



Training Handbook: The New EU Organic Regulation (2018/848) for Producer Groups

Part I: Introduction & Basic Requirements

November 2022

This handbook has been developed by FiBL as part of an Alliance for Product Quality in Africa project supported by GIZ & GEPA



About the training handbook

This training handbook was developed for the certified organic Sidama Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, Ethiopia to understand and apply the requirements of the new EU Organic Regulation. It has been developed as a generic handbook for organic producer groups worldwide, with a focus on perennial crops like coffee in Africa.

The training handbook has been developed based on a careful analysis of regulatory texts by experts and an intense exchange with various stakeholders.

It represents FiBL's current status of understanding the new EU regulatory requirements (Oct 2022).

It is a work in progress to understand and apply the new Regulation.

Interpretations of the regulators' requirements will evolve as the regulation is being applied in the EU and third countries, and the guidance may need to be updated accordingly in the future.



This handbook aims to summarize and explain the new requirements and to provide a basic guidance to groups and their certification body (CB). It is neither a certification standard nor an official EU Guideline. Certification decisions are always taken by recognized accredited CBs according to their EU approved standard procedures and policies.

Content training handbook – part I

- I.1 The new EU Organic Regulation: introduction & key changes for groups
- I.2 Groups of Operators (GoO): composition, dimension & legal personality
- I.3 Organizational implications for currently certified producer groups
- I.4 Overview: key changes ICS & organic production rules
- I.5 Overview: external control and certification of the group of operators

Acknowledgement: the content in this section is based on the IFOAM Guidance on the new EU regulation for Producer groups , which has been developed jointly by IFOAM Organics International, IFOAM Organics Europe and FiBL.

Note: The IFOAM guidance is not yet final at the time of writing (10/22) due to ongoing clarifications with regard to some parts of the regulation.



I.1 Introduction to the new EU Organic Regulation



The new EU Organic Regulation



The new Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 & its more than 30 secondary acts

- **Aims to strengthen the organic integrity** of production, especially for imported products
- **Rules** for group certification are re-defined – now in the Regulation
- **Same rules** for operators in EU & worldwide.



Application of the new Regulation will have significant consequences for almost all certified organic groups world-wide.

Is the new EU Organic Regulation already applicable?

EU Organic Regulation is applicable for operators in the EU since:

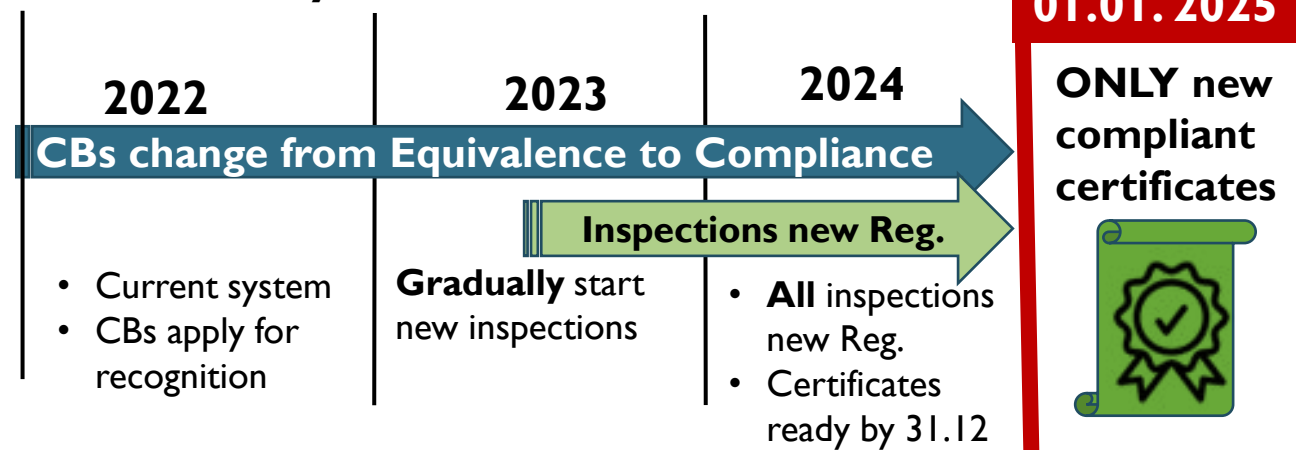


January 2022

BUT there is a transition period for recognized equivalent **Control Bodies (CBs) in Third Countries** until **31 Dec 2024**.
CBs set their own timelines for the transition.

Expected gradual start of inspections according to new Reg. in “Third Countries” from Mid 2023.

Third Country CB Transition Period



Overview regulation & key secondary acts on group certification



Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 - Section „Groups of operators“:Art. 36

Recommended: Partially consolidated version (Jan 2022) in many languages

<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj>

Particularly important Secondary Acts for Group Certification

Regulation 2021/715 (Jan 2021; *already included in partially consolidated version*)
ICS requirements & role of ICS Manager (additions to Art. §36.1 & 36.2)

Regulation (EU) 2021/279 „Control“ (Jan 2021)
Group composition, ICS documentation, control and sampling (Art 4-7)

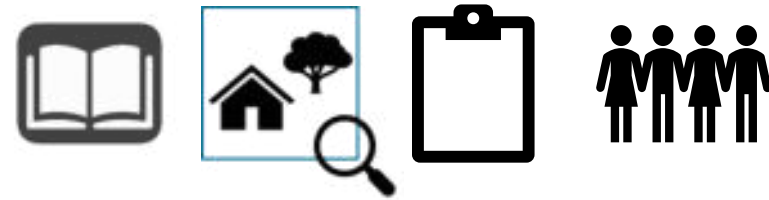
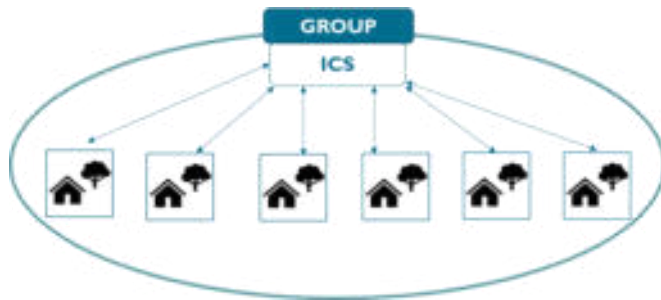
Regulation (EU) 2021/771 (Jan 2021, published May 2021)
Check of documentary accounts & official controls of Groups of Operators

Regulation (EU) 2021/1698: Recognition of Control Bodies in Third Countries
Inclusive control process in Third Countries outside the EU

In total there are over 30 secondary acts and a few more in the pipeline. This guidance references also some other key regulations. The EU regulations can be found in many languages at [EUR-LEX](#).

