

CERES Policy

Anti-Corruption Policy

1	Back-ground	Corruption destroys the credibility of a certification system. CERES does not want to be involved in corruption at any level.
2	Policy	<p>a. Inspectors or other personnel involved in certification decisions who are found to have accepted bribes (in money, gifts with a value above 20 USD or luxury invitations) will be laid off immediately.</p> <p>b. CERES will cancel the certification contract with clients offering bribes to inspectors or other staff involved in certification decisions. Their certificates will be suspended or revoked, and competent authorities, standard owners, and other certifiers will be informed accordingly.</p> <p>c. CERES will not offer bribes to government officials in any country, for obtaining business licenses or other public services.</p> <p>d. CERES will not offer "commissions" to employees of private or public companies or organisations as a means of client acquisition. Commissions for marketing services can be paid to third parties, but not to employees of the potential client.</p> <p>e. CERES will take all the necessary steps to protect internal and external whistle blowers. Giving Information can be done anonymously.</p>
3	What is considered corruption?	<p>Some examples:</p> <p>a. Corruption can consist e.g. in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money, loans, discounts • High value gifts • Providing services for free • Invitation to luxury restaurants, bars, hotels, etc. • Offering a job • Invitation to spend a weekend or holidays • Promise to bring new clients <p>b. Corruption in certification can have e.g. the intention of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing serious non-conformities from an inspection report • Obtaining favourable laboratory results • Obtaining a certificate without onsite inspection • Preventing an inspector from accessing compromising documents <p>c. Persons in a certification body who may potentially be subject to corruption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspectors • Certification officers • Sample takers • Office managers.
4	Information	For programs where inspectors need to be approved by or reported to the scheme owner, the scheme owner will be informed immediately about cases of CERES personnel being involved in cases of bribery or similar incidents.
5	Related documents	<p>2.1.1 CERES Policy on Impartiality and Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>2.1.6.1 Handling Corruption Risks WI</p>