SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF CONTROL BODIES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

The only valid versions of the documents of the BELAC management system are those available from the BELAC website (www.belac.be).

Date of implementation: 15.02.2022

Transition Period:

For EU: As of 01.01.2022 all controls in the EU shall be performed against Regulation (EU) 2018/848. Existing EC 834/2007 certificates will remain valid until the first control or at the latest 01.01.2023.

For Third Countries: the regulation EC 1235/2008 is replaced by the regulations (EU) 2021/1697 and 1698 for purpose of compliance and by the regulation (EU) 2021/1342 for purpose of equivalency (see clause 7.6).

HISTORY OF THE DOCUMENT

Revision and date of approval	Reason for revision	Type of revision
0 CC 12.12.2013	New document Implementation of the mandatory document EA-3/12 M:2013	
1 Secr 25.06.2014	Update URL of the reference documents	Page 5
2 Secr. 15.12.2015	Correction/Update legislation	Page 15
3 CC 02.12.2021 + Secr 03.02.2022	Update based on mandatory document EA-3/12 M:2020: full revision of the document Updates based on circulated draft EA-3/12 M:2022	General Assessment calculation Operations in Third Countries

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SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF CONTROL BODIES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

1 OBJECTIVES AND NORMATIVE REFERENCES

This document:

- is intended to document the specific requirements and guidelines that shall apply for the accreditation of control bodies for the certification of organic production according to the Regulation (EU) 2018/848;
- integrates the requirements and guidelines included in the document EA 3/12 M:2022.

It includes in particular the specific requirements for the accreditation process, applicable to the control bodies and to BELAC.

The specific requirements and guidelines:

- are only endorsed when they comply with the general criteria documented in BELAC document 1-03;
- complement the requirements and guidelines that are in force to all BELAC accreditation activities.

2 RECIPIENTS

<u>With follow-up of modifications:</u>

- Coordination Commission
- Accreditation Board
- Secretariat
- Assessors
- Accredited bodies

<u>Without follow-up of modifications</u>

- Any external request

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

3.1 Identification of the activity	**ORG.PROD**
3.2 Type(s) of conformity assessment and accreditation standard	Product certification of organic production: Accreditation according to EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012
3.3 Classification(s) according to BELAC 6-017	**9.2.1**
3.4 Reference document(s) for the activity ***(hereafter named "the scheme")***, including the publication date or a version number	<u>For control bodies operating in the EU</u>: - Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the council and its associated delegated and implementing acts, and subsequent amendments. - Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products. - Other applicable documentation published by the European Commission regarding Regulation (EU) 2018/848. <u>Additionally, for control bodies operating in third countries:</u> - Regulation (EU) 2021/1698 with procedural requirements for the recognition of control authorities and control bodies that are competent to carry out controls on operators and groups of operators certified organic and on organic products in third countries and with rules on their supervision and the controls and other actions to be performed by those control authorities and control bodies - *Codex Alimentarius* CAC/GL 32 Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods.
3.5 Body responsible for the development and maintenance of the scheme	EU (DG AGRI)

3.6 Definitions	
Control body	The term Control Body and its abbreviation CB is used to cover any independent body certifying organic production as defined in point (56) of article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, in charge of performing conformity assessment services, object of this accreditation (the certification body as per definition of ISO/IEC 17000 and EN ISO/IEC 17065). Control Body is synonymous with Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) as defined in ISO/IEC 17000:2020. In this document CB is used in accordance with the EU regulation.
Location	Site where the control body accredited takes decisions on certification (as defined by §7.6 of EN ISO/IEC 17065)
Equivalence	Equivalence is the capability of different inspection and certification systems to meet the same objectives and principles of the production standards and the control measures contained in Titles III, IV and V of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 by applying rules which ensure the same level of assurance of conformity.
Control visit	Activity performed by BELAC whereby it conducts a post-audit review at the CB client premises, with the CB audit team or CB representatives being interviewed. Direct questioning to the CB client by the AB assessors should not occur, except where it was previously agreed with all parties concerned. Nevertheless, a guided visit through the CB client premises may be necessary.

Terms and definitions given in Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017 apply.