Overview of key changes for groups: Set-up & ICS

The Regulation includes detailed basic organisational requirements for “Group of Operators” (GoO) as well as detailed requirements for the Internal Control System (ICS).



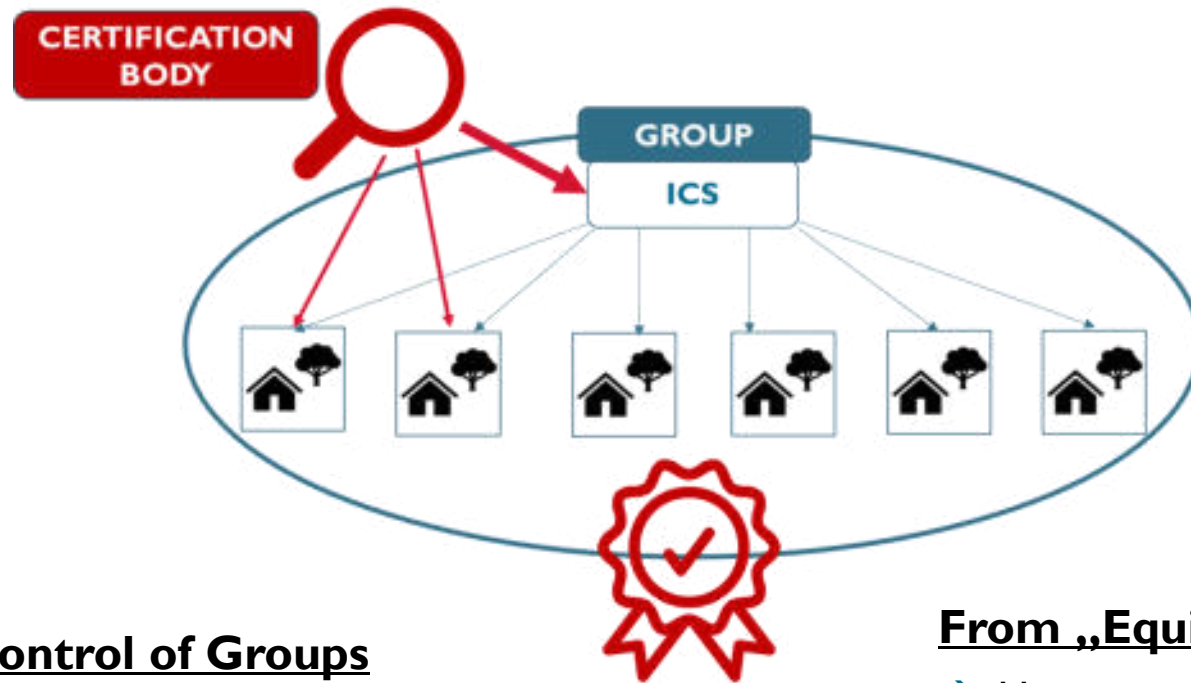
Group of Operators: Composition & Size

- Maximum 2000 organic members in GoO
- GoO shall be composed only of organic or in-conversion farmers as members, who meet new size/turnover limits
- GoO must have a „legal personality“

Detailed Rules for ICS

- More detailed & clearer rules
- The ICS manager has many key responsibilities requiring senior authority

Overview of key changes for groups: External control of groups



External Control of Groups

- Minimum 5% re-inspection (minimum 10 members)
- Residue sampling for 2% of members

From „Equivalence“ to „Compliance“

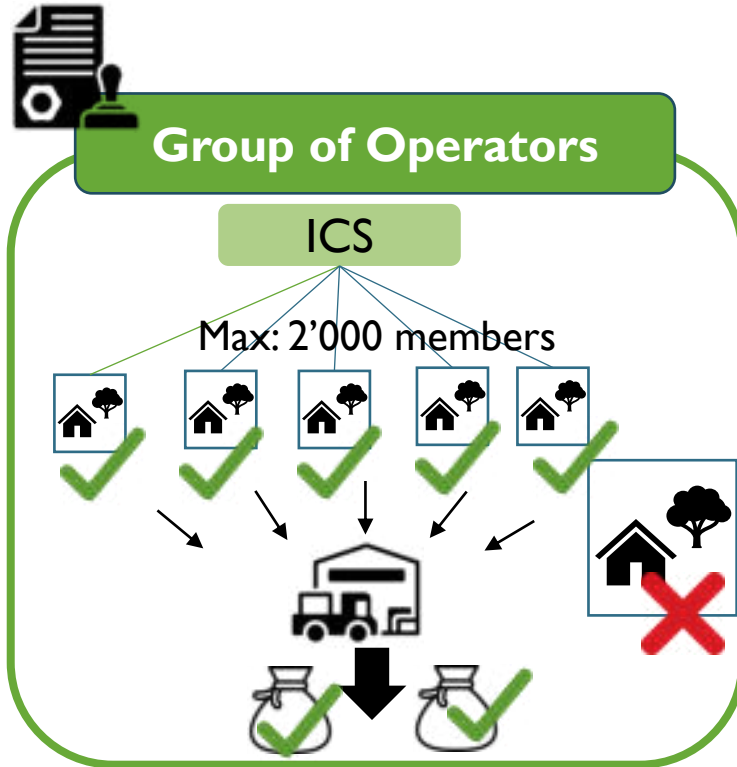
- Up to now: „Equivalent Organic Standards“ for imported products
- New: „Compliance“ with EU Regulation“: Most requirements will apply directly also to farms & groups in „third countries“
- External control likely to be stricter

1.2 Groups of Operators (GoO): Composition, size and legal personality (Art 36.1)



Group of Operators: Definition & basic requirements

The Group of Operator (GoO)



Reg. 2018/848 Art. 36.1 (a-e)

*slightly amended by Reg. 2021/715
+ Regulation 2021/279 Art 4 & 10*

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Is composed of members who are farmers



GoO members under a maximum size / turnover limit
(< 5 ha total land, $< 25'000\text{€}$ organic turnover).



Maximum 2'000 members per GoO



Has „legal personality“



Operates an Internal Control system (ICS)



Has a system of joint marketing



GoO members shall be in geographic proximity (at least same country).
A member shall register only for one GoO for a given product.

Maximum GoO-member farm size / organic turnover



**GoO member is farmer
with ≤ 5 ha total land
OR $\leq 25'000\text{€}$ organic turnover***

* Simplified summary; valid for all countries where the cost of organic certification for an individual farm of that size would be more than 500€/year, i.e. almost all countries worldwide.



Reg. 2018/848 Art. 36.1 b

FiBL



**Check the size of organic farms -
Do they qualify for Group of Operator membership?**

Total holding ≤ 5 ha?
All land managed by the
member for agricultural
production

NO

**Turnover organic
production $\leq 25'000\text{€}$?**
(For all countries where individual farm
certification $> 500\text{€/yr}$)

YES



Eligible to be GoO member and
certified in the GoO.

