

Standards 2026 – these changes to Part V come into effect on 1 January 2026

Information note for BSO operations outside Switzerland (version 01/2026)
<https://international.bio-suisse.ch/en/import/downloads-and-links.html>

This information note explains the key changes for BSO operations and the trade of imported products which come into effect on 1 January 2026.

Link to the applicable standards and appendices (note: changes during the year are also possible) incl. comparison version:

- [Bio Suisse Standards 2026 EN](#)
- [Bio Suisse Standards Comparison Version 2026-25 | DE](#)
- [Appendices to the Bio Suisse Standards | Vers. 01.01.2026 EN](#)
- [Information note: Summary of the Bio Suisse Standards](#)

International (Part V)

3.1.5 Simplified certification of smallholder groups

Smallholder groups that use non-renewable fossil water for the irrigation of their export crops, will no longer be certified according to Bio Suisse Standards from 1 January 2029. More on the subject in this [information note](#).

3.2.1 Declaration of conformity with Bio Suisse Standards

The special case of Bud licensees trading BSO products outside of Switzerland has been explicitly included and regulated in the standards. Additionally, unclear wording regarding the use of the Bud logo outside of Switzerland on the “final packaging” has been reworded and clarified.

3.3 Social responsibility

The obligation of a Bio Suisse social audit now also applies to operations according to the [information note](#) in France, Greece and Turkey.

3.6.2 Use of water in areas with water risks

Bio Suisse now also counts areas with “medium-high” water depletion, according to [Aqueduct](#), as areas with water risks. In these regions, all requirements according to chapter 3.6.2 must be met (including filling out a water management plan).

3.6.3 Ban on the use of non-renewable fossil water resources

Irrigation with non-renewable fossil water resources in the cultivation of Bud products poses a sustainability risk and, accordingly, a credibility risk for Bio Suisse and the Bud brand, and will therefore be prohibited in future. There is a transitional period for existing operations. More on the subject can be found in this [information note](#).

4.2.1 Soil protection and soil fertility

The fields should be kept as free from plastic as possible, and microplastic contamination should be avoided wherever possible. Non-degradable films must be cleared from the areas. Mulch films that are incorporated into the soil must be demonstrably biodegradable.

4.2.2.4 Planting stock and vegetative propagating material

If organic propagating material is not available for strawberries, it is possible to apply to Bio Suisse for a derogation.

The maximum peat content for propagation substrates for seedlings is being reduced from 70% to 60%. This also applies to purchased saplings; it must be possible to check the peat content in the substrate.

4.2.7 Crop protection

It is possible to apply for a derogation for synthetic pyrethroids in traps to combat the Mediterranean fruit fly and the olive fruit fly. Their use is only approved if there is a proven need and an alternative pest-control measure has also been applied.

4.2.7.4 Post-harvest treatment of bananas

The plant protection products approved in organic farming may be used for the post-harvest treatment of banana stumps. In practice, citric acid, lemon juice and various plant extracts are used for the treatment of the stumps.

4.3.3 Tropical permanent crops

The definition of tropical permanent crops has been reworded. All operations that cultivate the following crops on areas over 200 ha must now cultivate these in diversified and multifunctional cultivation systems: agaves, avocado, banana, cashew, coffee, cocoa, coconuts, lime, mango, oil palm and tea. There is a transition period until 31 December 2026 for implementation.

4.3.4 Agaves

When harvesting agave crops, 5% of the plants for agave tequilana or 3% for all other agave species must remain on the surface so that they can develop blossom and fruit clusters and provide a food source for native bats and insects; flowering plants must be distributed across the entire area of the operation and must be left standing at least until the fruit clusters are fully ripe.

4.3.5 Production of macroalgae (and 6.1 for products harvested in the wild)

Algae represent an interesting expansion of the product range for the Bud. The standard framework for the harvesting or sustainable cultivation of algae in aquaculture facilities is being newly established, as it did not previously exist. EU organic certification is required, and the specific requirements in the new chapter must be met. Chapter 6.1 must be taken into account for products harvested in the wild.

Contact:

international@bio-suisse.ch

Tel. +41 61 204 66 44