



RUNDBRIEF 26-03

25. MÄRZ 2026

kiwa

Clarification and Implementation of a Common USDA NOP Anniversary Date for All USDA NOP Kiwa BCS Operators

Dear valued customers,

With this customer information letter, Kiwa BCS would like to provide further clarification regarding the anniversary date, its significance, and the decision to implement a common anniversary date for all NOP USDA Kiwa BCS operators.

1 WHAT IS THE USDA NOP ANNIVERSARY DATE?

The USDA NOP Organic certificates don't include expiration dates, and operation remains certified until surrendered, suspended, or revoked.

USDA NOP Organic certificates have **an anniversary date** which is the last day until operation must submit its annual update (existing certified operations).

For an annual update, certified operation must submit to Kiwa BCS:

- *A summary of any deviations, changes to, modifications to, or other amendments made to the **OSP** submitted during the previous year, pursuant to § 205.406(a)(1);*
- *Any additions or deletions to the previous year's OSP intended to be undertaken in the coming year, pursuant to § 205.406(a)(2)-(3);*
- *and pay the **fees** to Kiwa BCS as per offer to continue its organic certification.*

Each certified operation **MUST receive at least one physical on-site inspection per calendar year** to determine whether its certification should continue. If a certified operation fails to submit an annual update, Kiwa BCS will issue a Notice of Noncompliance.

However, the failure of an operation to submit an annual update does not relieve Kiwa BCS nor the operator of its obligation to conduct/receive an annual on-site inspection § 205.403(a)(1).

2 COMMON ANNIVERSARY DATE (30TH SEPTEMBER) FOR ALL KIWA BCS OPERATORS

Starting from the certification and inspection season 2026 (means effective in 2027), all USDA NOP Kiwa BCS certified operators will have a common **Anniversary Date set as 30.09**, displayed on

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their USDA NOP Certificate and Addendum.

What does this mean in practice?

- For new operators, the anniversary date will be set from the year of the first inspection until 30.09. of the following year, regardless of the certification date.
- For existing, already certified operators, the current anniversary date will be extended to 30.09. of the following year, regardless of the certification date.

Example of effectiveness in the season 2027 in the practice?

As explained in **Chapter 1**, each certified operation is required to submit the **Annual Update once per year**, and no later than the **Anniversary Date**.

“Latest” means that if an operator has a scheduled inspection for the **calendar year 2027**, for example in **February 2027**, and submits the Annual Update (including the **Organic System Plan (OSP)** and payment of the fee as outlined in the annual invoice) **prior to the inspection** (preferably no later than 4 weeks prior the inspection since the review of the updated OSP must be finished prior the inspection starts), this will be considered as fulfillment of the operator’s annual obligation for the **calendar year 2027**, even though the official Anniversary Date is set for **30.09.2027**.

However, for operators whose annual inspection is normally scheduled **after 30.09.**, the Annual Update (as outlined in Chapter 1) must be submitted **no later than 30.09**.

Failure to submit the Annual Update by this date will require Kiwa BCS to issue a **Notice of Noncompliance** in accordance with the applicable certification requirements.

More examples:

INSPECTION DATE (start date scheduled)	ANNIVERSARY DATE	Kiwa requests an annual update (OSP and fee paid) prior to the inspection.
05.05.2027	30.09.2027	Annual update MUST be provided preferably no later than 4 weeks prior 05.05.2027
14.11.2027	30.09.2027	Annual update MUST be provided latest on 30.09.2027
12.12.2027	30.09.2027	Annual update MUST be provided latest on 30.09.2027

The implementation of a common anniversary date will allow Kiwa BCS to more effectively monitor whether all certified Kiwa BCS operators submit their Annual Update at least once per year and no later than the anniversary date set for **30.09**.

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Repeating, Anniversary date is NOT an expiration date, and operation remains certified until surrendered, suspended, or revoked.

Status of certified operations are publicly available and can be checked in [Organic Integrity Database](#) by **(1)** typing the name of the operation and **(2)** setting status to “All”.

United States Department of Agriculture
ORGANIC INTEGRITY DATABASE
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Please be aware the Operation Certificate Module is currently not functioning, and the technical team is working to resolve the issue. In the meantime, please use the following workaround: Go to the Advanced Search page, select the Certifier name from the dropdown list, and click the Download Operation Certificates in the top right corner of the search table (note: this will generate all Operation Certificates whether recently updated or not, unless filtered accordingly).

Welcome to the Organic INTEGRITY Database!
Find a specific certified organic farm or business, or search for an operation with specific characteristics. Listings come from USDA and Trade Partner-Accredited Certifying Agents. Only certified operations can sell, label or represent products as organic, unless exempt or excluded from certification.

Reset Search Filters Advanced Search Export to Excel

Program	Operation	Certifier	Info	Status	City	State/Province	Country	Certified Products
USDA NOP	Kondina Engelhardt GmbH Co.KG	BCS Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH		All	Balkhausen	EE 09	Germany	HANDLING: Other: Choc...