4 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO QUALIFICATION OF BELAC TECHNICAL ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS

Technical assessors and experts of BELAC shall have a degree in a discipline related to the scope of accreditation (e.g. agronomist, food scientist). They shall have at least two years of working experience in the organic sector. In the exceptional case of assessors without an academic degree, a related profession in the food or agricultural sector is required including at least 5 years of professional experience within organic sector. Such experience can include scientific work, consultancy, production/operation, certification/inspection activities alike.

Assessors and experts of BELAC shall have adequate knowledge of the requirements and practical implementation of the EU Regulation on Organic Production.

For the purpose of witnessing, assessors and experts shall have evident knowledge and/or experience in relation to the Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and the relevant delegated acts.

Additionally, for assessments and activities outside the EU, technical assessors and experts shall have adequate knowledge of Codex Alimentarius guidelines CAC/GL 32, and a proven track record of TC experience within the organic sector.

The initial and on-going training for assessors and experts shall cover the specific application of quality management systems according to EN ISO/IEC 17065 in a CB certifying products from organic production and shall permit exchange of accreditation practices, including for examples, group of operators, mass balance, traceability, etc. for the scope of organic production.

5 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE CONTROL BODY

5.1 Documents to be submitted by control bodies applying for accreditation

5.1.1 Control bodies need to submit at least the following:

- a description of CB's organization;
- the complete list of locations, indicating for every location the certification activities carried out and countries covered;
- the standard control procedures [see art. 40.1.a.ii) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848] applied for all activities concerned by the application;
- an overview indicating the responsibilities of staff;
- list of qualified inspectors per product category;
- list of reviewers and decision makers per product category.

The following documents shall be available on site and submitted on request:

- a copy of the most recent internal audit report, the CB's internal audit program and the latest management review;
- curricula and supporting evidence of all technical staff members and inspectors;
- declarations of absence of conflicts of interest for staff and inspectors;
- continuous training log, indicating precisely for each staff member and inspector the nature of the training, including dates, duration, attestations of successfully completed training.

5.1.2 Additionally to the documents defined under point 5.1.1, control bodies operating in third countries need to submit at least the following:

- a description of their control measures adapted for TC and the standard control procedures implemented for all activities in the relevant TC, or the documents required for the technical dossier (art 46.4 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848) by the COM;
- an updated list of countries covered by the application, number of estimate operators including group(s) of operators, if any, per category and per country.

6 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO BELAC WHEN EVALUATING CONTROL BODIES FOR THEIR OPERATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

6.1 Application for accreditation

See under 5.1.1 for documents to be submitted by CBs.

6.2 Assessment program

For the first application for accreditation for organic farming (initial or extension), BELAC shall not grant accreditation before having performed the following assessments:

a) an on-site assessment of the registered legal entity of the CB, (often the head office of the CB);
b) an on-site assessment in each location of the CB, if applicable;
c) at least one witness assessment, as defined in clause 6.5 below.

Before performing assessments, the BELAC shall examine by document review the set of documents listed in clause 5.1.

Concerning the surveillance of accreditation, BELAC shall conduct surveillance assessments during every assessment phase of the accreditation cycle, shall assess a sample of locations and perform witness assessments as defined respectively in clause 6.3 and clause 6.5 below.

For the purpose of reassessment (re-accreditation), BELAC shall not renew accreditation before having performed the following assessments:

a) an on-site assessment of the registered legal entity, (often the head office of the CB);
b) an on-site assessment in sampled locations as defined in clause 6.3;
c) at least witness assessments as defined in clause 6.5.

6.3 Assessments of locations

BELAC shall calculate the number of locations to be assessed, based on risk analysis with, at least, the factors below:

a) the experience gained by the location for certification activities under accreditation;
b) the previous performance of the location;
c) the number of countries covered by the location;
d) irregularities registered in OFIS data base and transmitted by CA;
e) the number of certificates managed by the location.

This sample of locations shall be increased if BELAC is informed of suspicions of fraudulent activities by CB.

6.4 Duration of onsite assessments

For the first assessment for OF (initial or extension) and reassessment of the legally registered entity of a CB operating exclusively in MS, BELAC shall foresee the minimum number of days (d) for the team for an on-site assessment (head office and other locations defined in clauses 6.2 and 6.3).

