

Policy

PL - 56

EA POLICY FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF CERTIFICATION BODIES PROVIDING CERTIFICATION OF PDO, PGI AND TSG * (EA-3/02M: 2026)

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This policy is a translation of document EA-3/02M: 2026 EA Policy for the Accreditation of Certification Bodies providing certification of PDO, PGI and TSG.

A new Clause 3.4 has been added to the document, addressing the implementation of the policy within SNAS.

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PURPOSE

This document outlines the EA policy for national accreditation bodies (NABs) when processing accreditation to certification bodies (CBs) for geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialities guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products according to Regulation (EU) 2024/1143. It specifies how to use categories for scopes and rules for witnessing for accreditation against EN ISO/IEC 17065.

Authorship

This document has been written by the EA Certification Committee

Official language

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

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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>

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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 according to the European regulation related geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialties guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products (Reg. EU 2024/1143).

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 product categories mentioned in the second column:

Table 1 - Product categories covered by Annex II and Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143

No	Product category	Combined Nomenclature Code (CN)
1.1	Fresh meat and offal	02
1.2	Meat products (cooked, salted, smoked, etc.)	16
1.3	Cheeses	0406
1.4	Other products of animal origin (eggs, honey, various dairy products except butter, etc.)	04
1.5	Oils and fats (butter, margarine, oil, etc.)	15
1.6	Fruit, vegetables and cereals fresh or processed	07; 08; 10; 11; 20
1.7	Fresh fish, molluscs, and crustaceans and products derived therefrom	03; 16
1.8	Other products listed in Annex I to the Treaty (spices etc.)	Class 1.8 covers diverse headings of the combined nomenclature
1.9	Classes 2.1 to 2.8 and 2.22 (food)	2203; 1806; 1905; 2206; 1902; 2501; 1301; 2103;
1.10	Classes 2.9 to 2.20 and 2.23 (non-food)	121490; 3301; 4501; 3203; 0602; 0603; 0604; 5201; 5101; 1401; 530121; 41; 4301; 0505; 152190
1.11	Wine	2204
1.12	Spirits drinks	2208
1.13	Aromatized wine products	2205

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2.1 FIXED SCOPE

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

Table 2

Product	Certification requirements	Certification procedure
Product categories covered by Annex II and Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143		
Product category according to table 1 Name of Product(s)	Reg. (EU) 2024/1143 and subsequent amendments Single document with the product characteristics mentioned by the corresponding implementing Regulation	Reference to the specific control plan and certification procedure

2.2 FLEXIBLE SCOPE

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

Table 3

Product	Certification requirements	Certification procedure
Product categories covered by Annex II and Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143		
Product categories according to table 1	Reg. (EU) 2024/1143 and subsequent amendments	Control plan and certification procedure

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, as detailed in EA-2/15.

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 table1) shall be performed by the NAB.

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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 another 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 at least once during the accreditation cycle. The assessment/witnessing team shall include competent resources for the assessment of the testing activities.

3.3 EXTENTION

3.3.1 Fixed Scope

An extension for a new product category requires the successful completion of an on-site witnessing. 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.

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3.4 WITNESS ASSESSMENTS DURING THE ACCREDITATION CYCLE

The representativeness of witness assessments of a certification body providing certification of PDO, PGI and TSG products shall be determined on the basis of a risk analysis and shall ensure adequate coverage of the accredited scope throughout the accreditation cycle. When planning witness assessments, particular consideration shall be given to the protection scheme concerned (PDO, PGI or TSG), the product category and characteristics, the complexity of the product specification, the geographical link, the origin of raw materials, the production process, the traceability system, the type of controlled operator, the competence of personnel and the results of previous activities.

During each accreditation cycle, all product categories and each PDO, PGI and TSG scheme included in the accredited scope shall be assessed and covered by witness assessment, provided that the certification body performs certification activities under the respective scheme.

If the planned witness assessment could not be carried out on the date originally specified in the witness assessment record due to the absence of a suitable certification activity, the accreditation body shall document the reasons and ensure that the witness assessment is conducted at the next available certification activity, but no later than the end of the relevant accreditation cycle.

The certification body shall be informed of the witness assessment programme and of the information it is required to provide. The selection of the specific certification activity, the assessment of its representativeness and the decision on whether the accredited scope has been sufficiently covered shall remain the responsibility of the accreditation body and shall be made in accordance with the policy set out in EA-3/02 M:2026.

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

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