

## **Vegaplan/Codiplan – Update**

The specifications books managed by Vegaplan and Codiplan are permanently evolving. Since the last press release dated November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 about the publication of the new version of the Sectoral Guide and the ICQM standard for primary crop production, multiple things changed. That is why we would like to inform are users about the modifications in the specification books, the number of members and the international interchangeability with other standards.

### **1. Modification Specification Books**

#### **a. ICQM/Sectoral Guide for Primary Crop Production Version 3**

Version 3 of the ICQM standard and the Sectoral Self-checking Guide for Primary Crop Production (G-012) is valid since February 13<sup>th</sup> 2011. All audits have to be performed according to the new version. The most important modification in the Sectoral Guide/ICQM Standard is the extension of the scope. The production of seed-potatoes, seeds, animal feed and tobacco can be certified according to the Sectoral Guide/ICQM Standard from now on. 'Direct sales to the consumer' is now also part of the Sectoral Guides/ICQM Standard. Furthermore, a farmer can certify fodder crops with the Sectoral Guide G-012, while he used to need an extra certificate with another Sectoral Guide.

The ICQM standard and related checklist are available at the website [www.vegaplan.be](http://www.vegaplan.be).

#### **b. The unified Guide for Primary Production**

One is working on a unified Guide for Primary Production. The unified Guide (G-040) will contain the Sectoral Guides for Primary Animal and Plant Production with a separate section for animal feed which can be audited during an audit for animal or for plant production. The separate section 'animal feed' gives farmers with animal production who only grow animal feed the opportunity to sell certified fodder crops to the feed industry.

The unified Guide will be modular, which offers the opportunity to add sections at a later stage. Different CB's will be allowed to audit separate sections at various moments.

### **2. Members of Codiplan/Vegaplan**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>; 14.260 farms were certified. Below a table is given with all specification books and the number of granted certificates.

<b>Specification Book</b>	<b>Number of certified companies</b>
G-012 (Sectoral Guide Primary Crop Production)	10.343
ICQM Primary Crop Production	12.402
G-033 (Sectoral Guide Contract work )	190
ICQM Contract work	673
G-037 (Sectoral Guide Primary Animal Production)	6.658
CodiplanPLUS	124

### **3. Interchangeability**

#### **a. QS**

Since January 2008 there is a mutual agreement between Vegaplan and the German Quality Assurance system QS for the auditing done at the level of fruit and vegetable producers. In this way, one avoided double audits at the farm. However, there was no mutual recognition yet for the residue monitoring scheme. Unlike in the German system, there is no sampling at producer level in Belgium (except for the pre harvest checks) but only at the level of the first buyer (auction markets, potato traders and industry). From the first buyer the products leave to the Belgian or German market. Belgian residue monitoring schemes were not approved by QS so far, so the ICQM farmers wanting to sell to the German market were required to follow the QS monitoring system at farm level.

Furthermore QS wanted to extend the scope of the mutual recognition to include potatoes in order to be able to export German potatoes to the members of Belgapom (Belgian organization for potato traders and processors).

The 10<sup>th</sup> of February during the Trade show Fruit Logistica in Berlin, an agreement in principle was closed regarding the audit system and the residue monitoring (at the level of the auction markets/Belgapom) for potatoes, fruit and vegetables. A formal agreement will be signed in March.

So far, 2.108 Belgian farmers with an ICQM certificate are included in the database of QS, which enables them to deliver to QS through the VBT auctions.

**b. Discussieforum voor nationale kwaliteitsborgingssystemen**

During the trade show Fruit Logistica a first discussion platform for owners of national quality assurance systems was organized. Several Standard owners from across Western Europe attended the meeting. The goal of this forum is to discuss themes which concern us all like crisis management, residues and sustainability in order to harmonize and strengthen the Standards.

**c. CodiplanPLUS Varkens**

CodiplanPLUS pigs started in April 2010 and is part of the agreement of interchangeability with the German quality assurance system QS. This enables Belgian pig farmers to deliver to German slaughter houses (and Germans into our slaughter houses) without any extra controls.

Since CodiplanPLUS is in force, already 124 farmers got certified. The CodiplanPLUS certified farmers are included in the QS database which is consulted by German slaughter houses to verify whether pigs originate from a certified company.

The CodiplanPLUS certificate is also required for sow farms in the context of the private label Certus. In that way the supply at fattening farms is assured and Certus can prolong its interchangeability with QS.

CodiplanPLUS is only to be used together with the Sectoral Self-Checking Guide for Primary Animal Production (G-037) and applicable for companies that want to export to the German QS-market (Qualität und Sicherheit).

CodiplanPLUS includes the general part and the specific part for pigs from the Sectoral Guide G-037, plus some extra requirements. These extra requirements include the legal (environmental) stipulations which are not included in the Sectoral Guide as well as extra legal requirements demanded by the QS-market. The requirements of CodiplanPLUS can be audited during an audit for the Sectoral Guide G-037. Pig farmers which are interested can contact Codiplan vzw or a CB to subscribe to CodiplanPLUS.