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## PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS

### 1. Objective:

This procedure describes the criteria implemented by RACS as Notified Body of Emirates Authority of Standardization and Metrology (ESMA) that **Organic Products** intended for certification with ESMA are complying the relevant mandatory schemes and applicable Standards.

Furthermore, this document identifies the steps taken by RACS Clients (manufacturers, traders, importers, retailers, business owners or any other client) to get their products/processes certified prior to its commercializing in the market and registered by through RACS Quality Certificates Issuing Services as ESMA Notified Body by issuing certificates of conformity in accordance with scheme owner (ESMA) regulations.

### 2. Definitions:

**ESMA:** Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology.

**RACS:** RACS Quality certificates issuing services

**Scheme:** Certification system related to specified products, to which the same specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply.

**Certification:** Third-party attestation related to products, processes, systems or persons.

**Notified Body:** a conformity assessment body designated by ESMA to conduct conformity assessment process on products and processes in accordance with related schemes/standards/regulations mandated by ESMA.

**Conformity Certificate:** Formal document issued by RACS as notified body under approval of ESMA stating that certification is being granted for the product/process in accordance with applicable scheme/standards as per ESMA requirements.

### 3. Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of RACS as ESMA Notified Body to establish and maintain the appropriate system to satisfy both ESMA and client's requirements in accordance to the notification system mandated by ESMA.

It is the responsibility of ESMA clients and RACS clients to provide all needed requirements as per ESMA Notification system to ensure their products compliance to the applicable schemes and standards.

### 4. Introduction about RACS Notified Body to provide Certification:

RACS is an accredited certification body and ESMA approved Notified Body under its notification system mandated by UAE Decree No. (35) of the year 2015 and UAE Cabinet Resolution No. (36). RACS is an authorized conformity assessment body by ESMA that it is technically competent to perform the specific tasks of certification to ESMA clients.

### 5. Service Type:

As per Scheme owner rules, RACS certifies Organic Products and issues Certificate of conformity under:

**Product Certification:** Product Certification is an either a Product Certification Scheme being implemented by (ESMA) as mandated by the Federal Law 28 of 2001.

Issuance of certificate of conformity by RACS as ESMA's Notified Body assures the compliance of products/production process with the requirements of the approved schemes, standards and others specified in the technical regulation by Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA).

### 6. Scope of certified products by RACS –ESMA Notified Body:

This document cover certifies **Organic Products** with below details of Sector, scope of certified products, products categories, and applicable type of certification:

Prepared by: Q.O.	Reviewed by: Q.A.M.	Approved by: M.R.
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Sector (Product Group)	Scope of Certification (Scope of Products)	Product categories	Type of Certification
FOOD	Organic Products	1.Organic Crop Production/ Farm	<b>1. Product Certification -Type Approval (ECAS)-Facility Audit is Mandatory</b>
		2.Organic Livestock (including Organic Poultry)	
		3.Processed Organic Food (Seaweeds Production, Organic Honey, Organic Fish Production, Organic Eggs)	

**7. Mandatory Schemes and Applicable Standards:**

<b>Ministerial Resolution No. 84 of the year 2012, Emirates Organic Food Certification Scheme</b>	
<b>GSO 555:1994</b>	Organic Fertilizer
<b>GSO 2374:2014</b>	Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produce Food

If needed, Client refers to RACS to identify applicable scheme and standards.

RACS Staff to refer to RACS/REC/79 Scope of Certified Products by RACS to identify certification applicable schemes and standards.

**8. Requirements for Certification:**

Requirements varies depending on the scope of certified products; Details of the documents required for certification for the scope of Scooters Product as per ESMA requirements are detailed as following:

**Product Certification with Facility Audit Required:**

**1. Crops**

- Application Form (online/manual)
- Farm Ownership Trade license / Industrial license
- Declaration Of conformity for the Products
- Label and/or MSDS for all substances disease control, pest control, soil amendments, sanitation agents, seed treatments and inoculants
- Label/ Organic Certificate(s) for all purchased organic seed varieties and invoices
- Fertilizer purchase and consumption rate
- Test report- Water, Soil and Crops. In case of compost produced from their farm needs to tested against pesticide, heavy metal analysis, GMO free test etc.,
- Farm Map(s), Yard Map(s), Production Unit (Field) Map(s)
- Field Management History & Plan- cleaning record for vehicle, storage
- Planting harvesting and sales record
- Product label

**2. Livestock**

- Application Form (online/manual)
- Trade license / Industrial license
- Declaration of conformity for the Products
- Test report- water and feed analysis
- Disease management plan- how to treat the diseased livestock and its management
- Vaccination schedule if vaccinating and its label

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- Invoices- livestock, treatment substances etc.
- Cleaning record- sanitizers and its label.