10 items per page 1 of 1 items

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In cases where a certified operation may encounter concerns with business partners due to the anniversary date being in the past, Kiwa BCS can issue a **“Confirmation of Continuous Control and Good Standing for USDA/NOP Certification”**. This document serves to confirm that the company remains under the continuous oversight of Kiwa BCS in accordance with the US National Organic Program (NOP) 7 CFR Part 205. Basis for such confirmation is that operator submitted at least Annual Update latest until **30.09**.

Please note that this confirmation is available for a **fee** (outlined in the local service fees).

Kind regards,

Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH

i. V. Ivonne Wimmer
-General Management, stellvertretende
Kontrollstellenleitung-

i. V. Ronald Wesner
-Kontrollstellenleitung, Fachliche Leitung-

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Bei Rückfragen oder allgemeinen Fragen zum Kontrollverfahren stehen wir Ihnen innerhalb unserer Sprechzeiten telefonisch (+49 911 42439 - DW) oder ganztägig per Mail über unsere Regio- bzw. Funktionspostfächer gerne zur Verfügung.

Auf unserer Internetseite finden Sie unsere Ansprechpersonen sowie die aktuellen Versionen relevanter Dokumente insbesondere zur Vorbereitung der Kontrolle

- <https://www.kiwa.com/de/de/uber-kiwa/tochterfirmen/ansprechpartner-kiwa-bcs-oko-garantie-gmbh/>
- <https://www.kiwa.com/de/de/downloads-kiwa-bcs/wichtige-dokumente-fur-ihre-bio-zertifizierung/>

Allgemeine Erreichbarkeit Kiwa BCS	
Montag bis Donnerstag	9:00 bis 16:00 Uhr
Freitag	9:00 bis 14:00 Uhr
Zuständige Regioteams	
Abhängig vom Hauptsitz des Kunden	
Sprechzeiten der Regioteams	
Montag bis Donnerstag	9:00 bis 15:00 Uhr
Freitag	9:00 bis 14:00 Uhr
Regioteam 1 Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen, Hamburg, Bremen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Betriebsstätten/Kunde in EU	 de.regioteam1.bcs@kiwa.com <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Thomas Schneider (DW -40)▪ Marion Schneiderheinze (DW -34)
Regioteam 2 Andere Bundesländer	 de.regioteam2.bcs@kiwa.com <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dinmukhammed Syzdykov (DW -13)▪ Daniel Lorenz (DW -27)
Regioteam 3 Bayern	 de.regioteam3.bcs@kiwa.com <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marcus Wolfrum (DW -17)▪ Lars Tuschen (DW -24)
Import und TRACES-Account	
Wenden Sie sich mit Ihrem Anliegen an das oben genannte Regioteam.	
Importmeldungen	

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Importe sind vor der Verzollung bei der Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH schriftlich anzumelden, indem die Kontrollbescheinigung (COI) als PDF an DE.Importmeldung.BCS@kiwa.com gesendet wird.

Rückstandsvorgänge



de.residues.bcs@kiwa.com



Ansprechpartnerinnen

- Anna Jahnel (DW -67) – Schwerpunkt national
- Marlene Radolf (DW -29) – Schwerpunkt national und international
- Natalia Redam (DW -49) – Schwerpunkt international

Einreichung von Unterlagen zur Erfüllung / Korrektur von Abweichungen



de.info.bcs@kiwa.com

Terminvereinbarungen, Tourenplanung, Terminbestätigung



de.terminplanung.bcs@kiwa.com

- Victoria Trubanova (DW -22)
- Kristina Weiß (DW -23)
- Sandra Wojtasik (DW -19)

Sales & Marketing

Betreuung
Vertrags-
konditionen,
Koordination
Kundenseminare



de.sales.bcs@kiwa.com

- Oliver Altwasser (DW -37)
- Simon Feiertag (DW -38)
- Kristina Grocholl (DW -76)

Anfordern / Erstellung von Importkontrollbescheinigungen (COI), Partiezertifikaten (Transaction certificates)

Sprechzeiten

Montag bis Donnerstag 9:00 bis 15:00 Uhr

Freitag 9:00 bis 14:00 Uhr



de.tc.in.bcs@kiwa.com

Anträge Deutschland, Osteuropa und Afrika

- Tobias Süß (DW -53)
- Vertretung: Claudia Valencia (DW -54)

Anträge Asien, Saudi-Arabien

- Claudia Valencia (DW -54)

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- Vertretung: Tobias Süß (DW -53)

Anträge China und Türkei

- Claudia Valencia (DW -54)
- Vertretung: Tobias Süß (DW -53)

Fakturierung

Bei Fragen rund
um Ihre
Rechnung



de.clientinvoiceclaim.bcs@kiwa.com

- Gabriele Mára (DW -64)

Teamleitung Inland

Koordination
Kontroll-
durchführung,
Zertifizierung,
Tourenplanung,
fachliche Betreuung
Kontrollverfahren



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- Bernd Pretzlaff (DW -65)

Kontrollstellenleitung

Fachliche
Leitung



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- Ronald Wesner (DW -14)

General Management, stellvertretende Kontrollstellenleitung



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- Ivonne Wimmer (DW -10)