

Guideline No. POS4/2013

Pacific Organic Standard(POS): Conversion Period for meat production & breeding stock

1. Purpose

This guideline provides clarification with regard to the start of the conversion period for meat production and reeding stock under the Pacific Organic Standard.

2. Scope

This guidance applies to all POETCom Approved Certification Partners (ACPs) and Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

3. Background

The POS states:

5.2.2 Where existing animals are converted to organic status on an organic property they shall undergo a one-time minimum conversion period according to the following schedule:

- *For animals for milk production – 90 days*
- *For poultry for egg production – 42 days*

Note that except for the above situation, only conventionally raised animals, as specified in 5.3.1, can be brought in and that any other livestock cannot be converted to organic status even after the above conversion periods.

5.3.1 Animals shall be raised organically from birth. However, if such animals are not available, conventional animals may be brought in before they reach the following maximum ages:

- *2-day-old chickens for meat production;*
- *18-week-old hens for egg production;*
- *2 weeks for any other poultry;*
- *Piglets up to 6 weeks and after weaning;*
- *Dairy calves, deer, sheep and goats – animals up to 4 weeks old that have received colostrum and have been fed a diet consisting mainly of full milk. Livestock that do not comply with the above conditions can never be converted to organic status.*

5.3.2 Breeding stock may be brought in from conventional farms only to a yearly maximum of 10% unless the following occur:

- *Unforeseen severe natural or man-made events, e.g. droughts, cyclones;*
- *Considerable enlargement of the farm;*
- *Establishment of a new type of animal production on the farm;*
- *Holdings have less than 10 animals.*
- *Animals brought in from non-organic sources, and their products, may be converted to organic status only within the minimum time frames set out in 5.3.1.*

4. Guidelines

With animals brought into an organic system for the last 3rd of gestation the offspring can be organic but the breeding stock cannot be converted and cannot be sold as organic either for breeding or meat.

5. References

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)