



GUIDANCE ON CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING VEGAN-VEGETARIAN CERTIFICATION SCHEMES



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EVALUATING VEGAN-VEGETARIAN
CERTIFICATION SCHEMES**

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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 Vegan-Vegetarian and Eco Global Labels etc. Life Chain Standards in their economies and regions.

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

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

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This guide is a reference document for vegan-vegetarian and halal vegan-vegetarian 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).



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II. INTRODUCTION

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

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

To provide confidence on NSO-NAP 7 vegan-vegetarian certificates and marks; vegan-vegetarian 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 vegan-vegetarian/natural trade.



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1. SCOPE

This guide is applied for all NSO-NAP 7 vegan-vegetarian certification schemes. Schemes Owners shall ensure that their vegan-vegetarian 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 vegan-vegetarian certification body (VVCBs/VCBs) shall comply with these requirements.

Requirements specified in this guide are general requirements for vegan-vegetarian product and are applicable to any sub-scope; e.g. food, cosmetics, drug/medical, non-food (textile, shoes, bag etc.), disinfectant, cleaning agent 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 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 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems — Requirements
- 2.12** ISO 13485:2016 Medical Devices — Quality Management Systems — Requirements for Regulatory Purposes
- 2.13** ISO 22716:2007 Cosmetics — Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) — Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices
- 2.14** NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain
- 2.15** NSO-NAP 3 Eco Global Labels Standard
- 2.16** NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Standard
- 2.17** i-NAF NIG 3 Guidance On NSO-NAP 7 VEGAN-VEGETARIAN Criteria Auditor Selection Training and Control (i-NAF Rules Document).
- 2.18** i-NAF NMG 5 Guidance on Criteria for Vegan-Vegetarian Accreditation Body (i-NAF Rules Document).
- 2.19** i-NAF NMG 6: 2018 Guidance on Criteria for Vegan-Vegetarian 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 (Vegan-Vegetarian Certification Scheme):

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

3.2 Vegan:

Final product that has no content of any animal food or non-food ingredient, and products, that no animal content used at any production and processing, or not completed by food, or no non-food animal product used.

3.3 Vegetarian:

Final product that has no content of cut and slaughter product (red meat and processed red meat) but other animal products completely or partly can be used at production process and stage

3.4 Certification Body - CBs (Vegan-Vegetarian Certification Body - VVABs/VABs/NCBs):

Natural Conformity assessment body performs activities that are fully complying with the NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Standard certification requirements. The term "Vegan and/or Vegetarian" covers products/services.

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4. General Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Certification Schemes:

Any Scheme developed for NSO-NAP 7 vegan-vegetarian either related to food and non-food (cosmetics, drug/medical, textile, leather, shoe, energy, tourism) 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 7 vegan-vegetarian certification process with specifying any exclusions, if any;
- e) Specify the qualified applications for the scheme;
- f) Conditions for the clients seeking NSO-NAP 7 vegan-vegetarian 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 vegan-vegetarian certification process, or reference to any relevant document that describes the vegan-vegetarian certification process;
- k) The stages of NSO-NAP 7 vegan-vegetarian 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 7 vegan-vegetarian 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 vegan-vegetarian 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 7 vegan/vegetarian certified products/services;
- q) General conditions for using NSO-NAP 7 vegan/vegetarian certificates and marks(logos/labels) or reference to any relevant document;
- r) Provisions for misuse NSO-NAP 7 vegan/vegetarian certificates or marks (logos/labels);
- s) NBE Foundation / IBI, Vegan-Vegetarian Organization web site (www.veganvegetarian.org /www.veganvegetaryen.org) description of the monitoring process for issued NSO-NAP 7 vegan/vegetarian certificates and marks(logos/labels).

