



Chapter 4 – Mexican organic program

Introduction

This chapter of the CAEQ Accreditation Guide covers requirements that a certification body must comply to be approved by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, SAGARPA), through the National Service of Animal and Plant Health, Quality and Food Safety (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria, SENASICA) to provide certification services under the Mexican Law for Organic Products - LPO (Ley de Productos Orgánicos). It means to be accredited by the CAEQ and approved by the Secretariat of SAGARPA and to be under the oversight of the CAEQ as an Accreditation Body.

This chapter must be combined with the chapter I of the present Accreditation guide which is based on the ISO/IEC 17065 (Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services).



Scope

Legal basis

Considering the Article 18 of Law for Organic Products (Ley Productos Organicos):

Organizations interested in being approved to certify organic products certification must meet the following minimum requirements:

- I. Request written approval to the Secretariat, and
- II. Prove I have accredited by an accreditation body in accordance with the Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization and / or demonstrate Accreditation under ISO 17065 or national equivalent or other countries.

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Stakeholders

There are 3 main players:

- I. Certification Bodies (CBs) accredited by the CAEQ and approved by the Mexican Secretariat which are responsible to certify organic products.
- II. Accreditation Body which are responsible to assess and monitor the CBs.
- III. Secretariat through the SENASICA who recognizes and legally authorizes a Certification Body to carry out the functions of certification body or inspector.

Who can be accredited under the Law for Organic Products?

- I. All CBs which have operators in Mexico.
- II. All CBs which have operators outside Mexico which intend to export organic products in Mexico and are not cover by an equivalency arrangement.

Accreditation requirements

All CBs which apply to be accredited by the CAEQ and approved by the Secretariat must comply with the following requirements:

- Demonstrates to the CAEQ that it complies with ISO/IEC 17065 requirements - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services [See chapter I]



<https://www.iso.org/standard/46568.html>

- Demonstrates to the CAEQ that it complies with Law for Organic Products - LPO (Ley de Productos Orgánicos)

<https://www.gob.mx/senasica/documentos/39618>

The LPO standard encompasses the following scopes:

- Plant production

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- Plant production (wild collection)
- Animal production (domestic)
- Animal production of natural ecosystems or non-domestic
- Animal production (insect-class including apiculture)
- Production of fungi
- Processing of products from agricultural activities
- Marketing of products from agricultural activities

In addition to the Organic Product Law (LPO) other documents are developed to complete Mexico Organic Program requirements.

Regulations of the Law for Organic Products as stated in Article 1 is to regulate the Organic Products Law. Its provisions are of public order and social interest, application and interpretation corresponds to the Federal Executive through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, unless concerned in the production and processing of timber and non-timber forest resources, forest raw materials, products and by-products; specimens, parts or derivatives of wildlife and other natural resources from areas for the conservation of ecosystems, the application and interpretation for the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, in accordance with the law governing matters competence.



<https://www.gob.mx/senasica/documentos/39618>

Guidelines for the organic operation of the agricultural and livestock activities is aimed to regulate the organic operation developed by individual or legal entities in terms of agriculture and livestock, as well as the procedures for its certification and recognition. The document specifies mainly the skills and expertise to certify organic products regarding the conversion, crop and livestock production, storage, transportation, processing and marketing, labeling, certification, list management, substances, materials and methods for organic production.

<https://www.gob.mx/senasica/documentos/39618>

In addition, Guidelines for the organic operation of the agricultural and livestock activities and the General Rules for Use of the National Seal define specific requirements for organic products to be labeled as organic or that bear the Mexico Organic seal. For organic products, operators certified under the LPO must state on their labels the provisions of Article 44 of the Regulations of LPO and Articles 201 and 204 of Guidelines for the Organic Operation for LPO.

<https://www.gob.mx/senasica/documentos/39618>


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Approval

As part of the accreditation process, CAEQ provides the control bodies with reports relating to the documentary review, on-site/remote assessment (office audit and witness audits), monitoring and other on-going evaluation of its activities. The Secretariat through the SENASICA recognizes and legally authorizes a Certification Body to carry out its functions by granting an approval letter.

The names of SENASICA's accredited certification bodies are listed here:

<https://www.gob.mx/senasica/documentos/organismos-de-certificacion-organica?state=published>

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