**Procedure for issuing Approval for the use in organic agriculture of non-organic reproductive plant materials**

**1. Purpose**

1.1. Establish a unified procedure according to which **SIA “Sertifikācijas un testēšanas centrs”** (hereinafter STC) issues an Approval for the use in organic agriculture of non-reproductive plant materials in transition or non-organic reproductive plant materials (hereinafter referred to as the permit).

**2. Regulatory references**

2.1. Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and on the labeling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EU) 834/2007 Annex II Part I point 1.8.5.2.

2.2. Regulation (EC) 2021/1698 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the procedural requirements for recognizing control and control bodies as competent to control certified organic operators and groups of organic products, as well as organic products in third countries supervision and control and other activities to be carried out by these control authorities and control authorities Article 25

**3. Conditions for issuing a permit**

3.1. permission is issued only to such an operator with whom a contract for conformity assessment has been concluded;

3.2. organic or converted plant germinal material is not available in sufficient quantity or quality in the territory of the third country in which the operator is located;

3.3. permission must be obtained before the use of seed material;

3.4. the operator is allowed to use transitional plant germinal materials or non-organic plant germinal materials not treated with plant protection products not permitted in organic agriculture.

3.5. Permission to use non-organic plant reproductive material is issued to individual users for one season, the control body lists the amount of allowed plant reproductive material.

3.6. The CO has information that organic or transitional plant reproductive material is not available in the country concerned

**4. Procedure for issuing a permit**

4.1. The operator submits an STC application in the prescribed form (ANN–F-BL-067)

4.2. The permit is issued/confirmed within 30 days from the date of receipt of the operator's application.

4.3. The Permit STC evaluates the information provided in the application and within 30 days decides whether to issue a permit or reject the application;

4.4. If the information indicated in the application or attached to it is not complete, STC, within seven working days after receiving the application, requests the operator to clarify the information in writing;

4.5. The permit is valid until the end of the year the permit was issued.

**5. Evaluation criteria**

*5.1.* *Before granting authorisations for the use of non-organic plant reproductive material as set out in point 1.8.5.2 of Part I of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the STC assess the following information and draw up a justification for each derogation granted:*

*(a) scientific and common name (common and Latin name);*

*(b) variety;*

*(c) total weight of seeds or number of plants concerned;*

*(d) the availability of organic or in-conversion plant reproductive material;*

*(e) documentation or a statement from the operator proving that the requirements set out in point 1.8.5.2 of Part I of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 have been fulfilled*

5.2 Upon receipt of the operator's application, STC evaluates whether the application includes all the necessary information in accordance with the current regulations in the field of seed cultivation:

* + Documentary evidence from at least two suppliers that they do not have organic or transitional reproductive material available for sale;
	+ Documentary evidence that the reproductive material does not contain GMOs and has not been treated with ionizing radiation. In the absence of GMOs, it is necessary to provide the results of the study, if reliable evidence of the absence of GMOs is not provided;
	+ Documentary evidence that the reproductive material has not been treated with unauthorized substances;
	+ Documentary evidence of the origin of the germinal material (for example, a seed certificate issued by the Seed Control Service);

**6. Exchange of information**

6.1 The issued permits are recorded in a single register, indicating the number of permitted seeds or potatoes, or the amount of vegetative seed material, and the information is placed in the operator's file.

*6.2 For each authorization for the use of non-organic plant reproductive material as set out in point 1.8.5.2 of Part I of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the control body includes the relevant information in the annual report referred to in Article 4 of this Regulation.*

Scheme of implementation and distribution of responsibility

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Progress  |  | **Responsibility**  |  | **Documents**  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Application  |  | The Head of organic farming in third countriesSenior expert |  | Approval ANN-F-BL-067 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Consideration of the application in accordance with the requirements  |  | Senior expert |  | Approval ANN–F-BL-067; documentation submitted by the operator |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Shortcomings in the specifiedinformation |  |  |  |  |
| Reporting deficiencies(by phone or in writing) |  | Senior expert |  | Approval ANN–F-BL-067; documentation submitted by the operator |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Reconsideration of the received documentation or clarifications in accordance withrequirementsNo |  | Senior expert |  | Approval ANN–F-BL-067; documentation submitted by the operator |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Reasoned refusal and/orexplanation |  yes | Senior expert  |  | Email ANN-F-BL-067 sends tothe operator puts the original intothe case |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Decision – making  |  | **Senior expert**  |  | Approval ANN-F-BL-067; documentation submitted by the operator; (Original to the operator, copy to the file), a copy is placed in the operator’s file |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Compiling a response and sending it to the operator |  | **Senior expert** Office manager  |  | ANN–F-BL-067, the original (scanned) is sent to the operator and placed in the file |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Entering data into an electronic database STC |  | Senior expert  |  | Permit register B:\TRESAS VALSTIS sert tab\Atļaujas konvenciāla sēklas materiāla iegādei 2019. gads.ods |