YES



NOT eligible to be GoO member for
organic certification; *must undergo individual
organic certification*

FAQ: Maximum size of holding

Holding = all production units operated by the member for the purpose of producing live or unprocessed agricultural products, including products originating from aquaculture and beekeeping.



Does the 5 ha size refer only to the member’s organic coffee plots?

- **No, the 5 ha holding limit refers to the farmers “holding” = total land** operated by the member for agricultural production
- **i.e. organic fields as well as non-organic or fallow land for rotation**
- **This includes plots with other crops** than the organic export crop and any leased/rented plots cultivated by the member.
- Forest plots are not included, unless used for beekeeping

The “total land surface under the management of the member“ is a compulsory element in the GoO members list. It must be registered by the ICS for each member. (Reg. 2021/279, Art 5 (a) (iv))

FAQ: Maximum turnover from organic production

What is the member's "turnover from organic production"?

= **The member's annual value of organic sales to the group**

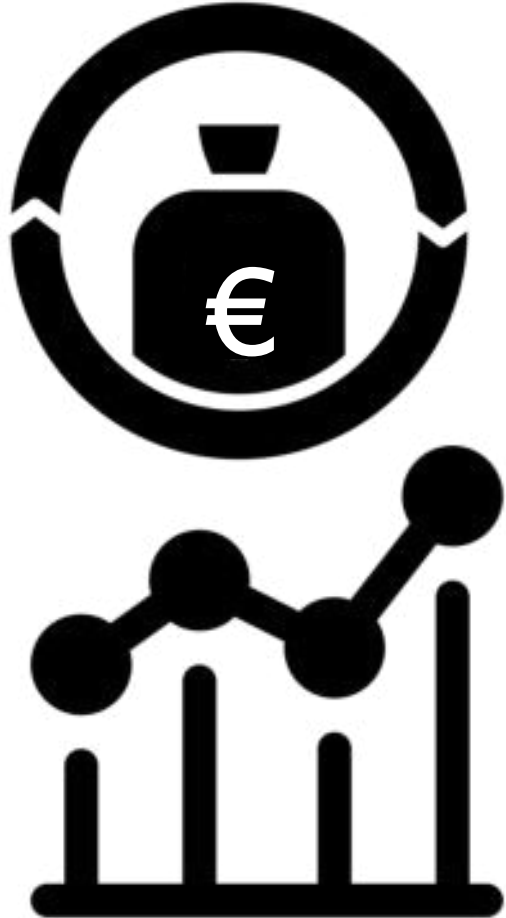
- **Accumulated total sales** per accounting year in local currency
- **Based on the price as actually paid** to the member for the products delivered; after market price deductions by the coop
- **Price paid for the product before deductions** for inputs or services provided to the member
- **Subsidies do not count as turnover**



Additional information to maximum turnover from organic production

???

Frequently
Asked
Questions



What about significant or sudden fluctuations in sales volumes, prices and exchange rates?

The ICS shall define rules & procedures to ensure member eligibility in their group; to be reviewed & approved by the Certification Body.

FiBL & IFOAM's additional guidance:

- **Intention of Art 36.1 (b) = continuity in GoO membership** not annual in / out defined thresholds to restrict GoO
- **Annual average currency conversion** to € is normal EU practice e.g. EU's Exchange rate (InforEuro) converter's 12 months value
- **Average farmgate sales over the past 2-3 years** should be acceptable
- **Major fluctuations beyond control of members or GoO** (currency, commodity prices) → flexibility for one-off higher values for a year
- **Predictable changes should be considered by ICS** in its procedures (e.g. rotation crops with higher sales values)

FAQ: Maximum size of holding

“too big” to be GoO member



> 5h Total Land

AND



What about larger farmer members in our coop?

- If the farm is > 5ha **AND** it also sells > 25'000€/yr to the group, it cannot be GoO member and certified in the GoO.
- To sell as organic, the farm needs to be certified as an individual organic farm by a Certification Body.
- The coop could still buy and market the certified farm's organic products as certified processor.
- The farm can remain a statutory society member of the cooperative.



Technical background: Maximum farm size /turnover

Regulation Art 36.1.(b)

(The Group of Operators shall...) only be composed of members

- ✓ (i) of which the individual certification cost represents more than 2 % of each member's turnover or standard output of organic production and whose annual turnover of organic production is not more than EUR 25 000 or whose standard output of organic production is not more than EUR 15 000 per year;
- OR**
- ✓ (ii) who have each holdings of maximum five hectares, 0,5 hectares, in the case of greenhouses, or 15 hectares, exclusively in the case of permanent grassland;

Condition (i) to be GoO Member:

If the cost of an individual farm's annual certification in the country is >500€ (almost all countries worldwide), the 25'000€ maximum turnover from organic production becomes the most relevant restriction for farms > 5ha.

Example: Farm with 20 ha total land, thereof 7 ha coffee. Typical Certification cost single medium farm in the country 1200€/yr; Turnover from organic coffee sales to the cooperative: 50'400€.

→ 2% rule would be met (1200€ is more than 2% of organic turnover= 1008€ → BUT Organic TURNOVER = coffee sales to the group > 25'000 € → Too big to be GoO member; this farm needs individual certification)

“Standard output of organic production”. The “standard output” (SO) is an EU-wide reference value calculated by EUROSTAT by region, product & reference period based on EU farm surveys. There are no defined “SO” values for third countries. In third countries, it is hence not useful to apply the SO rule instead of the easier to determine (and higher) 25'000€ turnover threshold. The SO may be useful to apply for GoOs in the EU.

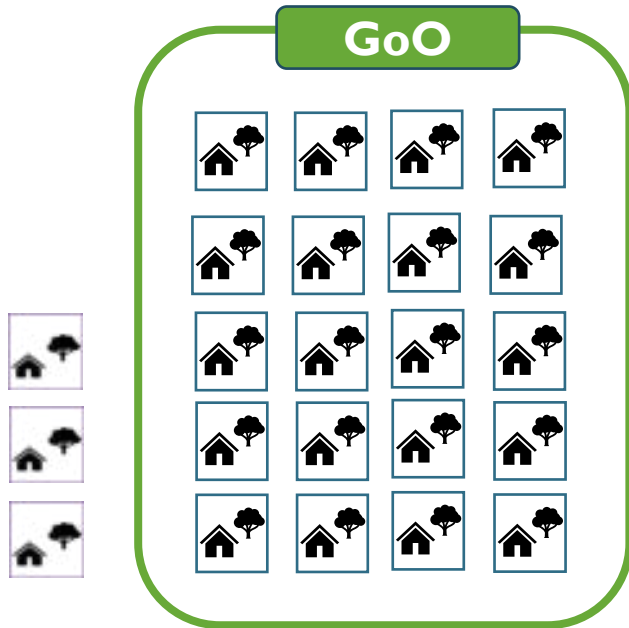
GoO members must meet EITHER Condition (i) OR (ii) - not both!

