



BCS EURÖKO NEWS

Your Organic Certification Service 1/2015
Official Newsletter of the Certification Body DE-ÖKO-001

Independent - competent - consequent



Peter Grosch, BCS-founder and
Managing Director Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH

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Foreword by Mr. Peter Grosch

Dear readers, dear friends,

It is natural when a phase in life comes to an end to take a look back and evaluate events. That has always been my style, and I have no wish to deviate from this course as 2014 gives way to 2015.

I have already told you that I sold my company to KIWA GmbH in Hamburg, Germany, at the beginning of August 2014. Primarily it came down to age, and the fact that I devoted sufficient time finding the right partner, and believe that I have now made the right decision. What I want to do and intend doing is to carry on working here and there for a while yet, as I believe that my 25 years of experience with the 'organism' that is BCS can contribute usefully to its future, hopefully a successful future.

Of course, there are plenty of clever and responsible heads to take the initiative right now, allowing me to gradually step back from operations. In return, I will work on integration at home and abroad, and so will continue to enjoy contact with you.

Responsibility for managing BCS' affairs within KIWA lies with Dr. Ulrich Ellinghaus. He too has many years of experience in organic farming. As you well know, BCS has access to a large squad of time-served 'organic insiders' and my successor can look forward to a complicated balancing act, although nowadays it is often more important that business managers have tools and expertise in many other areas too: Knowledge of business and management practices is as important as legal expertise. It is a multi-faceted, demanding role!

As a result, you can rest safe in the knowledge that BCS will continue to understand the true meaning of BIO. A highly qualified team supported by the latest information technology ensures this.

Sadly the same cannot always be said for the European Union, and it seems that the concerns that I expressed in the last BIOFACH regarding the revision of the relevant organic farming regulation have unfortunately been confirmed. More happily there is a strong counter-movement campaigning against these developments, and we can continue to hope that the rules on what does and does not constitute organic farming are not decided in the laboratory. Product certification



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alone has been widely exposed to the possibilities of fraud, and surely they cannot seriously hope to pass this off as increasing consumer safety.

Nobody is infallible, but neither should wisdom be taken for granted. This seems to be what has happened to the bureaucrats in Brussels!

I am enjoying the opportunity to look back over the path that my life has taken, that I have followed without necessarily planning to do so. And thank goodness I did! The initial concept and the creation of the company Bio-Control-System Peter Grosch GmbH, as it was called then, allowed the right ideas to be conceived at exactly the right time.

I wrote a lot about history in these pages on the occasion of our twentieth anniversary in 2000, and I do not wish to repeat myself today. However, I remember with fondness and gratitude those who accompanied me on this journey, enabling me and helping me to make the idea a reality. From the beginning these were Dr. Volker Rusch and Dr. Kurt Zimmermann from Herborn, and of course, the "father" of organic food distribution, Ernst Werner Schmidt.

I have memories of great successes, and of desperate disappointments. I reflect on times when we feared for our very existence, and then to those instances of great joy for life as well as the moments when death seemed more imminent than ever. My time with BCS gave me all of these experiences, and they shaped both me and the company. Overcoming problematic situations made us stronger, but the belief and trust that markets and people throughout the world placed in us never went to our heads. We are fully aware of the responsibility we have to our clients and our employees - not to mention to our credo, this 'basic law' that governs everything we do and that will not change with new ownership.

It is the right time for me now to regard what I have come to see as my life's work with pride, even if that was naturally only possible in collaboration with many others, as is so often the case. The key decisions to follow one or the other path, and the risks in taking that first step in the right, or the wrong, direction, were mine alone, however. And in nearly all cases I would do exactly the same again.

In my early career I helped bring the debate around organic farming down to earth, and to secure greater respect for the activity. For many

years I had the honour of helping shape policy at the Bioland association. During my work for Demeter, I was entrusted with the task of giving new impetus to the organisation. And with the foundation and development of BCS, I have created something that has been globally effective.

In many countries of the world I not only personally helped to set equivalent standards, but always saw it as my role to teach and embody the principles of organic farming, not with a narrow fanaticism, but by focusing uncompromisingly on the core truth while keeping people at the forefront of my mind.

That, too, helped with our credibility and image, and I sincerely hope that this approach remains fundamental to our work: our ability to adapt to other cultures, an understanding for the situation of small farmers, an awareness of the extreme need and existential fears for agriculture in so many areas of the world and the capacity to respond appropriately in all that we do and say. Here too, the respected standards must not be diluted, but neither can we allow ourselves to become unfeeling formalist apparatchiks, clinging bureaucratically to the letter of the law.

