# Part V – Table of Contents (excerpt*)

## Standards for the Production, Processing and Trade of 'Bud' Products

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Reading guide for the latest edition of the Bio Suisse Standards for the Production, Processing and Trade of 'Bud' Products

Every standard is composed of various parts. Standards are formulated by various decision-making bodies within the association:

- The Assembly of Delegates adopts the principles and objectives of each standard. These are marked by a green band at the side of the page.
- The directives that follow are based on the principles and define their technical implementation.
- Changes to the directives are first submitted to the Bio Suisse member organizations. If there are no objections within a period of 60 days, the changes go into effect by order of the Quality Committee of Bio Suisse. Directives are not specially marked within the text.
- For certain areas there are also operative implementing provisions that are issued and adapted by the responsible Bio Suisse Label Commissions. These are marked by a vertically pin-striped band at the side of the page.
- The appendices contain lists that could change at short notice as well as practical information. Various staff members and decision-making bodies are responsible for the appendices. The Bio Suisse head office maintains a complete list. Appendices immediately follow the sections to which they relate. They are designated as appendices and are marked by a horizontally pin-striped band at the side of the page.

These standards and additional documents that are designated with an arrow → are available online at:
www.bio-suisse.ch ← Import with Bio Suisse and at www.bioaktuell.ch ← 'Das Bioregelwerk' (in German) ← 'La réglementation bio' (in French) ← 'Le normative bio' (in Italian).

This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force. The original German version is definitive.
List of Abbreviations

▼ Designates ingredients at risk of contamination with GMOs. A declaration of assurance that the prohibition of the use of genetic engineering as per the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) and Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 was complied with is required.

* Such designated products or procedures must be authorized by the Bio Suisse head office (this applies to on-farm processors as well as to licensees).

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<td>ADEB</td>
<td>Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Advisory Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRIDEA</td>
<td>Developing Agriculture and rural areas (previously LBL and SRVA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AgriTOP/BUL</td>
<td>Swiss Advisory Bureau for Accident Prevention in Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agroscope</td>
<td>Swiss research into agriculture, nutrition and the environment (previously ALP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHV</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLW</td>
<td>Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft (Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, FOAG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRC</td>
<td>British Retail Consortium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSO</td>
<td>BIOSUISSE ORGANIC – Designation and logo for operations outside of Switzerland that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards and their products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTS</td>
<td>Swiss federal programme on 'besonders tierfreundlichen Stallhaltungssysteme (BTS)' ('high welfare livestock housing') in accordance with Art. 72 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH-Bio</td>
<td>certified according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>Swiss franc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COA</td>
<td>certified organic agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>dry matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAER</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>ecological compensation area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ET</td>
<td>embryo transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU organic</td>
<td>certified according to EU organic regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDHA</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FiBL</td>
<td>Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, CH-5070 Frick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOAG</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOPH</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Office of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSVO</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMOs</td>
<td>genetically modified organisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRUDAF</td>
<td>'Principles of fertilizer application in arable and forage cultivation'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha</td>
<td>hectare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMF</td>
<td>hydroxymethylfurfural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICS</td>
<td>internal control system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFCO</td>
<td>acronym for 'international fruit container'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFOAM</td>
<td>International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFS</td>
<td>International Featured Standards (aka International Food Standard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>integrated production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCI</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Label Commission 'Import'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCP</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Label Commission 'Production'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCPT</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Label Commission 'Processing and Trade'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>livestock manure units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LU</td>
<td>livestock unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW</td>
<td>live weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METAS</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Office of Metrology and Accreditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-organic</td>
<td>not certified according to any organic standard (i.e., from conventional or IP agriculture); the term 'conventional' is also frequently used (e.g., on labels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAK</td>
<td>'Produzenten-Anerkennungskommission' ('Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission'), a committee that preceded the LCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDO-PGI</td>
<td>A seal for 'Protected Designations of Origin' and 'Protected Geographical indications'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEP</td>
<td>'proof of ecological performance' (in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments, (SR 910.13))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIWI</td>
<td>fungus-resistant variety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC</td>
<td>polyvinyl chloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAUS</td>
<td>'Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien', Swiss federal programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCM</td>
<td>Bio Suisse 'Supply Chain Monitor'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swissmedic</td>
<td>Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAA</td>
<td>utilized agricultural area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UHT</td>
<td>ultra-high temperature processing or ultra-heat treatment; a method of sterilizing milk and milk products by briefly heating them above 135°C (275°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UV</td>
<td>ultraviolet light; invisible electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength from 1 nm to 380 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPO</td>
<td>Swiss Waters Protection Ordinance (SR 814.201)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Swiss federal laws and ordinances may be obtained from the Swiss Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FBL) (formerly the Federal Printed Matter and Materials Centre, or EDMZ), 3003 Bern, Tel. 031 325 50 50, or downloaded from the Swiss Federal Council website www.admin.ch → Federal Law
Legal Notice

'O' is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration numbers 405758 and P-479695.

