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Reading aid for the new edition of the Bio Suisse Standards

A single standard is made up of different parts relating to a single thematic area, with different instances in the association being entitled to make decisions:

- The principles and objectives of a standard adopted by the Assembly of Delegates are indicated by a green bar on the side of the text.
- The subsequent directives are based on the principles and regulate the technical implementation. Amendments to directives are submitted to the member organisations and, provided they do not raise any objections within 60 days, put into effect by the Bio Suisse Quality Committee. The directives are not specifically highlighted in the text.
- For certain aspects, there are operative implementation provisions which are issued and adapted by the responsible Label Commissions. They are identified by two grey stripes at the side of the text.
- Finally, the appendices contain lists that can be changed at short notice as well as practical information. Responsibilities are individually defined, and the Bio Suisse head office maintains an overview list. The appendices follow the chapter to which they refer. They are designated as appendices and marked by grey dots on the side of the text.

For the equal linguistic treatment of persons, the neutral form or otherwise for reasons of legibility the male form will be used wherever possible.

These Standards, as well as the additional documents designated with a reference ↪ therein, are available at www.bio-suisse.ch ↪ Import with Bio Suisse ↪ Downloads and www.bioaktuell.ch ↪ Das Bioregellwerk (in German) ↪ La réglementation bio (in French) ↪ Le normative bio (in Italian).

All federal laws and ordinances listed below can be ordered from the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (formerly Federal Printing and Supplies Office), 3003 Bern, Tel. +41 (0)31 325 50 50 or downloaded from the Internet at www.admin.ch ↪ Federal law.

List of abbreviations


Standards for the production, processing and trade of "Bud" products

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ADEB | Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity (formerly ecological compensation areas) |
| AG | Bio Suisse Advisory Groups |
| AGRIDEA | Centre for Agricultural Advisory and Extension Services (formerly LBL and SRVA) |
| Agroscope | Swiss research into agriculture, nutrition and the environment |
| AniWO | Animal Welfare Ordinance (SR 455.1 – Tierschutzverordnung vom 23. April 2008) |
| AOP/PDO | Logo for Appellation d'Origine Protégée and Protected Designation of Origin |
| BRC | British Retail Consortium |
| BSO | BIOSUISSE ORGANIC – Designation and logo for operations abroad certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards and their products |
| BTS | Programme on particularly animal-friendly livestock housing systems in accordance with Article 72 of the Direct Payments Ordinance (see DPO) |
| CH organic | Certified according to the Organic Farming Ordinance (see OFO) |
| COA | Covered outdoor area |
| COC | Controlled organic cultivation |
| CR, CRA | Crop rotation, crop rotation area |
| DM | Dry matter |
| DPO | Ordinance on Direct Agricultural Payments (Direct Payments Ordinance, SR 910.13 – Verordnung vom 23. Oktober 2013 über die Direktzahlungen an die Landwirtschaft) |
| dt | Decitonne (100 kg) |
| DWBSO | FDHA Ordinance on Drinking Water and Water in Public Baths and Shower Facilities (SR 817.022.11 – Verordnung des EDI vom 16. Dezember 2016 über Trinkwasser sowie Wasser in öffentlich zugänglichen Bädern und Duschanlagen) |
| EAER | Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research |
| EAER OFO | Organic Farming Ordinance of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER Ordinance on Organic Farming, SR 910.181 – Verordnung des WBF vom 22. September 1997 über die biologische Landwirtschaft) |
| ET | Embryo transfer |
| EU organic | Certified according to the European Union regulations for the organic sector (see EU organic regulations) |
| EU organic regulations | Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 and Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008 |
| FADO | EAER Ordinance on the Production and Marketing of Feedstuffs, Feed Additives and Dietary Feed (SR 916.307.1 – Verordnung des WBF vom 26. Oktober 2011 über die Produktion und das Inverkehrbringen von Futtermitteln, Futtermittelzusatzstoffen und Diätfuttermitteln) |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| FDHA | Federal Department of Home Affairs |
| FeedO | Ordinance on the Production and Marketing of Feedstuffs (SR 916.307 – Verordnung vom 26. Oktober 2011 über die Produktion und das Inverkehrbringen von Futtermitteln) |
| FiBL | Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, 5070 Frick |
| FOAG | Federal Office for Agriculture |
| FoodAO | FDHA Ordinance on Additives Permitted in Foodstuffs (Food Additives Ordinance, SR 817.022.31 – Verordnung des EDI vom 25. November 2013 über die zulässigen Zusatzstoffe in Lebensmitteln) |
| FOPH | Federal Office of Public Health |
| FSVO | Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office |
| FUAO | Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (SR 817.02 – Lebensmittel- und Gebrauchsgegenständeverordnung vom 16. Dezember 2016) |
| GMFO | FDHA Ordinance on Genetically Modified Foodstuffs (SR 817.022.51 – Verordnung des EDI vom 23. November 2005 über gentechnisch veränderte Lebensmittel) |
| GMO | Genetically modified organisms |
| ha | hectare |
| HMF | Hydroxymethylfurfural |
| ICS | Internal control system |
| IFOAM | International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IP | Integrated production |
| ISFA | Ordinance on the Use of Swiss Indications of Source for Foodstuffs (SR 232.112.1 – Verordnung vom 2. September 2015 über die Verwendung von schweizerischen Herkunftsangaben für Lebensmittel) |
| LCI | Bio Suisse Label Commission "Import" |
| LCP | Bio Suisse Label Commission "Production" |
| LCPM | Bio Suisse Label Commission "Processing and Trade" |
| LH | Laying hens |
| LMU | Livestock manure unit |
| LU | Livestock unit |
| LW | Live weight |
| MC | Mediterranean countries |
| METAS | Federal Office of Metrology and Accreditation |
| non-organic | Not conforming to any legal organic standard (from conventional or integrated production) Often (e.g. in the labelling of food) the term "conventional" is also used for this. |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| OFO | Ordinance on Organic Farming and the Labelling of Organically Produced Products and Foodstuffs (Organic Farming Ordinance, SR 910.18 – Verordnung vom 22. September 1997 über die biologische Landwirtschaft und die Kennzeichnung biologisch produzierter Erzeugnisse und Lebensmittel) |
| ORRChem | Ordinance on the Reduction of Risks Relating to the Use of Certain Particularly Dangerous Substances, Preparations and Articles (Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance, SR 814.81 – Verordnung vom 18. Mai 2005 zur Reduktion von Risiken beim Umgang mit bestimmten besonders gefährlichen Stoffen, Zubereitungen und Gegenständen) |
| PAK | Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission (predecessor of the LCP) |
| PEP | Proof of Ecological Performance (see DPO) |
| PL | Pullets |
| PRIF | Principles of Agricultural Crop Fertilisation |
| PVC | Polyvinyl chloride |
| RAUS | Programme on the regular access to range and/or pasture of livestock in accordance with Article 72 of the Direct Payments Ordinance (see DPO) |
| S | Bio Suisse Standards for the production, processing and trade of Bud products. References to titles with one- and two-digit numbers within the Standards are given as chapters (e.g. to Chapter 4.2), to three- and four-digit title numbers with articles (e.g. Article 4.2.2). In documents outside the directives, a reference to the directives is supplemented by the reference "S" or "Standards". |
| SCM | Bio Suisse Supply Chain Monitor |
| SDRO | FDHA Ordinance on Foodstuffs for Persons with Special Dietary Requirements (SR 817.022.104 – Verordnung des EDI vom 16. Dezember 2016 über Lebensmittel für Personen mit besonderem Ernährungsbedarf) |
| UAA | Utilised agricultural area |
| UHT | Ultra-high temperature Ultra-high short-time heating of milk and dairy products |
| UV | Ultraviolet (beyond violet): radiation in the non-visible range with a wavelength of 1 nm to 380 nm |
| VFO | FDHA Ordinance on Foodstuffs of Vegetable Origin, Fungi and Table Salt (SR 817.022.17 – Verordnung des EDI vom 16. Dezember 2016 über Lebensmittel pflanzlicher Herkunft, Pilze und Speisesalz) |
| WMP | Water management plan |
| WPO | Waters Protection Ordinance (SR 814.201 – Gewässerschutzverordnung vom 28. Oktober 1998) |
| X (superscript) | Critical ingredient regarding genetic engineering: declaration of commitment to comply with the ban on genetic engineering in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Farming Ordinance and the EU organic regulations. |

Legal notice

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Trademark registered with the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (3003 Bern) under the numbers 405758 and P-479695 |
| KNOSPE | Trademark registered with the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (3003 Bern) under number P-494457 |
| BOURGEON | Trademark registered with the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (3003 Bern) under number P-494456 |
| GEMMA | Trademark registered with the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (3003 Bern) under number P-494458 |
| BUD | Trademark registered with the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (3003 Bern) under number P-494459 |

Bio Suisse – mission statement

THE PRINCIPLES OF BUD FARMERS AND BUD GROWERS

We are aware of our responsibility towards nature and the people working in it. We want to bring our work into harmony with natural cycles and the economic framework conditions. We work with head, heart and hand on our common vision every day.



This holistic cycle enables us to offer consumers authentic organic products that are healthy and delicious.

Note: This mission statement was written for Bud farmers, for Bud gardeners and for all men and women who work in organic farming. For reasons of readability, we limit ourselves to the masculine form in the text.

BIO SUISSE – THE UMBRELLA ORGANISATION OF SWISS BUD FARMS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| OUR VISION | WHAT WE WANT |
| | We live in a sustainable, agrarian ecosystem, a natural home to people, animals and plants. Switzerland is a country focussed on organic farming, where current and future generations of farmers practice a holistic and viable form of cultivation, satisfying consumers with authentic products that are healthy and delicious. |
| OUR VALUES | HOW WE WORK |
| | The Bud stands for a holistic definition of organic farming. Bio Suisse creates a high value for the Bud label and thus helps to secure the future of Swiss Bud farms. Our work and communication are based on ambitious standards and high ethical demands. |
| | The Bud farmers steer Bio Suisse democratically and use the Standards to define organic farming for Bud products. |
| | Bio Suisse cultivates what is tried and tested, improves what already exists, creates something new and is committed to the progress and development of organic farming. This also includes the responsible, self-determined import and export of Bud products. |
| OUR ORGANISATION | WHO WE ARE |
| | Bio Suisse is the umbrella organisation of Swiss Bud farms and is the owner of the registered trademark Bud. |
| | Bio Suisse organises and manages the development of the Bud label and organic farming in Switzerland. |
| | The sponsors are the Swiss Bud farmers and Bud gardeners, who are organised within the member organisations. |

Part V: Standards for operations outside of Switzerland and for imported products

1 Principles and objectives

As the umbrella organisation for Swiss Bud farms, Bio Suisse's core mission is to support and promote Swiss Bud producers and products. Imports serve to supplement the products and goods available from within Switzerland. Moreover, Bio Suisse promotes sustainable farming conditions abroad and helps to further develop organic farming around the world.

Bio Suisse places restrictions on which products from outside of Switzerland may be labelled with the Bud logo. The import restrictions are detailed in the directives of [Bio Suisse import restrictions Part V, Chap. 2, Page 298](#) (see [Bio Suisse import restrictions Part V, Chap. 2, Page 298](#)). They draw on the following basic principles:

- Swiss Bud products take priority over imported products.
- In general, only raw materials or single-ingredient products are imported. Importing fully processed products is only permitted in exceptional cases.
- Imports from Switzerland's neighbouring countries are preferred. The origin or transport distance of the products must be justifiable.
- During approval, sustainability criteria are adequately taken into consideration.
- Product quality and the availability of goods are considered during evaluation.
- Bio Suisse sees itself as a partner of BIOSUISSE ORGANIC operations.
- The trustworthiness and brand image of the Bud may not be damaged.

Imported organic products (raw products and processed commodities) that carry the Bud logo must meet the following requirements:

- Production, processing, storage and sale of the products correspond with the current Standards. Additional provisions may be specified and unique conditions may be adjusted on-site in Part V when these aspects are not sufficiently regulated in Parts I to IV. The principle of equality applies.
- The producer (as per the section [Inspection and certification Part V, Chap. 3.1, Page 302](#)) must be certified in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards, or the farming association must have direct approval from Bio Suisse (as per the section [Bio Suisse approval of producer association Part V, Art. 3.1.7, Page 309](#)). All participants in the supply chain must be certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards, and the chain of custody must be traceable back to the original producer without any gaps.
- Products may only be imported by importers that hold a valid licence contract or production contract with Bio Suisse (see [Contractual obligations and mandatory inspection Part I, Chap. 2, Page 18](#)).
- Products may only be transported to Switzerland by land or by sea (air freight is only permitted in specific exceptional cases and is subject to authorisation).
- Legal provisions and the provisions of the Organic Farming Ordinance or other equivalent legislation must be complied with.

Certification of an operation outside of Switzerland according to the Bio Suisse Standards does not imply that its products are automatically entitled to carry the Bud logo.

Bio Suisse wants to provide small-scale farmers in developing countries with easier market access.

Bio Suisse issues guidelines for animal husbandry, even if the farms only certify their plant-based products in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards (as per the section [Animal husbandry Part V, Chap. 4.4, Page 334](#)).

2 Bio Suisse import restrictions

The import restrictions are based on the [Principles and objectives Part V, Chap. 1, Page 297](#). The individual import restrictions are defined in detail in this directive.

2.1 Specific import restrictions

2.1.1 Priority for Swiss production

The following import standards apply to products that can be supplied in part or mostly by Swiss producers:

- Government import regulations
- Product-specific agreements between Bio Suisse and the industry
- Individual import approvals from Bio Suisse required

Approved products/restrictions are defined in the approval list www.international.biosuisse.ch ↪ Zulassung Importprodukte (not available in English), which is continually updated.

2.1.2 Priority for processing in Switzerland

Importing fully processed products is only permitted in exceptional cases. Fully processed products include all imported products that do not need to be processed further before being sold to the consumer.

Fully processed products will be considered on a case-by-case basis (when the application for a licence is reviewed), and justification must be provided. This applies especially to milled products (incl. hulled spelt), alcoholic beverages, the production of retail packaging and mixing multiple ingredients.

A derogation may be made from the policy of protecting Swiss processing operations if the addition of a given processed product would serve the common interest by enhancing the appeal of the Bio Suisse Bud range of products, if consumer expectations would not be disappointed, and if no Swiss processing operation could make these kinds of products.