→ a farm with up to 5ha total land can always be an GoO member. There is not need to check turnover.

Condition (ii) to be GoO Member: holding of farmer < 5ha

“Holding” = all land managed by the farmer for agricultural production. This includes all organic as well as non-organic land (with any type crops, pasture for livestock or fallow).

Dimension of a GoO: Maximum group size



**Max. 2'000 certified members
per Group of Operators**



Reg. 2021/279:
Art. 4 & 10

A GoO may have a maximum of 2'000 GoO-members

- Groups with > 2'000 certified members will need to re-organise into smaller group entities for EU certification.
- Each new smaller GoO needs a „legal personality“ for certification (e.g. an association as a legal subunit of a cooperative).



Already certified producer groups have a transition period until 12 / 2024 to comply with this new size rule.

“Legal Personality” of groups



The Group of Operators has „legal personality“

- ✓ The aim is to have a clearly defined entity that can
 - do business (operate the collective marketing system),
 - own the certificate, sign GoO membership agreements with farmers and appoint the ICS manager.
- ✓ **Suitable legal forms will differ**, but the legal personality must be established, e.g. by official registration.



Legal Personality



Reg. 2018/848 Art 36.1 (d)

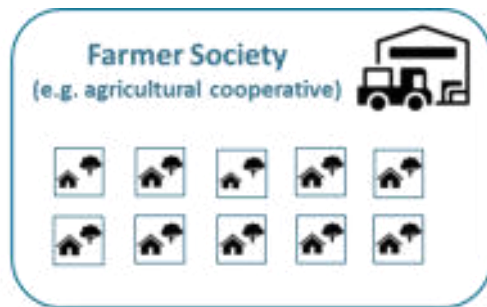
Important implications of Art 36.1

Art 36.1 requires that for organic certification the „Groups of Operators“

- (a) shall be composed of members who are farmers (or algae or aquaculture operators) and who in addition may be engaged in processing, preparation or marketing of food or feed.
- (b) that the members are under the defined farm size/turnover limit and
- (d) The GoO needs to have „legal personality“

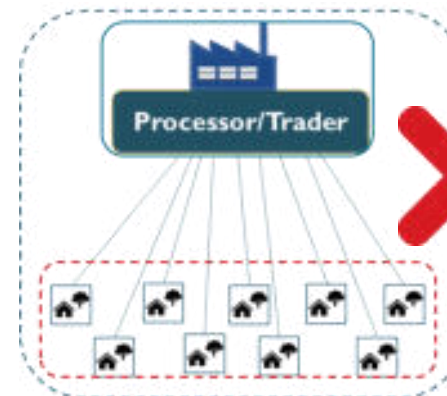
→ This will have significant implications for most currently certified organic groups, depending on their current organisational set-up.

A. Farmer cooperative societies and other farmer member associations



“composed of farmers”, but several aspects need to be checked. Many cooperatives may need a separate organic group entity

B. Processor/exporter organized group (contract production)



NOT in line with Art 36.1 as the legal entity is not composed of farmers
→ only a separate legal farmer group entity can be certified as GoO!

Training group discussion – Member farm sizes



Discussion: New farm size limits



Discuss the situation for your group, e.g.

- **Do we know our members total holding / farm size**, i.e. all agricultural land managed by the member?
- **Do we have members > 5 ha total land holding?**
- **If there are larger organic farmers > 5ha total land,**
 - Typical acreage under certified crops (e.g. coffee) and estimated organic sales value e.g. of coffee to the group → under 25'000€ ?
 - Indicate range (e.g. largest organic member) and typical size of these “larger” members!
 - Rough estimate how many farms may be affected by the new limitation
- What are next steps for more detailed analysis and finding good solutions?

1.3 Implications for certified producer groups



A. Implications for farmers' cooperatives and organisations

Farmers' Association



If all members are in the organic programme and small-scale farmers;

Farmers' societies with only organic or in-conversion farmers as statutory members in their collective marketing system and less than 2'000 members can be certified as a “group of operators”.

- ✓ They must be registered organisations e.g. a cooperative society under national law, and thus have legal business capacity.
- ✓ Only organic or in-conversion farmers which meet the eligibility criteria (e.g. maximum farm size/turnover) can be “GoO Members” and be certified in the Group of Operators.

FAQ: Can a cooperative be certified as GoO for its organic members, although it also has other statutory members?

Practical application of Art 36.1 to currently certified cooperatives will need to be decided by the CB and can not be generally answered at the time of writing.

Only organic or conversion farmers which meet all further requirements of Art 36.1 can be "GoO members". They commit to organic production, and are listed as members in organic certificate of the GoO.

But the question is if a "GoO" could be a clearly defined organic sub-unit within a co-operative as a legal entity which – like any organic preparation operator - may have organic as well as non-organic activities in its collective marketing system, with due separation measures.

IFOAM & FiBL argue that for farmer societies which are composed of farmers, there is no need for a separate legal group entity for organic EU certification as a GoO, even if the legal unit of the GoO (the cooperative) also has other activities outside the scope of certification.

However, as by Oct. 2022, possibly Art 36.1 will be applied to the letter. **This could mean that the GoO entity must be "composed of" organic or in-conversion farmers as GoO members** (who meet all criteria of Art. 36.1) and may handle only GoO member's products in the marketing system

→ This could mean that the majority of currently certified cooperatives would also need to set up new legal entities, for just their members under organic certification, to be certified as GoO.



Certified Farmers Societies with non-organic statutory members – Implications of Art 36.1

The application of the regulation must be decided by the CB, based on analysis of legal texts and guidance. Different lines of interpretations how the new rules apply to the specific case of the thousands of currently certified farmers cooperatives are being discussed by CBs and experts.

Art. 36.1 “to the letter” (more likely to prevail):The legal entity of Group of Operators’ can only be composed of farms committing to comply with Regulation 2018/848 ; no other farmers in its collective marketing system

- The legal unit applying for GoO certification must be composed only of organic or in-conversion farmers as members who also meet all GoO member criteria. Members may be engaged in preparation or processing and may have a non-organic farm unit.
→ **certified organic cooperatives with also non-organic statutory members would need to set a new legal “GoO” entity for only the farmers in their organic programme.**
- The Cooperative could still be certified as “operator” for its preparation & marketing activities An operator may collect, prepare and sell also non-organic products.