'KNOSPE' is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration number P-494457.

'BOURGEON' is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration number P-494456.

'GEMMA' is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration number P-494458.

'BUD' is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration number P-494459.
Part V: Standards for Operations Outside of Switzerland and for Imported Products

Bio Suisse will restrict the use of the ‘Bud’ logo on products from outside of Switzerland if there is sufficient domestic production or if the entire production process takes place outside of Switzerland.

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

- The products must be produced in conformance with the current Bio Suisse standards, whereby the principle of equivalence applies. The producer (as per section 1.1) must be certified according to Bio Suisse standards, or the farming association (as per section 1.1.7) must have direct approval from Bio Suisse.
- The products may only be imported by importers holding a valid licence contract or production contract with Bio Suisse (see part I, chapter 2).
- The products may only be transported to Switzerland by land or by sea (air freight is prohibited).
- Legal provisions and the provisions of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming SR 910.18 or other equivalent legislation must be complied with.
- Priority will be given to the importation of organic products from neighbouring countries.

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

In general, the ‘Bud’ logo may not be used on fresh products from overseas. However, products which for climatic reasons cannot be grown in Switzerland or Europe are exempted from this restriction. Admissible products and regions of origin are given in a positive list.

All participants in the supply chain must be certified according to Bio Suisse standards, and the chain of custody must be traceable back to the original producer without any gaps.

The Bio Suisse standards must be fully complied with, both inside and outside of Switzerland. If necessary, the standards can be adapted to suit particular local conditions.

Additional regulations can be set forth for matters not sufficiently covered by the Bio Suisse Standards.
Appendix to Part V: Principles and Objectives

Bio Suisse import restrictions

1. Prohibition against air freight
Only products that are transported to Switzerland by land or by sea may be certified to Bio Suisse standards (air freight is prohibited). If it can be proven that transport by land or by sea is not possible, then Bio Suisse can grant a temporary derogation.

2. Sufficient domestic supply
Products which can mainly be supplied by domestic production in Switzerland and for which there are insufficient statutory import provisions may only be imported under individual import permits issued by Bio Suisse. Product-specific agreements can supersede the individual import permit requirement. The consent list currently comprises the following products:
- Product-specific agreements: grain for bread and feed, frozen berries and frozen cherries.
- Individual import permits are required for: land animal products, trout, domestic fruit and products containing such fruit (apples, pears, plums), berries and cherries for fresh consumption, bee balm, fresh or dried cultivated mushrooms, carrot juice, spelt husks, bran, ware potatoes, potato flakes, hops/hop pellets and beet sugar.

3. The entire production process takes place outside of Switzerland
Bio Suisse does not allow products that are entirely processed outside of Switzerland. Simple kinds of processing (e.g., drying, deep-freezing, pitting, cleaning, sorting) carried out directly in the land of origin are exempted. All other forms of processing 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).

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 such products. Specialities that bear the PDO-PGI logos or other clear designation of origin take precedence. If only one alternative production site exists in Switzerland for a given product, then the Bio Suisse Quality Committee may decide on a case-by-case basis to permit non-Swiss operations to supplement production.

4. Fresh products from overseas
In general, the ‘Bud’ logo may not be used on fresh products (fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs) that are not produced in Europe and/or in Mediterranean Rim countries. Fruit juices, pulp and frozen products are subject to the same restrictions as fresh products.

However, products which for climatic reasons cannot be grown in Europe and/or in Mediterranean Rim countries are exempted from this restriction. Admissible products and regions of origin are given in a continually updated positive list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>Comments / restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citrus fruit</td>
<td>fresh and frozen: concentrate, juice, segments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fresh citrus fruit for the production of fruit juice in Switzerland</td>
<td>Only from July to November (if the demand cannot be supplied by European and/or Mediterranean Rim countries).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avocados</td>
<td>fresh individual products</td>
<td>Only from April to December (if the demand cannot be supplied by European and/or Mediterranean Rim countries).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fresh and frozen: pulp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiwis</td>
<td>fresh individual products</td>
<td>Only from May to October (if the demand cannot be supplied by European and/or Mediterranean Rim countries).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. 'Bud' feed from Europe
As of 01 January 2019, all 'Bud' feed must be sourced from European production (from countries shown in the map below). However, by-products of the Swiss food industry made of imported raw materials from outside of Europe are exempted. Derogations for 'Bud' feed from overseas may be sought from Bio Suisse.

