



INSTITUT NATIONAL  
DE L'ORIGINE ET DE  
LA QUALITÉ



# Main components of the process of producing SIQO (official quality and origin signs) products

Any operator (producers, processors...) involved in the agricultural or foodstuff sector wanting to market SIQO products must **identify the product concerned and the sign being sought for**. If there is a specification describing the production process and the characteristics of the product, the operator is invited to examine it and **contact the corresponding ODG (Defence and management body)** (1). If the specification required for SIQO status does not exist or has not been drawn up to date, the operator will be required to draft a new specification and to draw up the statutes of the corresponding ODG (2).

## 1 - If a product specification already exists

The operator is invited to get in contact with the corresponding ODG for identification purposes. The second step will involve an on-the-spot visit by the control body selected by the ODG, to ensure that the chosen specifications can indeed be complied with. Should this be the case, the operator receives **approval**.

The operator can then produce SIQO products in line with this authorisation, as long as he or **she is in compliance with the specifications and associated control plan**. The operator will be included on a list of authorised produ-

cers and will be a member of the ODG. He or she will be required to carry out self-checks and be submitted to official controls carried out by the control body, as well as to internal controls implemented by the ODG. In the case of non-compliance with the specification, the operator may face penalties that could lead to the withdrawal of his/her approval.

**Organic Farming products:** as the specification is European and there is no ODG, the operator is required to **contact the control body** directly for approval.

A list of control bodies is available on:  
[www.inao.gouv.fr](http://www.inao.gouv.fr)

## 2 - Recognition process

Every **new SIQO application** or amendment to the specification for an existing product is examined by INAO. This approach must be carried out by **a group of operators**, which must be recognised as an ODG.

The relevant INAO territorial delegation (*list and addresses of INAO local offices available on [www.inao.gouv.fr](http://www.inao.gouv.fr)*) provides guidance and support for the group of producers or the Defence and management body, by formalising the file for SIQO recognition of a product or by revising an already existing specification.

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The application for recognition or amendment of an existing specification is subject to an elaboration and validation process (see below). Professionals and public authorities review suggested proposals step by step. The drafting of new specification or revision of specifications will then be open to public consultation so that all the actors potentially involved in such a project can express their views thereon.

A control plan is drafted by a control body, selected by the ODG, at the same time as the specifications. It is validated prior to the specifications or modifications coming into force.

Following approval of the specification at a national level, the specification (or modified specification) will then be transmitted to the European Commission for European registration (except for Red Label and Organic Farming products for which there is no equivalent at the EU level).

## The process, step by step

