

	Resolutions of the Sector Committee Agriculture/Food/Sustainability	71 SD 6 042	
		Revision:	1.7
		Datum:	14.07.2017
		Seite:	1/3

Note: Changes to the previous revision are marked **yellow**.

Date of confirmation by the Accreditation Advisory Committee: 11.05.2017

B SK-LEN 03/11	<p>Accreditation of Product Certification CBs, which are not yet active in the respective program and cannot provide actual certificates or clients to be audited/inspected:</p> <p>Generally, the German Accreditation Body (DAkkS) will grant an accreditation only after successful office assessment and witness audit for any given certification program.</p> <p>Within the sector Agriculture and Food, however, specific requirements are recognized and accepted, which might inhibit the assessment of a real audit situation before accreditation is granted.</p> <p>Hence, and in case permission and possibility to conduct real audits or inspections for the certification program applied for depends on recognition or notification by a competent authority or a scheme owner granted only after accreditation is achieved, following rule applies:</p> <p>If the Certification Body is able to provide files of conducted certification processes/cases (e.g. in the regulated sector or in technically similar areas), the assessors may take this into account during the office assessment as example for practical experience with a certification process.</p> <p>With finalisation of the respective first certification for every DAkkS-accredited (Product) Certification system the complete documentation is to be handed in as evidence.</p> <p>If a witness audit (according to DAkkS requirement) is not possible prior to the accreditation decision, accreditation may be granted under condition until the carrying out of such an audit. This witness audit is to be carried out within the first certification case. The CB shall be informed about this condition in writing.</p> <p>Under exceptional circumstances – if practical activities can be demonstrated sufficiently – a witness audit may be carried out for the evaluation of on-site competency, which will not lead to an actual certification decision. This will only be possible after consultation with DAkkS.</p>
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	Resolutions of the Sector Committee Agriculture/Food/Sustainability	71 SD 6 042	
		Revision:	1.7
		Datum:	14.07.2017
		Seite:	2/3

B SK-LEN 05/11	<p>Transfer of Certificates</p> <p>When changing the certification body, the result of the previous evaluation / certification has to be considered in any case. Possible deviations / non-conformities have to be monitored before a new certificate is issued.</p> <p>DAkKS asks for fulfilment of the requirements of article 31 (Reg (EG) 834/2007) by certification bodies in the application of equivalent standards, especially in case of change of the certification body. Equivalence is not given without the fulfilment of this requirement.</p>
B SK-LEN 07/11	<p>Use of information provided by third parties with regard to accreditation decisions including ongoing processes/cases</p> <p>There is a need to define the procedure for the use of information provided by third parties (e.g. scheme owners like IFS, QS, GLOBALG.A.P.) on the basis of ISO/IEC 17011 to maintain effectiveness and value of accreditation in this area.</p> <p>Usually, scheme owners have got additional information regarding the quality of the activities of accredited certification bodies resulting from further control mechanisms (e.g. follow-up audits or complaints my market/consumers).</p> <p>The use of such information by the accreditation body is justified by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO/IEC 17011, Sec. 7.8.6i: Gathering information from further sources • ISO/IEC 17011, Sec. 5.9: Complaints <p>Thereby ISO/IEC 17011 already clarifies the possible measures and ways of processing by the accreditation body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • input/receipt and handling as complaint or additional information • decision within DAkKS regarding the grading • information of the accredited body with the task of processing the conveyed complaint accordingly (including ongoing reporting toward DAkKS (controlling), evaluation of corrective measures during the next surveillance assessment) • Further measures may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increase assessment depth and detail ○ increase of witness depth, scope and sample ○ extraordinary assessments (ISO/IEC 17011, 7.11.7)

	Resolutions of the Sector Committee Agriculture/Food/Sustainability	71 SD 6 042	
		Revision:	1.7
		Datum:	14.07.2017
		Seite:	3/3

B SK-LEN 01/12	The criteria of clause 7 of ISO 19011 are to be considered within the evaluation of the personal suitability/fitness of auditors of certification bodies.
B SK-LEN 02/12	The reference to equivalence of standards in relation to Reg. (EG) 834/2007 on the accreditation certificate for control bodies active in third countries is omitted, DAkKS will be publishing this information via a separate document on its web page (82 SD 6 001).
B SK-LEN 01/13	Certification bodies/control bodies in third countries are obliged to inform DAkKS of changes of its certification procedures and control measures. The assigned technical assessor will check those changes for their significance. In case of substantial changes the table of equivalence is to be amended and the assessor has to re-evaluate the equivalence. In any case, eventual changes have to be included in a table to be handed in for initial- and re-accreditation purpose.
B SK-LEN 01/16	<p>For the sector „food, agriculture, sustainability“ the annex to the accreditation certificate will in future only contain reference to Schemes/certification programs of the respective Scheme Owners including the relevant documents. A reference to internal QM documentation (SOPs) of the accredited body, implementing these scheme documents into the QM system of the CAB is obsolete, since this does not contain any further relevant information for the reader.</p> <p>This is not valid for schemes/certification programs developed and owned by the CAB itself. For these, such SOPs constitute the major documents and description of the scheme/program.</p>
B-SK-LEN 02/16	Within the framework of certification schemes, certificates of different schemes may be recognized by the scheme owner (by rule) and certification body (within its procedures) for the partial fulfillment of the original scheme's requirements, if these certificates are based on legal requirements or if they are the result of accredited certification according to IAF MLA.