



CH-3003 Bern, BLW, bti

Caucascert Ltd.  
2, Marshal Gelovani Street  
5th floor, Suite 410  
Tbilisi 0159  
Georgia  
(via Swiss Embassy)

Reference/file number:

Your reference:

Our reference: bti

Responsible official: Tina Bigler

Bern, 22 June 2015

## **List of recognized certification bodies: Extension of duration of inclusion of a recognized certification body: ruling**

In the matter of

Caucascert Ltd., 2. Marshal Gelovani Street, 5th floor, Suite 410, Tbilisi 0159, Georgia

**based on**

Article 23a of the Organic Farming Ordinance, which states that, upon request, the FOAG may recognise certification bodies and inspection authorities of countries which are not included in the list referred to in Article 23 of the Organic Farming Ordinance, if the certification bodies or inspection authorities prove that the products in question meet the conditions laid down in Article 22 of the Organic Farming Ordinance (Organic Farming Ordinance, SR 910.18).

**in view of**

- the ruling of 22 May 2014 of the FOAG relating to the recognition of Caucascert Ltd., 2. Marshal Gelovani Street, 5th floor, Suite 410, Tbilisi 0159, Georgia;
- the continuous supervision performed by the FOAG in accordance with the conditions laid down in points 2 to 7 of this ruling;
- the annual report 2014;

- the latest assessment report, or the update of this report, containing the results of the regular on-the-spot evaluation, monitoring and multi-annual re-assessment of the activities of the certification body;

**whereas**

- the applicant was able to prove that the products inspected and certified by it under the Green Caucasus Standard for Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods, equivalent to Regulation (EC) 834/2007, have been produced and prepared in accordance with rules which are equivalent to those in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Organic Farming Ordinance and that production is subject to an inspection procedure equivalent to that in Chapter 5 of the Organic Farming Ordinance;

**it is ordered**

- The recognition of the Caucascert Ltd shall be prolonged and run until 30 June 2018 inclusive for the countries and product categories in accordance with the table below:

Country	Code number	Product categories				
		Unprocessed plant products	Live or unprocessed live-stock products	Processed foodstuffs <sup>1</sup>	Processed feed <sup>1</sup>	Seeds and plants, vegetative propagating material
Georgia	GE-BIO-117	X	-	X	-	-

- The certification body/inspection authority shall inform the FOAG immediately if substantial changes are made to the information contained in this request or in the technical dossier, or if changes are made to the information concerning the certification body/inspection authority, particularly a change in the authorised signatories.
- The certification body/inspection authority shall undertake to send an annual report to the FOAG by 31 March every year. The annual report shall update the information of the technical dossier; in particular it shall contain the following:
  - the activities carried out by the certification body/inspection authority in the third countries during the previous year,
  - results obtained,
  - an update of the information relating to the number of certified operators,
  - type and volume of products exported to Switzerland,

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<sup>1</sup> Ingredients have to be certified by a recognized certification body or inspection authority according to Article 23a of Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance (SR 910.18) or produced and certified within the scope of a recognized country according to Article 23 of Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance (SR 910.18) or produced and certified in Switzerland in accordance with the Swiss ordinances on organic farming (SR 910.18 and SR 910.181).

- notification of the irregularities and infringements observed and measures taken to rectify them,
  - all other relevant information at the request of the FOAG.
4. The latest assessment report, or the update of this report, containing the results of the regular on-the-spot evaluation, monitoring and multi-annual re-assessment of its activities shall also be sent to the FOAG by 31 March every year.
  5. The certification body/inspection authority shall make available to interested parties in electronic form a continually updated list of operators and products certified as organic.
  6. The whole product chain (producers, processors and exporters) of all product categories has to be certified by recognized certification bodies or inspection authorities according to Article 23a of the Organic Farming Ordinance or produced and certified within the scope of a recognized country according to Article 23 of Organic Farming Ordinance or produced and certified in Switzerland in accordance with the ordinances on organic farming.
  7. The certification body/inspection authority issuing the certificate of inspection shall only issue the certificate of inspection and endorse the declaration in box 14 of the certificate if it has verified that the products covered by the certificate and in the case of processed agricultural products for use as food and feed, all organic ingredients of such products have been certified by a certification body/inspection authority of a country recognized in accordance with Article 23 of the Organic Farming Ordinance (list of countries) or by a certification body/inspection authority recognized in accordance with Article 23a of the Organic Farming Ordinance (list of recognized certification bodies/inspection authorities) or produced and certified in Switzerland according to that Ordinance or in the European Union according to Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007. At the request of the Swiss authorities it shall make available without delay the list of all operators in the organic production chain and the competent authorities or certification bodies under whose control those operators have placed their operations.
  8. The certification body/inspection authority shall inform the FOAG immediately it notes any serious irregularities or on reasonable suspicion of non-compliance with the provisions of the Organic Farming Ordinance.
  9. Proof of GMO-free status shall be provided for soya.
  10. This recognition shall not apply to the following products:
    - Products produced under conversion to organic agriculture.
  11. The FOAG may change the conditions for authorisation of the certification body/inspection authority at any time, or withdraw recognition of the equivalence of the body or authority, or change the specifications such as e.g. product categories or countries covered, especially in the following circumstances:
    - a. If a certification body/inspection authority fails to fulfill the conditions laid down in points 2 to 7;
    - b. If information obtained from the conditions laid down in points 2 to 9 gives cause for it;
    - c. If a certification body/inspection authority fails to provide requested information;
    - d. If a certification body/inspection authority fails to agree to a spot check requested by the FOAG within a period laid down by the FOAG commensurate with the importance of the problem;

- e. If a certification body/inspection authority fails to take corrective measures in good time in case of failure to meet the above conditions, when it notes irregularities, on reasonable suspicion of non-compliance with the provisions of the Organic Farming Ordinance, or in other cases when action is required.
12. Extension of the geographical scope or product categories can only be obtained by means of a further request to the FOAG.
13. The recognition is non-transferable.
14. Appeal hearing: an appeal may be made against this ruling within 30 days of publication at the Federal Administrative Court, PO Box, CH-9023 St. Gallen, Switzerland. The notice of appeal must contain the details of the appeal, the grounds with evidence and the signature of the appellant or their representative; it must be produced in duplicate and enclosing the contested ruling, and the supporting documentation used in evidence, in so far as it is in the appellant's possession, must be enclosed.

**Disclosure:**

Caucascert Ltd., 2, Marshal Gelovani Street, 5th floor, Suite 410, Tbilisi 0159, Georgia, via Swiss Embassy.

**Notification:**

Recognition is published on the FOAG homepage

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

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