Reflection is a good way of ensuring that past errors are not repeated, but without looking forward we cannot create anything new - and we need something new, something better! The BCS that you know is doing good work, but it can and must be more comprehensive, more complete and simply better. Kiwa BCS will see that this is done!

- We will always be in the position of trying to balance truly great service with the risk of cosyng up too closely to our clients: So while we have targeted additional services for our clients,
- the quality of our certification products will be pursued without compromise. Organic farming cannot tolerate ambiguity!
- We do need to respond faster, however, and improve our speed of processing, reducing the time needed between inspection and award of certification.
- Together with Kiwa we have new synergies and a more comprehensive portfolio Kiwa BCS can simply offer more.

These are just a few examples of the benefits you will see as clients. We have already made



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some substantial plans and will continue to work hard on realising these.

If I take a first step towards a long goodbye today, then initially it is only from the front-row of operations. I am and will remain BCS. I will stay on as Managing Director and will be able to focus more on integration and strategy, both in domestic and international contexts. I firmly believe that my new colleagues at Kiwa will succeed in taking us forward.

The initial signs are certainly extremely promising. We can still do a lot more together.

Many kind regards and best wishes,

Your



Foreword by Dr. Ulrich Ellinghaus

Managing Director of Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH and Kiwa Deutschland GmbH

Dear readers,

Dear customers and partners of BCS,

As the joint Managing Director of BCS I am very happy to have this opportunity to welcome you personally. As you have surely already heard, Kiwa acquired a 100% shareholding in BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH with effect from 1 August 2014. We would like to take this opportunity now to address some key points for you.

What did BCS stand for in the past, and what will definitely not change in the future? I refer here specifically to the ten guiding principles of BCS, which have formed a fundamental part of our company culture for many years and will continue to do so.

- Our core business remains the “Inspection - Testing - Certification” of organic produce on the basis of the EU organic farming regulation and a range of sustainability standards.
- We will not only retain our global presence but continue to expand it in key areas.
- In the scope of our work, we view all applicable standards for organic farming to be binding for us.
- Absolute independence remains the constant foundation of our credibility and reputation - we must therefore strive to avoid conflicts of interest.



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- Our role is also to protect the interests of reputable providers and trusting consumers, to provide and reinforce the credibility of organic produce. Therefore, BCS will continue to work on behalf of and lobby for organic farming.
- We also seek to uphold social compatibility and sustainability and support this through the development and independent certification of corresponding standards.
- To accomplish this we will continue to require teams of capable employees who have international experience and are able to recognise and evaluate potential risks objectively and realistically.
- Fairness, respect and equality underpin our daily activities, both internally and externally.
- In addition, values such as truth and sincerity are fundamental business principles by which we measure ourselves.
- We believe not only in inspecting and certifying organic principles, but in incorporating them into our own professional activity.

And what will change in relation to these aforementioned principles for you in the future?

- Well, in our core “Inspection - Testing - Certification” business you can already access and use a range of new standards for agriculture and food, such as IFS (International Food Standard), BRC (British Retail Consortium), MSC (Marine Stewardship Council), and SA 8000. These are complemented by international standards such as ISO 14001 (environmental management), ISO 50001 (energy management) and Occupational Health and Safety (OHSAS 18001).
- In addition, topics such as energy and materials efficiency, certification of personnel and qualifications, support for quality management activities and supplier qualification and auditing are just some of the additional matters that you are welcome to ask us about.

- We are also ready to act with you and for you in even more countries around the world. Let us be your guide in procuring and ensuring a supply of raw materials in specified regions and countries.

So you see, BCS and Kiwa doesn't just mean a continuation of high-quality collaboration with a trusted partner, but will also provide you with access to a significantly enhanced portfolio of services.

We will therefore remain at your service as a trusted, competent and innovative partner in the future. I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ulrich Ellinghaus

News about the standards

EC Regul. 834/2007

by Mr. Reiner Claus -Head domestic department

Current Changes in the organic regulations



Agriculture

Poultry

Currently inspection offices are obliged to focus their attention more on poultry operations. A regulation applying to all federal Länder

has been introduced by the German Länder working group on organic inspection (LÖK). As a result, facilities with more than 5999 poultry units for laying hens must now be subject to inspection of hen placements. We request that the affected facilities provide us with at least four weeks' notice of entry dates for laying hens. Equally, operations with facilities holding more than 9600 units for broilers (chickens for fattening) and more than 4800 for pullets must provide at least two weeks' notice of their exit. Please also arrange the time with us/the inspector. We ask that large-scale poultry operations provide us



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with details of their planning of throughput of birds for fattening/rearing with corresponding dates (entry and exit) in advance each year. Any changes to these plans must be communicated immediately.

