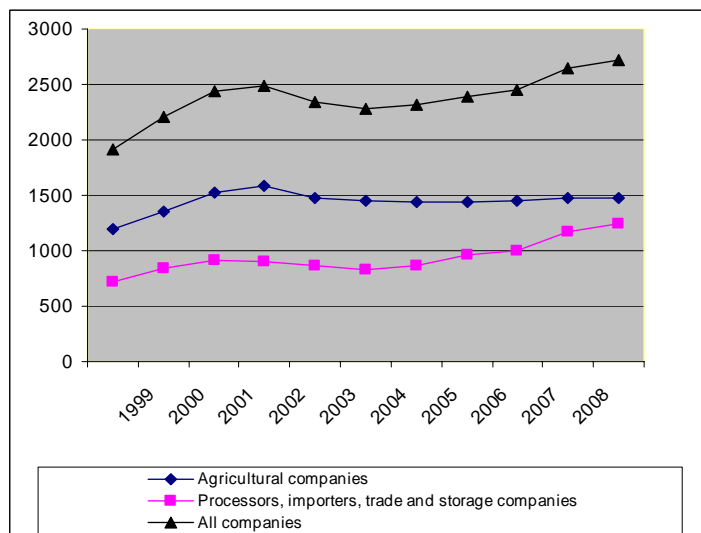


Facts and figures 2008

Skal was established in 1992 and has been assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality as the only organic inspection and certification body in the Netherlands. Inspectors of Skal visit agricultural companies, food processors, importers and trade and storage companies. The graph shows the development over the past years of the number of registered companies under the inspection scheme of Skal.



Number of companies in 2008

	Farming	Processing, import, trade and storage	Total
Start of 2008	1466	1119	2585
Newly registered	100	206	306
Ended organic production	93	78	171
End of 2008	1473	1247	2720

Companies that comply with the legal EU-requirements are allowed to carry the term "organic" on their products. Besides they can use the EKO-symbol, one of the few symbols based on legal and strict regulations.

As additional guarantee for an independent inspection and certification Skal is subjected to the Dutch Council for Accreditation.

Reliable organic products

Thanks to the efforts of organic companies themselves and the strict inspection activities of Skal the consumer can rely on the Dutch organic product. Skal visits and inspects the companies on the spot, it takes samples for further analysis and pays a lot of attention to the company's administration and paper work. The most relevant organic aspects and the most riskful issues of the company the inspector will focus on.

Skal distinguishes several inspections: the first examination visit after registration, the yearly standard inspection (all issues), the unannounced "flash" inspection (very often only one issue), the re-inspection after an offence has been noticed and chain inspections on different companies. In 2008 Skal carried out many more unannounced inspections than she did before. Furthermore Skal cooperates and exchanges information with other inspection bodies, national and international. Companies and consumers also contribute to the reliability of organic products by informing Skal about suspicious matters.

Number of inspections in 2008 (15% unannounced)

First visit	Standard inspection	Re-inspection	Chain inspection	Flash inspection	Totaal
580	2699	82	190	442	3993

Sanctions in case of offences

In case a company does not observe the regulations it has to face sanctions. The sanction policy of Skal is a strict one. Serious offences can lead to decertification. In that case the product cannot be marketed anymore as organic. When fraud is suspected Skal will hand over the case to the ministerial inspection service as to prepare a possible court case. In 2008 Skal noticed more serious offences. The modern inspection methods and the cooperation mentioned earlier have increased the detection chance of serious offences and fraud. The figures below do concern both Dutch and foreign products.

Offences and sanctions in 2008 and earlier

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008
Offences and suspected cases	147	245	344	400
Decertifications	17	22	26	39



Organisation

Skal developed as an organisation and moved on towards further professionalisation of its processes. A milestone was the launch of a new and modern website with online possibilities for communication with the registered companies. The personnel capacity slightly increased.

The financial results over 2008 were positive which enabled Skal to make a substantial reservation for further quality development during the coming years.

Personnel and financial means

Skal personnel capacity: 20 fte

Hired inspection capacity: 9 fte

Turnover: € 2.600.000

Skal in 2008

Skal can look back at a prosperous year. As authority for the Dutch organic production and trade we have been able to contribute to the trustworthiness and the image of the organic product. In fact this is our final goal. Efficient and independent inspection and certification will remain our challenge.

Skal  **BIO CONTROLE**
the Dutch inspection and certification body for organic production



www.skal.nl

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