

# **OFDC Guidance for Certification Transference and Products Acceptance**

## **1. Objective**

The guidance is set up to regulate the certification transference between OFDC and other certification body (abbr: CB) and OFDC accept products certified by other CB, so as to facilitate applicants to enhance or adjust their market scope of certified products.

## **2. Scope**

Certification transference is applicable to acceptance of certification decision of another certification body.

Products acceptance is applicable to products to be used by OFDC operators, and shall not confer certification status to the supplier.

## **3. Responsibility**

- 1) The Certification Committee is responsible for decision on certification transference and product acceptance;
- 2) The Certification and Accreditation Dept. is responsible for informing the applicant about decision of certification transference or product acceptance.

## **4. Policy**

### **4.1 Certification Transference**

4.1.1 Certification of an operator may be transferred to OFDC from another certification body provided all the following requirements are met:

- 1) The operator is certified by the other certification body up to the point of transfer;
- 2) The certificate is in the period of validity;
- 3) All the non-compliances were closed, and the certificate is not suspended.
- 4) The GAP certification must also obey with the CNCA-N-004 ChinaGAP Certification Implementation Rules .

4.1.2 OFDC must conduct inspection to the applicant for certificate transference according to the normal inspection and certification procedure.

4.1.3 Under the same accreditation scope and/or certification programs, OFDC will admit the latest certification result made by the transfer CB; Under different accreditation scope or certification programs, OFDC can exempt or shorten the conversion period, based on audit historic record(include the latest inspection report from the transfer CB) of certification situation and history of the applicant/operator.

4.1.4 Under NOP or COR, the applicant should submit the statement issued by the prior CB, with contents include at least about certification maintenance, all the noncompliance has been corrected, and no contract dispute. OFDC shall

inform the applicant the following content: the applicant may maintain the current certificate, but the applicant must notify the prior CB in writing, return the certificate and terminate the contract in time when OFDC issue a new certificate, and the organic label issued by the prior CB could not be used on the certified product any more.

- 4.1.5 Under EU equivalent, OFDC should ask the transfer CB for the information about the applicant to confirm the Integrity and authenticity of the information submitted by the applicant.
- 4.1.6 The Certification Committee will make the decision based on the relevant information. The application will be rejected if there's not fully available information or inspection procedure, or the product certified by other CB do not meet the requirements of OFDC.

## 4.2 Product Acceptance

- 4.2.1 Applies for product acceptance: The applicant applies for product acceptance to OFDC Certification and Accreditation Department, and submits all necessary documents of the product for document reviewing.
- 4.2.2 OFDC conduct documents reviewing: OFDC Certification and Accreditation Department accept the application, and organize OFDC Certification Committee for the documents reviewing of the product. The document reviewing must include but not limited as:
  - (1) Accreditation programs and scopes (if any), certification standard, certification procedure, questionnaire, inspection report, all the attachments for the report, certification decision (including acreage, name, and amount of the certified product, effective date and requirements as well), and copy of the certificate of the product.
  - (2) For multi-ingredients product, OFDC must review inspection reports of all the ingredients, and to determine if any more reports need to be reviewed according to risk analysis.
  - (3) For acceptance of products certified by OFDC in different organic certification programs, related certification documents of the products must be reviewed.
- 4.2.3 Result of the reviewing: The applied products can be accepted by OFDC, once the documents of the products to be accepted are confirmed accurate, completed and updated, and all in compliant with OFDC standard and requirements; at the same time, the supplier of the products hasn't violated any certification regulation.
- 4.2.4 Scope and amount of the products accepted. For CBs that have got approval by local government, and/or ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation (organic

certification program included) by IOAS or other accreditors recognized by IOAS, products are certified according to a standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards, or for products certified by OFDC in different organic certification programs, if the products are applied to be used as ingredients in OFDC certified products in IFOAM accreditation program, the ingredients may be accepted in case of constitute not more than 10% of the total weight of the products and have been reviewed of the certificate by OFDC. The total of all ingredients accepted on this basis shall not exceed 40% of the total weight of the product.

- 4.2.5 Specify the logo used on the final product: According to reviewing result of the product acceptance, OFDC must specify the logo approved to be used on final product to be produced by the applicant that uses the accepted products as ingredients.
- 4.2.6 Time limitation of the acceptance: Acceptance of products shall be valid for the period of validity of the certificate.
- 4.2.7 All the documents reviewed for certification transference and product acceptance must be kept in file.

#### 5. Supporting Files

File No.	File Name
OFDC-D16-03	List of CBs have Equivalent Agreement with OFDC