### 3. Processed Food

- Application Form (online/manual)
- Trade license / Industrial license
- Declaration Of conformity for the Products
- Process flow- OCP
- Test report- water and product
- Organic certificate for the product procured from the supplier
- Pest control practice
- Organic Product Profile
- Label Proof for all organic labels
- Proof for advertisements bearing organic claims
- Label and/or MSDS for all sanitation agents
- Label and/or MSDS for all pest control substances

### 8.1. Legal Agreements:

- Certification Agreement:
- Non-Disclosure Agreement
- General Conditions for Certification Services

### 8.2. Fees as detailed in RACS Schedule of Fees (RACS/REC/46).

## 9. Certification Procedures

### 9.1 Preparatory Steps:

- 9.1.1 **Application Form (Refer to table 9-A)** shall be submitted by applicant to RACS, submission can be done via RACS convenient communication methods (mail, emails, hard copy, website, E-System).
- 9.1.2 Sales and Marketing Executive/Administrative Assistant will review it to check documents availability on a primary basis.
- 9.1.3 A **quotation (RACS/REC/20 Certification Quotation)** will be sent to the applicant by Head of Sales and Marketing Department; containing the scope of certification and fees related to each step of the certification process.
- 9.1.4 Payment shall be done by the applicant.

### 9.2 Application Review

- 9.2.1 Upon acceptance of quotation by client, he is requested to sign the **General Conditions for Certification Services (RACS/Ag/10)**.
- 9.2.2 Application along with related supportive documents will be received by RACS Conformity Manager who shall assign one of RACS technical team members-Conformity Officer.

### 9.3 Application Evaluation

- 9.3.1 Conformity Officer shall perform conformity assessment (Evaluation) steps related to the certification scheme:
- 9.3.2 Evaluation outcome results:
  - If the evaluation is pending for missing or invalid documents or other needed information to complete evaluation; additional supportive documents will be requested from the applicant.
  - The evaluation includes Product Safety Verification through test reports provided on all safety test parameters requested by applicable scheme/standards, test reports shall be issued by 3<sup>rd</sup> party accredited laboratory sub-contracted according to the approved standards and applicable technical requirements.

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- If test reports are not complying with standards; Conformity Officer requests rectification of the non-complying aspects, then based on applicant confirmation of rectification, collection of samples will be done to conduct the same laboratory tests again and for once.
- Evaluation will be repeated upon applicant re-submission of needed documents/information.
- Evaluation will be documented using an **Assessment Checklist (Refer to table 9-A)**.

### Onsite Factory Assessment

- Upon completion of required interventions, Conformity Officer in charge should contact the Applicant/Trader for any missing/lacking required documents to complete the process.
- The Conformity Officer in charge will also be the one to confirm the dates by completing the **Audit Schedule Form (RACS/REC/13)** of the Factory Assessment Dates/Audits as per the requirement of the standards and availability of the Conformity Officer and Auditee.
- The Conformity Officer in charge will do the **Audit Plan (RACS/REC/45)** as he confirmed the audit dates.
- Factory Assessment will commence once all the required documents have been evaluated, all necessary documents will be forwarded to the Conformity Officers who will be in charge with the Factory Assessment.
- During the Audit, the 1st Conformity Officer will be auditing Factory Compliance as per Quality Management System, while the 2nd Conformity Officer will be auditing as per the technical safety requirements of the standard for the product applied using the **Evaluation Report (RACS/REC/12)**. Additional Assessment Checklists may be required to be filled in by the Conformity Officer depending on the applicable standards of the product being certified. **(Refer to table 9-A for the list Assessment Checklists)**.
- On-Site Audit to the facility where the product is being manufactured to assure the quality management system adopted in full compliance with applicable standards and technical regulations.

Once all corrective actions are fulfilled, the Conformity Officer will complete evaluation report **(RACS/REC/12)** summary in evaluation report and shall raise the final evaluation report with his recommendation to the Conformity Manager (or his delegates) for certification review step of the products/facility intended for certification, recommendation is either:

- ✓ Either recommending approval of certification by Issuance of Certificate of Conformity; or
- ✓ Recommending rejection of certification by issuing **Final Decision Letter (RACS/REC/71)**.

### 9.4 Certification Review

Conformity Manager or his delegates will perform certification review to verify the Conformity Officer's recommendation by checking if assessment checklist/evaluation report content is found satisfactory along with complete review for the whole application and supportive documents, and then grant the final recommendation to the Certification Decision Committee. If the review and the certification decision are completed concurrently in the Decision Committee, they shall proceed with the decision after certification review is done.