6. Products which would be detrimental to the image of Bio Suisse
A licence contract may be refused if a product would damage the image and reputation of the 'Bud' logo. The following criteria are taken into account:
- the basic principles set out in the Bio Suisse Standards mission statement
- ecological criteria
- consumer expectations of organic products
- packaging
- careful processing
- integrity and authenticity
- the social, political and economic context
General directives

1. Inspections and certification

1.1 Definitions

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

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

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

b) Producer groups without an internal control system
Such 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 0–5 ha of utilized agricultural area (UAA).
- At least 70% of the farmers have 0–10 ha of utilized agricultural area.
- At least 95% of the farmers have less than 25 ha of utilized agricultural area (whereby the yield obtained by farmers who have more than 25 ha of UAA 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 utilized 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 farming operations in the group, as given above.

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

1.1.4 Contractors
Contractors (for preparation, storage or processing) are under contract to the main operation (the contracting customer); compliance with the Bio Suisse standards (incl. 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.

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

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

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

1 Only downstream activities, without custom farming
1.1.2 **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 authorized 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.

1.1.3 **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 requirements set forth in part III as well as with those given in part V, sections 3.1 and 3.2.

Operations that wish 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.

1.1.4 **Certification of wild collection projects**

Certification according to Bio Suisse standards may be granted for plants collected in the wild if the requirements as per chapter 4 are met.

1.1.5 **Certification of producer groups**

1.1.5.1 **Certification of producer groups with an internal control system (ICS)**

Such producer groups are inspected and certified according to the requirements set out in the ‘Guidelines on imports of organic products into the European Union’. 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.

Dividing farming operations into smaller management units in order to meet the requirements of the EU guidelines is not permissible.

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

1.1.5.2 **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 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.

1.1.5.3 **Streamlined certification of smallholder groups**

Bio Suisse aims to ease market access for smallholder groups and give them an advantage over large farming 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 streamlined certification. The advantage of streamlined certification is that Bio Suisse conditions need not be completely met. Smallholder groups with or without an ICS can benefit from streamlined certification.

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

- The group must be a 'smallholder group' as defined by Bio Suisse (as per section 1.1.1.3 c).
- They must produce raw products that are approved for streamlined 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.
  - fruit listed in the positive list of 'Fresh products from overseas' (see Appendix to Part V: Principles and Objectives, 4.)
  - dates, figs
  - nuts
  - spices, medicinal plants, herbs
  - coffee, cocoa
  - quinoa, amaranth, sesame, rice, chia
  - sugarcane
- 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). Animal husbandry must at least meet the Bio Suisse minimum requirements for animal husbandry on operations outside of Switzerland (as per section 2.4.1). Cash crops are those 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 streamlined 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 high conservation value areas for purposes of agricultural production are specified in section 1.5.
- The segregation of the products during harvesting, processing and trading as well as the complete traceability of products produced by members of the group for which an application for streamlined certification is made must be ensured.

1.1.6 Certification of contractors

Compliance with Bio Suisse requirements must be checked for all contracted activities. BSO certification is typically given when the contracting customer receives BSO certification. Contractors can receive independent 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 which 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).
## Overview of required certification, depending on type of company