In this respect we also point out that the statutory requirements on organic poultry husbandry (including numbers of birds, area and dimensions) must urgently be met. Any deviations from these standards will generally result in withdrawal of the organic production label for the entire production.

Fertilisers and other lists

Regulation (EU) No 354/2014 has amended some of the Annexes of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and corrected the formulation in respect of phytotherapeutic and homeopathic products. The changes have revised the conditions for use of composted household waste, biogas digestate, and products and by-products of animal origin. Leonardite has been added to the Regulation.

The usage requirements for plant protection products have been amended and some substances, such as copper octanoate, have been deleted.

The list of feed materials of mineral origin has been revised. The use of monocalciumphosphate and dicalciumphosphate is now permitted once again.

Extension of the purchase option for conventional laying chicks and conventional high-protein feeds

With Regulation (EU) No 836/2014, a range of exceptions have been extended until the end of 2017, including the opportunity to purchase conventional pullets and use conventional high-protein feeds for up to 5% of the annual feed ration for pigs and poultry.

Changes to the procedure for granting exceptions

In the Federal Lander of Hesse, Rhineland Palatinate, Saxony and Bavaria, the responsibilities for issuing exception permits have changed with effect from 1 January 2015. Fundamentally, from 2015 inspection offices in these Lander may now only issue exception permits for non-organic seeds and non-organic propagating material.

The following exceptions are approved by the responsible authorities:

- Conventional animal purchases (Article 9 para. 4)
- Interventions on animals (Article 18 para. 1)
- Use of the additives sodium nitrite and potassium nitrate (Article 27)
- Retrospective recognition of areas (Article 36 para. 2)
- Application in small operations (Article 39)
- Placement of conventional poultry (Article 42)

The corresponding request is submitted to the inspection office and forwarded by us to the responsible authority. Please note the specific requirements for individual countries.

Food processing

Food labelling

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers entered into force on 13 December 2014. Among other aspects, this redefines the rules on a range of food labelling. The amendments relate to various mandatory items of information, allergen labelling, font size and placement. If you have not already done so, please obtain information from the responsible offices (authorities, associations, etc.). In implementing these changes, please do not ignore organic farming legislation. In relation to pre-packed food, the mandatory labelling block comprising the EU logo, code number and statement of origin must be noted. In addition, information must be provided which of the ingredients used come from organic production.

Trade with Romania

In the case of trade with Romania please note that organic produce from Romania must be accompanied by a "transaction certificate" or TC issued by a permitted inspection office. Your Romanian trading partner must provide you with this document. If you do not have this documentation, you run the risk of having your organic production label removed. This may also result in the recall of goods from retail.



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Imports

Third-country list and list of equivalent control bodies

With Regulations (EU) Nos 355/2014, 644/2014 and 829/2014, the lists of recognised third countries (Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008) and the list of third-country control bodies recognised by the EU (Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008) have been amended. Alongside a great many detailed regulations, the control body LibanCert has been deleted from the list of EU-recognised third-country control bodies, for example. We ask that as an importer of organic produce you take note of the changes to the current annexes. Changes to the import regulations have a direct impact on the ability for imported organic produce to be bought and sold within the EU.

Third countries - application deadline expired

Under Regulation (EU) No 442/2014, with effect from 1 July 2014 third countries are no longer able to apply for entry to the third-country list.

Notification of imports from third countries

Please notify imports (Article 84) to us in advance using our dedicated email address "importmeldung@bcs-oeko.de".

Exports to Taiwan

(see also additional text by Mr. W. Broszat)

Companies that export organic produce to Taiwan must take note of the strict import controls imposed by the Taiwanese authorities. Taiwan permits absolutely no pesticide residues in organic produce. When applying for a transaction certificate, please provide us with a batch-identified residue analysis.

List of control bodies and authorities

The list of currently permitted control bodies and authorities can be queried using the Organic Farming Information System (OFIS) of the European Commission (link: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/ofis_public/).