Specialities that bear the AOP/PDO logos or other clear designations of origin take precedence.

If only one alternative production site exists in Switzerland for a given product, then Bio Suisse may decide on a case-by-case basis to permit non-Swiss operations for supplementary production.

For imported single-ingredient products, simple processing directly in the country of origin is permitted in order to maintain product quality. Simple processing includes drying, deep-freezing, pitting, cleaning, sorting, pressing, filling and packaging in bulk containers.

Approved products/restrictions are defined in the approval list www.international.biosuisse.ch ↪ Zulassung Importprodukte (not available in English), which is continually updated.

2.1.3 Priority for fresh products from Europe and Mediterranean countries

Fresh products (fresh fruit, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms) and fruit juices, pulps and deep-frozen products that are to be imported from outside of Europe or the Mediterranean countries can only be labelled with the Bud logo in exceptional cases. Exceptions are products that cannot be grown or cannot be grown in sufficient quantities in Europe or Mediterranean countries due to the climate (see the map at the end of this directive).

The exceptions are reviewed based on the [Criteria for evaluation of imported products Part V, Chap. 2.2, Page 299](#).

Approved products/restrictions are defined in the approval list www.international.biosuisse.ch ↪ Zulassung Importprodukte (not available in English), which is continually updated.

2.1.4 Priority for feed from Europe

Since 1 January 2019, Bud feed must primarily consist of ingredients from European operations (countries pictured on the map at the end of this directive). However, by-products of the Swiss food industry made of imported raw materials from outside of Europe are exempted. Derogations for Bud feed from outside of Europe may be sought from Bio Suisse. The exceptions are reviewed based on the [Criteria for evaluation of imported products Part V, Chap. 2.2, Page 299](#).

Approved products/restrictions are defined in the approval list www.international.biosuisse.ch ↪ Zulassung Importprodukte (not available in English), which is continually updated.

2.2 Criteria for evaluation of imported products

Products and origins that are not included in [Specific import restrictions Part V, Chap. 2.1, Page 298](#) will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria. The criteria are also used to evaluate exceptions to the [Specific import restrictions Part V, Chap. 2.1, Page 298](#). The organs of Bio Suisse responsible in accordance with their functional descriptions systematically decide on the basis of these criteria which imported products can be labelled with the Bud logo. The overall assessment across all criteria blocks a through e is decisive and the basic requirement is always compliance with the Bio Suisse Standards.

a) Availability in Switzerland

Basis for evaluation: The greater the availability of a product is in Switzerland, the more likely it is for Bio Suisse to consider an imported product as detrimental to its image. The overall assessment is decisive.

Criteria:

- Cultivation/production in Switzerland
- Quantity/seasonality (e.g. generally stable, fluctuation throughout the year, projects to promote production)
- Product characteristics (quality, etc.)

b) Product portfolio policy

Basis for evaluation: The more an item enriches the product range and the greater its potential for increasing sales of Swiss Bud products, the more positive the evaluation. The overall assessment is decisive.

Criteria:

- How attractive is the item for the Bud product range?
- Will it increase visibility of Bud at the point of sale?
- Will it influence the sales potential of Swiss Bud products (e.g. import product as an integral part of a processed product)?
- Market potential of the import product (e.g. general, market niche/gap)
- Conventional/EU organic alternative product

c) Availability in Europe and Mediterranean countries

Basis for evaluation: As per the basic principle that imports from neighbouring countries take priority, long transport distances are viewed negatively. The greater the availability of a product is in Europe (see the map at the end of this directive) and Mediterranean countries, the more likely it is for Bio Suisse to consider an imported product from far-away countries as detrimental to its image. The overall assessment is decisive.

Criteria:

- Is it possible to cultivate/produce this item in Europe/a Mediterranean country?
- Quantity/seasonality (e.g. generally stable, fluctuation throughout the year, projects to promote production)
- Product characteristics (quality, etc.)

d) The sustainability of products from outside of Europe or Mediterranean countries

Basis for evaluation: The greater the availability of the product is in Europe and Mediterranean countries, the more sustainable the farming operations and products from outside of this area must be – above and beyond the Bio Suisse Standards. If a product is not available in Europe/Mediterranean countries, Bio Suisse will generally waive assessment of additional sustainability measures. The overall assessment is decisive.

Criteria:**A: Ecology**

- Water (region, farm, product-related)
- Climate (greenhouse gas emissions)
- Material and energy usage (e.g. transport, energy and material consumption)
- Soil (e.g. soil fertility, erosion)
- Biodiversity

B: Good corporate governance

- Corporate governance and sustainability management (e.g. written obligations, dedication to sustainability, additional certifications such as Fair Trade)
- Risk management (e.g. in terms of internal/external risks, workplace safety)
- Corporate responsibility, participation and transparency (e.g. conflict prevention, ownership structure)
- Dedication to sustainability (e.g. social, cultural and ecological infrastructure for employees and family members)

C: Economic resilience

- Local economy (e.g. operating structure: small-scale farms, cooperatives, large corporations, legal form)

D: Social and fair

- Social responsibility (basis: [Social responsibility Part V, Chap. 3.3, Page 312](#))
- Responsible business practices (basis: Code of Conduct for Responsible Business Practices when Importing Bud Products, long-term business relationships, guaranteed purchase agreements, fair and transparent negotiation practices and conditions, action on the part of the importer)

e) Trustworthiness

Basis for evaluation: The product and its place of origin will be analysed in terms of the risk of damaging the trustworthiness of the Bud logo. The higher the risk of damaging the trustworthiness, the more likely it is for Bio Suisse to consider an imported product to be detrimental to its image. The overall assessment is decisive.

Criteria:

- Expectations for products labelled with the Bud logo (e.g. on the part of consumers and Bio Suisse producers)
- Truthfulness
- Ecology (e.g. transport distance, resource consumption, packaging)
- Seasonality
- Socially responsible and fair conditions (e.g. farming regions/products with a negative reputation)
- Political environment (e.g. conflict regions, corruption in the public sector)
- Critical raw materials (e.g. products that are viewed critically by the general public/media)

Definition of Europe:



3 General directives

3.1 Inspection and certification

3.1.1 Definitions

3.1.1.1 Individual producers

Individual producers are operations (agricultural, wild harvesting, beekeeping and aquacultural) that are individually inspected and certified by an inspection body.

3.1.1.2 Processing and trading operations

Processing and trading operations are operations that process, prepare or trade purchased or brought-in products.

3.1.1.3 Producer groups

Producer groups have joint, regional structures (e.g. for advisory services and marketing) and are inspected and certified by their inspection body as a group. Bio Suisse distinguishes between different types of producer groups:

a) Producer groups with an internal control system

These producer groups are inspected and certified by means of an internal control system (ICS).

b) Producer groups without an internal control system

These producer groups are not inspected and certified by means of an internal control system and cannot be classified as smallholder groups according to the Bio Suisse definition.

c) Smallholder groups

Smallholder groups are producer groups that meet all of the following criteria:

- At least 50% of the farmers have 0 to 5 ha of utilised agricultural area (UAA).
- At least 70% of the farmers have 0 to 10 ha of utilised agricultural area.
- At least 95% of the farmers have less than 25 ha of utilised agricultural area (whereby the yield obtained by farmers who have more than 25 ha of utilised agricultural area does not comprise more than 25% of the producer group's total yield).

At the request of the inspection body, the acreage of the crop to be certified can be used as a basis for calculating the composition of the smallholder group rather than the utilised agricultural area.

At the request of the inspection body and in justified cases, exemptions may be granted from the requirements regarding the sizes of the operations in the group as specified above.

Smallholder groups may be inspected and certified by means of an internal control system (ICS), but this is not a mandatory requirement.

Smallholder groups are not obligated to satisfy the ADEB quality requirements (in accordance with [Requirements regarding the quality of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity Part V, Art. 4.2.3.2, Page 329](#)).

Smallholder groups are not obligated to satisfy the requirement that 5% of the utilised agricultural area planted with oil palms must be used for innovative, diversified cultivation systems (in accordance with [Cultivation of oil palms \(*Elaeis guineensis*\) and primary processing of oil palm fruit Part V, Art. 4.3.4, Page 333](#)).

3.1.1.4 **Contractors**

Contractors⁽⁸⁰⁾ (for preparation, storage or processing) are under contract to the main operation (the contracting customer); compliance with the Bio Suisse Standards (including formulas, the composition of all ingredients and processing methods, pest control, and the segregation of BSO products) is therefore the sole responsibility of the contracting customer. A contractor is never the financial owner of the products.

3.1.1.5 **Custom farming**

Farming activities carried out by the operation as a custom farming operation for third parties.

3.1.1.6 **Inspection body**

The accredited body that carries out inspections according to the Bio Suisse Standards at the operation. This is generally the same inspection body that also inspects and certifies the operation according to the EU organic regulations (or equivalent).

3.1.1.7 **BSO certification body**

An accredited certification body that is authorised by Bio Suisse to check for compliance with the Bio Suisse Standards and to issue the BSO certificate.

⁸⁰ Only downstream activities, without custom farming.

Appendix to Part V, Chapter 3.1.1.7 – BSO certification bodies

Certification bodies for operations outside of Switzerland

| | |
|--|---|
| bio.inspecta AG Postfach 5070 Frick, Switzerland Tel.: + 41 (0)62 865 63 00 admin@bio-inspecta.ch www.bio-inspecta.ch/en Accreditation number: SCESp 0006 | INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION BIO SUISSE AG Peter Merian-Strasse 34 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel.: +41 (0)61 385 96 50 info@icbag.ch www.icbag.ch Accreditation number: SCESp 0120 |
|--|---|

Inspection bodies for operations outside of Switzerland

Approved inspection bodies (subcontractors) see www.bio-suisse.ch/en ↪ Import with Bio Suisse ↪ ↪ .

3.1.2 Certification of individual producers

All operations outside of Switzerland and their imported products will be individually inspected on an annual basis for their compliance with the Bio Suisse Standards by a BSO certification body that is authorised by Bio Suisse. Individual producers must fully meet the Bio Suisse requirements. The requirements are set forth here in Part V, Standards for Imports. Furthermore, Parts I through IV of the Bio Suisse Standards also apply to individual producers.

3.1.3 Certification of processing and trading operations

Processing and trading operations must be inspected and certified annually in accordance with these Standards. The certification of processing and trading operations is contingent on their compliance with the directives for processing and trade (see [Directives for processing and trade Part V, Chap. 5, Page 336](#)) in addition to the requirements set forth in Part III.

Operations that would like to apply for certification for processing that takes place entirely outside of Switzerland or that is complex must first contact the Bio Suisse import division.

3.1.4 Certification of projects for harvesting wild plants

Certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards may be granted for plants harvested in the wild if the [Requirements for wild harvesting Part V, Chap. 6, Page 341](#) are met.

3.1.5 Certification of producer groups

3.1.5.1 Certification of producer groups with an internal control system

The producer group is inspected and certified in accordance with the IFOAM standards⁽⁸¹⁾. Producer group members that cannot be inspected by an internal control system in accordance with these requirements must be inspected by an external body on an annual basis.

All operations put forward for certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards must fully meet the Bio Suisse Standards. In particular, they must have been converted in their entirety (whole-farm approach).

3.1.5.2 Certification of producer groups without an internal control system

Members of a producer group without an internal control system who are put forward for certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards must fully meet the Bio Suisse requirements. They must all be individually inspected by the inspection body on an annual basis. The checklist for groups may thereby be filled out and submitted.

3.1.5.3 Simplified certification of smallholder groups

Bio Suisse aims to provide smallholder groups with easier market access and give them an advantage over large operations. Smallholder groups in developing countries in or outside of Europe (as defined by the OECD DAC list) or subgroups of the same can therefore apply for simplified certification. The advantage of simplified certification is that Bio Suisse conditions need not be completely met. Smallholder groups with or without an ICS can benefit from streamlined certification. Smallholder groups with an ICS must be inspected and certified in accordance with the provisions under [Certification of producer groups with an internal control system Part V, Art. 3.1.5.1, Page 305](#). Dividing operations into smaller operating units for the purpose of meeting the Bio Suisse definition of smallholder groups (in accordance with [Producer groups Part V, Art. 3.1.1.3, Page 302](#) c) Smallholder groups) is not permissible.

Smallholder groups may apply for streamlined certification if the following criteria are met:

- The group corresponds to the Bio Suisse definition c) Smallholder groups, as per [Producer groups Part V, Art. 3.1.1.3, Page 302](#).
- They must produce raw products that are approved for simplified certification according to the following list. The group may apply to Bio Suisse for a derogation for products that are not included on the list.

⁸¹ www.ifoam.bio ↳ IFOAM Norms ↳ Chapter "8.3 Group Certification"

- Fruits that cannot be cultivated or cannot be cultivated in sufficient quantities in Europe or Mediterranean countries due to the climate (as per [Priority for fresh products from Europe and Mediterranean countries Part V, Art. 2.1.3, Page 298](#))
 - Dates, figs
 - Nuts
 - Spices, medicinal plants, herbs
 - Coffee, cocoa
 - Quinoa, amaranth, sesame, rice, chia
 - Sugar cane
- All cash crops grown by the group must be grown organically. The production area for the products for which certification according to Bio Suisse Standards is sought must be inspected and certified in accordance with EU organic regulations (or equivalent). At a minimum, animal husbandry corresponds with Bio Suisse's minimum requirements for animal husbandry for farms outside of Europe (as per [Certification of farming operations with animal husbandry; certification of animal products Part V, Art. 4.4.1, Page 334](#)). Cash crops are crops that are mainly grown in order to be sold. If more than 50% of the harvest is destined for personal use, then it is a self-sufficiency crop.
 - Members of the group for which an application for simplified certification is made must not cultivate high conservation value areas that were cleared after 1994 (e.g. primary or secondary forest). Rules prohibiting the clearing of areas that are considered to be of high conservational value for the purpose of agricultural use are specified in [Clearing high conservation value areas Part V, Chap. 3.5, Page 315](#).
 - The segregation of the products during harvesting, processing and sale as well as the complete traceability of products produced by members of the group for which an application for simplified certification is made must be ensured.

