



**Publication
Reference**

EA-3/02 M: 2022

EA policy for the accreditation of Certification Bodies providing certification of PDO, PGI and TSG *

*** PDO: Protected Designations of Origin
PGI: Protected Geographical Indications
TSG: Traditional Specialities Guaranteed**

PURPOSE

This document outlines the EA policy for national accreditation bodies (NABs) when processing accreditation to certification bodies (CBs) for:

- Agricultural products and foodstuffs (Regulation (EU) 1151/2012),
- Grapevine products (Regulation (EU) 1308/2013),
- Spirit drinks (Regulation (EU) 787/2019),
- Aromatised grapevine products (Regulation (EU) 1151/2012, Regulation (EU) 251/2014).

It specifies how to use categories for scopes and rules for witnessing for accreditation against ISO/IEC 17065

Authorship

This document has been written by a task force group of the EA Certification Committee.

Official language

The text may be translated into other languages as required. The English language version remains the definitive version.

Copyright

The copyright of this text is held by EA. The text may not be copied for resale.

Further information

For further information about this publication, please contact the EA Secretariat.

Please check our website for up-to-date information at <http://www.european-accreditation.org>

Category:	Members' procedural document - Mandatory
Date of endorsement:	31 st May 2022
Date of implementation:	10 th June 2023
Transition period:	Period of time between the approval and implementation dates

CONTENTS

1	SCOPE.....	4
2	ACCREDITATION SCOPE.....	4
2.1	FIXED SCOPE.....	5
2.2	FLEXIBLE SCOPE.....	6
3	ASSESSMENT PROCESS.....	6
3.1	GRANTING ACCREDITATION.....	6
3.2	SURVEILLANCE.....	7
3.3	EXTENSION.....	7

1 SCOPE

This document is intended to provide and outline the policy for national accreditation bodies undertaking assessment and accreditation of certification bodies seeking to certify PDO's, PGI's and TSG's covering:

- Agricultural products and foodstuffs (Regulation (EU) 1151/2012);
- Spirits, aromatised wines or grapevine products.

It provides direction on the formulation of accreditation scopes for PDO/PGI/TSG products based on categories and it outlines details on assessment strategy, number and type of assessment works to be undertaken before accreditation granting and minimum frequencies of assessments for maintenance of accreditation, post granting.

2 ACCREDITATION SCOPE

The scope of accreditation shall be expressed by referring at least to the following categories:

Table 1 - Agricultural products and foodstuffs covered by Reg. (EU) 1151/2012, considering the classification of Annex XI of Reg. (EU) 668/2014

No	Accreditation category
1.1	Fresh meat and offal
1.2	Meat products (cooked, salted, smoked, etc.)
1.3	Cheeses
1.4	Other products of animal origin (eggs, honey, various dairy products except butter, etc.)
1.5	Oils and fats (butter, margarine, oil, etc.)
1.6	Fruit, vegetables and cereals fresh or processed
1.7	Fresh fish, molluscs, and crustaceans and products derived therefrom
1.8	Other products listed in Annex I to the Treaty (spices etc.)
1.9	Classes 2.1 to 2.8 and 2.21 to 2.27 as referred to in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 (food)
1.10	Classes 2.9 to 2.20 as referred to in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 (non-food)

Table 2 - Spirits, aromatised grapevine products or grapevine products

2.1	Wines
2.2	Spirits
2.3	Aromatised grapevine products

2.1 Fixed scope

In case of fixed scope, the accreditation scope shall contain at least the following information:

Product	Certification requirements	Certification procedure
Agricultural products and foodstuffs covered by Reg. (EU) 1151/2012, considering the classification of Annex XI of Reg. (EU) 668/2014		
Product category	Reg. (EU) 1151/2012 and subsequent amendments	Reference to the specific control plan and certification procedure
Name of Product(s)	Single document with the product characteristics mentioned by the corresponding implementing Regulation	
Spirits, aromatised grapevine products or grapevine products		
Wines	Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 and subsequent amendments	Reference to the specific control plan and certification procedure
Name of Product(s)	Single document with the product characteristics mentioned by the corresponding implementing Regulation or Technical Specification	
Spirits	Regulation (EU) 787/2019 and subsequent amendments	Reference to the specific control plan and certification procedure
Name of Product(s)	Single document with the product characteristics mentioned by the corresponding implementing Regulation or Technical Specification	
Aromatised grapevine products	Reg. (EU) 1151/2012 Reg. (EU) 251/2014 and subsequent amendments	Reference to the specific control plan and certification procedure
Name of Product(s)	Single document with the product characteristics mentioned by the corresponding implementing Regulation or Technical Specification	

2.2 Flexible scope

In case of flexible scope, the accreditation scope shall contain at least the following information:

Agricultural products and foodstuffs covered by Reg. 1151/2012	
Product categories	Certification requirements & procedure
Product categories according to Table 1	Reg. (EU) 1151/2012 and subsequent amendments Control plan and certification procedure
Spirits, aromatised grapevine products or grapevine products	
Product categories	Certification requirements & procedure
Wines	Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 and subsequent amendments Control plan and certification procedure
Spirits	Regulation (EU) 787/2019 and subsequent amendments Control plan and certification procedure
Aromatised grapevine products	Reg. (EU) 1151/2012 Reg. (EU) 251/2014 and subsequent amendments Control plan and certification procedure

When providing flexible scope additionally EA-2/15 shall apply.

The scope shall be identified as flexible and the way to obtain the detailed list of accredited activities (as per tables above) shall be mentioned.

3 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3.1 Granting Accreditation

For granting accreditation at least one office assessment and at least one witness assessment per product category (referring to tables 1 and 2) shall be performed by the NAB.

In exceptional cases, the witness assessment can be postponed as condition to accreditation if business activities inevitably relate to recognition by the national CA.

However, accredited certificates for these scopes can only be issued after the relevant witnessing activities have been concluded favourably and a positive decision is taken by the NAB.

If the result of the witnessing activity postponed is negative, the NAB shall consider reducing the scope of accreditation.

If the evaluation of the product includes testing (sensory or otherwise) performed either by the CB or subcontracted to other body, and if it is not performed under accreditation, NABs shall plan to assess this activity (by witnessing and/or office assessment) for granting accreditation. The assessment/witnessing team shall include competent resources for the assessment of the testing activities.

3.2 Surveillance

During one accreditation cycle, all product categories shall be assessed by witness assessment and file review during office assessments.

If the evaluation of the product includes sensory testing performed either by the CB or subcontracted to another body, and testing is not performed under accreditation, NABs shall plan to assess this activity least once during the accreditation cycle. The assessment/witnessing team shall include competent resources for the assessment of the testing activities.

3.3 Extension

3.3.1 Fixed Scope

An extension for a new product category requires the successful completion of an on-site witness assessment. After accreditation has been granted for a product category, inclusion of other products in the accreditation scope for that category may, if possible, be granted by documental review to assess that the CB possesses the necessary competence to certify the new product(s), and it has at least one client.

3.3.2 Flexible Scope

An extension for a new product category requires one witnessing. After accreditation has been granted for a product category, for the inclusion of other products in the flexible accreditation scope, EA-2/15 applies.