Exports to Taiwan



Wolfgang Broszat,
Certifier, Intern. Department

Pesticides analysis required

Taiwan is an interesting sales market, and not only for German organic producers. While the country has its own organic farming standard, thanks to its unilateral recognition of other national organic standards BCS customers can export their products to Taiwan without the need for additional certification. However, alongside a valid certification, there is another prerequisite: Imported organic goods must be absolutely free of pesticide residues!

Taiwanese customs conducts random inspections during the import procedure and tests samples for these residues. In the past months a range of different organic products destined for the Taiwanese market have tested positive.

In the interests of our customers and to ensure that the credibility of organic produce from the EU and the EU standard is not put into question, since December 2014 and until further notice, any product to be sold to Taiwan by a BCS-certified company anywhere in the world is subject to mandatory pre-shipment/export analysis and approval by BCS.



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Chinese organic farming standard

by Wolfgang Broszat

China - country of the (organic) future

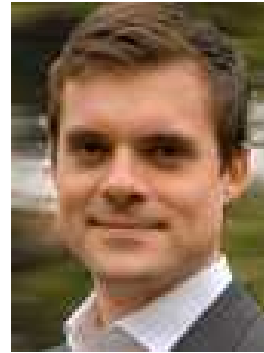
China represents a massive growth market, and now the organic sector is attracting the attention of a range of food processing companies, as evidenced by the increasing demand. Organic products that are exported to China and/or destined to be sold there must be certified according to the Chinese organic standard (GB/T 19630); the Chinese authorities do not recognise certification according to any other organic farming standards (e.g. in line with the EU organic farming regulation). In the last issue of EurÖko-News we informed you of the key aspects of this procedure.

BCS is cooperating with the renowned Chinese control body COFCC (China Organic Food Certification Center), which carries out both inspection and certification. Nevertheless, BCS should be your first port of call when requesting certification and for any general queries. We will support and help you during the process to ensure that you obtain your certification quickly and without problems. Please contact our BCS representative in China by email info@bcschina.com.

In many aspects the Chinese organic farming standard does not differ greatly, if at all, from the requirements of the EU organic farming regulation, the NOP or JAS. However, there are some special requirements including the establishment of a management system. Particular emphasis is also placed on the quality of the environment and the end products. This must be regularly documented by carrying out appropriate analyses. A summary of the Chinese standard can be found on our website.

Application forms for certification and a description of the process can be downloaded from the COFCC website (http://www.ofcc.org.cn/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=968 - and ...=967) - or contact us to receive the documents by email.

Equivalence agreement between the EU and South Korea



Tobias Fischer,
Certifier Intern. Department

Finally the European Commission concluded a mutual reciprocal agreement of organic equivalence with South Korea. The agreement is valid starting February 1st and will stay in effect for 3 years to start with. The agreement will, however, cover only processed agricultural products for the use as food (product category D). This means unprocessed agricultural products must still be certified to the Korean organic regulation in order to be imported into Korea.

The terms of the agreement are as follows from the EU perspective:

1. Processed food with at least 95 % of organic ingredients
2. Organic ingredients coming from EU origin or imported into the EU
3. Final processing within EU
4. Product "EU" certified by a control body approved in accordance with article 27 of regulation EC 834/2007
5. Labelling compliant with the Korean organic rules
6. Possibility to use the Korean organic logo or the EU organic logo, or both
7. Product must be accompanied by a NAQS import certificate.

At the time when this article was written the official announcement of the formalization of the agreement was not yet published.



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GLOBALG.A.P



Martina Chacón Provoste, Scheme Manager

The number of producers certified by GlobalG.A.P. is continuing to grow around the world, exceeding 140,000 by mid 2014 (132,000 certified producers in December 2013).

The GLOBALG.A.P. International Farm Assurance (IFA) standard is revised every four years. During this period, comprehensive research, discussion with interest groups, pilot and test audits are conducted along with public consultations. The review process is open to contribution from certification bodies, dealers, research centres, universities, NGOs, suppliers and producers, GLOBALG.A.P. National Technical Working Groups (NWTGs), producer organisations, standards owners, consultants and the animal welfare sector.

The final version will be published in June 2015. During a one-year transition phase, it will be possible to continue to obtain certification under version 4.0. From June 2016, all certification will be subject to version 5.

What are the plans for version 5?

There will be new control points, and changes to the degree of control points, while some recommendations are becoming non-critical criteria, and some existing non-critical criteria are to become critical mandatory criteria.