3.1.6 Certification of contractors

Compliance with Bio Suisse requirements must be checked for all contracted activities. BSO certification is typically issued when the contracting customer receives BSO certification. Contractors can be obliged to apply for independent BSO certification if they serve multiple BSO contracting customers or if there are other reasons.

Contractors must possess independent certification according to EU organic regulations (or equivalent), or the contracted activities must be certified through their contracting customer.

The contracting customer must conclude an agreement with the contractor that specifies that the inspection body of the contracting customer may carry out Bio Suisse inspections (including unannounced follow-up inspections and requests for missing documents).

Appendix to Part V, Article 3.1.6 – Overview of required certification, depending on the type of company

| Company | Short description | Physical possession of the goods | Financial ownership of the goods | Certification according to EU organic regulations (or equivalent) | Individual BSO certification required | Co-certification based on the BSO Processing and trade checklist | Must be declared in the Bio Suisse Supply Chain Monitor |
|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Trading operation | Independent company or subsidiary. Trades in products. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Drop shipping company, service office ⁽⁸²⁾ | Independent company or subsidiary. Trades in products. | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Processing operation | Independent company. Processes products; produces partial components or ready-to-eat products in final packaging. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Broker, agency | Broker of products. | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Collection agency | Issues invoices on behalf of sellers. | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Contract manufacturer | Produces ready-to-consume products in final packaging on behalf of a BSO company or a Bio Suisse licensee. | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| BSO contract processor | Processes a partial component that is not packaged for final consumption on behalf of a BSO company. | Yes | No | Yes ⁽⁸³⁾ | No | Yes ⁽⁸⁴⁾ | No |
| Bio Suisse contract processor | Processes a partial component that is not packaged for final consumption on behalf of a Bio Suisse licensee. | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| BSO contract warehouse/duty-free warehouse | Stores goods on behalf of a BSO company. | Yes | No | Yes ⁽⁸³⁾ | No | Yes ⁽⁸⁴⁾ | No |

⁸² Must be BSO certified even if the parent company is already BSO or Bio Suisse certified.

⁸³ Independent certification according to EU organic regulations (or equivalent) or certified by the contracting customer.

⁸⁴ The checklist is usually completed by the inspection body during inspections of the contracting customer.

| Company | Short description | Physical possession of the goods | Financial ownership of the goods | Certification according to EU organic regulations (or equivalent) | Individual BSO certification required | Co-certification based on the BSO Processing and trade checklist | Must be declared in the Bio Suisse Supply Chain Monitor |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Bio Suisse contract warehouse/ duty-free warehouse | Stores goods on behalf of a Bio Suisse licensee. | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Contract warehouse for directly approved raw materials as per Bio Suisse approval of producer associations Part V, Art. 3.1.7, Page 309 | A warehouse for directly approved raw materials on behalf of a directly approved agricultural association or a BSO company. | Yes | No | Yes ⁽⁸³⁾ | No | No | No |
| Transport ⁽⁸³⁾ | Forwards packaged and bulk goods. | Yes | No | No | No | No | No |

3.1.7 **Bio Suisse approval of producer associations**

Bio Suisse can directly approve individual farming operations belonging to a producer association as well as products of a producer association if the standards of the producer association are recognised as equivalent to the Bio Suisse Standards. Bio Suisse will decide on a case-by-case basis whether a producer association can be granted direct approval. The main criterion is whether the standards of the association and its approval practices are recognised as equivalent to the Bio Suisse Standards and to Bio Suisse approval practices.

In the event of a positive decision, Bio Suisse will draw up a cooperation agreement with the producer association in which the details of cooperation are set forth.

Products certified by the producer associations listed in the Appendix to this Article ([see Part V, Page 310](#)) may receive Bio Suisse direct approval if the following criteria are met:

- They must be plant products.
- They must be raw products or raw products that were stored or processed on behalf of the producer without further ingredients or additives.
- Processing and trading operations downstream from the farming operation must be certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards.

Contract warehouses recognised by the producer associations generally fall under direct approval and do not need to be certified in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards.

Appendix to Part V, Article 3.1.7 – List of the producer associations directly approved by Bio Suisse

| Association | Restrictions |
|--|--|
| <p>Erde & Saat Ritterstrasse 8, 4451 Garsten, Austria Tel.: +43 (0)725 221 221 E-mail: kontakt@erde-saat.at, www.erde-saat.at</p> | <p>Excluded areas of production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mushrooms ■ Ornamental plants ■ Greenhouse production <p>Applies only to products from Austria</p> |
| <p>BIO AUSTRIA Auf der Gugl 3, 4021 Linz, Austria Tel.: +43 (0)732 654 884 E-mail: office@bio-austria.at, www.bio-austria.at</p> | <p>Submission of the BIO AUSTRIA batch/trading/ product certificate is obligatory.</p> <p>Excluded areas of production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mushrooms <p>Products from BIO AUSTRIA member organisations in Austria or in neighbouring countries.</p> |
| <p>Biopark e. V. Rövertannen 13, 18273 Güstrow, Germany Tel.: +49 (0)3843 24 50 30 E-mail: info@biopark.de, www.biopark.de</p> | <p>Excluded areas of production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greenhouse production ■ Ornamental plants ■ Viticulture <p>Applies only to products from Germany.</p> |
| <p>Verbund Ökohöfe e. V. Windmühlenbreite 25d, 39164 Wanzleben, Germany Tel.: +49 (0)392 095 379 9 E-mail: verbund-oekohoefe@t-online.de, www.verbund-oekohoefe.de</p> | <p>Excluded areas of production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mushrooms ■ Ornamental plants ■ Viticulture <p>Applies only to products from Germany.</p> |
| <p>Biokreis e. V. Stelzhof 1, 94034 Passau, Germany Tel.: +49 (0)851 756 500 E-mail: info@biokreis.de, www.biokreis.de</p> | <p>Excluded areas of production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mushrooms ■ Ornamental plants <p>Applies only to products from Germany.</p> |
| <p>Bioland e. V. Kaiserstrasse 18, 55116 Mainz, Germany Tel.: +49 (0)613 123 979 0 E-mail: info@bioland.de, www.bioland.de</p> | <p>Products from Bioland e. V. member operations in Germany and from their land in neighbouring countries close to the borders of Germany or Italy (South Tyrol).</p> |
| <p>Demeter e. V. Brandschneise 1, 64295 Darmstadt, Germany Tel.: +49 (0)615 584 690 E-mail: info@demeter.de, www.demeter.de</p> | <p>Applies only to products from Germany.</p> |
| <p>Gäa e. V. Brockhausstrasse 4, 01099 Dresden, Germany Tel.: +49 (0)351 401 238 9 E-mail: info@gaea.de, www.gaea.de</p> | <p>Excluded areas of production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ornamental plants <p>Applies only to products from Germany.</p> |
| <p>Naturland-Verband für ökologischen Landbau e. V. Kleinhaderner Weg 1, 82166 Gräfelfing, Germany</p> | <p>Excluded areas of production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greenhouse production |

-
-
-
-
-

| Association | Restrictions |
|---|--|
| Tel.: +49 (0)898 980 820 E-mail: naturland@naturland.de , www.naturland.de | Applies only to products from Germany. |

3.2 Market presence

3.2.1 Declaration of conformity with Bio Suisse Standards

Basis: see [Use of the Bud trademark Part I, Chap. 3, Page 34](#).

3.2.1.1 Labelling outside of Switzerland and when exporting to Switzerland: BIOSUISSE ORGANIC

Operations outside of Switzerland that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards may use the BIOSUISSE ORGANIC designation as follows:

BIOSUISSE ORGANIC products that are destined to be imported to Switzerland must have the phrase "BIOSUISSE ORGANIC" or the BIOSUISSE ORGANIC logo (see below) on containers, delivery notes, invoices, etc. Containers for export must be labelled with the logo. Templates of the logo in green or black may be downloaded from the Bio Suisse website.

Logo:



The Bud logo and the following terms may not be used outside of Switzerland: "Bud farm", "Bio Suisse farm", etc. If a product is packaged outside of Switzerland and the Bud logo is placed on the packaging, this must be carried out on behalf of a Bio Suisse contracting partner (Bio Suisse producer or Bio Suisse licensee), and the contracting partner must first request permission from Bio Suisse. In case of doubt, Bio Suisse reserves the right to see the relevant written contract.

All products certified as in conversion according to the Bio Suisse Standards must be clearly labelled as "in-conversion products".

3.2.1.2 Labelling in Switzerland and when exporting from Switzerland: Bud

If the requirements set forth in the principles and objectives are met and every step of the chain of custody can be unambiguously traced back to a BIOSUISSE ORGANIC farming operation, the importing licensee will receive a Bud stamp of approval that entitles the products to be labelled with the Bud logo for each imported BIOSUISSE ORGANIC batch.

The BIOSUISSE ORGANIC designation and logo may not be used in Switzerland, nor when exporting from Switzerland.

3.3 Social responsibility

Basis: see [Social requirements Part I, Chap. 4, Page 38](#).

3.3.1 General requirements

Social responsibility is an integral requirement for certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards. The points in the following articles are based on the international labour standards established by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and they must be implemented.

3.3.2 Employee–employer relationship

All employees must have a written employment contract.

The management of the operation must provide employees with the following information in a clearly understandable form:

- A job description
- Wages

- The pay period and mode of payment
- Permissible payroll deductions
- Working time/free time
- Overtime procedures
- Procedures and benefits for holidays and leave due to illness/accident/maternity
- Health and safety procedures
- Recognition of the right to freedom of assembly and collective bargaining
- The period of notice and grounds for dismissal
- Possibilities of appeal

Operations are obliged not to use forced labour or any type of involuntary labour.

If an employee has complied with the terms of notice, the operation may not retain wages, belongings or documents in order to force the employee to remain at the operation.

The same conditions apply to seasonal employees, who must also have employment contracts.

If a subcontractor is hired, the operator has the responsibility to ensure that the subcontractor's employees enjoy the same rights.

The general working conditions must be such that employees are treated with dignity and respect and their physical and mental health are protected. Disciplinary measures may not infringe upon human rights and must be fair and transparent.

Children (under 15 years of age) may not be employed by the operation. In order for children to experience agricultural work, they are exceptionally permitted to perform light and safe tasks under the supervision of adults on their family farm or on a neighbouring farm. Farm work may neither impede children's regular school attendance nor impair their physical, emotional or intellectual development.

3.3.3 **Wages**

The wages provided must be in compliance with local legislation or existing collective agreements and must at the least be at levels that are customary in the sector. If the wages are too low to cover the generally accepted cost of living in the respective region ("living wages"), then employers must take other measures to secure the livelihood of their employees.

3.3.4 **Working hours and overtime**

The maximum working hours are determined by the applicable regional or national legislation for the sector. All employees are entitled to a minimum of one day (24 hours) of leave after working for six consecutive days. Overtime work must be voluntary. If employees work overtime, they must receive overtime pay or compensatory time off.

3.3.5 **Health and safety**

The management must ensure that the health and safety of the people on the operation are not compromised through their work. The management must provide relevant health and safety instructions and training and must supply proper protective equipment.

The operation must guarantee access to drinking water, sanitation facilities and medical care. The operation must provide at least the minimum coverage for loss of earnings due to illness, maternity leave or accidents, as prescribed by law. Housing provided for employees must, at a minimum, correspond to standards customary in the region in terms of size, amenities (running water, heating, lighting and furnishings), hygiene (toilets), accessibility, and protection of privacy.

3.3.6 **Equality**

All employees enjoy equal rights, regardless of gender, religion, skin colour, nationality, ethnic origin, political leanings, sexual orientation or any other condition that could cause them to be subject to discrimination. All employees have equal access to training measures and services provided by the employer (e.g. payments in kind, transportation opportunities, etc.) They also receive equal pay in terms of wages or payments in kind for equal work.

3.3.7 Labour law

Employees have the opportunity to exercise their rights. They have the right to assemble and to bargain collectively, and they may not be discriminated against or intimidated when exercising these rights. Employee representatives must be able to interact freely with the employees.

3.3.8 Implementation

Social responsibility standards are to be implemented based on the risk involved. Depending on their level of risk, operations with employees must either furnish an external social certificate or social audit or confirm by means of a self-declaration form that the Bio Suisse requirements have been met in order to receive certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards.

3.3.8.1 Mandatory external social certification or auditing

The obligation to introduce external social certification or auditing must be fulfilled gradually and based on the risk involved. The list of countries, products and Bio Suisse-approved certification and audit programmes undergoes regular review and revision.

List of products and countries

| Products | Country |
|---|---|
| Primary production (incl. packaging or processing on an affiliated production operation*) of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fresh vegetables (except seedlings and products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin) ■ Fresh fruit (incl. berries, citrus fruit and table grapes; excl. seedlings and products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin) ■ Fresh herbs (except products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin) | France, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Spain |
| Primary production (incl. packaging or processing on an affiliated production operation*) of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fresh bananas (except products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin) | All countries of origin |
| Primary production (incl. packaging or processing on an affiliated production operation) of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hazelnuts | Turkey |

* Producer groups that have been certified by GLOBALG.A.P. are subject to GRASP audits in compliance with GLOBALG.A.P. regulations.

List of approved social responsibility certification and auditing programmes

| Auditing/certification programme | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--|
| BSCI | |
| Fairtrade | |
| GLOBALG.A.P. GRASP | Only possible when GLOBALG.A.P. certification has already been issued. Not accepted for hazelnuts from Turkey. |
| SA8000 | |
| Sedex/SMETA | |
| UTZ | Only for hazelnuts from Turkey. |

Exceptions:

- Operations with less than five employees are exempted from this obligation unless worker representation is possible through the group, like with GRASP for GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2.
- Operations that already have social responsibility certifications according to Naturland, Ecovalia or Valore Sociale standards do not need any other kind of social auditing.
- Operations that are not or cannot be GLOBALG.A.P. certified can apply for a derogation.
- Hazelnuts from Turkey: Bio Suisse can issue temporary derogations for social responsibility standards that do not completely meet ILO norms.

3.3.8.2 **Confirmation by means of a Bio Suisse social responsibility self-declaration form**

Farms that have 20 or more employees and that do not fall under the external social responsibility certification/auditing obligation (as per [Mandatory external social certification or auditing Part V, Art. 3.3.8.1, Page 314](#)) must fill out and sign a self-declaration form (checklist) provided by Bio Suisse.

