

Synopsis of BIO SUISSE standards for producers outside of Switzerland – state 1/1/2003 –

Introduction

The prerequisite for a BIO SUISSE approval is, in addition to the keeping to the directives in the EU Ordinance 2092/91, the compliance with BIO SUISSE standards. The BIO SUISSE approvals exceed the EU requirements in some points. The main differences are listed below. However it is the complete version of BIO SUISSE standards, directives and regulations that is binding (see the BIO SUISSE homepage www.bio-suisse.ch).

The decision to grant the BIO SUISSE approval to a farm operation is renewed every year. This possibly implies obligations imposed on the farm operation by BIO SUISSE that must be met until the next inspection. The non-compliance with one or several obligations leads to the non-approval of the operation.

1. Comprehensive organic farm management

The whole farm operation must be converted to organic production.

Farm operations with non-organic livestock or non-organic parcels of land cannot be approved (the BIO SUISSE definition of an organic farm operation is ruled in a directive, to be found under www.bio-suisse.ch).

2. Conversion period

The minimum conversion period according to BIO SUISSE standards is of 2 complete calendar years. No kind of previous farming justifies a reduced conversion period.

3. Parallel production/Newly farmed land

Parallel production on both organic and conversion fields of products that are not unmistakably distinguishable in their appearance leads to the whole crop being downgraded to conversion. Exception: For perennial crops (fruit, vine and so on), a parallel production (organic/conversion) is allowed, if the separation of the flow of goods and the complete retraceability of each charge is being inspected and confirmed by the inspection body. The parallel production on non-organic and organic fields is not allowed in any case (see point 1)

4. Areas set aside to enhance biodiversity

The farm operations must set aside at least 7% of their agricultural area to enhance biodiversity. Examples of countable areas: non-fertilized, species rich permanent meadows and pastures, fallow land (minimal period: 15 months), standard native fruit trees and isolated trees in suitable places (120 square yards per tree), hedges, copses and embankment copses, ditches, ponds and pools, marsh land, waste ground, piles and stacks of stones, drystone walls, non-made up natural paths.

5. Fertilization

Per ha and year, not more nutrients may be used as indicated in the following chart:

Crop	kg N/ha	kg P ₂ O ₅ /ha
Fodder and vegetable crops outdoors	225	80
Field crops (root crops and cereals)	180	60
Vineyards, fruit, berries	100	30

Special values are applied for special crops

With the exception of skin-, hair-, horn- and claw products, the use of ophals and its by-products as fertilizers is forbidden. The use of highly concentrated potassium salt and peat for soil improvement is not allowed. A proof of need must be presented for the use of trace element- and potassium fertilizers.

6. Crop protection

- In deviation from the EU-Ordinance, the use of metaldehyde (snail management), pyrethroid in traps, organic herbicides, growth regulators, deltamethrin and cyhalothrin (stock protection) is not allowed.
- The use of copper preparations is restricted as follows (pure metallic copper per ha/per year): Vegetables, potatoes, vine, hop and stone fruit: 4 kg; berries: 2 kg; pome fruit: 1,5 kg.

7. Crop rotation

- The crop rotation has to present at least 20% of soil improving crops (eg. grain leguminosae, green manure cover, undersown crops, artificial meadow with clover and alfalfa)
- As of 1/1/2005, at least 50% of the open field must be covered with plants outside of the vegetation period.
- Except for rice, a cultivation break of at least a year must be observed between two main crops of the same variety for annual crops.
- The max. allowed share (in relation to the field surface) of the respective crops in crop rotation is of: max. 67% for grain legumes, rice and cereals; max. 50% for wheat and maize.

8. Seeds/propagation material

- If organic seeds are provably not available, untreated, non-organic seeds may be used until 31/12/2003. The use of treated seeds is forbidden and results in withdrawing the approval for the respective crop.
- For crops that are available in GMO quality in the respective country, seeds must be certified organic.
- Seedlings for vegetables, flowers and herbs must be certified organic. The used substrate may contain max. 70% peat.
- Vegetative propagation material (eg. fruit trees, vines) must be of organic origin as of 1/1/2004.

9. Green cover in vineyards and arboriculture

Vineyards and tree plantations must be covered with green plants the whole year around. In particular pedo-climatic circumstances (eg. in arid areas), the greening may be limited to at least 4 months. Where spontaneous vegetation is insufficient, green manure must be sown.

10. Clearing and burning

Both the clearing of jungle areas (primary and secondary forests) and the burning out of fields (previous and subsequent to harvest) is forbidden.

11. Animal husbandry

- The directives on animal husbandry of the EU Ordinance 2092/91 or of IFOAM must be complied with for all animal species.
- For the exportation of animal products into Switzerland, the BIO SUISSE standards must be fully complied with (chapter 3 of BIO SUISSE standards, see www.bio-suisse.ch).

12. Trade and processing

- The purchase of products that are also grown on the farm operation, leads to the withdrawal of the approval for the respective products, except when the purchased products are approved by BIO SUISSE or the separation of the flow of goods and the complete retraceability of the products is inspected and certified by the inspection body.
- The products must get to Switzerland by land or by sea. (no transport by plane).
- Storage and processing must comply with BIO SUISSE standards. (chapter 5 of BIO SUISSE standards and product specific directives for processing, see www.bio-suisse.ch)

→ **A BIO SUISSE approval does not entitle the bearer to label the products with the trademark BUD. This right is exclusively reserved to the Swiss importer having a valid licence contract with BIO SUISSE.**