The changes mainly relate to sustainability, microbial risk mitigation and work safety, such as:

Critical mandatory criteria:

- Water risk evaluation must also take account of environmental factors and quality criteria.
- Water consumption records are required.
- Non-composted dung must not be spread less than 90 days before planting or less than six months before harvest.

Non-critical mandatory criteria:

- Worker transportation must comply with national safety requirements.
- In addition, diesel and other fuel tanks must be equipped with retaining tanks.
- Fertilisers must be sourced from legally recognised sources.
- A plan must be in place for soil management.
- Measures to improve the soil structure must be documented.
- Irrigation system maintenance records are required.
- Plant protection records must indicate the time at which the application stops as well as information on weather conditions.
- Annual medical checks for people working with plant protection materials have been upgraded to become a non-critical mandatory criterion.

The complete draft version of the individual modules for Version 5.0 can be consulted at www.globalgap.org/documents or downloaded.

New version of GLOBALG.A.P. Sublicence agreement

With effect from April 2015, the new version 4.0 of the licence agreement between Foodplus GmbH as standard owner and the control bodies will become valid. As a result, all sublicense agreements between control bodies and the businesses to be certified must be updated. The update process will start in May 2015, so that as part of their next certification process each business will receive a new version of the sublicense agreement from us.

What is new?

The new sublicense agreement contains all GLOBALG.A.P. standards, including supply chain and additional modules.

Data release rules are no longer listed in the sublicense agreement, but are now published in a separate annex.

The name and location (city and country) of the certificate owner must now always be visible in the GLOBALG.A.P. database. Disclosure of additional data (such as business address or information on producer group members) remains optional.



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The sublicense agreement is translated into a range of languages. The original English version of the document is already available at www.globalgap.org/documents.

Updates to the Plant Propagation Material (PPM) standard

Many fruit and vegetable (F&V) producers or flower and ornamentals (F&O) producers also produce and sell plant propagation materials for these product groups. For version 5, which will become mandatory with effect from June 2016, it is planned to integrate the PPM standard with the IFA standards. A PPM module checklist has been drawn up to allow equivalent use until that time.

Key rules governing use of the PPM module checklist:

- 1.) The producer must already have certification for the fruit and vegetables (F&V) or flowers and ornamentals (F&O) product groups.
- 2.) The certification may apply to different products, e.g. tomatoes for F&V and pepper seedlings for PPM.
- 3.) Producers who exclusively produce plant propagation materials must continue to pursue certification according to the separate PPM standard.

Friend of the Sea (FOS) additional module

Within the aquaculture market, demand is also growing for the ability to communicate the certification status to consumers.

A cooperation agreement now exists between GLOBALG.A.P. and FOS to allow GLOBALG.A.P.-certified aquaculture businesses to use the FOS logo in combination with their GLOBALG.A.P. number (GGN) on consumer packaging. To do this they must have a valid IFA aquaculture certificate for the entire production chain and must meet with four additional control points at production operations level.

With GLOBALG.A.P. version 5, these points will form part of the GLOBALG.A.P. checklist.

GRASP additional module

GRASP stands for GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice, a voluntary additional module to help risk assess the social needs of workers. It was developed to check and evaluate fundamental indicators for potential social risks in primary production operations.

Over 7,000 producers in more than 20 countries now participate in the GRASP evaluation. The list of GRASP observers - registered business partners within the supply chain and purchasers who have signed the framework agreement for access to GRASP findings - is also growing constantly. The module will continue to be refined and the checklists improved. Plans this year include the publication of a revised set of documents.

Use of GRASP in countries with recognised national interpretation guidelines:

As the form of the fulfilment criteria and setting of minimum requirements is always dependent on national legislation, GRASP was previously only usable in countries for which a national interpretation guideline had been developed and recognised by the GLOBALG.A.P. secretariat. Therefore, it was only possible for operations to add a GRASP evaluation to their certification if they were operating in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Spain, the USA and Vietnam. Ecuador and Uruguay joined this list in the second half of 2014.

Use of GRASP in countries without national interpretation guidelines:

In general, since version 1.2, GRASP can also be used in other countries. Businesses that are based in countries that have no NIGs should factor in a period of a few weeks to allow the control body for the respective country to request the application from GLOBALG.A.P. The application must be accompanied by a plan of measures to develop a national interpretation guideline.