Operations that meet one of the following criteria and that possess a valid document (certificate/audit report not older than 18 months) do not need to fill out the Bio Suisse social responsibility self-declaration form:

- BSCI
- Control Union Fair Choice
- Fair for Life/For Life
- Fair Trade USA
- Fairtrade
- GLOBALG.A.P. GRASP
- IBD Fair Trade
- Naturland/Naturland Fair
- Rainforest Alliance/UTZ
- Rapunzel Hand in Hand
- RSPO P&C 2018/RSPO ISH 2019
- SA8000
- Sedex/SMETA
- Soil Association Ethical Trade

3.4 **Fair trade**

For standards regarding fair trade relations and responsible trade practices within Switzerland, (see [Trade relations and responsible trade practices Part I, Chap. 5, Page 43](#)).

3.5 **Clearing high conservation value areas**

Basis: see the Bio Suisse mission statement in Part I.

Bio Suisse prohibits the clearing of high conservation value areas for agricultural use. These areas include virgin forests and primary forests, high-value secondary forests, steppes, savannahs and alpine vegetation ([as per the definition Part V, Art. 3.5.1, Page 315](#)). Certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards of organic projects on sites that were originally high conservation value areas is therefore precluded. Sites cleared before 1994 are exempted from this prohibition.

3.5.1 **Definition of high conservation value areas**

High conservation value areas include:

- Areas containing a high degree of globally, regionally or nationally significant biological diversity (e.g. endemic or endangered species, refuges)
- Areas containing large landscape-level ecosystems of global, regional or national significance. These areas may be located within the bounds of a farming operation or they may encompass it. In such areas, viable populations of most, if not all, native species still exist in their natural ranges and numbers.
- Areas that are located in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems
- Areas that play a critical protective role (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)
- Areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. for subsistence farming or for the health of the communities in question)

- Areas critical to the cultural traditions and identity of local communities (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance, identified in cooperation with the local communities)
- Secondary forests that have not been cultivated for 15 years

3.6 Water resources management

Basis: see the Bio Suisse mission statement in Part I.

Water is a valuable natural resource that is not infinitely available. Farming operations that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards use water sparingly and efficiently to prevent negative impacts on humans and the natural environment. These include disturbances to natural cycles, negative impacts on natural flora and fauna, and adverse effects on the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water and on the quality of harvested products.

3.6.1 General requirements

The requirements as per

- [Quality of groundwater and surface water Part V, Art. 3.6.1.1, Page 316](#)
- [Irrigation and product quality Part V, Art. 3.6.1.2, Page 316](#)
- [Irrigation and soil fertility Part V, Art. 3.6.1.3, Page 316](#)

must be met by all operations that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards, regardless of whether the operation is located in a water risk area or an area with sufficient water resources.

3.6.1.1 Quality of groundwater and surface water

The quality of groundwater and surface water must not be impaired by effluents or seepage from agricultural or processing activities, company housing or management measures such as the storage of farmyard manure.

3.6.1.2 Irrigation and product quality

Irrigation water may not impair the quality of harvested products. This especially applies to irrigation water that flows through non-organic plots prior to being used on an organic farming operation (e.g. in paddy fields) or that could be contaminated by pathogenic bacteria, parasites or pesticides.

Water or product analyses must be furnished if there is a high risk of contamination or if required by the BSO certification body.

3.6.1.3 Irrigation and soil fertility

Good soil fertility is the basis of sustainable water management. The quantity and availability of water reserves in the soil depends greatly on the proportion of organic substance, which increases the soil's field capacity. The objective is to achieve soil with a higher field capacity in order to use as little irrigation water as possible. Irrigation may not have an adverse effect on the natural fertility of the soil (e.g. through topsoil salinisation or erosion). If there is a greater risk or increased water consumption, or if erosion or salinisation of the topsoil are discovered, suitable measures must be implemented.

3.6.2 Use of water in areas with water risks

Operations in areas with water risks must meet additional requirements. This only applies to operations with irrigation, not to operations that only use rainfed agriculture (without water management).

3.6.2.1 Definitions

All Bio Suisse decisions about whether an operation is situated in an area with water risks are backed by solid scientific evidence.

In the interest of gradual implementation, operations categorised with the indicator "Water Depletion" in accordance with the World Resources Institute's (WRI) Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas will be first. The Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas is available at www.wri.org ↪ Water ↪ Aqueduct project ↪ Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas. Areas that are categorised as "High" (50%–75%) or "Extremely high" (>75%) in accordance with the indicator "Water Depletion" or that are located in a desert region that is labelled with "arid and low water use" are considered areas with water risks.

3.6.2.2 Water management plan

Operations and producer groups in areas with water risks must devise a water management plan. The plan is comprised of three parts: general information on irrigation, a risk analysis including plan of action, and current records kept in a separate table. The operations or producer groups concerned must analyse the risks to which they are exposed in connection with water usage and take measures to reduce or avoid these risks. The water management plan must accurately represent the current situation of the operation. Bio Suisse offers operations a water management plan template at www.bio-suisse.ch ↪ Verarbeiter & Händler ↪ Import mit Bio Suisse ↪ Water Management Plan 2021.

Operations in water risk areas must submit their water management plan (WMP) annually during inspection. The water management plan must be updated and submitted with the signature of the inspection body at least every three years. Documents that are referenced in the water management plan must be enclosed. The records in the separate table must be kept continuously. The water management plan is reviewed in stages by the certification body and is designed to be expanded upon. Bio Suisse ensures that the requirements from [Use of water in areas with water risks Part V, Art. 3.6.2, Page 316](#) harmonise with the Naturland e. V. standards and will put procedures in place to allow for mutual acknowledgement of the results of the inspection process.

3.6.2.3 Irrigation systems

Only comprehensively efficient and water-conserving irrigation systems may be used in areas with water risks. "Efficient" is defined here as economical usage of the available water (e.g. rain water reservoirs) and the energy required for this purpose (e.g. for boreholes, desalination plants), as well as avoiding unnecessary loss (e.g. through the use of covered reservoirs). Water consumption must be documented and regular maintenance must be carried out. If any defects are discovered during inspection, measures for improvement must be implemented.

3.6.2.4 Origin and quantity of irrigation water

Operations in water risk areas must record all information about the origin and quantity of irrigation water in their water management plan or the corresponding table.

All quantitative information on water consumption (m³ irrigation water per hectare of irrigated land and year) as well as information on the origin of the water, the water rights and the local climate, as well as the quality of the irrigation water as per the parameters of the FAO are recorded in a table that is included as an attachment to the water management plan (www.fao.org ↪ Main Topics ↪ All ↪ Land and Water ↪ Resources ↪ Publications ↪ Keyword: Water Quality for Agriculture ↪ 1.4 Water Quality Guidelines ↪ Table 1: Guidelines for Interpretations of Water Quality for Irrigation).

3.6.2.5 Legality of all water extraction

In countries with legal regulations on water use, the national or regional laws and provisions must be complied with. Proof of legality from the corresponding government authority must be enclosed with the water management plan for all water sources and irrigation systems. In countries without legal regulations on water use (or insufficient regulations), all other required appendices in accordance with the water management plan must be submitted in conformity with the principle of governance.

3.6.2.6 Cooperation with relevant stakeholder groups (water stewardship)

With regard to water management, BSO producers must identify relevant stakeholder groups and actively work with them to achieve progress in the sustainable use of water, both at the level of the individual operations and at the regional level (e.g. watersheds). The identified stakeholder groups, the sustainability efforts of the producer and all planned or completed optimisation measures must be documented in the water resources management plan.

3.6.2.7 Additional requirements for the use of water in areas with a desert climate

The use of water for irrigation in areas with a desert climate (labelled as "Arid and low water use" in Aque-duct as per [Definitions Part V, Art. 3.6.2.1, Page 316](#)) is only permitted under certain conditions:

- Irrigation is carried out between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Annual crops may only be cultivated during the winter season.

Bio Suisse can grant derogations for farming operations in traditional cultivation zones. Traditional cultivation zones are cropland that has been cultivated year-round for at least 50 years.

3.6.3 Use of non-renewable water resources

The use of non-renewable (fossil) water resources for agricultural production is only permitted if credible documentation can be furnished in the application form (available upon request) that the abstraction poses no serious ecological or socioeconomic risks. The analysis must take account of the entire water catchment area and all aquifers, and include the possible ecological and social consequences for other regions or countries. Both short-term and long-term risks must be analysed. The water management plan and the application form must be submitted to Bio Suisse for assessment prior to certification.

3.7 Land grabbing

Basis: see the Bio Suisse mission statement in Part I.

Bio Suisse aims to guarantee the food sovereignty of local populations and to protect the usufruct rights of indigenous peoples and local farmers not in possession of official land registration documents.

Bio Suisse does not tolerate land grabbing. Bio Suisse defines the term land grabbing as the unlawful obtaining, annexation or expropriation of areas of land against the will of the previous cultivators. This includes the following cases (the list is not conclusive):

- Land redistributed or sold by force
- Land unlawfully obtained
- Land obtained by dubious means
- Land obtained without regard for existing usufruct rights
- Land gained other than with the free, prior and fully informed consent of the former usufruct beneficiaries

If there is any suspicion that a cultivator has obtained unlawful possession of land or usufruct rights, then the cultivator must provide proof that it is not a case of land grabbing. In addition, Bio Suisse or associated organisations can be called upon to investigate any suspicious circumstances. (See also the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure⁽⁸⁵⁾).

No products from land whose possession or usufruct rights were obtained through land grabbing will be certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards.

3.8 Policy on residues

Basis as per:

- ↳ [Water resources management Part V, Chap. 3.6, Page 316](#)
- ↳ [Management of spray drift Part V, Art. 4.2.5, Page 331](#)
- ↳ [Cultivation of former GMO plots Part V, Art. 4.2.6, Page 331](#)

⁸⁵ www.fao.org ↳ In Action ↳ Standards and Policies ↳ Governance of Tenure ↳ Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure

- ↳ [Separation of the flow of goods; traceability of products that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards Part V, Chap. 5.1, Page 336](#)
- ↳ [Crop production Part II, Art. 1.3.2, Page 57](#)
- ↳ [Protection against contamination Part II, Chap. 2.5, Page 106](#)
- ↳ [Plant protection products Part II, Art. 2.6.3, Page 108](#)

3.8.1 **Avoidance of residues**

The farm operations manager is obligated to avoid any contamination of products with harmful substances or prohibited auxiliary inputs. The farm operations manager is also obligated to check all possible pollution sources and take action to prevent pollution where this is feasible.

3.8.2 **Areas at risk from contamination by residues**

Bio Suisse determines on an annual basis which areas and which crops are considered to be at risk from contamination by residues. The inspection bodies and farming operations concerned will be informed of this assessment and of measures that must be taken.

Importers of products that carry potential risk must take samples and have them analysed. Product sample analyses are a prerequisite for the Bud stamp of approval. Both the definition of products that carry potential risk and requirements for sample-taking and analysis are given in the [Appendix to Part V, Chapter 3.8 – Products that carry potential risk Part V, Page 320](#).

3.8.3 **Occurrence of residues**

Where residues occur, and depending on the degree of contamination and the nature of the residues, certification of the products may be suspended until the pollution source has been identified and the question of fault has been resolved. The decision will be based on the Decision chart for assessing residues and contaminants in Bud products.⁽⁸⁶⁾ The operation or project concerned must assist Bio Suisse or the BSO certification body and inspection body as much and as quickly as possible in determining the cause of the contamination. If required, the operation or project concerned must present a plan of action that shows how contamination will be prevented in the future. This plan of action must be approved by the inspection body. Additionally, if required, a risk analysis report on the avoidance of residues must be submitted to the BSO certification body (the relevant forms will be provided by Bio Suisse⁽⁸⁷⁾). The ultimate decision on the revocation or continuation of certification for the products and/or operation concerned will be made by the BSO certification body on a case-by-case basis following an investigation and in consultation with the Bio Suisse representatives in charge of quality assurance.

If residues of GMOs occur, the procedure described above applies. Bio Suisse has defined 0.1% GMO material (DNA or protein) as a benchmark value. Higher levels of residues will be tolerated up to the maximum legal limit if it can be proven that the Bio Suisse requirements and due diligence obligations are complied with and the contamination was therefore technically unavoidable or accidental. The limit values for sale as an organic product is 0.9% for approved and 0.5% for tolerated GMO levels (approval in accordance with the Ordinance on the Production and Marketing of Feedstuffs SR 916.307 and the FDHA Ordinance on Genetically Modified Foodstuffs SR 817.022.51).

⁸⁶ www.bio-suisse.ch ↳ Import with Bio Suisse ↳ Residues & pest management ↳ Decision chart for assessing residues and contaminants in Bud products.

⁸⁷ www.bio-suisse.ch ↳ Verarbeiter & Händler ↳ Rückstände ↳ ↳ Checkliste Risikoanalyse Rückstände (not available in English)

Appendix to Part V, Chapter 3.8 – Products that carry potential risk

The following products or places of origin are associated with a heightened risk of contamination:

- Soybeans, maize, rapeseed, alfalfa, linseed, mustard seed, papaya, rice, sugar cane and sugar beets with regard to GMO contamination
- Organochlorine pesticide contamination in pumpkin seeds and pumpkin seed products
- Radioactivity in products from areas that may be affected by nuclear reactor accidents
- Pesticides in products from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, China and Moldavia
- Pesticides in sesame, soybeans, linseed, rice, lentils and spices from India

1. General requirements

- The samples must be taken from actual imported products. One of the two following variants must be applied:
 - Variant 1 – Sampling in Switzerland: Individual tests carried out throughout the year or collective tests at least once per calendar year, where the samples are made up of logical amounts of the same products. It must be guaranteed that, in the event that residues are detected, tests of individual deliveries can be conducted.
 - Variant 2 – Sampling at the exporter (the last location before direct import into Switzerland): An independent body is responsible for sampling, and the sample is representative for the corresponding lot. The goods are tested in the state of processing and packaging in which they will be exported directly to Switzerland. No collective tests are allowed with this variant.
- The following applies to both variants: Testing must be conducted by a laboratory in Switzerland or a laboratory that has been approved by the Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren (BNN) e. V. (an accredited laboratory using accredited laboratory methods, e.g. ISO 17025). GMO testing may be conducted by a BNN-approved laboratory if the GMO testing takes place in an accredited area of the laboratory.
- Each test report must clearly pertain to a specific imported product, for instance by naming the lot number.
- Positive test results must be reported immediately to the certification body (in accordance with the terms of the contract with the certification body) and to Bio Suisse (by means of the notification form for residues in Bud products, see www.bio-suisse.ch ↪ Import with Bio Suisse ↪ Residues & Pest Management ↪ Notification form for residues in Bud products).
- The importer is responsible for complying with these requirements.
- In individual cases, if the procedure described above cannot be followed, then derogations may be granted in advance upon request.

