

PDO/PGI CERTIFICATION PROCESS CROATIAN EXPERIENCE

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INTRODUCTION

- | Regulations developed for the agricultural and foodstuffs – as of 2005
- | Act on Protection of Designations of Origin, Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialty Guaranteed for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs
- | Decree on Protection of Designations of Origin Geographical Indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs
- | Relevant authority is Croatian Ministry of Agriculture

BIOTECHNICON

- | An authorized certification body by the relevant authority since November 26, 2006
- | All the categories of agricultural products and foodstuffs
- | In process of accreditation according to the ISO/IEC 45011

BIOTECHNICON

- | Currently employs 8 full time staff for performing audits:
 - | dipl. ing. food technology
 - | dipl. ing. agriculture
- | Formed and trained a network of 16 external experts of relevant qualification
- | Even distribution of auditors covering the territory of Croatia
- | Provision of auditing force for the seasonal/peak activities (slaughtering, fruit picking,...)

BIOTECHNICON

- | Continuous training of internal staff in the EU
- | Continuous training of external staff at internal level
- | Co-financed by the Ministry of Agriculture

BIOTECHNICON

- | TAIEX trainings and study tours
- | GTZ trainings and study tours
- | Experience exchange with certification bodies in EU
- | Member of the Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network - OriGIn

BIOTECHNICON

- | Expert member to the committee within the Ministry of Agriculture in compiling the implementing regulations
- | Expert member to the committee within the Ministry in compiling the Guide
- | Expert consultancy to the Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture (Capacity Building)

BIOTECHNICON

- | Inspection and certification body for organic agriculture and production since 2003
- | Accredited against ISO/IEC 17020 (45004)
- | Project management
- | Biotehnikon d.o.o.el in Macedonia since 2007

INSPECTION VS. CERTIFICATION

Inspection is a photograph.

- | reports on the findings of the undertaken control

Certification is a film with the scenario.

- | needs to make sure that the production is well documented and happens in the same way continuously

DEFINITION OF CERTIFICATION

- | The process through which an organization grants recognition to a product that meets certain established criteria (Wiki)
- | Formal procedure by which an accredited or authorized agency assesses and verifies (and attests in writing by issuing a certificate) the attributes, characteristics and quality of goods, procedures or processes, in accordance with established requirements or standards (Business Dictionary)
- | Voluntary assessment and approval by an accredited party on an accredited standard (Meuwissen et al.)

THE ROLE OF CERTIFICATION

- | Certification body performs audits on behalf/by the authorization of the relevant authority
- | These audits enable permanent:
 - | quality of products;
 - | their quantity and
 - | continuitywhich are imperative to the market position of these products
- | Does not interfere with the inspection services/official controls

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

Audits are performed:

- | after the name has been registered with the national relevant authority;
- | according to the requirements of the product specification
- | based on the audit scheme document so called Control Plan.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION

- | The basic document for the auditing scheme is a Product Specification (Code of Practice)
- | Serves as the certification standard
- | Written by the producers in agreement/consent
- | It contains all the relevant data on the product
- | It specifies the name of the certification body

CONTROL PLAN

Control plan contains:

- | all the critical phases/points in the production of a PDO/PGI product;
- | the requirements set for these phases/points in the product specification;
- | the frequency of audits at various product stages;
- | certification fees.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

- | Certification controls traceability of the PDO/PGI product to the higher level than the legal requirement for i.e. food safety
- | All the producers and all their suppliers in the chain must undergo control at various frequency

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

- | Certification is a contracted activity between an establishment and the certification body
- | The relevant authority approves the Control plan and the certification costs
- | All the producers intending to use a registered name need to officially request certification with the certification body named in the product specification

AUDIT FREQUENCY

- | Control needs to be carried out by the certification body at least once a year, unless set out differently in the Control plan
- | Audits can be announced and unannounced
- | All the suppliers in the production chain of the PDO/PGI need to undergo control (30%)

CERTIFICATION AUDIT

Detailed rules for performing an audit:

- | Preparation : documentation, control plan, check list
- | Field visit, sampling
- | Report

CERTIFICATION AUDIT

- | Introduction meeting, clearing the rights and obligations
- | Written report, obligatory client's approval
- | Sent to the relevant authority
- | Non-conformities:
 - | Minor
 - | Major

CONSEQUENCES OF NCS

- | Minor: certification body requests the non-conformity being discharged by the remedial action of the producer in order to comply with the certification requirements within a specified time limit
- | Major: sent to the relevant authority for further decision
 - | To the individual producer
 - | To the group
- | Certification body does not hold the right of sanctions

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION FEES

Set in two levels:

- | Fixed: auditor/day, travel costs, testing costs
 - | Variable: the value of the certificate, defined in percentage
-
- | Can be significantly lower if the internal control has been well defined (consultant!)

THE NATIONAL SYSTEM

Three pillar national system:

1. Relevant authority - Ministry of Agriculture
 - | Department for Autochthonous Products
 - | Inspection services
2. Independent certification body
3. Accreditation

ISO/IEC 45011

- | Certification of a product is a means of providing assurance that it complies with specified standards and other normative documents.
- | 45011 specifies requirements, the observance of which is intended to ensure that certification bodies operate third-party certification systems in a consistent and reliable manner, thereby facilitating their acceptance on a national and international basis and so furthering international trade.

ISO/IEC 45011

- | Policies and procedures shall be non-discriminatory
- | Accessible to all applicants
- | The criteria against which the products of a supplier are evaluated shall be those outlined in specified standards

ISO/IEC 45011

Certification body must be:

- | impartial
- | independent
- | competent
 - | not in producing (!), but in performing controls
- | Certification committee
- | Impartiality committee

PRE-REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

From 2006 until 2008, pre-registration activities:

- | assistance and help to the Ministry in administering the potential applications
- | does not cover all the aspects of the specification

PRE-REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

- | Preparation of the producers and their premises for the audits
- | Building the gravity of the controls and their rigorousness
- | Assistance and help to the association in building seriousness of its members

PRE-REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

- | Final document: Statement of conformity/Certificate was the obligatory enclosure to the application for registration to the Ministry
- | Can be replaced by the second-party audit with different final document name

CONCLUSIONS

- | Inter-institutional cooperation and communication
- | Constant staff training
- | Transfer of schemes from the more developed systems
- | Contact to the field/local initiatives
- | Experience exchange
- | Building regional know-how

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