Table A below permits to calculate a risk score per CB. Table B below shows the minimum duration for each assessment, based on the given risk score (result of table A) and the minimum number of operator files to check.

Table A Risk score calculation for onsite assessment (for EU MS)

	Risk level			
	Low (score = 1)	Medium (score = 2)	High (score = 3)	Score
Presence of a Critical Finding at the previous assessment	no	/	yes	
Group Certification	No	/	yes	
Number of Locations	1	2 – 5	> 5	
Number of Product Categories	1 - 2	3 – 4	> 4	
Number of Member States Covered	1 - 2	3 – 4	> 4	
Number of operators certified	< 1.000	1.001 – 6.000	> 6.000	
			Total Risk Score	

Relating to experience of BELAC in the sector:

- the time to check one operator file is on average 0,25 days (d);
- the time to check the organization of a CB, regarding clauses 4, 5, 6.2.2 and 8 of EN ISO/IEC 17065, is on average 2d for a CB assessed only for OF.

Table B Minimum duration for assessment (for EU MS)

Days (d) Calculation			
Total Risk Score, result of table A above	6 – 9	10 - 15	16 – 18
Number of operator files to check (A)	4	6	8
Total duration for only OF scheme = (A)x0,25d + 2d	3	3,5	4
Total duration for OF if other schemes applied = (A)x0,25d + 1d	2	2,5	3

Preparation and reporting times shall be added to the total duration calculated above.

In case of combination with another certification scheme, the duration resulting from table B is added to the duration calculated for the other scheme.

The minimum duration of a surveillance assessment and the minimum of files to be checked shall be at least 50% of the minimum calculated using Table A and Table B.

The minimum duration of an on-site assessment of one location shall never be less than half a day, which is to be added to onsite assessment duration as defined in Table A and Table B.

6.5 Witness assessments

6.5.1 Number of witness assessments (WA)

For the first application for OF accreditation (initial or extension) BELAC shall perform at least,

a) one WA per product category (7 listed on art. 35(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848);
b) and one WA of a certification of a group of operators, if the CB provides that service.

In exceptional cases, the WA can be postponed as condition to accreditation if business activities inevitably relate to recognition by the national CA. If more than one MS is covered by the CBs activity, these need to be considered within the witnessing schedule.

A single witness assessment may encompass different product categories if the activities of the witnessed operator and of the CB justify it.

The WA shall cover the whole activity under witness.

During 5 years, BELAC shall witness at least,

a) one WA per product category (7 listed on art. 35(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848), not considering the number of WA conducted for the first application, and
b) one WA of a group of operators if CB certifies groups of operators, and
c) an additional number of WA determined by risk analysis at least based on the following factors:
    - the number of inspectors;
    - the number of operators controlled;
    - the type of activities performed by the operators;
    - the number of WA performed by CA;
    - the irregularities concerning the CB;
    - the number of certified producer groups and the size of them;
    - the critical findings for either the CB or the specific inspector(s);
    - the application of recognition for a new MS.

For selecting inspections/control visits to be witnessed, see the clause 6.5.2 below.

6.5.2 Criteria for the selection of inspectors and operators to be witnessed

BELAC shall select the witnessed inspectors and operators on its own, ensuring that witnessed assessments are performed with operators with a higher risk for deviations

of organic production requirements. To establish which operators could present a higher risk for deviations, BELAC will consider the factors below:

a) the complexity of activities performed by the operators;
b) in particular traders or intermediates for exports or imports;
c) the size of group of operators;
d) the list of high risk products, extracted from OFIS database or other information like speculative supply chain, etc.;
e) the list of high risk countries (according to article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1698);
f) the volume of products certified for a given operator;
g) the derogations granted by the CB (e.g.: retroactive recognition of conversion);
h) the irregularities concerning the CB;
i) the WA performed by the CA;
j) the result of previous WAs.

Repeated witnessing of the same operator/inspector should be avoided, unless there are significant risks or specific indications for this operator or inspector.

Where repeated WAs occur because of a limited number of certified operators or availability of inspectors, BELAC report shall document this fact.