Test documentation requirements

Compliance with all of the requirements will be queried and checked periodically. The following documents must be submitted upon request:

- All test results, including verification that all testing requirements were met (e.g. the limit of quantification (LOQ), the list of substances, etc.)
- A description of the sampling, including at a minimum:
 - The date of sampling
 - Who conducted the sampling
 - Where the sampling occurred (before or after receipt of the products, after processing, after repackaging, etc.)
 - How sampling was conducted (representative vs random/targeted samples)

2. Specific requirements

2.1 GMO crops

a) Soybeans, maize and rapeseed

Samples must be taken from every batch of imported soybeans (incl. soy milk), maize and rapeseed, and all products containing these must be analysed by means of a GMO screening test, no matter their country of origin.

b) Alfalfa, linseed, mustard seed, papaya, rice, sugar cane and sugar beets

Samples of alfalfa, linseed, mustard seed, papaya, rice, sugar cane and sugar beets, as well as all products containing these must be analysed by means of a GMO screening test if imported from a country on the following list. Samples must be taken as follows:

- Alfalfa: samples must be taken from every batch imported from the US.
- Linseed: at least one random sample must be taken per year for batches imported from Canada or the US.
- Mustard seed: at least one random sample must be taken per year for batches imported from any country.
- Papaya: Samples must be taken from every batch imported from Hawaii and the US. At least one random sample must be taken per year for batches imported from China or Thailand.
- Rice: at least one random sample must be taken per year for batches imported from China.
- Sugar cane: products produced from sugar cane from Indonesia and Brazil must be handled as outlined under c) Highly processed products.
- Sugar beets: samples must be taken from every batch imported from Canada.

c) Highly processed products

For imports of highly processed products in which the DNA has been partially or completely degraded due to processing, the manufacturing operation must furnish proof of freedom from GMOs for the raw ingredients. This will be checked in conjunction with the manufacturing operation's annual renewal of its Bio Suisse certification.

Examples include:

- Refined oil of rapeseed, maize or soy
- Puffed maize cakes
- Maize starch/waxy maize starch
- Soy lecithin and soy sauce
- Maize extrudate, glucose, maltose or dextrose
- Cane sugar, molasses and instant caramel flavouring derived from sugar cane, rum

d) Testing requirements and methods

The detection limit of the analytical equipment must be at least as low as 0.1% for both qualitative PCR tests (35S promoter and NOS terminator) and quantitative PCR tests. If a qualitative PCR test shows evidence of GMOs, then a quantitative PCR test and an identification must be performed.

2.2 Pumpkin seeds and products containing pumpkin seeds

Samples must be taken from each imported batch of pumpkin seeds and products containing pumpkin seeds (except for seeds not intended for human consumption) to check for organochlorine pesticide contamination.

- Testing requirements: LOQ \leq 0.01 mg/kg
- Samples must be tested for the following contaminants: aldrin, DDD isomers, DDE isomers, DDT isomers, dicofol, dieldrin, endosulfan isomers including endosulfansulphate, endrin, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), HCH isomers (except for lindane), lindane (gamma HCH), tetradifon. In the case of isomers, testing must be performed for all present isomers.

2.3 Products from areas that may be affected by nuclear reactor accidents

For products from areas that may be affected by nuclear reactor accidents (e.g. Chernobyl, Fukushima), radioactivity tests must be carried out in accordance with the requirements in the separate document [Analysis requirements for Bud products from areas that may be affected by nuclear reactor accidents: www.bio-suisse.ch](http://www.bio-suisse.ch) ↳ Import with Bio Suisse ↳ Residues & Pest Management ↳ Analysis requirements for Bud products from areas that may be affected by nuclear reactor accidents.

2.4 Products from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, China and Moldavia

Products from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, China and Moldavia must meet additional requirements. The following tests must be conducted (no further tests are necessary for products on which EU duty has been paid):

- Pesticide screening (of polar and apolar pesticides, using mass spectrometric detectors such as LC-MS/MS, GC-MS/MS); at least 300 active substances: all products
- Phosphane – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: all products (except for fresh products, frozen products and oils)
- Glyphosate (incl. AMPA) – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: grain and oilseeds (incl. soybeans)
- Chlormequat and mepiquat – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg Grain (except maize and millet), linseed, rapeseed, sunflower seeds, soybeans
- Acidic herbicides ("phenoxy herbicides"), including alkaline hydrolysis – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: linseed, rapeseed, soybeans, wheat
- Nicotine – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: goji berries from China

2.5 Products from India Sesame, soybeans, linseed, rice, lentils and spices

Sesame, soybeans, linseed, rice, lentils and spices from India as well as all products containing these must be tested for residues.

The following tests must be conducted:

- Pesticide screening (of polar and apolar pesticides, using mass spectrometric detectors such as LC-MS/MS, GC-MS/MS); at least 300 active substances: sesame, soybeans, linseed, rice, lentils and spices
- Phosphane – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: linseed, sesame, soybeans, rice, lentils and spices; not including oil
- Glyphosate (incl. AMPA) – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: soybeans and linseed
- Chlormequat and mepiquat – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg soybeans and lentils
- Paraquat – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: lentils
- Acidic herbicides ("phenoxy herbicides"), including alkaline hydrolysis – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: linseed, soybeans, sesame and lentils
- Nicotine – LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg: linseed

4 Directives for crop production and animal husbandry

4.1 Conversion to organic farming in compliance with the Bio Suisse Standards

Basis: see [Conversion to organic farming and the whole-farm approach Part II, Chap. 1, Page 49](#).

4.1.1 Conversion period

4.1.1.1 Conversion from organic to Bio Suisse

A conversion period according to approved organic standards can be credited towards the Bio Suisse conversion period (with the exception of the retrospective certification of land parcels).

A farming operation can be fully certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards once the entire operation has been converted, even if the operation was partly converted before. Land parcels that were previously managed non-organically have a two-year conversion period. (Regulation is analogous to the conversion of newly acquired land.)

4.1.1.2 Conversion period

The Bio Suisse conversion period expires once the land has been managed organically and certified as organic for 24 months and the products have been certified as fully organic by the inspection body. The commencement of conversion is considered to be the date of application to the inspection body and the beginning of full compliance with organic standards.

4.1.2 Marketing tropical and subtropical permanent crops as in-conversion products for the first time

In general, the 0-year rule commonly used in the EU applies (a 12-month conversion period is required before products can first be marketed as in-conversion products).

For products that are marketed as organic for the first time, Bio Suisse accepts the status of certification as defined by EU organic regulations (or equivalent). This means that products may not be marketed under the Bio Suisse logo before they have attained the status of certification as defined by EU organic regulations (or equivalent).

4.1.3 Whole-farm approach and definition of a farming operation

4.1.3.1 Whole-farm approach

In order to obtain certification according to Bio Suisse Standards for plant products, animal husbandry on the same farming operation must be in compliance with EU organic regulations (or equivalent) for operations in the EU, and at a minimum with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) Standard in all other countries.

4.1.3.2 Definition of a farming operation

A farming operation is defined as an enterprise or one or more production sites that constitute a comprehensive whole comprised of farmland, buildings, equipment and a workforce. The following criteria must be met for an operation to be certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards:

- a) The farming operation must constitute a comprehensive whole comprised of farmland, buildings, equipment and a workforce:
 - All buildings necessary for the running of the farming operation must be in place.
 - The equipment must include at least all machinery and implements necessary for carrying out the daily work. The farming operation must have its own workforce, and most of the work in crop production must be carried out by regular employees.
- b) The farming operation must be autonomous:

- The farming operation must have a flow of goods (e.g. agricultural products, feeds, auxiliary inputs, etc.) that is separate from other farming operations.
 - The farming operation must keep its own accounts.
 - The farming operation must be headed by an autonomous and proficient farm operations manager who may not hold a managerial position at a non-organic farming operation, a non-organic custom farming operation or a non-organic agricultural production site.
 - The farming operation must have its own clearly recognisable and distinctive image (name, stationery, labelling and packaging material, business address).
- c) The farming operation may not perform any custom farming activities that involve the use of prohibited auxiliary inputs:
- No machines that have been used to apply prohibited auxiliary inputs may be stationed at the organic farming operation.
 - No prohibited auxiliary inputs may be stored at the organic farming operation.
- d) The farming operation must have a clearly identifiable centre of operations:
- The centre of operations is the area where the main buildings are situated and where the bulk of the work is carried out.
 - The centre of operations is where the most important operational decisions are made (about how the work is organised and the business is run) and where the operation's records and documents are processed and filed (including cropping plans, inspection reports, etc.).

If a farming operation is split into separately run operations, the whole-farm approach must be unambiguously defined at the outset of the conversion period by way of a written allocation of buildings, equipment and the workforce. Subsequent changes in farmland allocation between the already divided operations are only permitted after a five-year waiting period unless both operations have converted to organic farming in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards.

Official recognition of a farming operation will not necessarily be accepted by Bio Suisse.

4.1.4 **Gradual conversion – Certification of farming operations undergoing gradual conversion**

As a general rule, the whole-farm approach also applies to farming operations outside of Switzerland. A farming operation outside of Switzerland can therefore be certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards if the following criteria apply:

- a) The farming operation is converted in its entirety at the time of its initial certification. Annual changes to the farm's area will be dealt with as outlined in the chapter Farming operation takeovers (see [Farming operation takeovers Part II, Art. 1.1.3, Page 50](#)).
- b) The farming operation is not converted in its entirety at the time of its initial certification, but the following criteria apply:
- Gradual conversion includes only vineyards, fruit production or ornamental plants.
 - A binding conversion plan was submitted according to which the conversion will be completed within a maximum period of five years.

4.1.5 **Parallel production – Certification of fields with different conversion statuses**

Where there is parallel production of products that are not clearly distinguishable in appearance (as per [Definition of clearly distinguishable products Part V, Art. 4.1.5.1, Page 325](#)) on both organic and in-conversion fields as a result of farming newly acquired land, then evidence of segregation and traceability must be furnished and confirmed by the inspection body.

In cases where parallel production concerns new fields that only Bio Suisse classifies as in conversion, but which are classified as fully organic by the inspection body (i.e. in cases of retrospective certification), the inspection body must submit documentation along with the application for certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards that verifies segregation from field to storage to sale. If this documentation is not submitted with the application, then the entire harvest of the crop concerned will revert to in-conversion status.

Parallel production of the same crops or animal species according to Bio Suisse Standards and other organic standards will be treated as described above.

Parallel production on farming operations undergoing gradual conversion (whereby the same crop is grown using different methods of production on the same farm) is completely prohibited.

4.1.5.1 **Definition of clearly distinguishable products**

Distinguishability between different varieties refers to the harvested crops. The rationale for distinguishability is as follows: recipients of harvested crops must be able to determine varieties based on descriptions of their distinguishing characteristics, beyond any doubt and with no need for direct physical comparison. This serves to secure the physical chain of custody.

Varieties are considered clearly distinguishable if they possess unmistakable external characteristics that can be visually recognised with no need to take a specimen sample. An example of this type of distinguishability is striped sunflower seeds and pure black ones.

Varieties exhibiting slight differences in size or colour that can only be seen when two varieties are compared side by side are not considered clearly distinguishable.

In case of doubt, the inspection body must submit samples of the varieties to the LCI.

4.2 **Crop production**

4.2.1 **Soil protection**

Basis: see [Soil fertility Part II, Chap. 2.1, Page 64](#).

4.2.1.1 **Crop rotation**

Soil protection and soil building

- a) At least 20% of the crop rotation must protect or improve the soil or accumulate nutrients. Examples of these kinds of crops include:
 - Grain legumes or mixtures of grain legumes (e.g. soybeans, peas, broad beans, lupines, oats/peas, vetches)
 - Green manure (relative to the cropping period; e.g. 1 ha green manure with a six-month cropping period counts as 0.5 ha)
 - Fallow land or crop residues with a spontaneous plant cover (relative to the cropping period; e.g. 1 ha of spontaneous plant cover with a six-month cropping period counts as 0.5 ha)
 - Leys or sown legumes (e.g. clover/grass mix, alfalfa)
- b) Outside of the growing season, at least 50% of the arable land must have sufficient plant cover (living or dead). The growing season is defined as the main production period for a specific crop in a specific pedoclimatic zone (e.g. in arid or semi-arid regions of the northern hemisphere, the growing season for durum wheat and vegetables is during the winter).

Rotation breaks

For annual arable and field vegetable crops there must be at least a 12-month rotation break between two main crops of the same species.

Rules for derogations concerning rotation breaks

- a) Rice may be planted for a maximum of three in five consecutive years in temperate climate zones, which means that no rice may be planted in two of five years. This rule may be waived in tropical climate zones if all provisions regarding soil protection and soil building are met.
- b) The requirements regarding a rotation system with rotation breaks between the two main crops do not apply to vegetable and herb gardens or to pineapple cultivation.
- c) In justified cases, an exemption from the above rules may be made. In such cases, Bio Suisse checks whether the latest crop rotation is sustainable and in compliance with the Bio Suisse Standards, based on the following criteria:
 - Balanced humus management
 - Prevention of erosion

- Prevention of nutrient losses (due to eluviation and leaching)
- Preventive crop protection
- Nutrient supply (through accumulation and mobilisation)
- Enhancement of biodiversity (through diversity of the crop rotation)

Rules for derogations concerning sugar cane

Sugar cane production must meet the following requirements:

- Sugar cane may not be grown for more than 10 consecutive years on the same plot.
- Prior to each new planting of sugar cane, crops other than sugar cane must have been grown on the same plot for a period of no less than six months.
- The requirement that 20% of the crop rotation must protect or improve the soil or accumulate nutrients does not need to be met for sugar cane.