IFOAM & FIBL analysis:The legal entity of an organic Group of Operators, may have other activities including collection from other statutory members with due separation measures

If the legal entity of a GoO is a cooperative, which is composed only of farmers, the GoO can be a clearly defined subunit of the farmers group and the cooperative as legal entity may have other activities, possibly certified as “operator” by the same CB.

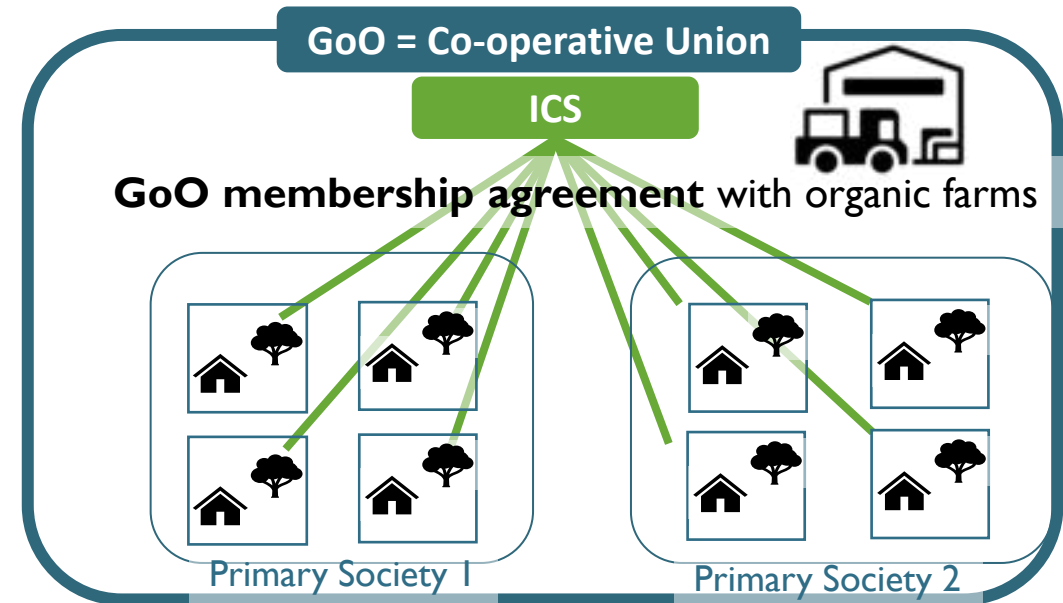
As an operator for collection, preparation & marketing the GoO’s legal entity may have a separate non-organic unit, just as other certified organic operators, but this increases risk & control measures.

*Statutory ownership and internal governance of a legal unit in a third country is regulated by national law, not the EU. Statutory membership in a co-operative according by-laws defines farmers ownership & governance and is different to the term “member” in Reg. 2018/848 with regard to compliance with organic rules.
→ For more information, see IFOAM website.*

FAQ: Can Unions of Cooperatives be certified as GoO?

Answer: Yes, a (small) union of primary cooperative societies can be certified as a GoO if it signs direct GoO member agreements with the organic farmers and handles only these organic members' products

- ✓ **The Union signs a “GoO Membership Agreement” with every organic farmer:**
 - Farmer (primary society member) becomes “member” of the union’s GoO and is under its ICS,
 - Farmer commits to comply with Reg.; to permit controls & accept measures in case of NCs (Art 36.1 (h)-ii).
- ✓ **The Union is responsible for the ICS of all GoO members (farms).**
- ✓ **The Union is responsible for the “joint marketing system” and traceability from GoO members to sales**



Note: Although Unions are “composed of farmers”, many certified Unions could be considered to not meet the new GoO criteria “to the letter” as they are primarily preparation & processing operators beyond collective marketing of only the products from organic members. Also, they are often too large (> 2’000 certified members).

→ Certification of primary societies or a central new organic farmer group unit as GoO is likely the best option. The Union can still be certified as processor and market the organic products from all primary GoOs.

FAQ: We have 3'000 certified members, what do we do?

Now

LARGE COOP



3'000 organic producers



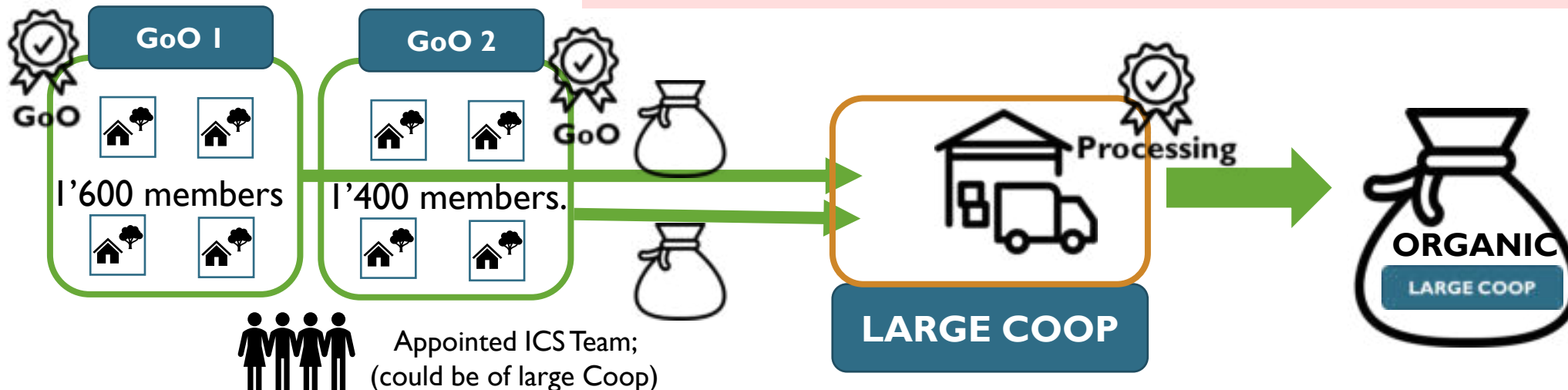
ICS Team

Answer: It seem likely that 2 or more smaller group entities (each < 2'000 members) **will need to be established as GoOs, each with legal personality**

- A solution could be to register 2 new organic farmer subunits as “GoO” with some sort of legal personality (e.g. associations) for the purpose of GoO certification
- A GoO may appoint an external ICS team, e.g. it could “appoint the ICS manager and ICS inspectors of the currently certified (large) coop.