BELAC shall consider previous results on WAs to establish its witness strategy.

6.6 Extending accreditation

If the CB applies for accreditation of a new product category, BELAC shall at least perform a document review of the documents listed in clause 5.1 and a WA for the given category.

If the CB applies for accreditation of a new location, BELAC shall perform a document review to determine if the location shall be assessed on site, based on risk analysis defined in clause 6.3 and if a WA is necessary in regard to clause 6.5.

6.7 Information Exchange between BELAC, competent authority and the scheme owner

The Commission services as scheme owner and a Member State's Competent Authority as delegating authority may provide BELAC specific input for the assessment of CBs. BELAC shall consider surveillance results provided by Competent Authorities.

The BELAC report shall indicate whether the corrective measures requested during the previous assessment where implemented in a timely manner.

If BELAC decides to suspend or withdraw the accreditation of a CB operating in a member state, BELAC shall inform the Competent Authority in a timely manner.

BELAC maintains the necessary contacts with the Belgian competent authorities and shall seek support from the national accreditation bodies of the other member States in order to establish the necessary contacts with the local competent authorities.

7 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO BELAC WHEN EVALUATING CONTROL BODIES FOR THEIR OPERATIONS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

7.1 Application for accreditation

See under 5.1.2 for documents to be submitted by CBs.

7.2 Assessment program

The assessment program for accreditation in third countries (TC) is based on the same requirements defined in clause 6.2. The number of locations assessed shall be replaced by the requirements of clause 7.3 below. The number of WA shall be replaced by the requirements given in clause 7.5 below.

The assessments reports shall contain at least the topics listed in the respective secondary acts of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, in particular Regulation (EU) 2021/1698 (Annex I).

Clause 6.6 applies as well for TC accreditations. If a CB already accredited for OF within the EU applies for OF in TC, BELAC shall perform a document review to determine the number of onsite assessments and the extra number of WA needed in regards with 7.3 and 7.5 below.

7.3 Assessments of locations

For the first application of recognition, each office where certification decisions are taken shall be assessed on site. The assessment report of these offices shall contain information detailed in annex I part A of Regulation (EU) 2021/1698.

For the surveillance of CB, each office where certification decisions are taken shall be assessed on-site annually. This assessment carried out physically and may only be carried out remotely if so decided by the COM.

The annual assessment report of the office(s) where certification decisions are made shall cover all points listed in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2021/1698.

7.4 Duration of onsite assessments

The method for calculating the duration of assessment applies as given in clause 6.4, except that the tables A and B are replaced by Table C, and Table D.

These tables cover cases where a CB operates in TC only or in TC and within the EU.

Table C Risk score calculation for onsite assessment for TC

	Risk level			
	Low (score = 1)	Medium (score = 2)	High (score = 3)	Score
Operators in TC and within the EU	No	/	Yes	
Group Certification	No	/	Yes	
Presence of a Critical Finding at the previous assessment	No	/	Yes	
Number of Locations	None	1 – 5	> 5	
Number of Product Categories	1	2 – 4	> 4	
Number of Member States Covered	1 - 2	3 – 10	> 10	
Number of operators certified	< 1.000	1.001 – 6.000	> 6.000	
			Total Risk Score	

Relating to experience BELAC in the sector:

- the time to check one operator file is on average 0,5 days (d);
- the time to check the organization of a CB, regarding clauses 4, 5, 6.2.2 and 8 of EN ISO/IEC 17065, is on average 3d for a CB assessed only for OF.

Table D Minimum duration for assessment for TC

Days (d) Calculation			
Total Risk Score, result of table A above	7 – 9	10 - 13	14 – 21
Number of operator files to check (A)	4	6	8
Total duration for only OF scheme = (A)x0,5d + 3d	5	6	7
Total duration for OF if other schemes applied = (A)x0,5d + 2d	4	5	6

7.5 Witness assessments

7.5.1 Number of witness assessments (WA)

For the first application for OF accreditation (initial or extension) BELAC shall add one witness assessment:

a) for each category of products as set out in Article 35(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 for which the recognition is requested.
b) for each category of products in a different third country, if the CB requests or is already recognized for more than one third country; and

If the CB is certifying group(s) of operators, BELAC shall at least cover one of the above listed WAs with a group of operators.