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- 4.2** The NSO-NAP 7 vegan-vegetarian certification scheme shall comply with the country vegan-vegetarian regulations (if applicable) of manufacture and destination.
- 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 7 Standard ANNEX B).
- 4.4** The scheme shall ensure that the following requirements are met for products declared “Vegan/Vegetarian”. These requirements shall be clearly stated within the certification scheme:
- a)** Vegan product(s)/service(s) shall not contain any element/part/or traces of animals;
 - b)** Vegetarian product(s)/service(s) shall not contain meat and meat products of animals
vegan/vegetarian product shall not contain GMOs;
 - c)** Vegan/Vegetarian Product(s)/Service(s) shall not be subjected to come in contact with any which process/structure is non-vegan/vegetarian.
 - d)** Vegan/Vegetarian product shall not contain illegal ingredient and unhealthy;
 - e)** Hygiene and Safety requirements shall be met for vegan/vegetarian products.
 - f)** Any equipment/tool contaminated with non-vegan/vegetarian elements shall not be used in any step of the preparation, manufacturing, packaging, storage, and transportation of the vegan/vegetarian product.
 - g)** Source of materials used in the vegan/vegetarian products shall be vegan/vegetarian structure.
- 4.5** The vegan-vegetarian certification body (CB/VVCB/VCB/NCB) shall appoint minimum of two (2) staff in a permanent supervisory post who is competent and well trained in vegan-vegetarian requirements (see i-NAF NIG 3 Guidance On NSO-NAP 7 VEGAN-VEGETARIAN Criteria Auditor Selection Training and Control).

SECTION A - FOR FOOD SUB-SCOPE;**5. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Food Certification Schemes:**

- 5.1** NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Food Certification Schemes shall require implementation of other relevant systems like ISO 22000 Food Safety Management System (FSMS), ISO 9001 quality management system (QMS) and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain (HBMS-LC).
- 5.2** Products/Services covered within the scheme shall fulfil the countries relevant polices and requirements of concerned authority (ies).

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SECTION B - FOR NON-FOOD SUB-SCOPE;**6. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Drug/Medical Certification Schemes:**

6.1 Vegan-Vegetarian Drug/Medical Certification Schemes shall require compliance with ISO 13485:2016 Medical Devices — Quality Management Systems — Requirements for Regulatory Purposes and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) that exists in the scheme owner's country.

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

7. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Textile Certification Schemes:

7.1 Vegan-Vegetarian Textile Certification Schemes shall require compliance with Azotex Natural Textile Standard (NSO-NAP 9), NSO-NAP 3 Eco Global Labels Standard and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain (HBMS-LC).

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

8. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Imitation Leather Certification Schemes:

8.1 Vegan-Vegetarian Imitation Leader Certification Schemes shall require compliance with Azotex Natural Textile Standard (NSO-NAP 9), NSO-NAP 3 Eco Global Labels Standard and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain (HBMS-LC).

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

9. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Shoe Certification Schemes:

9.1 Vegan-Vegetarian Shoe Certification Schemes shall require compliance with Azotex Natural Textile Standard (NSO-NAP 9), NSO-NAP 3 Eco Global Labels Standard and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain (HBMS-LC).

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

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10. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Chemistry-Cosmetic Certification Schemes:

10.1 Halal Chemistry-Cosmetic Certification Schemes shall require compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP, GMP+ISO 22716), NSO-NAP 3 Eco Global Labels Standard and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain (HBMS-LC).

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

11. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Energy Certification Schemes:

11.1 Vegan-vegetarian Energy Certification Schemes shall require implementation of other relevant systems like ISO 50001 Energy Management System (EnMS), NSO-NAP 3 Eco Global Labels Standard and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain (HBMS-LC).

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

12. Additional Requirements for NSO-NAP 7 Vegan-Vegetarian Tourism Certification Schemes:

12.1 Vegan-vegetarian Tourism Certification Schemes shall require implementation of other relevant systems like NSO-NAP 3 Eco Global Labels Standard and NSO-NAP 10 Hygiene, Health and Biosafety Management System Standard for the Life Chain (HBMS-LC).

12.2 Services covered within the scheme shall fulfil the countries relevant polices and requirements of concerned authority (ies).