TRACEABILITY, CERTIFICATION AND CONTROL

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Legal framework

Accreditation

Certification body
LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CERTIFICATION IN SWITZERLAND

- Federal law for agriculture (www.admin.ch)
  - Lagr 03/10/51, article 18 alinéas a, b, c
- By-law that impose certification:
  - By-law AOP-IGP (RS 910.12, section IV)
- By-law about GI controls (RS 910.124)
  - It fully complies with the European requirements
- European norms
  - Norm SN EN 45 011 (Certification body),
  - Norm ISO 17020 (accreditation of controls).
LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CERTIFICATION IN SWITZERLAND

- Specification of swiss system:
  - Designation in the code of practices of the certification body
  - Definition of a control handbook which specifies how each requirement of the elaborate has to be checked
  - Among the different inspections, a specific attention is given to regular sensory tests of the product. Chemical analyses are also done. This final product test is mandatory for every GI.
The European regulation 510/06 defines new requirements for control, certification and accreditation:

- Obligation to have an independent third party with control tasks and operating as a certification body.
- The product certification bodies shall comply with and be accredited in accordance with EN 45’011 or ISO/IEC Guide 65 (General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems).
- The costs of the certification shall be borne by the operators subject to those controls.
ACCREDITATION MECHANISMS

- **National Accreditation Board** accredited in accordance with ISO 17’011 by the European Accreditation Board ([www.european-accreditation.org](http://www.european-accreditation.org))

- Accreditation deals with two aspects:
  - The **management**, directly controlled by the Accreditation Board.
  - The **technical aspects**, for which skilled experts are sued for.
ACCREDITATION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

International level
IAF – International accreditation forum – www.iaf.nu

Regional level
EA – European co-operation for accreditation - www.european-accreditation.org
IAAC – Interamerican accreditation cooperation - www.iaac.org.mx

National level
SAS – Swiss Accreditation Service - www.seco.admin.ch/sas/
COFRAC – Comité français d’accréditation- www.cofrac.fr
Instituto Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia y de Protección de la Propiedad Intelectual, Servicio Nacional de Acreditación (INDECOPI - SNA) www.indecopi.gob.pe
The role of the Accreditation Board

- An Accreditation Board examines and accredits conformity assessment bodies according to international standards.

- The Accreditation Board represents the national interests in international organizations, which are concerned with the accreditation and the conformity assessment.

- The Accreditation Board is an important device to create a transparent and qualified infrastructure for conformity assessment bodies in all branches. By the existent international structures, it establishes the background for the international acceptance of reports and certificates.
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION

- **Accreditation** Third party attestation related to a conformity assessment body

- **Certification** Procedure through which a third party gives a written undertaking that a product, process or service complies with specified requirements
  
  - **Certification of management systems** the certification body certifies an enterprise for its system of management like ISO 9’000, 14’000 and 22’000
  
  - **Certification of products** the certification body certifies a or some products of an enterprise like GI, GLOBALGAP, Max Havelaar, Organic
RELATION BETWEEN ACCREDITATION AND ENTERPRISES

Accreditation level
- National Accreditation Board
- laboratories
- inspection bodies
- certification bodies

Certification level
- firms
INTEREST OF CERTIFICATION

An encouragement to quality
  o implementation of quality systems in enterprises

An uniform and equitable treatment for each producer

An enhancement of quality in the market
  o quality certified by an accredited body

Guarantees for the consumer
  o the product corresponds to the code of practice
A CERTIFICATION BODY ACCREDITED FOR GI

- The certification must be accredited under the EN 45’011. It defines minimum standards for the product certification.

- The certification body must be accredited for the certification and control of this specific product in the frame of EN 45’011 with the approval of the national accreditation body (Request for Accreditation Field Extension)

- For a similar product, control procedures can be very different from one certification body to another
WHAT IS THE NORM EN 45’011?