When active in both MS as well as in TC, these WA shall cover at least one MS and one TC.

The WA shall cover the whole activity under witness, carried out physically and may only be carried out remotely if so decided by the Commission.

For the purpose of the annual report, the CB shall ensure that witness assessment are carried out in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of Part B of Annex I of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1698 and the following rules:

a) the duration period between two (2) WAs shall not exceed four (4) years;
b) the number of WA carried out for the initial request for recognition shall not be considered for the calculation of the total number of WA to be carried out during the 4 years referred to in point (a) above;
c) one additional WA shall be carried out:
    - every two (2) years in those TCs, where high-risk products are produced or processed, as referred to within Article 8;
    - for every 10th TC recognised. This additional WA shall be carried out within four (4) years;
d) more WAs shall be performed at the request of the COM (European Commission represented by DG-AGRI) or BELAC, based on a risk analysis of, in particular, the following factors:
    - the number of inspectors;
    - the number of operators;
    - the type of activities carried out by the operators;
    - the number of WA carried out by BELAC;
    - the irregularities concerning the CB;
    - the number of certified groups of operators and the size of them;
    - the critical findings for the CB or the specific inspector or inspectors;
    - the nature of the products and the risk of fraud;
    - COM feedback based on the previous annual report of the CB;

- suspicions of fraud by operators;
- the volume of products imported from a TC into the EU and the activity of the CB in recognized TC.

For selecting inspections/control visits to be witnessed, see the clause 7.5.2 below.

For information, some examples are given by COM:

If a new CB requests recognition for two (2) product categories in six (6) TC, at least two (2) WAs shall be carried out in two (2) different TCs, including a group of operators (if applicable).

In case the CB is already recognized under equivalence, a light dossier applies as regard WA (Annex I, section 3-part B of EU 2021/1698) under following conditions:

- WAs performed are less than 2 years ago
- 2 WA (one for each category) but no obligation to have them in 2 different TC
- All findings are addressed

If a CB already recognized for equivalency requests recognition for 7 categories in 80 countries with group operators, and in 3 TC where high risk products are produced:

- As 7 categories, 7 WAs are required in 7 different TC within a 4 years period,
- preferably in group of operators,
- then, as 8x10 TC are covered by the CB, 8 WA are to be added within the 4 years period,
- then, as 3 TC with high risk products are covered by the CB, 3 WAs are to be added every 2 years.

In 4 years, the total sum is 21 WA (=7+8+3x2) within a 4 years period.

7.5.2 Criteria for the selection of inspectors and operators to be witnessed

BELAC shall select the witnessed inspectors and operators on its own, ensuring that witnessed assessments are performed with operators with a higher risk for deviations of organic production requirements. To establish which operators could present a higher risk for deviations, BELAC will consider the factors below:

a) the complexity of activities performed by the operators;
b) in particular traders or intermediates for exports or imports;
c) the size of group of operators;
d) the list of high risk products, extracted from OFIS database or from guidelines of COM;

e) the list of high risk countries, extracted from OFIS database or website of corruption (e.g.: Transparency International);
f) the volume of products certified for a given operator;
g) the derogations granted by the CB (e.g.: retroactive recognition of conversion);
h) the irregularities concerning the CB;
i) the feedbacks of COM following the annual report of the CB;
j) the result of previous WAs.

Repeated witnessing of the same operator/inspector should be avoided, unless there are significant risks or specific indications for this operator or inspector.

Where repeated WAs occur because of a limited number of certified operators or availability of inspectors, BELAC report shall document this fact.

BELAC shall consider previous results on WAs to establish its witness strategy.

7.6 Extending accreditation to specific areas of activity

Clause 6.6 applies for extensions of scope with the specifications added above for TC accreditations in the current chapter 7.

