CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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Member of
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group

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

EU organic reg. 2018/848, its Implementing and

Delegating regulations as amended

For

- Agricultural Producers
- Processing, trade and import
- Subcontractor

CERTIFICATION BODIES:

Austria Bio Garantie – Landwirtschaft GmbH

Austria Bio Garantie GmbH

Königsbrunner Str. 8

2202 Enzersfeld

Bio Garantie d.o.o.

Ivana Mažuranića 2

40000 Čakovec

Croatia

Bio Garantie SRL

Str. Popa Savu, Nr. 77, Etaj 1, Ap.3, Interfon 03,

Sector 1, 011432 Bucuresti,

Romania

Bio Garantie GmbH

Troyenbachstraße 1e

39030 Vintl

South Tyrol/Italy

Bio Garancia Kft.

Dereglye utca 5/2. 1.em.4

HU - 1036 Budapest

Hungary

1. Scope of the scheme, including the type of products covered

This certification program is the basis for the inspection and certification of products based on the following requirements:

- EU organic reg. 2018/848, its Implementing and Delegating regulations as amended
- for HR: Agriculture law (OG 52/21), Ordinance on the control system of organic agriculture (OG 110/22)
- for HU: 34/2013. VM Decree
- for RO: Ordinance 312/2021

EUR-Lex - 32018R0848 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

2. The requirements against which the products are evaluated, by reference to standards or other normative documents

In addition to the requirements mentioned under point 1, the following guidelines / regulations / specifications apply:

RO: https://www.bio-garantie.ro/en/services/service-485~romanian-national-organic-regulation

HR: https://www.bio-garantie.hr/en/services/service-485~croatian-organic-regulation

HU: https://www.bio-garancia.hu/en/services/service-485~hungarian-organic-regulation

IT: https://www.bio-garantie.it/de/services/service-495~nationale-gesetzliche-regelungen-f-r-s-dtirol

The valid versions of the above regulations can be found here:

Bio Garantie and agroVet – Inspektion and Certification (bio-garantie.com)

3. Activities

Application for inspection and certification

Interested customers (operators and group of operators) can find out more about what the certification body has to offer on the website www.bio-garantie.com.

An application for certification must contain at least the following information:

- Name and address
- Responsible person with contact details
- Products
- If applicable, operating sites/premises, subcontractors
- Unique national ID number
- Excerpt from the commercial register or similar documents

- If applicable, proof of registration in the organic system

Feasibility check

After receiving the relevant information, the feasibility check is carried out by the respective certification body to ensure that

a) the information about the customer and the product is sufficient to carry out the certification process;
b) all known differences in understanding between the certification body and the customer are clarified, including the agreement regarding the standards or the normative documents (guidelines / regulations / specifications);
c) the scope of the desired certification is defined;
d) the resources are available to carry out all evaluation activities;
e) the respective certification body has the competence, the ability and under condition of legislations to carry out the certification activities.

Conclusion of contract

After a positive feasibility check by the respective certification body, the inspection contract is concluded, which includes all rights and obligations of both sides in such a way that the relevant requirements of ISO 17065 and the guidelines / regulations / specifications to be checked are met. All companies involved (operating sites, subcontractors etc.) must be contractually involved.

Inspection

In the course of the inspection, the specifications of the guidelines /regulations / specifications, which are mentioned under point 1 or point 2 (if relevant), are checked. The inspected company has the obligation to demonstrate compliance with these requirements to the certification body in a comprehensible manner.

Certification

After the inspection has been carried out and the certification has been completed, the company receives a certificate stating the products or product groups subject to certification or, if applicable, also certified production sites.

4. The requirements for certification bodies and other conformity assessment bodies involved in the certification process

All certification bodies and other conformity assessment bodies involved in the certification process must be accredited to ISO 17065 or other required relevant standards.

5. Methods and procedures to be used by the conformity assessment bodies and other organizations involved in the certification process, so as to assure the integrity and consistency of the outcome of the conformity assessment process

The inspection is carried out according to defined, standardized inspection guidelines, which are usually available to the inspector in electronic form. All specifications of the relevant guidelines /regulations / specifications are included in this.

Relevant inspection points are the separation of certified and non-certified products (also during the course of the factory tour), the flow of goods from incoming goods to outgoing goods, the documentation of the processing / preparation of the products etc.

After the initial certification, the further inspection frequency for the company is determined by means of a risk assessment This risk assessment is regularly adjusted to operational circumstances.