Exception for operations with less than 1 ha of open cropland

Operations with less than 1 ha of open cropland are not required to satisfy the crop rotation requirements in principle as defined under [Soil fertility Part II, Chap. 2.1, Page 64](#).

4.2.1.2 Erosion

Erosion caused by wind, water or agricultural activities (soil cultivation, grazing, irrigation, etc.) must be prevented. Areas where erosion prevention is not possible may not be farmed.

The following preventive measures must be taken where feasible:

- Buffer strips should be created, or uncultivated areas should be preserved.
- Sufficient distance should be kept from bodies of water and steep inclines.
- Tilling should follow the elevation lines of the land (contour cultivation), and there must be effective drainage into areas not threatened by erosion, such as forests, undergrowth, bushes, streams, etc.
- In areas that are in danger of wind erosion, suitable fast-growing trees or shrubs must be planted as windbreaks, or artificial windbreaks must be constructed.
- Overgrazing must be prevented. Where grazing takes place on steep inclines, particular care must be taken to avoid erosion.
- Irrigation methods that do not cause erosion must be employed.
- Steep inclines that are in danger of erosion must be protected by appropriate preventive measures such as terracing.

4.2.1.3 Ground cover in permanent crops

Basis: see [Specific regulations for crop production Part II, Chap. 3, Page 111](#).

Permanent crops must have green cover throughout the year. Green cover should be managed in such a way as to promote a rich variety of flora and fauna species. Rows of trees, particularly in young orchards, may be kept open by mechanical means or by spreading organic material (e.g. bark compost, rapeseed straw) or robust plastic sheeting.

Where pedoclimatic conditions are markedly different from those in Switzerland (e.g. in regions with scarce water resources), ground cover can be limited to a period of at least four months during the rainiest season. Where spontaneous plant cover is too sparse, a green manure crop must be sown.

4.2.2 Propagating material (seeds and vegetative propagating material) and planting stock

Basis: see [Plant breeding and plant propagation Part II, Chap. 2.2, Page 66](#).

4.2.2.1 Definitions

The terminology from [Plant breeding and plant propagation Part II, Chap. 2.2, Page 66](#) applies. The term propagating material covers both seeds and vegetative propagating material. The term source material covers seeds, vegetative propagating material and planting stock.

4.2.2.2 Quality of propagating material

As a matter of principle, propagating material must be of organic origin.

Plant varieties that are used for Bud products should preferably be derived from organic plant breeding operations. If organically bred plant varieties cannot be obtained in the customary quality and quantity for the intended purpose and for the given cultivation season, then non-organically bred varieties may be used.

4.2.2.3 Use of non-organic propagating material

Any use of non-organic, dressed propagating material will result in a denial of certification for the crops concerned. The use of non-organic, undressed propagating material is only permitted if it can be confirmed that organic propagating material is unavailable. Confirmation of non-availability in conformance with EU or organic regulations (or equivalent) must be furnished in the inspection report or in the form of a written supplement to the inspection report.

Grain seed

The use of grain seed (wheat, spelt, einkorn, emmer, kamut, durum, barley, oats, rye, triticale, rice and millet) that is not certified organic is prohibited.

Derogations may be made upon written request in the following cases:

- It can be demonstrated that the organic seed intended or ordered for sowing carries seed-borne plant diseases and therefore cannot be sown.
- There is good reason why a variety of seed that is only available in non-organic quality should be used rather than a different variety that may be obtained in organic quality.
- Crops that were destroyed by a force majeure (weather, seed predation, etc.) must be resown.
- The variety is sown as part of a variety trial (<25% of the total grain crop area and <5 ha).

In such exceptional cases, the following documentation is required:

- An application addressed to the responsible government authority or inspection body (or confirmation of non-availability by the same)
- Confirmation of enquiries made with two seed suppliers
- Justification for using that particular variety of seed

The use of certified organic rice and millet seed is not obligatory in countries classified as developing countries by the OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients (unless GMO varieties have been cultivated in the country concerned; as per [Precautionary measures regarding GMO crops Part V, Art. 4.2.2.5, Page 328](#)).

4.2.2.4 Planting stock and vegetative propagating material

Hybrid varieties are prohibited for the following species:

- Grain (except maize)
- Rapeseed (except HOLL [High Oleic Low Linolenic] rapeseed)

The use of varieties from cell fusion breeding is prohibited.

Exceptions:

Cauliflower (incl. Romanesco, coloured cauliflower varieties), broccoli, white cabbage, savoy cabbage and chicory.

For brassicas (with the exception of cauliflower, Romanesco, broccoli, white cabbage and savoy cabbage) as well as chicory crop varieties (with the exception of Belgian endive), the varieties must be used as specified in the international positive list "Cell-fusion-free varieties in vegetable production" (www.fibl.org/en ↪ Downloads & Shop ↪ Cell-fusion-free varieties in vegetable production).

Planting stock for the cultivation of vegetables and herbs must be of certified organic origin. Propagating substrates must meet the Bio Suisse requirements (no more than 70% peat; no chemically synthesised trace elements or other additives; only permitted fertilisers).

Planting stock for onion sets must be of certified organic origin.

The vegetative propagation of strawberries must at a minimum involve breeding young plants under certified organic conditions. Offshoots from non-organic mother plants may be used to grow organic young plants if organic offshoots are not available.

Meristem propagation is tolerated in the cultivation of bananas and ornamental plants.

4.2.2.5 **Precautionary measures regarding GMO crops**

As soon as a GMO variety is commercially grown in a given country, the use of certified organic propagating material becomes mandatory in that country to certify the same type of crop according to the Bio Suisse Standards. Bio Suisse maintains a list of the countries and crops concerned (www.bio-suisse.ch ↳ Import with Bio Suisse ↳ Residues & Pest Management ↳ GMO ↳ GVO-kritische Lebens- und Futtermittelkomponenten für Knospe-Ware ↳ Food and feed components of Bud products that are at risk of GMO contamination).

4.2.3 **Enhancement of biodiversity**

Basis: see [Enhancement of biodiversity Part II, Chap. 2.3, Page 79](#).

Organic farming must be integrated into a diverse, self-regulating ecosystem. Species-rich biotopes not only enrich the scenic qualities of landscapes, but help to maintain biological diversity and thus also aid beneficial organisms.

Producers who are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards manage their whole farming operation in a manner that protects the environment and its plants, animals and microorganisms to the greatest extent. They endeavour to maintain as diverse an operation as possible, where there is room for a variety of organisms and habitats both on and beyond areas of production. Producers who are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards increase the already high ecological performance achieved by organic agriculture by implementing further measures.

Producers who are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards maintain and enhance biodiversity throughout their entire operational acreage:

- a) They carefully manage the whole farming area, and they follow the basic principles set out in the Bio Suisse Standards, including:
 - Careful cultivation and management of the soil, using organic fertilisers that promote soil life
 - Maintaining a diverse and well-balanced crop rotation
 - Keeping a share of at least 20% soil-building crops in the crop rotation
 - Not using chemical synthetic plant protection products (see [Crop health Part II, Chap. 2.6, Page 107](#))
 - Not using herbicides, growth regulators or wilting agents
 - Not using chemical synthetic fertilisers (see [Nutrient supply Part II, Chap. 2.4, Page 96](#))
 - Not using genetically modified organisms
 - Avoiding erosion in order to protect biodiversity in the soil
- b) They create and manage areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity, and they implement targeted measures to promote species diversity and ecological communities.

The farm operations manager is obliged to maintain, enlarge or create near-natural habitats (areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity) and to care for them in a professional manner.

4.2.3.1 **Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity (ADEB)**

Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity must constitute at least 7% of a farming operation's utilised agricultural area (including special crops). They must be situated in the same parts of the farming operation that are used for agricultural purposes. Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity are natural landscaping elements that serve to nurture flora and fauna.

Landscaping elements that may be counted include:

- Species-rich permanent meadows and pastures that do not receive any external fertiliser (except for fertiliser that occurs naturally during grazing).
- Species-rich wildflower strips (for at least 18 months). Wildflower strips are areas of uncultivated rotational fallow land where natural or sown, species-rich plant communities grow.
- Conservation headlands: unfertilised, species-rich strips along the edge of fields, parallel to the furrows. Minimum width: 3 m.
- Species-rich strips to promote beneficial organisms.
- Areas with natural communities of indigenous plants (species-rich ground vegetation in extensively cultivated orchards or vineyards may be counted as such).
- Single indigenous trees suited to the location (each tree counts as 1 are) and tree-lined avenues.
- Hedges, copses and riparian trees.
- Ditches, pools, ponds, moorland. Ponds that were installed for irrigation purposes may be counted if the banks were planted with indigenous plants.
- Ruderal areas and ruins of buildings.
- Dry stone walls, stone mounds and embankments.
- Unpaved natural paths with at least one third cover.
- Species-rich woodland, except for intensively managed plantations with little biodiversity value (e.g. eucalyptus or poplar).

4.2.3.2 Requirements regarding the quality of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity

The following three quality-related aspects must be met by all BSO operations:

- Uncultivated, species-rich strips of at least 6 m width must be maintained around bodies of surface water (e.g. rivers, streams and lakes).
- The destruction of high conservation value areas is prohibited (as per [Clearing high conservation value areas Part V, Chap. 3.5, Page 315](#)).
- At least two of the following quality standards must be met:
 - On larger plots of land (>50 ha), the areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity are broadly distributed throughout the operation, i.e. there are at least three elements over at least 0.1 ha per plot.
 - On operations with smaller plots of land, the areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity are broadly distributed or located on >50% of all operational plots.
 - The areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity are located and connected by landscape elements (e.g. hedges or non-cultivated strips) so as to establish favourable conditions and habitats for naturally occurring plants and animals. There is a sketch with the areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity and the connecting landscape elements.
 - The areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity exceed 20% of the operational acreage.
 - At least five of the landscaping elements listed in [Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity \(ADEB\) Part V, Art. 4.2.3.1, Page 328](#) are present on the operation.
 - At least three bee colonies (*Apis* spp.) are kept on the operation throughout the entire vegetation period.
 - Endangered crop species or varieties (e.g. kamut; flax; heirloom vegetables, fruit and grapes; landraces; locally bred and/or propagated varieties) are cultivated on at least 0.5 ha.
 - The operation manages diverse agroforestry systems.
 - In the cultivation of field crops, the operation largely abstains from using the plow (plowing is permitted at most two times within a five-year crop rotation period).
 - In the cultivation of permanent crops, the operation largely abstains from tillage (a maximum of once annually).
 - More than two nesting boxes/nesting opportunities for birds, bats and wild bees are provided per ha on the operation.
 - Compost is used to promote soil organisms.
 - Other biodiversity enhancement measures not listed above are carried out by the operation.
 - Naturally occurring epiphytes on permanent crops are not removed.

4.2.3.3 Rules for derogations

If the following criteria are met, then the 7% area dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity does not need to involve the operational acreage of the farming operation nor its usual cultivation area:

- The area around the farm is still in its natural state (woodland, desert, steppe directly adjoining at least 30% of the farm's perimeter); or
- Dedicating 7% of the area within the utilised agricultural area to the enhancement of biodiversity would not significantly increase its diversity since the agricultural system and farming structure are already highly diversified (e.g. agroforestry systems); or
- The operational acreage of a producer group collectively applying for certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards has been consolidated. The 7% area dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity will be calculated on the basis of the total operational acreage farmed by the group.

Smallholder groups are not required to meet the quality requirements listed under [Requirements regarding the quality of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity Part V, Art. 4.2.3.2, Page 329](#) (definition as per [Producer groups Part V, Art. 3.1.1.3, Page 302](#)). This also applies to farms where at least 30% of the farm's perimeter directly adjoins land that is still in a natural state.

4.2.4 Fertiliser use

Basis: see [Nutrient supply Part II, Chap. 2.4, Page 96](#).

4.2.4.1 Permitted substances and measures

Inputs and measures as per the EU organic regulations (or equivalent) are permitted with the following exceptions:

- Fertilisers not permitted under the Bio Suisse Standards include: highly concentrated chlorinated potassium fertilisers (e.g. potassium chloride), peat for soil improvement and chemically synthesised chelates, e.g. EDTA.
- Purchases of farmyard manure from non-organic animals are tolerated. Farmyard manure must be processed (e.g. composting in heaps, slurry aeration). Livestock manure may not come from intensive husbandry (EU organic regulations). In case of doubt, the LCI can request that the manure be analysed.

4.2.4.2 Fertiliser limits

| Maximum input (per ha/year) | N _{tot} (kg) | P ₂ O ₅ (kg) |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Vegetable crops grown in greenhouses | 330 | 100 |
| Fodder crops/vegetable crops/herbs/ornamental plants grown in the open field | 225 | 80 |
| Field crops (root crops, grains) | 180 | 60 |
| Pineapples | 180 ⁽⁸⁸⁾ | 40 ⁽⁸⁸⁾ |
| Strawberries | 160 | 35 |
| Tree and shrub crops | 100 | 30 |
| Except: | | |
| Avocados | 100 | 35 |
| Bananas | 170 | 50 |
| Tea | 150 | 50 |
| Dates | 160 | 50 |
| Citrus fruit | 160 | 30 |
| Oil palms | 160 | 35 |

⁸⁸ A total maximum of 300 kg N and 80 kg P₂O₅/ha may be applied during an 18 to 24-month cultivation period.

4.2.4.3 **Potassium-based fertiliser**

If more than 150 kg of potassium is applied per ha/year through the use of mineral potassium fertilisers, proof of need must be furnished (by means of a soil sample).

4.2.4.4 **Phosphorus-based fertiliser**

Farming operations using more than the maximum permitted amounts of phosphorus must, upon request, provide soil analyses to prove that there is no accumulation or oversupply of phosphorus on the plots concerned. If there is a risk of water pollution, the fertiliser limits must be adhered to.

4.2.5 **Management of spray drift**

Basis: see [Protection against contamination Part II, Chap. 2.5, Page 106](#).