Please note that an NIG must be recognised by the GLOBALG.A.P. secretariat and the GRASP Stakeholder Committee before it can be published. A template draft guideline can be downloaded from the GLOBALG.A.P. website www.globalgap.org.

GRASP module only for production operations:

The GRASP module refers to control points in the chapter on Employee Health and Safety of the IFA standards, and can therefore not be used separately without an existing GLOBALG.A.P. certification to an IFA standard (Fruit & Vegetables, Flowers & Ornamentals, Aquaculture, etc.). For this reason, it is not possible for trading or packaging operations with a GLOBALG.A.P. supply-chain certification (Chain of Custody) to undergo GRASP evaluation.



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FairTSA



Dr. Winfried Fuchshofen, Managing Director
FairTSA

The Fair Trade Sustainability Alliance (FairTSA) is an “open” fair trade programme that works with all organic-certification bodies that wish to offer a credible, efficient fair trade programme.

One of the principles of FairTSA is to provide the farmers and farm workers involved with a modest contribution to invest in the community through social premiums, and to provide organisational support to start-ups where necessary. Many examples of development collaboration, including work with rural communities in countries in the northern hemisphere, show that successful community building increasingly relies on the intervention of experts who can guide lay people to then carry out their projects at their own initiative. Thanks to their understanding of the local culture and language, and the existing social fabric, these lay people are much closer to the problems and therefore to the appropriate solutions.

The FairTSA programme has a number of process steps, from comprehensive self-organisation in the corresponding cultural context to the agreement of a Community Development Plan and realisation of initially simple and then increasingly complex projects. Such a project, the first phase of which has recently been realised, is described below. It concerns the farm workers at Villa Lobo in the Dominican Republic. Villa Lobo is a finca that primarily produces bananas. Its organic farming process is certified by BCS Dominica according to EU 887/2007 and it also has FairTSA certification. As the first step, the farm workers at the Villa Lobo finca elected a workers’ representative (see photo below).



Farm workers at Villa Lobo elect their representatives

Subsequently the farmworkers developed a simple Community Development plan, which described the projects they envisioned to accomplish with the Social Premium. The first part of that plan called for the replacement of latrines that were in an utter state of disrepair by new ones (see pictures below).



Before



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After

The community development plan calls for the completion of additional projects: the creation of a small park, cleaning and securing of the banks of the Yaque river, and a solid waste removal project.

Step by step the community will be able to improve their living conditions based on the fruit of their own work and their initiative - with support from consumers that pay the fair price and the social premium, companies committed to treating small farmers and farm workers fairly like Biotropic GmbH, and of course, the hard work of BCS inspectors and certification reviewers, who ensure project transparency and accountability.

GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)



by Monika Bachmann,
Certifier

With the revision process resulting in version 4.0 of the standard which was introduced in 2014, BCS has adapted to the requirements of GOTS in its documentation and in internal training, implementing the changes from April 2014. Since the summer

the standards issuer has been translating the new version 4.0 into a range of languages, making these accessible on the Global Standards website. The changes relate to the standard itself and the associated manual.

Changes to the scope of application

As already anticipated in the revision process, mattresses, bedding and fashion accessories have

been added to the standard. For example, mattress manufacturers can now obtain certification not only for their mattress shell, but for the complete product including a latex foam core. The most recent version also has a requirement for the use of exclusively recycled polyester in supporting fibres. This provides a rounded picture in respect of the materials used.

Another point to have been revised in the standard comprises textiles that contain electronic components. The background to this was the commitment to adhere to a clearly defined line when it comes to certified products. This is no longer the case for children's textile toys that contain electronic components. Rather, these are classed as electronics goods with a textile shell.

End customers are often hard-pressed to decide which parts of the item, such as a toy, are certified according to GOTS. While the label on the outside indicates GOTS certification, the battery has to meet the requirements of the batteries ordinance, and the electronic components must be RoHS-compliant. Until now, the standards issuer had no plans to add such requirements to its standard.

Requirements for additional fibres:

Regenerated fibres, recycled fibres or metal fibres

Major changes have been made in respect of additional fibres, which depending on the label grade ('organic': 5%, 'made with organic': up to 30%) have now been permitted or will be excluded with version 4.0.

- Approved are regenerated fibres such as viscose, modal, lyocell, acetate and protein, manufactured from raw materials produced
 - using controlled organic farming or animal husbandry
 - from certified, sustainable forestry
 - recycled regenerated fibres
- Up to 30% of the fibre composition may now consist of recycled synthetic fibres (polyester, polyamide, polypropylene or polyurethane).
- Conventional cotton, angora and newly manufactured polyester may no longer be used.



