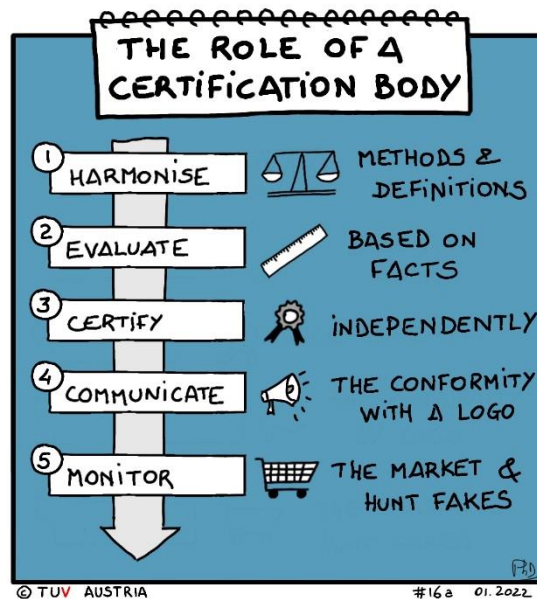


16 – The role of a certification body



OK compost, Seedling, OK biodegradable and OK biobased certifications schemes are based on type examination followed by monitoring through verification tests on samples from the distributor's stocks or of the market.

As an independent third party, a certification body (CB) is an important market regulator for several reasons:

- The CB participates in the **HARMONISATION** of definitions and test methods. Whether via standardisation groups or by defining certain concepts or specifications itself;
- **ASSESSMENTS** are made on the basis of verifiable facts and test reports, regardless of the product;

- The CB **CERTIFIES** compliance with a specification independently, regardless of the applicant;
- CB allows clear **COMMUNICATION** via certificates or appropriate logos, without disclosing confidential information (composition, process, ...);
- Finally, as part of our certification schemes, we **MONITOR** the compliance of the products and communication for the duration of the certificate.

In a nutshell: A CB monitors the communication and conformity of the products it has certified after independent assessment by means of specific and harmonised methods.