Any possible spray drift into areas at risk must be monitored, for example by means of indicator strips. If the result is positive, the field margins and/or border rows must be harvested separately and marketed through non-organic channels. In addition, it is imperative that residue analyses be obtained from the entire crop, and the results must be attached to the inspection report.

Contamination must be prevented by means of landscaping measures.

If aerial pest control treatments are carried out in the vicinity of an organic farming operation, the substances used must be listed in the inspection report, residue analyses must be performed, and the results must be attached to the inspection report.

4.2.6 **Cultivation of former GMO plots**

Basis: see [No use of genetic engineering Part II, Art. 2.5.1, Page 106](#).

Suitable crop rotations must be carried out for at least two years (corresponding to the conversion period) on any plots where GMO crops have been grown prior to organic cultivation. During this period neither the same kind of crop nor a crop that could be cross-pollinated with the previous GMO crops may be grown on the plots concerned. These plots must be specially marked and named on the plot plan. The crop rotation and other measures are discussed during the inspection and recorded in the inspection report. If the same kind of crop is grown elsewhere on the organic farming operation, analyses of the harvested crops may be requested.

Before organic rapeseed can be planted on parcels where genetically modified rapeseed has previously grown, Bio Suisse prescribes a waiting period of 15 years if no specific control occurs, or 2 years if a specific control of second-generation crops occurs.

For newly acquired land and newly converted farming operations in areas where genetically modified plants are grown, proof of previous management practices is required.

4.2.7 **Crop protection and plant protection products**

Basis: see [Crop health Part II, Chap. 2.6, Page 107](#).

4.2.7.1 **Substances and measures**

For permitted measures, see [Crop health Part II, Chap. 2.6, Page 107](#) and the plant protection products listed under Annex II of the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008. However, the following are not permitted according to the Bio Suisse Standards:

- Synthetic pyrethroids (incl. in traps)
- Bioherbicides
- Plant growth regulators
- Sulphur-based or copper-based products in the cultivation of grains, legumes and oilseeds

In individual cases Bio Suisse can request analyses of or information about the composition and/or quality of the plant protection products used.

4.2.7.2 **Government-imposed use of chemically synthesised plant protection products**

Where the government imposes the use of chemically synthesised plant protection products along roadside verges, Bio Suisse requirements concerning spray drift must be met. Where the government imposes the use of these products on crops, the crops concerned have to be marketed as non-organic. If the government-imposed use of these products is personally carried out by the farm operations manager, this will lead to the revocation of certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards for the entire farming operation.

4.2.7.3 **Use of copper**

With regard to copper preparations, the maximum permitted application rates of pure copper per treated ha and year are as follows:

- Pome fruit 1.5 kg
- Stone fruit 4 kg
- Berries 2 kg
- Pineapples 4 kg
- Vegetables and spice plants 4 kg
- Potatoes 4 kg
- Ornamental plants 4 kg
- Herbs for seed production 4 kg
- Hops 4 kg
- Viticulture 4 kg
(whereby this quantity may be applied over a five-year period). However, the maximum application rate of 6 kg per ha and year may never be exceeded. Quantities exceeding 4 kg per ha and year must be reported to the BSO certification body.
- Other permanent crops (incl. tropical and subtropical crops) 4 kg

4.2.7.4 **Use of ethylene**

The use of ethylene to induce flowering in pineapple crops is permitted. Only pure manufactured ethylene gas and ethylene gas of natural origin are permitted as sources of ethylene. The use of ethephon and calcium carbide is prohibited.

4.2.7.5 **Soil sterilisation**

Shallow steaming in greenhouses and solarisation of the soil for the purpose of sterilisation or weed control are permitted.

4.2.8 **Burning**

Basis: see [Crop health Part II, Chap. 2.6, Page 107](#).

Burning crop residues is prohibited; they must be composted instead. However, if composting is not possible, tree and shrub cuttings may be burnt. Pre-harvest burning of sugar cane fields is also prohibited.

4.3 **Specific regulations for crop production**

4.3.1 **Meadow orchards**

Fruit from meadow orchards will only be certified according to Bio Suisse Standards provided

- the fruit originates from farming operations that have been wholly converted in compliance with Bio Suisse requirements (see [Conversion to organic farming and the whole-farm approach Part II, Chap. 1, Page 49](#));
- the fruit originates from smallholder groups than can be certified as such;
- the fruit can be classified as fruit harvested in the wild (as per [Directives for wild harvesting Part V, Chap. 6, Page 341](#)).

4.3.2 Sugar maple plantations

A sugar maple plantation and the maple syrup it produces can be certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards if the following requirements are met:

- They must be certified according to Article 7.2 of the Canadian Organic Standard (COS) on Maple Products.
- There is no use of nanofilters.
- The farm operations manager may not hold a managerial position on a non-organic farming operation.

4.3.3 Quinoa cultivation at altitudes higher than 3000 m above sea level

- Where crop rotation with legumes or other kinds of green manure is not possible, quinoa may only be grown every third year and no tillage may take place for at least 18 months. During this period there must be sufficient spontaneous plant cover in order to prevent erosion.
- A field of quinoa may not be larger than 1 ha and must be protected by windbreaks. The windbreaks must be 2 to 3 m wide and must comprise at least 10% of the cropland.
- Minimal tillage: A disc plough or other deep tillage implement may only be used to incorporate farmyard manure into the soil. Otherwise, only shallow cultivation, for instance by means of a harrow or hoe, is permitted.

4.3.4 Cultivation of oil palms (*Elaeis guineensis*) and primary processing of oil palm fruit

Oil mills that produce palm oil and the operations responsible for supplying the palm fruit will be certified in accordance with Bio Suisse Standards if the following additional requirements are met:

- a) They are in possession of a currently valid certification in accordance with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil standard (RSPO P&C 2018⁽⁸⁹⁾ or RSPO ISH 2019⁽⁹⁰⁾)⁽⁹¹⁾. Upon request, Bio Suisse can review and approve an alternative external standard to determine equivalence with RSPO.
- b) The operation cultivates at least 5% of the utilised agricultural area (UAA) that is planted with oil palms using innovative, diversified cultivation systems. In addition to oil palms, these systems also include different local varieties of forest trees with a long life cycle (upper layer) and different local varieties of forest, fruit and nut trees with medium-length life cycles (middle layer). Furthermore, crops native to the local ecosystem with a short life cycle, including those intended to supply the local population, are also integrated into the cultivation system (lower layer). The operation submits the implementation concept of the innovative, diversified cultivation system to Bio Suisse for substantive review before the start of implementation, and then reports annually on the progress achieved. Innovative cultivation systems that, according to Bio Suisse, are highly diversified and therefore particularly valuable ecologically, can be counted as areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity (ADEB). Smallholder groups (as defined under [Producer groups Part V, Art. 3.1.1.3, Page 302](#) c)) are excluded from this requirement.
- c) For an optimal nutrient cycle in the cultivation system and to minimise the emission of greenhouse gases, the oil mill guarantees low-emission processing of the organic by-products from the production of crude palm oil⁽⁹²⁾ and ensures that the material is returned to the area under cultivation (at least 80% of all operations, incl. smallholders). The processing methods and material flows are documented.
- d) At least 20% of the palm oil produced by the oil mill and marketed under BSO must be sourced from local smallholder groups (as defined under [Producer groups Part V, Art. 3.1.1.3, Page 302](#) c))⁽⁹³⁾. The principle of mass balance applies.⁽⁹⁴⁾ The oil mill guarantees that it can accept oil palm fruit from the smallholders throughout the year, helps them improve the quality of their products as needed and documents the effective volume purchased per month. An oil mill that cannot source 20% of its oil palm fruit

⁸⁹ Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, Principles & Criteria, 2018.

⁹⁰ Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, Independent Smallholder Standard, 2019.

⁹¹ Documents to be submitted: current audit report, current certification confirmation and current licence contract.

⁹² Organic by-products: empty fruit bunches, palm kernel meal, fibres and POME.

⁹³ The proportion of 20% is calculated from the average value of the palm oil that has been marketed under BSO in the last three years.

⁹⁴ The BSO oil palm fruit harvested by smallholder groups that is accepted by the mill must correspond to at least 20% of the palm oil marketed under BSO per annum, whereby the palm oil that is imported into Switzerland does not need to physically originate from the oil palm fruit provided by the smallholder groups.

from local smallholder groups must plausibly demonstrate this to Bio Suisse. In this case, as compensation, each supplying operation cultivates an additional 5%, meaning at least 10% in total, of the utilised agricultural area planted with oil palms using innovative, diversified cultivation systems.

4.4 Animal husbandry

4.4.1 Certification of farming operations with animal husbandry; certification of animal products

To obtain certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards for plant products, animal husbandry on the same operation must comply with the EU organic regulations (or equivalent) in the EU and in all other countries must at least meet the Bio Suisse minimum requirements for animal husbandry on operations outside of Switzerland:

- No embryo transfer and/or genetic engineering
- The animals must be able to move in their housing in a way that is in keeping with their innate behavioural traits
- The animals must be protected against detrimental influences such as heat, cold, dust, harmful gases and damp
- No fully slatted floors
- The animals must have sufficient access to range and/or pasture
- The animals must not be caged
- No more than 10% of feed (for ruminants) or 15% of feed (for non-ruminants) may be brought in from non-organic sources; in exceptional, justified cases, the percentage of non-organic feed may be higher
- No use of prohibited feed additives: antibiotics, hormones, sulphonamides, coccidiostats, synthetic growth promoters and stimulants, synthetic appetite inducers, synthetic colourings, urea, slaughterhouse wastes for ruminants, poultry manure or dung (any kind of excrement), pure amino acids, and genetically modified organisms or their derivatives
- No use of prohibited veterinary substances, including: substances of synthetic origin to stimulate production or to prevent natural growth, hormones to trigger or synchronise heat, and synthetic growth promoters
- No tooth-cutting or tail-docking in pigs
- No de-beaking in poultry

Exceptions: there are no minimum requirements specified for keeping hobby animals and keeping livestock for self-sufficiency purposes (if more than 50% of the animal products are required for personal use, then the livestock is considered to be kept for self-sufficiency purposes).

To obtain certification in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards for animal products, animal husbandry on the operation must fully comply with the Bio Suisse Standards (with the exception of [Shrimp and mussels Part V, Art. 4.4.2, Page 335](#) and [Beekeeping Part V, Art. 4.4.3, Page 335](#)). Inspections must be carried out by an inspection body named by the LCI. Generally this is an inspection body that is accredited in Switzerland to carry out Bio Suisse inspections.

In addition to the Bio Suisse Standards in the chapters [Animal husbandry Part II, Chap. 4, Page 120](#) and [Specific regulations for animal husbandry Part II, Chap. 5, Page 142](#) in Part II, farms that are only certified for animal products also have to comply with the following standards for crop production:

- Certification in accordance with the EU organic regulations (or equivalent)
- [Whole-farm conversion standards Part V, Art. 4.1.3, Page 323](#)
- [Crop rotation standards Part V, Art. 4.2.1.1, Page 325](#)
- The quantitative and qualitative standards for the enhancement of biodiversity as per [Enhancement of biodiversity Part V, Art. 4.2.3, Page 328](#)
- [Fertiliser limits Part V, Art. 4.2.4.2, Page 330](#)

These farms are permitted to feed animals with feed grown on the farm and purchased feed provided that it complies with EU organic regulations in terms of quality.

4.4.2 Aquaculture

Basis: see [Culinary fish Part II, Chap. 5.7, Page 165](#) and [Conversion to organic farming and the whole-farm approach Part II, Chap. 1, Page 49](#).

As long as aquaculture is not regulated by the Organic Farming Ordinance, both EU organic certification and Naturland certification for the production, processing and trade of aquaculture products will be recognised as a basis for Bio Suisse certification for operations in countries outside of the EU.

The Bio Suisse Standards apply to the farming and rearing of fish (trout, salmon, carp, etc.). The following exceptions apply to fish farms outside of Switzerland:

- Fish feed must be certified according to the standards of the Soil Association, Naturland or Bio Suisse. The use of synthetic antioxidants (e.g. ethoxyquin, BHA, BHT, etc.) is expressly prohibited. The origin/quality of fish meal/fish oil must be certified by an independent body.
- The stocking density defined under the EU organic regulations (or equivalent) applies; for instance, the limit is 10 kg/m³ for salmon raised in ocean net-cage farms, 15 kg/m³ for gilthead seabream/sea bass, and 10 kg/m³ for pangasius).
- All cleaning agents and disinfectants permitted under EU organic regulations (or equivalent) may be used.
- Electrical stunning (preferably in the medium water) or percussive stunning is used. The use of natural plant-based preparations such as clove oil is also permitted.
- Once stunned, the fish are slaughtered by being cut at the gills and bled out; for sea bass and gilthead, slaughter of stunned fish using ice/flake ice (not ice water) is also permitted. A derogation for ice water slaughter may be sought in justified cases. A detailed slaughter report that describes the preparation (e.g. caging, crowding, pumps), transport, stunning, slaughter and inspection parameters must be presented to the BSO certification body.
- Reproduction and breeding: see [Reproduction and breeding Part II, Art. 5.7.1, Page 165](#). Deviation: Purchased juvenile fish and eggs must be derived from organic operations, and the maximum permitted transport duration is 10 hours for juvenile fish, as per [Transport density Part II, Art. 5.7.6, Page 167](#). Derogations may be sought regarding transport time. Non-organic juvenile fish or eggs may be used if organic ones are not available. In these cases, there must be a statement from the supplier confirming that they meet organic requirements.
- The conversion period follows the current provision in EU organic regulations (or equivalent) (usually two thirds of the life span of the respective species of reared fish). In keeping with EU legislation, animals from aquaculture may not be traded as in conversion.

Certification in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards for shrimp and mussels may be obtained under the following conditions:

- The operation must already be certified according to the standards of Naturland e. V., Gräfelfing, Germany⁽⁹⁵⁾.
- The Bio Suisse definition of a farming operation must be met.
- Producer groups must meet the Bio Suisse requirements for inspections as set forth in these directives.

4.4.3 Beekeeping

Basis: see [Beekeeping and apiary products Part II, Chap. 5.8, Page 173](#) and [Apiary products Part III, Chap. 12, Page 266](#).