• General references to others norms or guide (like ISO guide 65)

• Certification body
  o General provisions
  o Organization
  o Operation
  o Subcontracting
  o Quality system
  o Conditions and procedures for granting, maintaining, extending, suspending and withdrawing certification
  o Internal audits and management reviews
  o Documentation
  o Confidentiality
What is the norm EN 45’011?

- Certification body personnel
- Changes in the certification requirements
- Appeals, complains and disputes
- Application for certification
- Preparation for evaluation
- Evaluation
- Evaluation report
- Decision on certification
- Surveillance
- Use of licences, certificates and marks of conformity
- Complaints to suppliers
WHAT DOES “CERTIFY” MEAN WHEN DEALING WITH GI PRODUCTS?

- First, looking at the quality system in order to deliver the initial approval
  - Evaluation of the conditions of production in every firm willing to use the certified denomination
  - Evaluation of the quality system in every firm (respect of hygiene measures, HACCP concept and traceability system)
- Then, regularly checking the accordance of the product and processes with the code of practices
  - Checking on the basis of the control handbook with different possible points of non-conformity
THE CERTIFICATION OF A PRODUCT IS BASED ON THE CONTROL OF THREE MAIN COMPONENTS

- the processes,
- the traceability,
- the final product.
TRACEABILITY CONTROL

- The certification body is responsible for the distribution and use of traceability marks. Generally, the producers consortia manages these aspects.

- Traceability marks are useful tools to follow the product at the different steps of its elaboration.

- The producers consortia distributes the traceability marks to every enterprise respecting the code of practices (even outside the consortia).
For the final product test, sampling tests and chemical analysis are organized by the producers consortia. It is also in charge of the product commission who performs those tastings, following a specific sampling regulation.
CONTROL FREQUENCIES ARE THE SAME FOR EVERY GI

- Launching of the certification process: Initial Approval
  - Control of the structural conditions of production for each firm or unity of production

- Every two years:
  - Control of the structural and traceability conditions in the transformation and elaboration enterprises
  - When the primary production (i.e. milk) is separated from the transformation (i.e. cheese making) and/or the elaboration (i.e. cheese aging), a control has to be made in the farms with a selection of samples

- At least, once a year:
  - A final product test (organoleptic examination + chemical analysis) in the firms which are directly commercializing the final product.
WHAT COMPOSED THE CONTROL HANDBOOK?

- First part: controls and certification, who do what, when and how?
- Second part: rules of sanctions, what happen when there are non-conformity
  - Define different non-conformity: structural, technical and documentary, accumulated non-conformities
- Third part: required documents and their distribution included checklists based on code of practice
WHAT SHOULD BE A CERTIFICATION BODY LIKE?

- An already existing control or certification (for other norms) **private body** (example: SGS)

- **A system fully public**, as it was the case in France

- **Joining the public and private options** in a specific certification body as it is the case in Switzerland - The Swiss OIC (www.oic-izs.ch): a mixed certification pattern
  - Certification is done on a private basis with contractual rules but GI is a public domain
  - Possibility to develop a private certification with a strong involvement of the State authorities
CERTIFICATION COSTS AND CONTROL COORDINATION

- **Certification costs can be reduced through an efficient coordination.**
- Several means have to be considered:
  - Collective certification process reduces the certification and administrative costs
  - A control harmonization has to be found through a mutual recognition of the several standards in force
    - Example: Public authorities in charge of the hygiene controls may accept to complete their control with other standards control insofar as they are base on a public regulation (as it is the case for GI)
  - A combination of several inspections into a single one on the same farm
ORGANISATION OF CONTROLS AND CERTIFICATION

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Annual checking

Legal framework | Accreditation | Certification body

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REDD
SOME OF SWISS GI

Source: association suisse des AOC-IGP
Merci pour votre attention
Thank you for your attention
Gracias por su atención

Pour toutes informations complémentaires
For further information
Para obtener más información

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