

**NATURAL ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR NATURAL PRODUCT CERTIFICATION BODIES**  
**NACC.01.01/00-06.01.2017- *These criteria issued January 2017***

**PREFACE**

The attached natural accreditation criteria have been issued to provide all interested parties with guidelines on implementing performance features of the applicable standards referenced herein.

The criteria were developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the Natural Accreditation Service (NATACCS), Natural Accreditation Committee and are effective on the date shown above. All accreditations issued or reissued on or after the effective date must comply with these criteria. These criteria may be further revised as the need dictates.

NATACCS may consider alternate criteria provided the proponent submits substantiating data demonstrating that the alternate criteria are at least equivalent to the attached criteria and otherwise meet applicable natural accreditation requirements.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Scope:

These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining Natural Accreditation Service (NATACCS), Natural Product Certification Bodies accreditation. These criteria supplement the NATACCS Rules of Procedure for Natural Product Certification Bodies Accreditation.

1.2. Normative and Reference Documents: Publications listed below refer to current editions (unless otherwise stated).

1.2.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17065, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.

1.2.2. ISO/IEC Standard 17067, Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes.

1.2.3. ISO/IEC Standard 17020, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.

1.2.4. ISO/IEC Standard 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and Calibration laboratories.

1.2.5. ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.

1.2.6. ISO/IEC Standard 17011, Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

1.2.7. i-NAF Guides: Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries.

1.2.8. i-NAF Guides: General Principles on the Use of the i-NAF MLA Mark.

1.2.9. NSO-NAP Series (NAP1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9) Standards.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

Applicable definitions of ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply.

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### 3. ELIGIBILITY

Natural accreditation services are available to a third-party natural certification bodies that:

3.1. Certify products,

3.2. Operates, or maintains a subcontract agreement with, a testing laboratory and inspection bodies, that meet the requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17065, Sections 6.2.2, External resources (outsourcing),

3.3. Has operated and provided certification services for at least six months in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065 and completed a minimum of one certification per major category of certification, including completion of the decision-making process and issuance of certificate.

### 4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

4.1. Natural certification agencies must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

4.1.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17065, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services;

4.1.2. NATACCS Rules of Procedure for Natural Product Certification Bodies Accreditation;

4.1.3. Scheme requirements under which the natural certification is granted.

4.2. Natural certification programs for processes and services must have requirements for determining continued compliance, that include assessment of the management system and the actual process or service, at least once per year.

### 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

5.1. When the natural certification system used as the basis for a certification activity requires surveillance at the point of manufacturing, the natural certification bodies must have requirements that every manufacturing natural certified products.

In the absence of a generally recognized minimum surveillance frequency, the natural certification bodies shall require that each manufacturing to produce the natural certified product be subject to at least one surveillance activity each calendar year.

## NATURAL ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR NATURAL PRODUCT CERTIFICATION BODIES NACC.01.01/00-06.01.2017- *These criteria issued January 2017*

Note: Surveillance techniques, include, but are not limited to:

- Announced (planned) onsite audits,
- Remote audits,
- Unannounced visits,
- A combination of the above.

5.2. Natural Inspection agencies and testing laboratories used as part of the natural certification process must meet one of the following criteria:

5.2.1. Accreditation by NATACCS, or by another signatory to the International Natural Accreditation Forum (i-NAF) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MLA); or

5.2.2. Comply with ISO/IEC 17020 and/or ISO/IEC 17025 as applicable, determined through assessment of the inspection Bodies and/or testing laboratory by qualified certification bodies personnel. In addition to the requirements given in ISO/IEC 17020 and/or ISO/IEC 17025, evidence of compliance shall include the qualifications of personnel conducting the assessment, and a system for determining continued compliance that includes periodic onsite assessments, review of assessment reports, and corrective action reports.

5.3. Natural product certification agencies must comply with regulatory requirements of Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ-exemple: NSO) or other regulatory entities, including specific compliance requirements for qualification, licensing, etc., of personnel and operation of natural product certification body.

5.4. Witnessing Inspection Activities:

When the natural certification scheme used as the basis for a certification activity requires the onsite evaluation of the production process, NATACCS will periodically witness actual onsite inspections by each accredited certification bodies. The selection of location and scope for witness activity shall be made by NATACCS, in consultation with the natural certification bodies, based on various factors – risk, complexity, personnel changes, technology utilized, etc. Where possible, the full scope of natural accreditation will be reviewed over a full accreditation cycle.

5.5. Witness Testing:

All witness testing activities conducted at a manufacturer's facility must be witnessed by technically competent natural certification bodies staff who are trained not only in the test being witnessed, but in the appropriate sections of ISO/IEC Standard 17025. If the natural

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certification scheme to which the product is to be certified contains specific requirements or limitations pertaining to witness testing, the requirements of the natural certification scheme shall also apply.

Appropriate measures must be taken for long-term testing, where constant witnessing is not feasible, to ensure tampering of the testing equipment does not take place.

### 5.6. Use of Manufacturer's Data:

If the natural certification scheme to which the product is to be certified contains specific requirements or limitations pertaining to the use of manufacturer's data, the requirements of the natural certification scheme shall also apply.

If a natural certification bodies plans to use test data generated and submitted by a manufacturer that is not part of witness testing, the certification bodies must have a program in place to ensure validity and independence of the test data. The natural certification bodies shall consider one or more of the following for such a program, and shall have justification for those it chooses not to utilize:

5.6.1. Auditing, including unannounced random visits to the manufacturer's laboratory, to ensure key requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17025 are satisfied;

5.6.2. Performing random duplicate analyses;

5.6.3. Having the manufacturer's laboratory participate in proficiency testing programs, where available, for applicable test method;

5.6.4. Technical review of the raw test data rather than acceptance of just the result.

## 6. ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

6.1. NATACCS- [www.naturalaccreditation.org](http://www.naturalaccreditation.org)

6.2. International Natural Accreditation Forum (i-NAF) – [www.i-naf.org](http://www.i-naf.org)

6.3. International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) – [www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org)

6.4. International Accreditation Forum (Iaf) – [www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu)

6.5. NSO-NAP 1 – [www.naturalfoodstandard.org](http://www.naturalfoodstandard.org)

6.6. NSO-International Organization for Natural Standardization