Certification according to the Bio Suisse Standards for individual honey producers/producer groups may be obtained directly on the basis of organic certification according to EU organic regulations (or equivalent) and confirmation by the inspection body that the following conditions have been met:

- No synthetically produced essential oils (e.g. synthetic thymol) are used to combat Varroa mites.
- The maximum water content of the honey is 18%.
- Confirmation has been furnished that no high conservation value areas (e.g. primary forest) have been cleared if the beekeeper also runs a farming operation.
- If a beekeeper is also the farming operations manager of a farm, the farm must be fully certified in accordance with the EU organic regulations or equivalent. If this is not the case, then the beekeeper may not be approved as a honey producer for Bio Suisse certification (including as a member of a producer group).

Honey is harvested as outlined in the section [Honey Part III, Chap. 12.2, Page 266](#).

⁹⁵ www.naturland.de

5 Directives for processing and trade

5.1 Separation of the flow of goods; traceability of products that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards

Basis as per:

- [Obligation to keep records, bookkeeping Part I, Art. 2.1.3.1, Page 19](#)
- [Procurement of raw materials and chain-of-custody monitoring Part III, Chap. 1.4, Page 180](#)
- [Receipt of goods and chain-of-custody monitoring Part III, Chap. 1.5, Page 181](#)

5.1.1 Traceability

Complete traceability of products that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards must be ensured at all times, from farm to fork. The products must be accompanied by shipping documents (e.g. delivery notes, invoices, processing reports, etc.) from the harvest to their delivery to the customer. Therefore, shipping documents must be handled in accordance with the requirements outlined below at each link in the chain of production, processing, trade and transport.

Products that are certified in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards must be labelled as such at all times in a clearly visible manner and stored separately in order to minimise the risk of confusion or inadvertent commingling with products that are not certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards.

5.1.2 Requirements pertaining to traceability and shipping documents

Production: each packaged unit delivered to the collection point must be labelled with

- the name of the producer and/or the producer's code number;
- the inspection status:
- the delivery date and/or date of harvest;
- the name and/or quality of the product;
- the weight and/or unit of quantity.

Packaged units include: individual boxes, bags, barrels or other containers. If individual packages are combined to form a larger unit (e.g. bound to a pallet, individual bags in a big bag, etc.), the larger container is considered a packaged unit.

Processing, packaging, transport: Each time commodities that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards are repackaged into a new container (e.g. after sorting and packaging, or after processing), the new container must be provided with a new label. A new shipping document must also be created. Both the container and the shipping document must indicate the following:

- Packaging and/or processing date
- Inspection status (BIOSUISSE ORGANIC or BIOSUISSE ORGANIC, in-conversion product)
- Name of the producer (or the lot number if products from several producers are commingled)
- Name and/or quality of the product
- Weight and/or unit of quantity

Processing reports must indicate the composition and origin of commodities by means of their lot numbers. At each change of container, both the delivery and receipt of the commodities must be recorded. The procedure is the same as for delivery to the collection point. A copy of the shipping document must accompany the commodities to the next processing or trading step.

5.1.3 Filing and inspecting shipping documents

Filing: Upon delivery of the commodities, one copy of the shipping documents remains with the supplier, one copy is kept by the recipient, and one copy is used to identify the goods during further transport and/or processing steps. This procedure is repeated every time containers are changed.

Proof of product integrity: The inspection body must be allowed to inspect the traceability documentation in order to check the separation of the flow of goods and traceability. The inspection body must describe and confirm the separation of commodities that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards from those that are not.

5.1.4 Exporting/importing to Switzerland

An electronic traceability attestation must be available in the Supply Chain Monitor⁽⁹⁶⁾ for each delivery in Switzerland of imported products that are certified according to Bio Suisse Standards. The attestation must declare the entire chain of custody, including every stage of trade beginning with the producer of the raw product. Import transactions must be recorded in the Supply Chain Monitor by the exporter at the latest six weeks after the date of delivery in Switzerland, and the importer must apply for a Bud stamp of approval from Bio Suisse.

5.2 Pest control in storage and processing

Basis: see [Pest control Part III, Chap. 1.12, Page 195](#).

5.2.1 Basic principles

- Preventive measures take absolute precedence over any kind of treatment.
- The aim is to refrain from the use of chemically synthesised pesticides.
- Pest control measures must be documented.
- Operations with a higher than normal risk of pest infestation must have a particularly detailed system of pest control. Operations considered to be at high risk include the following:
 - Operations on which large-scale pest control treatments are carried out (fogging and/or fumigation)
 - Operations that are certified for the storage and/or processing of grain products or dried products (dried fruit, nuts, spices, herbs, tea, cocoa, coffee, oilseeds; e.g. warehouses and mills)

5.2.2 Pest control system requirements for high-risk operations

High-risk operations must have a detailed pest control system (i.e. an integrated system). This requirement can be met in a number of ways:

- a) The operation is BRC or IFS certified; or
- b) An integrated pest control system has been installed at the operation by a professional pest control firm; or
- c) The operation has its own pest control system (including prevention (cleaning), monitoring, defined procedures in case of incidence, and clearly allocated responsibilities).

In certain cases, the pest control system can be kept simple. This depends on the structure of the operation. If rooms and equipment that are also used to store or process products that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards are subjected to large-scale treatments, then an internal pest control system will not suffice.

5.2.3 Pest control in cases of acute infestation

All permitted substances and measures are given in the [Appendix to Part V, Chapter 5.2 – Permitted substances and measures for pest control in storage and processing Part V, Page 339](#).⁽⁹⁷⁾ The LCI maintains the list of permitted substances and measures.

5.2.3.1 Direct application to products

Permitted substances and measures are listed in the [Appendix to Part V, Chapter 5.2 – Permitted substances and measures for pest control in storage and processing Part V, Page 339](#), Point 1.

⁹⁶ See www.international.biosuisse.ch.

⁹⁷ Farming operations may only use the following methods: thermal and mechanical methods, diatomaceous earth and fumigation with inert gases.

5.2.3.2 Localised applications in rooms and on equipment

Permitted substances and measures are listed in the [Appendix to Part V, Chapter 5.2 – Permitted substances and measures for pest control in storage and processing Part V, Page 339](#), Point 2.

The products, packaging materials and all other materials that come into contact with foodstuffs that have been certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards may remain in the room. However, they may not, under any circumstances, come in contact with pesticides. All pest control measures and measures taken to prevent contamination must be recorded.

5.2.3.3 Large-scale measures (fogging and fumigation) for rooms and equipment

The following requirements apply to all rooms:

- Permitted substances are listed in the [Appendix to Part V, Chapter 5.2 – Permitted substances and measures for pest control in storage and processing Part V, Page 339](#), Point 3.
- All products that are certified in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards must be removed from the rooms and equipment that are to be treated. In case of fogging, the only exceptions are raw or semi-finished products in gastight packaging (e.g. gas-tight metal drums).
- Strict attention must be paid to ensure that the fogging or fumigation agents do not come in contact with and contaminate products that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards. Rooms and equipment to be treated must be properly sealed.
- After fogging or fumigation treatments, rooms and equipment must be thoroughly ventilated prior to processing or being refilled with products. Waiting period: 24 hours.
- The operation must ensure that organic raw materials and products do not become contaminated when they are returned to the rooms (no residues on products):
 - The rooms and equipment must be sufficiently cleaned.
 - The first production batch (except from silos) following treatment may not be marketed as certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards.

Appendix to Part V, Chapter 5.2 – Permitted substances and measures for pest control in storage and processing

The following list only applies to storage and processing. It is an appendix to the Bio Suisse Standards directive Pest control in storage and processing, which defines the requirements for and restrictions on the use of these substances (as per [Pest control in cases of acute infestation Part V, Art. 5.2.3, Page 337](#)). Compliance with these requirements and restrictions is mandatory. The following list was approved by the LCI and is continuously updated to reflect current circumstances. It does not apply to farming operations.

1. Treating products that are certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards

The following measures are permitted:

- Physical/mechanical measures such as re-storage, cleaning, airing, sieving, removal (including by suction) from contaminated areas, bouncing, using pin mills, and electronic traps
- Thermal processes (e.g. deep-freezing commodities, heat treatments of rooms and equipment)
- Fumigation with inert gases such as CO₂ and N₂, including disinfestation treatments
- A low-oxygen atmosphere
- Diatomaceous earth (silicon dioxide)
- Using beneficial organisms

2. Localised applications in rooms

2.1 Localised pest control using traps and bait

The following measures are permitted:

- To control rodents: traps and stationary bait with rodenticides
- To control insects: insect traps and stationary bait stations (e.g. bait gel and roach gels)
- To control moths: pheromone-based mating disruptors, as long as this does not interfere with monitoring or the use of beneficial organisms

2.2 Localised applications of spray products/treatment of nooks

Permitted substances in descending order of priority:

- Natural pyrethrum without added piperonyl butoxide. Sesame oil or another plant oil may be used as a synergist.
- Natural pyrethrum with added piperonyl butoxide as a synergist.
- Synthetic pyrethroids such as deltamethrin, permethrin, cypermethrin, etc. and chlorpyrifos in the form of microcapsules. Only concentrated formulas that are added to water and sprayed using pump containers are permitted. Aerosol/spray cans are not permitted.

3. Large-scale applications (fogging and fumigation)

3.1 Fogging

The following agents are permitted for fogging empty spaces (in descending order of priority):

| Substance | Waiting period |
|--|---|
| Natural pyrethrum without added piperonyl butoxide as a synergist. Sesame oil or another plant oil may be used as a synergist. | At least 24 hours with proper ventilation |
| Natural pyrethrum with added piperonyl butoxide (as a synergist). | At least 24 hours with proper ventilation |

3.2 Fumigation

The following products are permitted for fumigating empty spaces:

-
-
-
-
-

| Substance | Waiting period |
|-------------------|---|
| Phosphine | At least 24 hours with proper ventilation |
| Sulfuryl fluoride | At least 24 hours with proper ventilation |

6 Directives for wild harvesting

Basis: see [Basic principles and objectives Part IV, Chap. 1, Page 294](#).

6.1 Definitions

Wild plants are defined as edible plants and mushrooms and parts thereof that grow naturally in forests and on farmland and are not cultivated using agricultural methods. Harvesting wild plants is considered to be complementary to agricultural production.

Plants harvested in the wild that have been subjected to cultivation measures are agricultural products and are therefore not wild plants as defined in this directive.

6.2 Conversion period

There is no conversion period for plants harvested in the wild.

6.3 Labelling

Products that consist entirely of wild plants must be labelled as such. If products contain both wild and cultivated ingredients and $\geq 10\%$ of the product is comprised of plants harvested in the wild, the former must be declared as such in the list of ingredients (e.g. "certified products harvested in the wild").

6.4 Inspection

During inspection, a complete description of the harvesting area ([Harvesting area Part V, Chap. 6.5, Page 341](#)), the harvesting of wild plants ([Harvesting of wild plants Part V, Chap. 6.6, Page 341](#)), documentation of ecologically sound harvesting practices ([Habitat stability and biodiversity Part V, Chap. 6.7, Page 342](#)) and storage and processing ([Processing and storage Part V, Chap. 6.8, Page 342](#)) must be furnished. The documents specified in [Harvesting area Part V, Chap. 6.5, Page 341](#) and the following chapters must be included in the inspection report.

6.5 Harvesting area

The following data on the harvesting area must be known and documented for inspections:

- Topographic and pedoclimatic situation of the harvesting area.
- Property rights and beneficial interest in the harvesting area. Ownership or usufruct rights of local communities and indigenous peoples must be respected.
- Sources of emission/contamination in the area in question and its surroundings: What are the sources and what impact do they have on the area?
- Size, geographic location and delimitation of the harvesting area.
- Verification that no auxiliary inputs prohibited in organic agriculture have been used in the harvesting area during the past three years. In normal cases, a plausible declaration is sufficient, together with a survey of the area by the inspector. In case of doubt, a letter of confirmation from the landowner must be furnished, or a residue analysis can be requested.

This information must be documented in plot maps, topographic maps or land registry maps at a scale generally not exceeding 1:50,000. The boundaries of the harvesting areas potential sources of emissions and picking and storage sites must be indicated.

6.6 Harvesting of wild plants

The following information regarding the harvesting of wild plants must be documented and made available during inspections:

- The entire sequence of the harvesting process from planning to picking, storing, processing and sale
- Picking reports (including pickers, quantities, dates)
- The qualifications and training of the pickers
- The names of the main persons responsible for picking the plants

- Common and botanical names of the wild plants harvested

The following additional documents pertaining to the harvesting of wild plants must be available:

- Authorisation for harvesting wild plants (if required by law)
- Lists of pickers (all adult persons engaged in harvesting must be listed)
- A sample of the contract between the manager of the harvesting project and the pickers, in which the pickers agree, among other things, to the following:
 - To pick only in the areas defined by the manager of the wild harvesting project
 - To comply with the instructions and provisions governing sustainable harvesting (applicable regulations, picking techniques, intensity of use, the time at which the plants were picked, etc.)
 - Not to pick in areas at risk of ambient contamination
 - Not to pick or store the same kind of product at the same time under other criteria
 - Only to use residue-free containers that meet food quality standards

The pickers must have knowledge of sustainable harvesting of wild plants; the person in charge of harvesting wild plants is held accountable for instructing the pickers in this regard.

The manager of the wild harvesting project may not also be the manager of a non-organic farming operation at the same time.

Pickers are obligated to meet Bio Suisse requirements for the entire harvest of the same plant species.

6.7 **Habitat stability and biodiversity**

Wild plants must be harvested in an ecologically sound manner. This is the case as long as there is no negative impact on habitat stability and biodiversity. Each individual case must be assessed with regard to its potential ecological impact. Applicable international agreements and national laws, regulations and provisions must be observed. To determine whether the harvesting activity is ecologically sound, the following details must be known and documented for inspections:

- A description of the harvesting area (including inventory)
- Which parts of the wild plants are harvested (whole plants, leaves, flowers, etc.) and how much of each plant is used (e.g. one third of the root)
- The intensity of exploitation in the harvesting area
- Other harvesting activities in the same area, including those by other pickers who do not belong to the project

The inspector must confirm that the activity is ecologically sound. If necessary, an independent expert must be consulted.

6.8 **Processing and storage**

The same standards and regulations apply to the processing and storage of wild plants as apply to agricultural products.

