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**GUIDANCE ON CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING GLUTEN-FREE CERTIFICATION SCHEMES**

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EVALUATING GLUTEN-FREE  
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Issue No 1

Approved by: Board of Directors  
Issue Date: 13.01.2020

Date: 06.01.2020  
Application Date: Immediate

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## **I. FOREWORD**

The International Natural Accreditation Forum (i-NAF) is an independent, non-government network of natural accreditation bodies all mandated to enforce Natural, Vegan, Vegetarian, Halal Gluten-free, Gluten Free, Eco Global Labels etc. NSO Life Chain Standards in their economies and regions.

It has been established with the aim of unifying and harmonizing Gluten-free natural accreditation practices on global level to comply with gluten-free natural principles, requirements and to develop and maintain Natural Multi-Lateral Arrangements (MLA) among i-NAF member natural accreditation bodies(NABs/ABs), this will result in removing technical barriers facing natural / vegan / vegetarian / halal / gluten-free, eco products and services, and facilitating international gluten-free natural products and services trade, hence protecting the growing number of consumers.

This guide provides the requirements for evaluating schemes related to gluten-free. This guide endorsed by i-NAF Board of Directors.

This guide provides the requirements for evaluating schemes related to gluten-free. This guide endorsed by i-NAF Board of Directors.

This guide is a reference document for gluten-free and halal gluten-free certification schemes. It includes the evaluation criteria based on which i-NAF shall approve the schemes.

The effective date for implementation of this document is the date of endorsed by i-NAF Board of Directors.

The guide is published on the i-NAF website ([www.i-naf.org](http://www.i-naf.org)).



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## **II. INTRODUCTION**

i-NAF role is to provide and maintain confidence in natural certificates (Natural, Vegan, Vegetarian, Halal Vegan, Gluten-Free, Eco Global Label etc. and marks issued by Natural Conformity Assessment Bodies through approving gluten-free certification schemes and having a mutual acceptance for these schemes between member natural accreditation bodies in the field of gluten-free.

The purpose of this document is to set the evaluation criteria for gluten-free certification schemes to complement the implementation of the international standard ISO/IEC 17065:2012 to fulfil the requirements of gluten-free.

To provide confidence on NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free certificates and marks; gluten-free certification bodies shall adopt certification schemes and seek accreditation for its certification activities as per the scheme requirements by an i-NAF signatory natural accreditation body. This will facilitate the global gluten-free trade.



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## **1. SCOPE**

This guide is applied for all NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Certification Schemes. Schemes Owners shall ensure that their gluten-free certification schemes are complying with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and this guide. certification bodies who are willing to obtain accreditation from i-NAF's member natural accreditation body as a gluten-free certification body (GFCBs/CBs) shall comply with these requirements.

Requirements specified in this guide are general requirements for gluten-free product and are applicable to any sub-scope; food and cosmetics and services etc. during all stages of processing.

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**2. NORMATIVE REFERENCES**

- 2.1** ISO/IEC 17000 Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles.
- 2.2** ISO/IEC 17007 Conformity assessment — Guidance for drafting normative documents suitable for use for conformity assessment.
- 2.3** ISO/IEC 17065 Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.
- 2.4** ISO/IEC 17067 Conformity assessment — Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes.
- 2.5** ISO/IEC Guide 23 Methods of indicating conformity with standards for third-party certification systems
- 2.6** ISO/IEC 17030:2003 Conformity assessment — General requirements for third-party marks of conformity.
- 2.7** ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — part 1: requirements
- 2.8** ISO 22000:2018 Food Safety Management Systems-Requirements for any organization in the food chain
- 2.9** ISO/TS 22003:2013 Food Safety Management Systems — Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Food Safety Management Systems
- 2.10** ISO 22005 Traceability in the feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation.
- 2.11** ISO 22716:2007 Cosmetics — Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) — Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices
- 2.12** NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain
- 2.13** NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Standard
- 2.14** i-NAF NIG 4 Guidance On NSO-NAP 12 GLUTEN-FREE Criteria Auditor Selection Training and Control (i-NAF Rules Document).
- 2.15** i-NAF NMG 8:2020 Guidance on Criteria for Gluten-Free Accreditation Bodies (i-NAF Rules Document).
- 2.16** i-NAF NMG 9:2020 Guidance on Criteria for Gluten-Free Certification Bodies (i-NAF Rules Document).

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**3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

Terms and definitions contained in ISO/IEC 17000, ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 shall be applied in addition to:

**3.1 Certification Scheme (Gluten-Free Certification Scheme):**

Rules, procedures and management for carrying out certification process related specifically to gluten-free field, to which the specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply of an object in addition to other relevant gluten-free requirements for that specific object.

