



European Organic Certifiers Council

Remote Audits under REG 2018/848

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EOCC WG Import

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Remote audits

- › Remote audits are allowed for EU operators with the exception of risky EU operators as stated in article 38.3 of regulation 2018/848
- › This provision doesn't apply in third countries (article 9.4 of regulation 2021/1698)
- › Due to the pandemic situation remote audits were authorised by Member States in EU and the Commission in third countries in 2020 and 2021.
- › In 2022 it is always difficult if not impossible to access some countries or some areas in a country due to COVID travel restriction national policies
- › Wars also lead to travel restrictions: Syria in 2011, Ukraine in 2022,

Non risky operators in the EU

- There is no provision in the regulation 2018/848 explaining how to carry out remote audits.
- The approach is likely to be different depending on the Member State, or CBs in a Member State.
- It is not possible to assess the compliance of all requirements remotely (example: mass balance without estimating stock on site)
- What kind of document has to be checked, period of the checks, exhaustivity of the checks within the period, content and signature of the written records,

Non risky Operators in the EU

- There is no definition of “specific categories of operator”. Therefore we can objectively consider **non risky operators** in the EU as a specific category of operators
 - Proposal: activation of article 38.8.a.ii of regulation 2018/848 in considering **non risky operators in the EU** as a specific category of operators
- “laying down **specific criteria and conditions for the performance of official controls conducted to ensure the** traceability at all stages of production, preparation and distribution, and **compliance with this Regulation, concerning controls performed on specific categories of operators**”
- EOCC could propose a first draft of provisions for remote audit

Exceptional circumstances

- Under some catastrophic circumstances it is possible to adopt some exceptional production rules, namely some derogations to the requirements of organic regulation
- This provision only applies to the production rules and not the control measures.
- Under exceptional circumstances it is not possible for CBs to carry out physical inspection for any length of time (more or less long)
 - Pandemic (human or animal)
 - War (including civil war)
 - Natural disaster
 - Coup d'Etat
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Exceptional circumstances

- Proposal: activation of article 38.8.a.ii of regulation 2018/848 in considering **operators located in a area subject to exceptional circumstances** as a specific category of operators

“laying down **specific criteria and conditions for the performance of official controls conducted to ensure the** traceability at all stages of production, preparation and distribution, and **compliance with this Regulation, concerning controls performed on specific categories of operators**”

- To be applied in third countries, the regulation 2021/1698 should be updated accordingly
- EOCC could propose a first draft of provisions for such remote audit (Nota bene: the nature of these remote audits would be different from the previous one => non risky operators)

Thanks for your attention!

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For any question about this PPT: please contact
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