



FRIEND OF THE EARTH

Sustainable Agriculture

FRIEND OF THE EARTH OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE

(Last Update: 27/03/2015)

1. Objections can be related to:

- a product certification, in relation to its chain of custody.
- a Company conformance, in relation to its compliance with the version of the Friend of the Earth criteria valid at the time of certification.
- the compliance of a product certification with the Friend of the Earth certification procedure.

2. Objections can be made by a private person or an organization of any kind (Objecting Party).

3. Objections can only be made by use of the Objections Form available at www.friendoftheearth.org and can only be sent via mail to info@friendoftheearth.org.

4. WSO sends via email and within 24 hours of receipt, to Objecting Party, a confirmation of receipt of the Objection.

5. Not later than 30 days from receipt of the Objection Form, WSO will provide the Objecting Party with a Proposal for the cost of the Objections Committee (in line with FAO requirements) and the expected timing (not more than 3 months from date of payment of the proposal) to produce an answer to the objection. The Objections Committee will be composed by at least 3 experts and 1 coordinating Chair, independent from WSO, the Certification Body, the Company and the Objecting Party. The composition of the Objections Committee will have to be agreed and accepted also by the Objecting Party. The Man Day cost of the Objections Committee is 1000 Euros all other needed travel, lodging and communication costs excluded.

6. The Objections Committee, independently from WSO and certification bodies, considers the received objections and evaluates their conformance with required format and procedure, providing via email within 7 working days from signing of the Proposal, a confirmation of conformance to the Objecting Party.



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7. The Objection(s) will be analyzed by the Objections Committee and a comprehensive answer and conclusion will be formulated not later than 3 months from payment.
8. The Objection Reply will be sent via email with receipt confirmation to the Objecting Party and published on www.friendoftheearth.org in the Objections area.
9. The Objection Reply will consider all received objections separately.
10. The Objection Reply will consist of an official document which would specify acceptance or non acceptance of the Objection. In case of acceptance of Objection, the Objection Reply will specify the consequent actions which the Objections Committee recommends WSO to undertake.
11. WSO will confirm or cancel the Company approval and/or products certification accordingly.
12. Further Objections to the Objection Reply are accepted provided conformance to this Procedure.