IMO Control Private Limited

IMO IN I 4.5.1 Sanction Policy

1. General:

All non-compliances that remain unresolved by suitable actions by the concerned operators will come under appropriate sanctions by IMO IN during certification. The sanctions in any individual case are proportionate to the severity of deviations and their impacts on the certified products.

The different sanction categories are listed in the table in Section 3. Sanctions may be combined, i.e. more than one sanction may be imposed for the same non-compliance.

When several requirements of the Standards are not complied with, the overall sanction may be more severe than those for the individual non-compliances. Fraud or hiding of information will lead to a more severe sanction for the same non-compliance than would result from an open disclosure by the operator.

2. Sanction Procedures:

The sanctions are set by the IMO IN Certification Officers in the course of the certification process. IMO IN's certification decisions with the applied sanctions are always communicated to the operators in writing.

The certified operators can appeal against IMO IN's certification decisions within 14 days of receipt by rebutting the findings that have lead to the certification decisions and/or sanctions. The appeals and rebuttals have to be substantiated adequately with more information, facts and documents in addition to those that were already available when the certification decision was made. When the appeals of operators can resolve each finding by either proving that full compliance has been achieved or by a valid rebuttal, IMO IN will issue an amended certification decision.

3. Categories of findings & sanctions and catalogue of measures:

'IMO IN I 4.5.10 Categories of findings and sanctions' provides the explanations / descriptions of IMO IN categories of findings and the corresponding sanctions / measures under each. Further, it provides the corresponding categories under NPOP, EU & COR standards.

'IMO IN I 4.5.9 Catalogue of measures' provides examples of findings in production, processing and group operations, their categories as well as measures or actions to be taken and deadlines.

4. Specific sanction procedures for grower groups

The member farmers in a grower group (=group of operators) are not separately and individually certified operators. The entire grower group with the internal control system (ICS) is the certified operator. Accordingly, a non-compliance (of a certain level) detected in individual member farms is not immediately taken to be a non-compliance of the same level for the entire grower group.

Whenever a non-compliance in individual member farms noted by IMO IN is at a higher frequency (or percentage) than that had been identified & reported by the ICS, the group will be provided the opportunity to carry out another round of internal inspections to diligently identify & report, within a short time frame, about the presence of that non-compliance. Further, the ICS will need to locate the affected product(s) in the supply chain and initiate measures to prevent them from being marketed as organic.

In case these actions by the ICS are assessed to be sufficient by IMO IN, appropriate sanctions will be imposed only on the concerned member farms. However, when the actions taken by the ICS are assessed to be not sufficient & acceptable by IMO IN, appropriate sanctions will be imposed on the entire grower group.