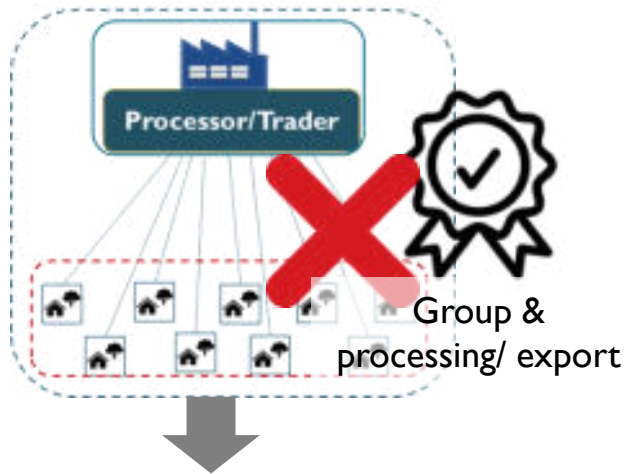
The large cooperative can then still be certified as “operator” for preparation/processing) and export of the organic products from the GoOs.

New regulation



Implications for processor/exporter of organized groups

Now



Processors are usually neither composed of farmers nor farmers who are group members and engaged in processing. A processing company can therefore be certified as a processing “operator”, but not as a “Group of Operators”.

If processor-associated small farmers shall be certified as group of operators they must be organized in a separate „farmer group entity“ composed of organic or in-conversion farmers, with legal personality.

New regulation



Group of Operators



Processing & Export



Group of operator certification is for small farmers, not for companies

To benefit from the “easier” GoO control system, organic farmers must be organised in a separate legal entity

This is a clear & explicit intention of the EU

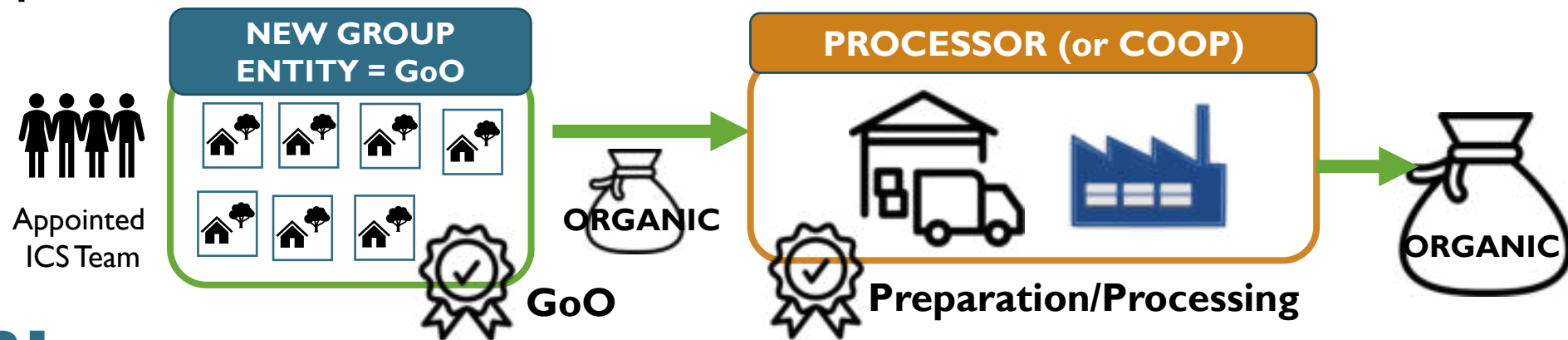
Practical implications of setting up a separate Farmer GoO

In many currently certification producer group projects, a new separate farmer group entity will be needed for **GoO certification**, composed of organic or in-conversion farmers as members and with legal personality.

This is clearly required for processors, but may also be required for cooperatives and farmers societies with non-organic members in their collective marketing system or with central processing units or more than the 2'000 certified members.

- **GoO would be new legal unit of any type set up to meet EU specific GoO requirements** (only farmers under organic certification; handling only their products)
- **The currently certified processor (or cooperative in its operator role) can still buy, process & sell products from the organic new GoO units.**
- **The Company (or currently certified cooperative) could also still operate the ICS on behalf of the GoO to ensure continued quality**, if the GoO “appoints” the ICS manager and ICS inspectors of the processor (or coop). A GoO can also “sub-contract” other activities.

**New regulation:
Separate entities:
GoO(s) & Operator**



FAQ: New group to be set up: What legal form ?



Can the new GoO have any kind of legal form ?

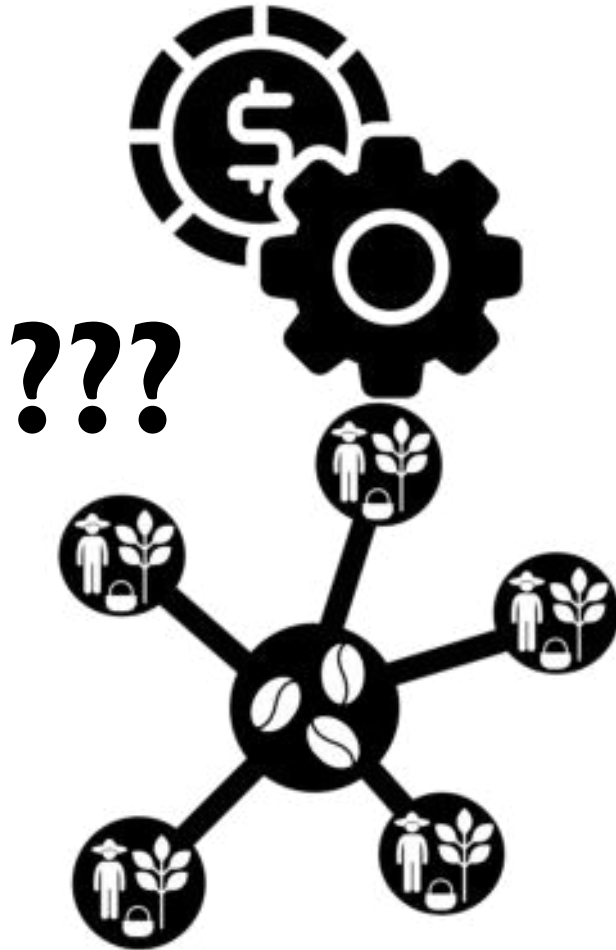
In principle yes: «Legal personality» is not defined by the EU, and no legal form is explicitly excluded.

However, Art 36.1 seems to imply

- The GoO should be composed of members who are «small farmers» as the beneficiaries of GoO certification. The CB may expect to see the business purpose reflected in official documentation. e.g. “collective marketing of organic producers”.
- Pending final interpretation of Art 36.1, the safest option is to include only organic & in-conversion farmers as “members”, with only these member’ products handled in the collective marketing system of the unit.
- For choosing the most suitable legal set-up, it’s good to consider that the list of «members» will change (e.g. sanctions, no longer interested) → removing or adding «members» and no longer buying their products (as GoO) should be easy, also legally.

Some examples identified as suitable legal form that is easy to set up in some FiBL case studies: Farmers associations, or “community enterprises”, farmer producer companies, farmer cooperatives, etc.