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- The use of carbon and silver fibres is entirely prohibited.

With the approval for use of recycled and regenerated fibres, the standards issuer has responded to the demands of the textile industry in opening itself up to the use of these fibres. Nevertheless, it stands firmly by the ecological criteria that insist that this path must not be used to produce new synthetic fibres. However, care must be taken to ensure that no chemicals that the standards issuer prohibits or limits are used in the recycling process.

Clarifications of the standard

Some parts of the standard have been revised to clarify the language used and provide readers with greater understanding of the requirements.

For example, “certified according to a recognised international or national organic farming standard” has become “*certified according to Regulation (EC) 834/2007, USDA National Organic Program (NOP), or any (other) standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards*”.

Modifications have also been made to the more detailed description of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and PFCs (polyfluorinated chemicals).

Stricter chemical requirements

A number of amendments have been made to the specifications on chemicals.

These include adsorbable organohalogens (AOX), which may not make up more than 1% of the material. The key aspect, too, is that the halogens are permanently bound. This is explicitly defined for processing; for yellow, green and violet pigments an exceptional tolerance limit of 5% is permitted.

In addition, many tolerances for a range of chemicals and chemical elements have been tightened (plasticisers, antimony, harmful surfactants such as nonylphenol ethoxylates).

Documentation and internal quality control

In order to guarantee long-term traceability of operational procedures and internal control processes, it has been decided that reports relating to the audit must be retained for at least five (5) years.

TCs are now mandatory as evidence for supplied GOTS goods. However, multiple deliveries may be listed on a single TC and can cover a period of up to 3 months.

Certificate issuing

A change has also been made in respect of how certificates are issued. This has been done for the benefit of the facilities being inspected. Following completion of a successful certification process, the operating certificate now lists all certified processing stages. This also relates to sub-contractors' process stages. However, this means that the number of licence numbers that are allocated on a one-off basis to a facility and the number of operating facilities, which may relate to multiple process stages, will differ.

Environmental policy

The new version of the standard stipulates that every company that undergoes the certification process must have a documented environmental policy. The standard describes the major workflows that must be documented by this policy.

Paper packaging material

More detailed sections of the new version clarify the use of paper as a packaging material within the supply chain. Recycled paper or paper from certified, sustainable forestry must be used as packaging materials for GOTS goods. Large packaging is excluded from this requirement. In addition, appropriate auditing, documentation and certification must be implemented for recycled paper/card and paper/card from sustainable forestry.

Verification of working and social standards

The final version of the standard now requires that minimum social criteria must be applied for all trading stages. As already reported in EurÖkonews in the spring, the requirements are again based on the concepts of the ILO core conventions. It has been expressly clarified once again that health and safety education must include fire prevention training and evacuation drills. Each employee must be provided with suitable protective equipment that they can use in an emergency. There is also a clarification that the appropriate safety data sheets must be available for all chemicals. It must be ensured that the applicable health and safety measures for handling and storage of these chemicals are implemented.



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UTZ Certified



Miriam Herr, Certifier, Intern. Department

UTZ Certified is a sustainability standard that is applicable to the whole chain of custody from the countries of origin of the raw materials to the destination countries of the finished product. Therefore, producers or producer-groups as well as processing units in countries of origin and destination of the product are certified. The certification is possible for cacao, coffee, tea and rooibos and currently UTZ Certified is working on a Hazelnut Module. The Code of Conduct for Hazelnut is in revision and the launch is expected for October 2015.

UTZ Certified has published an updated version of the Core Code of Conduct. Previously, there was a Code of Conduct for each product (coffee, tea, rooibos, cacao). Now, there will be a Core Code of Conduct, which is applicable for all UTZ Certified commodities and the Modules complete the specific requirements for each commodity. Many requirements for pre-harvest are applicable for all products, so these requirements are in-

cluded in the Core Code. Product specific requirements are stated in the Modules. The new Core Code will replace the further documents of Code of Conduct. Certification using the Core Code and the Modules is possible since June 2014 and will be obligatory from July 1st, 2015 onwards. Producers/Producer groups, which are already certified the 4th year or even more years, can be audited against Year 3 during the first year of the Core Code Version 2014.

