

How to safeguard integrity within organic systems



> Beate Huber, Jochen Neuendorff

How to prevent fraud?

> Anti Fraud Initiative

> Rumours at BioFach 2007

> May 07: Meetings in Bonn (BLE and CB's)

> October 07: Workshop at FiBL in Frick

60 participants – certification bodies, trade, authorities



Challenge for organic sector

Organic Integrity

- > **Non-compliance with the organic principles and standards**
 - > **Fraud (deliberate act which leads to a pecuniary advantage)**
 - > **Use of prohibited substances**
 - > **Commingling and labeling of conventional products as organic**
 - > **Unintended irregularity, e.g.**
 - > **Not knowing the requirements**
 - > **Unintended commingling**

What is needed?

- > **Inspection and certification system is sufficiently regulated**
- > **Enforcement needs to be improved**
 - > **Implementation of requirements**
 - > **Supervision to provide equal playing field**
- > **Increase of effectiveness of inspection**
 - > **Inspection tools**
 - > **Risk orientation**
- > **Improvement of communication, transparency**
 - > **Trade – certification bodies - authorities**

Effective Inspection and Certification

- > Exchange of information (e.g. suspicion or detection of fraud, switching CB's)
- > Risk oriented inspection schemes (type (announced/unannounced) and frequency of inspections)
- > Cross-checks for verification of the product flow
- > Input-output calculations for risk products
- > Risk orientated residue testing by certification bodies
- > Electronic publication of certified operators as well as de-certified and suspended operations, e. g. www.bioc.info

BioC: a common approach of competing organic certification bodies



The screenshot displays the BioC website interface. At the top left is the BioC logo. The main heading is 'Verzeichnis der kontrollierten Unternehmen des Ökologischen Landbaus'. Below this is a navigation bar with links: 'Suche', 'Auswahl-Liste', 'Information', 'Kontrollstellen', 'Nutzung & Haftung', and 'Impressum'. A progress indicator shows four steps: '1. Name, PLZ', '2. Auswahl', '3. Ergebnis' (highlighted), and '4. Bestätigung'. The search results are displayed in a light yellow box with the following details:

- Name:** Börner-Eisenacher GmbH
Herr Eisenacher
- Adresse:** Robert-Bosch-Breite 5
- Ort:** 37079 Göttingen
- Codenummer:** DE-039 Öko-Kontrollstelle
- Kontrollnummer:** D-NI-039-2569-B
- Art der Tätigkeit:** Verarbeitung

Below the results are two buttons: '» Bestätigung zum Ausdruck erstellen' and '» Unternehmen zur Auswahl-Liste hinzufügen'. A disclaimer at the bottom states: 'Dieses Ergebnis bestätigt, dass das oben genannte Unternehmen von der Kontrollstelle »GfRS GmbH« (DE-039) in der Datenbank eingetragen wurde. Dies bietet keine ausreichende Gewähr, dass alle von ihm vermarkteten Produkte, aus ökologischer Erzeugung stammen. Achten Sie darauf, ob sich ein Bio-Hinweis und die Codenummer auf dem Etikett des fraglichen Produktes befinden.'

BioC: Tracking of organic lots

Test: User - Opera

Datei Bearbeiten Ansicht Lesezeichen Widgets Extras Hilfe

http://www.bioc.info

Google

bioC

Verzeichnis der kontrollierten Unternehmen des Ökologischen Landbaus

Sprache: **de** en

Länder:

Suche Logout Information Kontrollstellen Nutzung & Haftung Impressum

Partieregistrierung Warenbegleitschein

Artikelbezeichnung: Speiseweizen Ludwig

Artikelbezeichnungen
Speiseroggen
Speiseweizen

Menge: 25 Tonne (t)

Status der Partie: Ökologisch erzeugt nach EU-Bio-VO Nr. 2092/91

Abnehmer: Andreas Meyer

Abnehmersauswahl
Andreas Meyer
Franz Meyerhoff

[Weitere Angaben](#)

IHR KONTO

- Partieregistrierung**
- Partiekonto
- Erzeugerlisten
- Lieferantenlisten
- Meine Daten
- Überblick

Effective Surveillance

- > **Equal playing field for CB's by assessing also effectiveness of control, e.g.**
 - > **Analysis activities, e.g. crosschecks of product flow, Input-output calculations**
 - > **Communication among CB's**
 - > **Competency of personnel**
 - > **Publication of certified operators**
- > **Risk orientation in surveillance**
- > **Organic Rapid Alert System**
- > **Guidelines for notification and following up suspicion of fraud**
- > **Qualification of auditors**
- > **EU country reports on implementation**

Quality Insurance by the operator

- > **Obligation for a quality control system**
- > **Verification that suppliers know and implement the requirements of organic trade.**
- > **Selection of the CB (cheaper CBs are not always the best)**
- > **Organization in trade associations**

New import scheme (I)

- > **Consistent surveillance of European and non-European certification bodies**
 - > supervision system run by institutions qualified and trained for the specific requirements of the EU regulation
 - > based on a common approach
- > **Applications of certification bodies should contain:**
 - > **Geographical scope information**
 - > **Assessment reports including information on the latest office and witness audits in third countries including nonconformities found and corrective actions of the CB.**
 - > **Assessment of the standard applied in third countries: compliance versus equivalence.**

New import regulation (II)

- > **Tools to assess compliance and equivalency of standards applied in third countries.**
- > **“Compliance” in third countries needs to be evaluated very carefully, not only equivalence**
- > **Publication of such assessments to increase transparency**
- > **Elimination respectively definition of suitable equivalent measures for requirements which cause unbearable burden to farmers in Third Countries**

International Complaints Mechanism

- > **One reference point to notify complaints**
 - > Irregularities, failure of CB, suspicion, fraud...
- > **Thorough investigation/follow up**
- > **Necessary are:**
 - > **Broad acceptance of the reference point**
 - > **Integrity**
 - > **Expertise (could be delegated)**
 - > **Sufficient financial capacities**
 - > **by or in close cooperation with authorities**

Conclusions

> **No more rules, but**

> **Enforcement**

> **Focus on implementation instead of documentation**

> **Transparency (e.g. flexibility rule, equivalency assessments)**

> **Increase of effectiveness**

> **Provide incentives for detecting fraud**

> **Risk orientation**

> **Not the 95 % compliant operators but the 5 % irregularities need to be targeted**



Next steps

- > **Code of conduct for certification bodies**
 - > Jochen Neuendorff (GfRS), Keith Ball (Soil Association/EOCC), Jan Wicher Krol (SKAL, EOCC)
Rainer Bächli (IMO)
- > **Code of conduct for trade**
 - > Toni Sellers (Tuchel&Sohn), Wim Rabbie (Tradin), Carol Heast, Bo van Elzakker (AgroEco)
- > **Paper „what authorities and supervisory bodies can do“**
 - > Lianne Kersbergen (Ministry of Agr., NL), Beate Huber (FiBL)
- > **Initiatives in other regions?**
 - > Italy, Peru, US