**3.2 Gluten:**

It is a complex group of proteins containing products as (cereal) wheat, barley, oats, rye, etc. (e.g. gluten, gliadin, secallin, hordein) (NSO-NAP 12)

**3.3 Gluten-Free:**

Food (including water and beverages) or cosmetic product that does not contain gluten in the structure or contains less than 20 ppm.( 20/1.000.000, % 0,00002) of gluten. (NSO-NAP 12)

**3.4 Certification Body - CBs (Gluten-Free Certification Body - GFCBs/NCBs):**

Natural Conformity Assessment Body performs activities that are fully complying with the NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Standard certification requirements. The term “Gluten-Free” covers products/services.

**3.5 Scheme Owner:**

NSO-NBE Global

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**4. General Requirements For NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Certification Schemes**

**Any Scheme developed for NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free either related to food or cosmetic and to related process and services shall comply with the followings:**

**4.1** Within the content of the certification scheme, the following shall be clearly defined:

- a) The competencies related to its scope (s)
- b) Brief about; if it is an accreditation body, government, certification body, etc.;
- c) Declaration that the scheme is based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 (ISO / IEC 17021-1 is also required for some scopes) Standard(s), processes and services and does not contradict the requirements of this international standard;
- d) Scope of the scheme with regard to the sectors/products (product/service) covered under the NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-free certification process with specifying any exclusions, if any;
- e) Specify the qualified applications for the scheme;
- f) Conditions for the clients seeking NSO-NAP 12 gluten-free certificate mark(logo/label) for their products (product/service);
- g) Clearly defined criteria for evaluation;
- h) Reference standards/regulations/legislations that shall be met;
- i) Any additional requirements that shall be met in a specific sector; either related to premises, staff, systems, processes, transportation, etc. (if applicable);
- j) Description of the gluten-free certification process, or reference to any relevant document that describes the gluten-free certification process;
- k) The stages of NSO-NAP 12 gluten-free certification activities, to include as minimum selection, determination, review, decision on certification and attestation.
- l) Description of the competency criteria required for staff involved in the NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-free certification process for the product(s)/service(s) within the scheme scope;
- m) Description of the decision-making process or reference to any relevant document that describes the decision-making process;
- n) Requirement for the client to have arrangements for segregation and procedure to prevent cross contamination.
- o) Requirement for the client to have arrangements for handling nonconformities related to gluten-free products/services/activities; this includes taking strict measures to prevent re-occurrence of such non-conformities.
- p) Description of the mechanism for handling claims related to NSO-NAP 12 gluten-free certified products/services;
- q) General conditions for using NSO-NAP 12 gluten-free certificates and marks(logos/labels) or reference to any relevant document;
- r) Provisions for misuse NSO-NAP 12 gluten-free certificates or marks (logos/labels);
- s) NBE Global' s, gluten-free related Organization web site description of the monitoring process for issued NSO-NAP 12 gluten-free certificates and marks(logos/labels).

**4.2** The NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free certification scheme shall comply with the country gluten-free regulations (if applicable) of manufacture and destination.



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- 4.3** For scope product(s)/service(s) as defined in the scheme the determination activities shall include sampling and inspection (if applicable) and testing (see NSO-NAP 12 Standard Clause 5).
- 4.4** The scheme shall ensure that the following requirements are met for products declared “Gluten-Free”. These requirements shall be clearly stated within the certification scheme:
- Gluten-Free product(s)/service(s) shall not contain any ingredient/element/part/or traces(> 20 ppm. or > 20/1.000.000 or > 0,00002%) of gluten.
  - Gluten-Free product(s)/service(s) shall not contain gluten (< 20 ppm. or < 20/1.000.000 or < 0,00002%).
  - Gluten-Free Product(s)/Service(s) shall not be subjected to come in contact with any which process/structure is Gluten.
  - Gluten-Free product shall not contain illegal.
  - Hygiene-Safety/GMP requirements shall be met for gluten-free products.
  - Any equipment/tool contaminated/contact with gluten shall not be used in any step of the preparation, manufacturing, packaging, storage, and transportation of the gluten-free product.
  - Source of materials used in the gluten-free products shall be gluten-free structure.
- 4.5** The gluten-free certification body (CB/GFCB/NCB) shall appoint minimum of two (2) staff in a permanent supervisory post who is competent and well trained in gluten-free requirements (see i-NAF NIG 4 Guidance on NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Criteria Auditor Selection Training and Control).

**SECTION A - FOR FOOD SUB-SCOPE;****5. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Food Certification Schemes:**

- 5.1** NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Food Certification Schemes shall require implementation of other relevant systems like ISO 22000:2018 Food Safety Management System (FSMS) and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain.
- 5.2** Products/Services covered within the scheme shall fulfil the countries relevant polices and requirements of concerned authority (ies).

**SECTION B - FOR NON-FOOD SUB-SCOPE;****6. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 12 Gluten-Free Cosmetic Certification Schemes:**

- 6.1** Gluten-Free Cosmetic Certification Schemes shall require compliance with Cosmetic Good Manufacturing Practice (ISO 22716 GMP) and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain.



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**6.2** Products covered within the scheme shall fulfil the countries relevant polices and requirements of concerned authority (ies).