During 2014 UTZ Certified implemented an online labeling approval system. The label approval is obligatory for packaging that carries the UTZ Certified Logo. The registered client has to send his label draft via the Good Inside Portal to UTZ Certified and there the procedure takes place. The label approval has to be shown to the inspector during the external audit. The Good Inside Portal (GIP) also is the platform where all the product transactions have to be registered to assure traceability of the produce.

BCS is a registered certifier for UTZ Certified in the following countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Ecuador, Ethiopia and soon we will start our activities in China.

More information can be found on the UTZ Certified webpages www.utzcertified.org and www.goodinsideportal.org

BCS is now listed for UTZ certification in China



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Market Presence

In 1992, **BCS OEKO-GARANTIE GmbH** became the first German certification body registered under the Organic Regulation of the European Union (EEC 2092/91). Since that time, **Kiwa BCS OEKO-GARANTIE** has become very well established in the European market and has gained a strong international presence.

According to a rough estimate, Kiwa BCS is involved in the certification of approx. 35% of all organic products in Germany. Kiwa BCS certifies about 450,000 operators in about 70 countries worldwide.

Kiwa BCS OEKO-GARANTIE maintains offices / local representation in:

Latin America: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dom. Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay

Europe: Germany and Spain

Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey

Asia: China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Africa: Ethiopia, South Africa, Tunisia

Our Clients

Our client base encompasses all sectors of the organic industry, including farmers, processors, (re-)packers, importers, exporters and warehousing companies. Our services are also frequently requested by other well-established certifying agencies that seek to complement their range of product offerings.

Kiwa BCS Services

Certification

Kiwa BCS OEKO GARANTIE is accredited for the following organic certification standards:

- **EC 834/2007 and 889/2008** (EU Organic Regulation), **710/2009** (EU-Aquaculture)
- **JAS** (Japanese Agricultural Standard of Organic Agricultural Products)
- **KOC** (Korean Organic Certification)

- **NOP** (National Organic Program, USA)
- **FairTSA, GOTS** (Textiles)
- **OSKSA** (Organic Standard Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- **SPP** (Símbolo Pequeños Productores)

In addition **Kiwa BCS** certifies according to ecological and social certification standards:

- **GLOBALG.A.P.** (Good Agricultural Practice)
- **UTZ CERTIFIED** (Certified Responsible Coffee)
- **Bird Friendly** (Coffee Certification)

Cooperation

Thanks to our sister company **Kiwa International Cert GmbH** we can offer to our customers to receive certifications of management systems in a one stop shopping.

Kiwa International Cert GmbH is accredited by **DAKKS** and offers you certifications according to **DIN EN ISO 9001, DIN EN ISO 22000, DIN EN ISO 22000 FSSC, DIN EN ISO 14001, DIN EN ISO 50001, OHSAS 18001, SCC.**

Furthermore **IFS, BRC, HACCP** and **MSC/ASC-Chain of Custody** are available through our sister companies.

Inspections

Besides the above mentioned standards **Kiwa BCS OEKO-GARANTIE** also cooperates with and conducts inspections for the following organizations according to their private or national standards:

Bioland / Demeter / Gäa / Naturland (Germany), **Bio Suisse** (Switzerland), **Austria Bio Garantie** (Austria) and others

Support of Exports into the EU

Our name - well-recognized in the EU - builds confidence in the brands and products certified by us and is helpful in the import process.

Customized Services

Kiwa BCS OEKO-GARANTIE offers control and evaluation of guidelines, contracts (incl. specifications) and licensing payments for associations and other brand owners.



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The Kiwa BCS Philosophy

Kiwa BCS OEKO-GARANTIE - celebrating its 20st Anniversary in 2010 - is one of the pioneers of the organic movement in Europe. The motivation of Kiwa BCS is to provide clarity and transparency for the consumer.

To assure our independence we are not a member of relevant organisations / associations and we aren't financially supported by such ones. We avoid closer contacts to certified companies. All staff members have the obligation to follow the principles of impartiality, objectivity and neutrality.

Control is a need for the protection of serious producers and providers and trusting consumers and thus for the credibility of the organic production in general.

Kiwa BCS OEKO-GARANTIE is committed to support the growing organic marketplace by maintaining the consumers' confidence in the conformity with the organic guidelines along the complete supply chain from producer to the consumer.

Contact Us

Please contact our office as listed in the Kiwa BCS Contact List 'Kiwa BCS worldwide' or through the central office listed below. We will customize our services to meet your company's specific needs.

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