

ANNEX

**Response of the Competent Authorities of Israel to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6697-MR of an audit carried out from 24 February to 07 March 2013 in order to evaluate the application of organic production rules, the effectiveness of the control system for organic production and the supervision carried out by the competent authority**

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	Ensure that any changes made to the measures in force in Israel or their implementation and in particular to its control system are notified to the Commission as required by Article 9(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.	The Administration is committed to notify all authorities and relevant parties of any changes made to the measures in force or their implementation and in particular its control system in Israel The Administration has updated the Operation Manual (see attached the updated manual, section 1 paragraph 1.1.2) accordingly.
2	Ensure that samples are taken in accordance with the sampling protocol of the Competent Authority and in accordance with the Codex Food Standard “General Guidelines on Sampling” (CAS/GL 50-2004).	The PPIS Administration has updated the guidelines for sampling produce and soil for pesticide residues in the Operation Manual (see attached the updated manual, section 5). All CBs were informed of the changes and have updated their guidelines accordingly. In addition, all CBs are obligated to carry out internal training of all auditors concerning the updated sampling method.
3	Ensure that only plant protection products are use in organic production that are authorized for this purpose in accordance with the Organic Produce Regulations (Preparations used during the production of organic plant produce) 5768-2008 and in particular that the reporting limit of 0.1 ppm for Endosulfan is not applied.	The PPIS Administration has updated the guidelines for handling irregularities, including those of prohibited pesticides residues in organic produce (see attached the updated manual, paragraph 4). As part of those guidelines we have determined rules for the approval of residues due to environmental contamination (section 4, paragraph 4.2). All CBs were informed of the changes and updated their guidelines accordingly. Regarding Endosulfan – this substance is prohibited for use in organic agriculture and has also been banned for use in conventional agriculture in Israel by the end of 2013.
4	Ensure compliance with the specifications for which Israel is listed in Annex III of Regulation (EC) NO 1235/2008 and in	The Administration is committed to work in compliance with the equivalency requirements. However, this issue is still under discussion

ANNEX

**Response of the Competent Authorities of Israel to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6697-MR of an audit carried out from 24 February to 07 March 2013 in order to evaluate the application of organic production rules, the effectiveness of the control system for organic production and the supervision carried out by the competent authority**

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
	particular that organic products are exported to the EU only originating from Israel, the EU or from a third country recognized as equivalent in accordance with the provisions of Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.	between the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the EU Commission. Once the issue is solved at this level the Administration will submit the proposed actions.
5	Ensure that the permit as referred to in point 1 of the Law for the Regulation of Organic Produce covers all activities of the certified operators.	The PPIS Administration's guidelines for handling irregularities in the Operation Manual includes sanctions in cases where an operator labels organic produce not in accordance to his organic permit (see attached the updated manual section 4, paragraph 4.4.4). All CBs are obligated to act in accordance with this Operation Manual's requirements and to update their guidelines accordingly
6	Ensure that inspections at operators are effective so that agricultural produce are grown and treated in compliance with provisions of the Law for the Regulation of Organic Produce.	The Organic Produce regulation (Certification and Control Body) 5768-2008 has determined rules and specifications for the training of auditors (section 8 of the regulation). All CBs must carry out annual training of its employees concerning the organic regulations provisions. In addition, the PPIS Administration performs parallel audits for the assessment of the CBs inspection skills, as described in the Administration Operation manual (paragraph 3, section 3.2.2)
7	Ensure that the Certification and Control Body approves the use of unmarked seeds or propagation agents only if it was proven to its satisfaction that marked seeds or propagation agents are unavailable as required by Point 24 of the Organic Produce Regulation (“Organic Plant Produce – Production and Sale”).	The PPIS Administration has updated the guidelines for the approval of seed and unmarked propagation material in the Operation Manual (see attached the updated manual, paragraph 11). All CBs were informed of the changes and updated their guidelines accordingly

Action Plan received from the Competent Authority, 12/5/2013

ANNEX

**Response of the Competent Authorities of Israel to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6697-MR of an audit carried out from 24 February to 07 March 2013 in order to evaluate the application of organic production rules, the effectiveness of the control system for organic production and the supervision carried out by the competent authority**

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
8	Ensure that organic products exported to the EU are labeled in accordance with Article 24(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.	The PPIS Administration has updated the guidelines in the Operation Manual for labeling organic produce with the EU organic logo (see attached the updated manual, paragraph 6, section 6.2). All CBs were informed of the changes and updated their guidelines accordingly