FAQ: New farmer group for contract production projects - challenges & risks



How can a completely new and inexperienced farmer organization suddenly manage the ICS as well as business & quality reliably?

- Challenging and complex !!!!!
- Requires analysis and dialogue between the company and farmers
- Tailored solutions must be found that ensure continued organic integrity as well as functional business operations!

The regulation allows quite some operational flexibility to find a solution:

- **The ICS can be operated by the processor** (by appointment) (see *previous*)
- **The GoO is responsible for the collective marketing** of the members' organic products. **But it can «subcontract» some processes** to the partner company , e.g farmgate product collection & quality grading, transport & traceability system.

Training Group Discussion – What changes are relevant for us?



Which changes are most relevant for us ?

- **Is our group > 2000 members?**
If yes, are there natural group structures (e.g. primary coops, regional sites) to become certified in the future?
- **Member size?**
Results from previous exercise OR any member < > 5ha? If yes, sales to the group well under 25'000€?
- **Are we a processors working with contracted farmers** and will we need to work on getting a new separate group entity set up?



Discussion: What do we need to do about it

Discuss the analysis & steps needed to find a good solution for your group, e.g.

- If certification needs to be moved to a smaller unit (e.g. primary coop instead of union), what organisational steps & training are needed for the new/smaller unit?
- What to do about buying, processing and selling?
- Review of scale of EU organic certification – number of farmers included in certification (due to higher costs): *How much do we sell as certified organic to the EU? If we have many more farmers certified than we sell as organic, how do we select which farmers will continue with EU organic?*

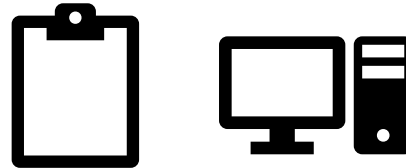
I.4. Overview of key changes in ICS and organic production rules



More detailed ICS requirements in new regulation



Documented ICS Procedures



ICS Documents & Records



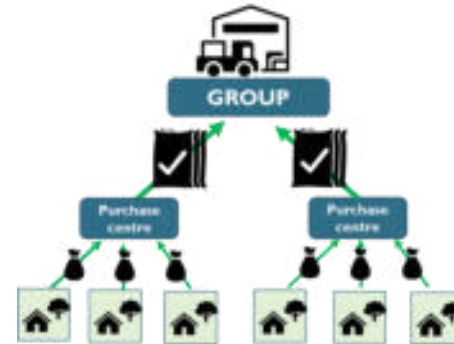
ICS Manager & ICS inspectors



Internal inspection



Managing Non-Compliances



Traceability & Product flow control & records



Farmers Training

The key role of the “ICS Manager” in the new regulation



ICS manager role is a senior position in the organisation with authority & management capacity as well as technical skills to understand the regulation and manage compliance.

The “ICS manager” has a **KEY** role in the **GoO**

- **Verify eligibility of GoO members, approve new GoO members or new production units or activities of members**
- **Develop ICS procedures, documents and records**
- **Assign tasks to ICS inspectors; schedule internal inspection and ensure adequate implementation**
- **Decide on measures in case of non-compliances**
- **Be liaison to the CB; decide on notifications to the CB**
- **Decide on subcontracting activities and sign agreements**
- **Train ICS inspectors & annually assess their competencies**

Key Changes in Organic Plant Production for GoO Members

The rules for organic plant production have not changed materially from Reg. (EU) 834/2007.

However, since even small producers in Third Countries will need to comply with the EU rules (no longer in an “equivalent” way), most groups will experience the rules as stricter.



Overview of key changes:

- **ICS to register and check the members' entire farm holding with all “production units” and activities**
- **Stricter procedures for authorising exceptions e.g. for non-organic seeds & planting materials or retroactive recognition of conversion**
- **Clearer rules for soil fertility management (e.g. compulsory rotation including legumes) and pest & weed management**
- **New list of authorized substances: Regulation 2021/1165 with new additional rules and restrictions**
- **Strong focus on (documented) precautionary measures to prevent contamination & co-mingling of organic products**



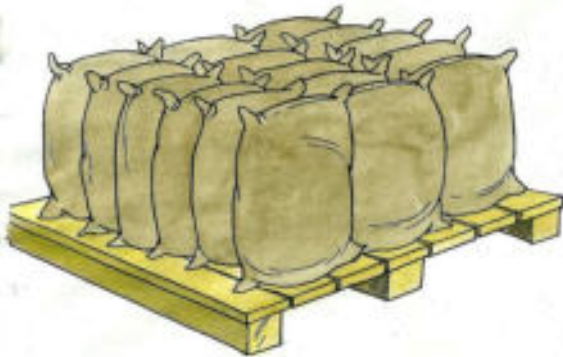
See Handbook Part 2 : production rules

Key changes for traceability & organic handling



Strong focus on avoiding contamination & co-mingling of organic products

- Precautionary measures to ensure separation of organic harvest, post-harvest and storage activities and prevent contamination – to be controlled by ICS!
- Only authorized substances may be used at any time for pest control in any area where organic products are stored or handled.
- There will be a new list of authorized permitted cleaning & disinfection substances in Reg. 2021/1165 (from 2024).
- This will also apply to on-farm processing by members!



Full traceability expected from member to final sales as a group;

- focus on detailed product flow verification and traceability records
- crosscheck farmers' yield estimates during purchase
- ICS needs to inspect purchase centres



See Handbook Part 2 for details.

1.5. Key Changes in External Certification



New re-inspections & sampling rules for groups!

The certifier will need to re-inspect at least 5% of group members each year (not less than 10)

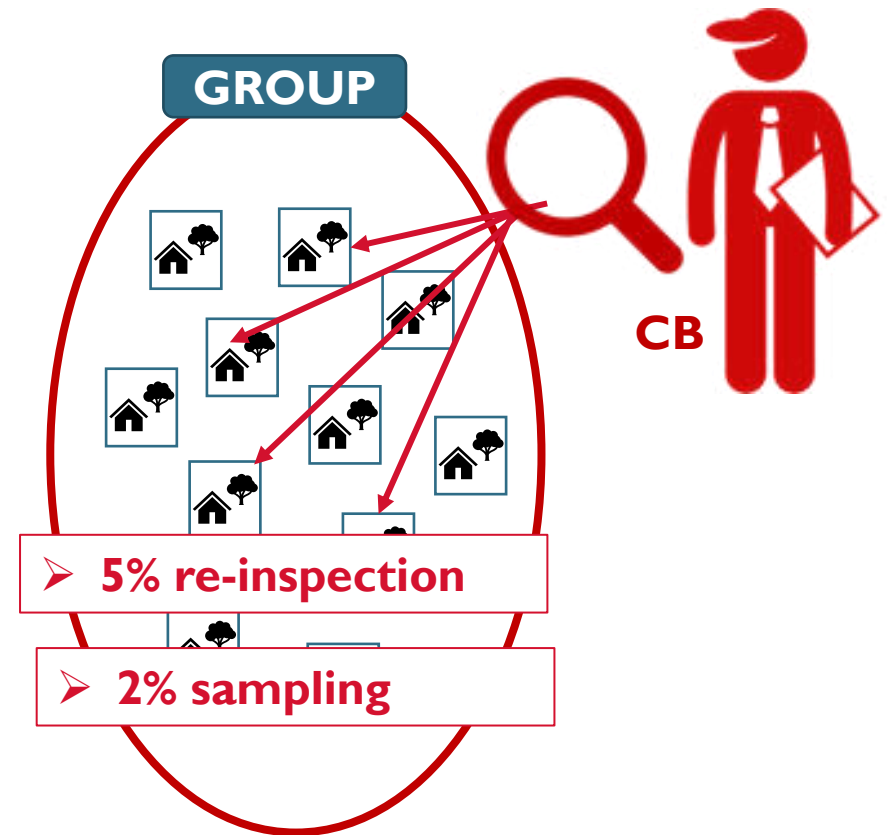
- New rule will increase control rate for all normal risk groups > 400 members, strongest effect for very large groups