Additionally, accreditation is required by Regulation (EU) 2018/848 (Art 45.b and 57) according to 4 options of recognitions for CBs providing certifications of organic products, imported into the EU coming from TC, which are:

a) complied with EU regulation (Compliance) (See art. 45.i and 46 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848);
b) recognized under a trade agreement (Trade agreement) (See art. 45.ii and 47 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848);
c) recognized and listed in annex III of Regulation (EC) 1235/2008 (See art. 45.iii and 48 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848);
d) controlled by CB recognized in purpose of equivalency, listed in annex IV of regulation EC 1235/2008 (Equivalency) (See art. 57 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848)

7.6.1 Option n°1 (Compliance)

The extension of accreditation is based on on-site assessments, as defined in clause 7.

In conformity with the Regulation (EU) 2021/1698 (annex I, part B, §3), for a CB recognized under Article 33(3) of Regulation (EC) n°834/2007(1) and included in the list established in accordance with Article 57(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the

technical dossier of recognition can take into account the following types of WAs carried out:

- during the last 2 years by BELAC for the purpose of their recognition under Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 for each category of products for which the CB requests recognition in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848; and
- in a TC for which the CB is recognized under Article 33(3) of Regulation (EC) n°834/2007.

However, for each of these WA, BELAC shall confirm that all findings have been fully addressed by the CB.

7.6.2 Option n°2 (Trade agreement)

Accreditation may be requested by the local CA of the TC recognized by the EU under a trade agreement. The NAB shall contact the COM to establish the set of requirements covered by the trade agreement and the contact of the local CA. The local CA may require specific accreditation programs. Where applicable, clause 4 applies by default.

7.6.3 Option n°3 (TC recognized)

That recognition will expire on 31 December 2026 according to article 48 of the regulation (EU) 2018/848.

Accreditation may be requested by the local CA of the TC recognized by the EU under Regulation (EC) 1235/2008. The NAB shall contact the COM to establish the set of requirements covered by that recognition and the contact of the local CA. The local CA may require specific accreditation programs. Where applicable, clause 7 applies by default.

7.6.4 Option n°4 (Equivalency)

This recognition of CBs will expire on 31 December 2024 according to article 57 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848. During the transition period starting on 1 January 2022, clause 7 of this document is implemented for this case.

Additionally to the requirements defined under point 7.2, BELAC shall not grant accreditation before having assessed the equivalence of the standard applied in TC. The CB shall present a detailed description of its equivalent standard applied in TC to BELAC. The CB shall ensure that those documents are up-to-date and cover all product categories for which the CB is seeking accreditation.

The equivalence assessment by BELAC shall be based on a side by side assessment prepared by the CB and verified by BELAC that demonstrates the equivalence of the production standard for each product category with the regulation (CE) 1235/2008 and associated acts. The assessment shall include an inventory of the substantial differences between the CB's production standard and control measures and the Regulation (CE) Nº 889/2008 and associated acts and provide a description of how the differences are resolved, taking into account the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines CAC/GL 32. The assessment shall include a confirmation by BELAC of the equivalence of the production standard and the control measures.

7.7 Information Exchange between BELAC and COM

Additionally, to the requirements under point 6.7, the COM Services may give BELAC specific input for the assessment of CBs operating in TC, about irregularities recorded in the OFIS-system. BELAC shall consider surveillance results provided by COM or CA in TC and other NABs, if and when available.

In case an accreditation of a CB operating in TC is suspended or withdrawn, BELAC shall inform the COM services in a timely manner, including the reasons.

7.8 Suspending, withdrawing or reducing accreditation

If a CB has got no client for a given product category during 48 consecutive months, BELAC should suspend the category concerned from the accreditation scope. Reasons not to suspend part of the accreditation scope need to be justified and documented. Such reasons can include positive business outlook (gaining new clients in due course) or specific evidence of substituting competence management despite a lack of clients.

Such a suspension may be lifted after a successful WA on the given category was performed.

8 PRESENTATION OF THE ACCREDITATION SCOPE

The accreditation scope shall be defined by the product categories as defined in Article 35 (7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848.

Concerning the newly added category of product (clause g) of article 35.7 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the scope of accreditation shall specifically include each of the products indicated in Annex I and covered by accreditation or treated as flexible scope in conformity with BELAC 2-002.

If applicable, certification of group of operators shall be explicitly and unambiguously listed on the accreditation scope.