6. Conditions under which the client may use the statement of conformity or marks of conformity

The use of the certificate or other marks of conformity are recorded in the general terms and conditions, in the design manual or in the guidelines /regulations / specifications.

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7. Resources required for the operation of the scheme, including impartiality and competence of the personnel (internal and external), the evaluation resources and the use of subcontractors

The certification body employs experienced, competent and impartial staff for inspection and certification. The respective inspector is selected for the respective customer - taking into account the competence and impartiality. The inspection results are checked according to the four-eyes principle: after the inspection has been carried out, the evaluation and certification is carried out by another competent, impartial person.

8. Information, how the results of the determination (evaluation) and surveillance stages are to be reported

The result of the inspection, including any sanctions and measures, is summarized in the form of a report during the course of the inspection. This is discussed with the person responsible for operations who also signs the report. This report is made available to the company.

If necessary, a report is sent to the program owner or to the responsible authorities.

9. Information, how non-conformities with the certification requirements, which include product requirements, to be dealt with and resolved

Non-conformities are processed according to the sanction catalog or the relevant specifications of the guidelines.

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10. Surveillance procedures

After the initial certification, the further inspection frequency for the company is determined by means of a risk assessment. This risk assessment is regularly adjusted to operational circumstances.

Types of inspections:

Main inspection
Complete inspection of the entire operation once a year. These inspections are usually announced.

Spot checks
The number of spot checks is determined for each company according to the risk classification, the inspections are usually carried out unannounced.

Additional inspection
The additional inspection is an inspection outside the risk model due to negative inspection results or other reasons. These inspections may be announced or unannounced.

Recurring inspections
Recurring inspections are carried out in the inspection season of the following year.

11. Criteria for access of conformity assessment bodies to the program and for access of clients to the scheme

The current version of this certification program is available on the homepage of the certification body at www.bio-garantie.com.

12. Content, conditions and responsibility for publication of the directory of certified products by the certification body or the scheme owner

The certification body operates the EASY-CERT certificate platform together with partner certification bodies. Customers and consumers can download the current certificates from the website www.bio-garantie.com.

13. General conditions for granting, maintaining, continuing, extending the scope of, reducing the scope of, suspending and withdrawing certification: this includes requirements for discontinuation of advertising and return of certification documents and any other action if the certification is suspended, withdrawn or terminated

In accordance with the General Terms and Conditions, the company undertakes to notify the respective certification body immediately in writing of any significant changes that deviate from the information in the company description.

The company undertakes to inform the respective certification body immediately in writing if it withdraws from the inspection system or if the company or part of the company to be inspected is transferred to another legal entity or is continued to be operated by another legal entity.

The company also undertakes to transfer all rights and obligations from the contract(s) concluded in each case to the legal successor(s).

The respective certification body takes further steps (possibly further inspection and certification) and issues a new certificate if necessary.

The terms of use of certification documents and marks are described in the General Terms and Conditions and in the Design Manual.

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14. The way in which the clients' complaints records are reviewed

The companies and third parties have the opportunity to submit written objections and complaints against decisions regarding inspections, audits and certifications. The case will be checked again using the four-eyes principle. Further processing is carried out by competent, independent persons.

For legal reasons, specific objections or complaints must reach the certification body in writing within 14 days.

In addition, the company is obliged to record complaints from third parties regarding the inspection and certification activities and to report them in writing to the respective certification body immediately and to resolve them.

15. The way in which the clients make reference to the scheme in their publicity material

Businesses that are certified by the above certification body and meet the certification requirements may refer to this certification scheme.

16. Retention of records by scheme owner and certification bodies

The companies are obliged to keep records and to maintain the documentation in the form and with the contents prescribed by the certification body. These are to be kept for a period of at least ten years.

The certification body ensures that all information is treated and stored confidentially.

17. Sampling

The sampling (number and process) is carried out according to the criteria and specifications set out in the guidelines / regulations / specifications

HU: Guidelines for Sampling NÉBIHSamples taken as part of the inspection are analysed in analytical laboratories that are accredited according to ISO 17025.

18. Acceptance of conformity assessment results

Not relevant in this certification program.

19. Change of program / change of guidelines / regulations / specifications

The company must always comply with the product requirements and ensure that the product meets the requirements.

The respective certification body informs the companies about changes to the guidelines and the associated changes for the companies.

In the event of changes to the guidelines, the respective certification body decides on the need to change the certification program and sets the deadline by which the relevant requirements must be implemented by the companies (if this is not specified in the changed guidelines).

Changes to the program will be published on the homepage www.bio-garantie.com