techniques, marketing, inspection or quality management.
- 2.3 Graduates of non-agriculture related majors shall double their experience on the above

mentioned work experience.

### **3. Competence of testing laboratories**

3.1 The variety of inspections or tests required for certification by the certification bodies shall be duly conducted by international accreditation bodies (to be confined to only those which have duly executed multilateral arrangement mutual recognition for the domains of laboratory accreditation) or the testing laboratories with the capability having been officially acknowledged by the Council of Agriculture with organizational operations consistent with the following specifications:

1. General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025:2005)
2. Relevant laws and regulations required by the government.

The testing laboratories with the capability having been officially acknowledged by the Council of Agriculture shall obtain accreditation from the international accreditation body within two (2) years after being acknowledged by the Council of Agriculture before being permitted to continually engage in the inspections or tests mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

3.2 Within two (2) years from the date of promulgation by the COA of specified inspection or test items as mandatory inspection or test items for the certification of organic agricultural products, organic agricultural processed products, laboratories subordinated to or consigned by certification bodies for handling the specified inspection or test that can not comply with the aforementioned regulation, while there is no other laboratory that has such competence, the specific conformity assessment body could adopt the witness assessment method to witness how the witness certification bodies assures the competence of its internal and external laboratories.

3.3 The inspection or test work contained in Clause 3.1, should adopt the COA specified methodology; for those not specified by the COA, the national standard methodology or the certification bodies self-established inspection or test procedures can be adopted, however they have to provide quality assurance for the customers.