**9.5 Decision of Certification:** Upon submission of this information, and as per the result of documents review and completing product evaluation process,

**9.5.1 Recommendation of approval of Product certification:** Product evaluation shows full compliance with applicable schemes/standards:

- Certification decision will be done by Decision Committee
- Granting the issuance of Certificate of conformity, recognized by scheme owner (ESMA)
- Certified Products will be listed in RACS **Certified Products Registry (RACS/REC/30)**.

**9.5.2 Recommendation of rejection of Product certification:** Product evaluation shows non-compliance with applicable schemes/standards, due to any reason preventing product from Certification:

- Rejection decision will be done by Decision Committee
- RACS will inform client/ESMA by an Official rejection statement (Letter of certification Status) by e-mail stating the reason of rejection **(Decision Letter-RACS/REC/71)**.

This is being documented by completing the Certification Decision Record;  
**RACS/REC/100 Certification Decision for Onsite Audit.**

Prepared by: Q.O.	Reviewed by: Q.A.M.	Approved by: M.R.
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**Table 9-A Specific Forms**

TITLE OF DOCUMENT	IDENTIFICATION
Legal & Quality Documents-List of certification requirements per UAE Scheme – Organic Products	ORG/REC/04
Application Form	ORG/REC/02
Assessment Checklist- Organic Food	ORG/REC/03
Assessment Checklist- UAE.S GSO 2374 :2014 Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labeling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods	ORG/REC/01
Organic Product Certificate Template (Previous RACS/REC/76)	ORG/REC/06

**Table 9-B General Forms**

TITLE OF DOCUMENT	IDENTIFICATION
<b>Quality Master List</b>	RACS/REC/01
<b>Certification Agreement/RACS Quality- Client</b>	RACS/AG/01
<b>NDA/RACS Quality - Client/Subcontractor</b>	RACS/AG/03
<b>General Conditions for Certification Services</b>	RACS/AG/10
<b>List of Certified Products</b>	RACS/REC/30
<b>Schedule of Fees</b>	RACS/REC/46
<b>Certification Quotation</b>	RACS/REC/20
<b>Audit Schedule Form</b>	RACS/REC/13
<b>Audit Duration Plan</b>	RACS/REC/45
<b>Evaluation Report</b>	RACS/REC/12
<b>Certification Decision-Product Certification</b>	RACS/REC/99
<b>Certification Decision-Onsite Audit</b>	RACS/REC/100
<b>Final Decision Letter</b>	RACS/REC/71

**10. Uploading of Certificates in ESMA system:**

As a Notified Body, it is the responsibility of RACS to transfer the information to the scheme owner by uploading the Certificate of Conformity and other relevant documents in the scheme owner's (ESMA) online portal. The steps after the Certification Decision (only when recommendation is approved) are as follows;

- a) Upon receiving the approval of the Decision Committee, the file should be given back to the responsible Conformity Officer.
- b) The CO shall communicate with the Accounts Department to arrange for the payment in ESMA portal.
- c) When the payment is posted, the CO shall be able to retrieve the certificate no. and QR code from ESMA portal.
- d) The Conformity Officer shall assign a Conformity Assistant to prepare the draft certificate. Along with this, the Conformity Officer shall provide correct and accurate information to the Conformity Assistant.
- e) The draft certificate should be sent to the client for their confirmation. Once it is confirmed, final certificate shall be shared to the client.
- f) The Conformity Assistant should then upload the certificate in ESMA portal including the product list that should contain the necessary information such as model no., barcode, brand name, product description, country of origin, report no., applicable standard, etc.

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**Notes for clients:**

- For some scopes where it is required to have a quality system available, clients seeking to be certified for any of their (products or services or facility/process) to schemes and applicable standards through RACS are requested to implement relevant Quality System including documentation in a way to meet all requirements of this standard and all relevant specific standards depending on the nature of service (certified Product & Process).
- Client seeking extension or renewal of certification scope shall as well submit the application form specifying the extension or renewal of the certification scope.
- Whenever applicable, additional certification requirements per Certification schemes: Legal & Quality documents (such as Client Quality Manual) and supportive documents (records and checklists used by applicant), are to be attached to the Application form.

**11. Renewal:**

**Product Certification with Facility Audit Required:**

Validity of certificate is three years, subject to surveillance visits every year during the certification to assure maintenance of conformity. Certificate of Conformity (COC) should be renewed three months prior to the expiry.