At least 2% of members are “subject to sampling” by the CB

- Implementation to be defined in CB’s sampling policies to be approved by the EU
- Likely to include a risk-based mix of individual and composite samples.

Control of purchase centres

- GoO purchase centres that handle the also non-organic products, need to be inspected each year (2021/1698 Art 9.9)



Reg. 2021/279: Art. 7
Reg. 2018/848: Par 35, &38
Reg. 2021/1698

General changes in control & certifications for GoO



Physical inspection of the GoO at least once a year

- plus unannounced checks (10% of Operators & GoOs certified by the CB)
- EU will define list of high risk products → for high risk products: 2 physical inspections per year (2021/1698, Art 8); higher sampling requirements



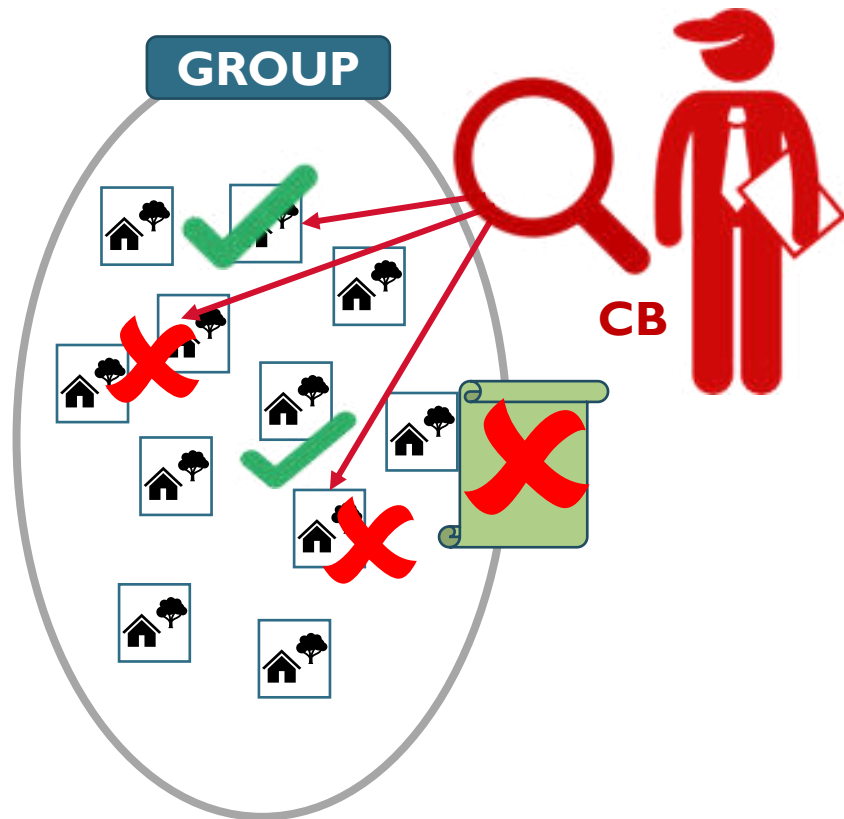
The new EU GoO (and operator) certificates

- Defined format & content (Reg. 2021/1378 Certificate for Third Countries).
- Issued via TRACES data base.
- The GoO certificate contains the list of members.



Reg. 2021/1698: Control in Third Countries
Reg. 2021/1378 Certificate in Third Countries

ICS deficiencies



Art 36.2: Control bodies shall withdraw the certificate for the whole group where deficiencies in the set-up or functioning of the ICS affect the integrity of organic and in-conversion products - in particular, failures to detect or address non-compliance by individual members of the GoO.

New regulation includes a long list of “ICS deficiencies” considered as critical non-compliance. e.g.

- Not carrying out annual physical internal inspections of 100% of members
- Serious deviations between external and internal inspection findings
- Serious deficiencies in imposing appropriate measures in case of NCs
- Processing/selling products from suspended or withdrawn members;
- Adding new members to the list without following due procedures,
- Failing to indicate suspended/withdrawn members in lists
- Inadequate number or competency of internal inspectors



Reg 2018/848 Art 36.2
incl additions in 2021/715, Art 1-2

Overview of External Inspection of a Group of Operators

GoO ICS Office Visit



- ✓ ICS Manager Interview
- ✓ ICS Procedures & Records
- ✓ Member List Check
- ✓ Review NCs & measures



Re-inspection of 5% of Members

Selected by inspectors, risk based



- ✓ Full organic farm inspection
- ✓ Cross-check ICS findings & data
- ✓ During some visits: Sampling; witness ICS inspection

Visit of Purchase Centres



- ✓ Internal traceability handling & records
- ✓ Separation
- ✓ No Contamination



Reg. 2021/279: Art. 2
Reg. 2021/1698 Chapter III (Control in Third Countries)

FiBL

Imprint

The Training Handbook The New EU Regulation for Producer Groups was written by FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland, www.fibl.org. All training materials are available free of charge online at <https://www.fibl.org/en/shop-en>.

Publisher: FiBL, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL)

Authors: Florentine Meinshausen (FiBL), Marlene Rudolph (Naturland), Toralf Richter, (FiBL), Brian Ssebuya (local project expert), Abdi Itani (local project expert)

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Please cite this section of the handbook as FiBL (2022): Training handbook on the New EU Organic Regulation for Producer Groups. Part 1: Introduction & Basic Requirements

FiBL, Version 1.1, November 2022

The development of the handbook was financed by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by GIZ, supported by Invest for Jobs and Alliance for Product Quality, in cooperation with GEPA.