8.1 Operations in the European Union

Products (Regulation (EU) 2018/848, Art 35 (7))	European Member state (or region if available)	Legislation
(a) unprocessed plants and plant products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material; (b) livestock and unprocessed livestock products; (c) algae and unprocessed aquaculture products; (d) processed agricultural products, including aquaculture products, for use as food; (e) feed; (f) wine; (g) other products listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or not covered by the previous categories. Option: Group Operators	Belgium: En région Wallone	- Règlement (UE) 2018/848 relatif à la production biologique et à l'étiquetage des produits biologiques et ses règlements d'application. - Règlement (UE) 2017/625 concernant les contrôles officiels et les autres activités officielles servant à assurer le respect de la législation alimentaire et de la législation relative aux aliments pour animaux ainsi que des règles relatives à la santé et au bien-être des animaux, à la santé des végétaux et aux produits phytopharmaceutiques - Autre documentation applicable publiée par la Commission européenne concernant le règlement (UE) 2018/848. + specific legislation of the region XXX
	Belgium: In het Vlaams Gewest	- Verordening (EU) 2018/848 inzake de biologische productie en de etikettering van biologische producten en haar uitvoeringsbesluiten. - Verordening (EU) 2017/625 betreffende officiële controles en andere officiële activiteiten die worden uitgevoerd om de toepassing van de levensmiddelen- en diervoederwetgeving en van de voorschriften inzake diergezondheid, dierenwelzijn, plantgezondheid en gewasbeschermingsmiddelen te waarborgen - Andere van toepassing zijnde documenten uitgegeven door de Europese Commissie met betrekking tot Verordening (EU) . 2018/848 + specific legislation of the region XXX
	Belgium: En Région Bruxelloise / In het Gewest Brussel	- Règlement (UE) 2018/848 relatif à la production biologique et à l'étiquetage des produits biologiques et ses règlements d'application / Verordening (EU) 2018/848 inzake de biologische productie en de etikettering van biologische producten en haar uitvoeringsbesluiten. - Règlement (UE) 2017/625 concernant les contrôles officiels et les autres activités officielles servant à assurer le respect de la législation alimentaire et de la législation relative aux aliments pour animaux [...] / Verordening (EU) 2017/625 betreffende officiële controles en andere officiële activiteiten die worden uitgevoerd om de toepassing van de levensmiddelen- en diervoederwetgeving [...] te waarborgen - Autre documentation applicable publiée par la Commission européenne concernant le règlement (UE) 2018/848 / Andere van toepassing zijnde documenten uitgegeven door de Europese Commissie met betrekking tot Verordening (EU) 2018/848 + specific legislation of the region XXX

Products (Regulation (EU) 2018/848, Art 35 (7))	European Member state (or region if available)	Legislation
	Country xxx	- Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production and labelling of organic products and its associated delegated and implementing acts; - Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, - Other applicable documentation published by the European Commission regarding Regulation (EU) 2018/848. + Specific legislation of the country XXX + Standard control procedures available to the CB

8.2 Operations in third countries

Products (Regulation (EU) 2018/848, Art 35 (7))	Third Country or countries	Legislation
(a) unprocessed plants and plant products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material; (b) livestock and unprocessed livestock products; (c) algae and unprocessed aquaculture products; (d) processed agricultural products, including aquaculture products, for use as food; (e) feed; (f) wine; (g) other products listed in Annex I to Regulation 2018/848 or not covered by the previous categories. Option: Group Operators	For the following third countries: Country 1 Country 2 … when the assessment is done in the languages specified hereafter: Language a Language b …	- Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production and labelling of organic products and its implementation regulations; recognition according to Art 46 and Associated delegated acts and implementing acts - Regulation (EU) 2021/1698 with procedural requirements for the recognition of control authorities and control bodies that are competent to carry out controls on operators and groups of operators certified organic and on organic products in third countries and with rules on their supervision and the controls and other actions to be performed by those control authorities and control bodies - Other applicable documentation published by the European Commission regarding Regulation (EU) 2018/848; - Codex Alimentarius CAC/GL 32 Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods. + Standard control procedures available to the CB

* The list of Countries & categories for Third Countries can also be managed by the CB taking into account the rules for flexible scopes (BELAC 2-002)