**12. Process Map:**



**13. Market Monitoring:**

RACS will be conducting Market Surveillance campaigns in the local markets to assure continuous compliance of certified products and inform Scheme owner on immediate basis on the non-conformity products to take the appropriate action. Please refer to RACS/SOP/71 Market Monitoring Procedures.

**14. Sampling Procedure:** Please refer to RACS/SOP/21 Sampling Procedures

**15. Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results:** Please refer to RACS/SOP/23 Pre-Certification Procedures

**16. Outsourcing of the conformity assessment activities:** Please refer to RACS/SOP/06-Sub-contractors Qualifications & Competence Evaluation Criteria

**17. Complaints and Appeals:** Please refer to RACS/SOP/07 Complaints Handling Procedure

**18. Licensing and Control of the Mark:** Please refer to RACS/SOP/01 Procedure of Control the Use of RACS Quality License, Certificate and Mark of Conformity & Scheme Owner's Certificates and Mark of Conformity

**19. Surveillance:** Please refer to RACS/SOP/24 Post Certification Procedures.

**20. Non-conforming products:** Please refer to RACS/SOP/24 Post Certification Procedures

**21. Reporting to the scheme owner-**Please refer to RACS/SOP/39 Dissemination of Significant Information to the Scheme Owner and Other Concerned Parties.

**22. Subcontracting of the operation of the scheme-**Please refer to the relevant scheme.

**23. Marketing-**Please refer to RACS/SOP/72 Marketing Policies and Procedures.

**24. Fraudulent claim of certification-** Please refer to RACS/SOP/01 Procedure of Control the Use of RACS Quality License, Certificate and Mark of Conformity & Scheme Owner's Certificates and Mark of Conformity.

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**25. References:**

- ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity Assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying Products, Processes and services.
- ISO/IEC 17021, Conformity Assessment — Requirements for bodies Providing audit and Certification of management systems.
- ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems
- GAC Document: FAD- 4.0: Supplementary accreditation requirements for Product Certification Bodies.
- R307: General Requirements Accreditation of ISO /IEC 17065 Product Certification Bodies.
- IAF Mandatory Document: Determination of Audit Time of Quality and Environmental Management System.
- ISO/IEC 17000, Conformity Assessment — Vocabulary and general principles.
- ISO/IEC 17020, Conformity Assessment— Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.
- ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- ISO17067, in combination with ISO Guide 28 and ISO Guide 53
- ISO/IEC 17030, Conformity Assessment — General requirements for third-party marks of conformity.
- ISO Guide 23:1982 Methods of indicating conformity with Standards for third-Party certification Systems
- ISO Guide 27:1983 Guidelines for corrective action to be taken by a certification body in the event of misuse of its mark of conformity
- General Requirements for Notified Bodies issued by Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA).
- RACS Quality Manual RACS/QM/01.
- All controlled QMS records-Please refer to RACS/REC/01-Quality Master List.
- Emirates Organic Food, Ministerial Resolution, No. 84 of 2012

**Revision History:**

Date	Revision #	Description of Changes
June 14, 2016	00	Initial
Nov 13, 2016	01	<p>Replace ORG/REC/11 with ORG/REC/05            Modify. Related forms to include specific list of RACS' Records &amp; SOPs related to the document.            Modify List of reference to include the last updated one.            Removed irrelevant standards in the references:            GAC document: FAD-12: Supplementary accreditation requirements for Halal Certification Bodies, in addition to applicable scheme and Standards            R334: Specific Requirements: HALAL Certification Body Program.            UAE. GSO 2055-2 Halal products- Part two: General Requirements for Halal Certification Bodies.</p> <p>Added Updated records:             ORG/REC/06 Organic Product Certificate Template (Previous RACS/REC/76)</p> <p>Added Reference:            Emirates Organic Food, Ministerial Resolution, No. 84 of 2012</p>
February 22, 2018	02	Remove Self -Assessment Checklist in the procedure and replace it to Application form as it has been merged.
June 5, 2018	03	<p>Change from Managing Director to Decision Committee in 9.4.            Replaced Operations Manager to Head of Sales and Marketing.            Replace Administrative Assistant to Sales and Marketing Executive/Administrative Assistant.            Added RACS/Ag/10 General Conditions for Certification Services</p>

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August 26, 2018	RACS/PCS/13/Rev00	Changed the reference number from RACS/SOP/36 to RACS/PCS/13. Added references to be inclined with ISO 17067. Changed Process Map; added reference documents.
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Prepared by: Q.O.	Reviewed by: Q.A.M.	Approved by: M.R.
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