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Short description</th>
<th>Physical possession</th>
<th>Financial ownership</th>
<th>Has EU organic regulations (or equivalent)</th>
<th>Co-certify based on the Bio Suisse checklist ‘Processing and trade’</th>
<th>Must be declared in the SCM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trading operation</td>
<td>Independent company or subsidiary. Trades in products.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop shipping company, service bureau¹</td>
<td>Independent company or subsidiary. Trades in products.</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing operation</td>
<td>Independent company. Processes products; makes partial components or ready-to-eat products in final packaging.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broker, agency</td>
<td>Broker of products.</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection agency</td>
<td>Issues invoices on behalf of sellers.</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract manufacturer</td>
<td>Makes ready-to-eat products in final packaging under contract.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract processor</td>
<td>Processes a partial component that is not ready-to-eat in final packaging.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES²</td>
<td>YES³</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract warehouse</td>
<td>Stores products for payment.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES²</td>
<td>YES³</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duty-free warehouse</td>
<td>Stores products for contracting customers.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES³</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight company²</td>
<td>Forwards packaged and bulk goods.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Must be certified even if the parent company is already Bio Suisse certified.
² Independent certification according to EU organic regulations (or equivalent), or contracted activities must be certified through the contracting customer.
³ The checklist is usually completed by the inspection body during inspections of the contracting customer.
1.1.7 **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 recognized as equivalent to 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 recognized 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 under the appendix to part V, section 1.1.7 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 Bio Suisse standards.
### List of the producer associations directly approved by Bio Suisse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erde &amp; Saat</td>
<td>Excluded areas of production: ■ mushrooms ■ ornamental plants ■ greenhouse production Applies only to products from Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritterstrasse 8, A-4451 Garsten</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0043 725 221 221</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:kontakt@erde-saat.at">kontakt@erde-saat.at</a>, <a href="http://www.erde-saat.at">www.erde-saat.at</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO AUSTRIA</td>
<td>The BIO AUSTRIA batch certificate must be submitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auf der Gugl 3, A-4021 Linz</td>
<td>Excluded areas of production: ■ mushrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0043 732 654 884</td>
<td>Products from BIO AUSTRIA member organizations in Austria or in neighbouring countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:office@bio-austria.at">office@bio-austria.at</a>, <a href="http://www.bio-austria.at">www.bio-austria.at</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbund Ökohöfe e.V.</td>
<td>Excluded areas of production: ■ mushrooms ■ ornamental plants ■ viticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windmühlenbreite 25d, D-39164 Wanzleben</td>
<td>Applies only to products from Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0049 392 095 379 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: verbund-oe <a href="mailto:Kohoefe@t-online.de">Kohoefe@t-online.de</a>, <a href="http://www.verbund-oe">www.verbund-oe</a> Kohoefe.de</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biokreis e.V.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stelzhof 1, D-94034 Passau</td>
<td>Excluded areas of production: ■ mushrooms ■ ornamental plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0049 851 756 500</td>
<td>Applies only to products from Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@biokreis.de">info@biokreis.de</a>, <a href="http://www.biokreis.de">www.biokreis.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioland e.V.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiserstr. 18, D-55116 Mainz</td>
<td>Products from Bioland e.V. member farming operations in Germany and from their land in neighbouring countries close to the borders of Germany or Italy (South Tyrol).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0049 613 123 979 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@bioland.de">info@bioland.de</a>, <a href="http://www.bioland.de">www.bioland.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demeter e.V.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandschneise 1, D-64295 Darmstadt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0049 615 584 690</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@demeter.de">info@demeter.de</a>, <a href="http://www.demeter.de">www.demeter.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gäa e.V.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockhausstrasse 4, D-01099 Dresden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0049 351 401 238 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@gaea.de">info@gaea.de</a>, <a href="http://www.gaea.de">www.gaea.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturland-Verband für ökologischen Landbau e.V.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kleinhaderner Weg 1, D-82166 Gräfelfing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. 0049 898 980 820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:naturland@naturland.de">naturland@naturland.de</a>, <a href="http://www.naturland.de">www.naturland.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2 Market presence

1.2.1 Declaration of conformity with Bio Suisse standards
Based on part I, chapter 3

1.2.1.1. Labelling outside of Switzerland and when exporting to Switzerland: BIOSUISSE ORGANIC
Operations outside of Switzerland that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards may use the term 'BIOSUISSE ORGANIC' 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 carry 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'.

1.2.1.2. Labelling in Switzerland and when exporting from Switzerland: the '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 carry 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.

1.3 Social accountability
Based on part I, chapter 4

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

1.3.2 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
- the 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 must 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 must neither impede children’s regular school attendance nor impair their physical, emotional or intellectual development.

### 1.3.3 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.

### 1.3.4 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.

### 1.3.5 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.

### 1.3.6 Equality

All employees shall 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 shall have equal access to training measures and services provided by the employer (e.g., payments in kind, transportation opportunities, etc.) and receive equal pay, in terms of wages or payments in kind, for equal work.

### 1.3.7 Labour law

Employees shall 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.

### 1.3.8 Implementation

Social accountability standards shall be implemented on a risk basis. 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 Bio Suisse standards.

#### 1.3.8.1 Mandatory external social certification or auditing

The obligation to introduce external social certification or auditing shall be fulfilled gradually and on a risk basis. The list of countries, products and Bio-Suisse-approved certification and audit programmes undergoes regular review and revision.
### List of products and countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary production (including packaging or processing on an affiliated production operation*) of:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- fresh vegetables (except seedlings and products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin)</td>
<td>France, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- fresh fruit (including berries, citrus fruit and table grapes; excluding seedlings and products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- fresh herbs (except seedlings and products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary production (including packaging or processing on an affiliated production operation*) of:</td>
<td>All countries of origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- fresh bananas (except products that will undergo further processing in the country of origin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary production (including packaging or processing on an affiliated production operation) of:</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- hazelnuts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 accountability certification and auditing programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditing/certification programme</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSCI Primary Production</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FairTrade (FLO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GlobalG.A.P. GRASP</td>
<td>Only possible if already certified by GlobalG.A.P. Not accepted for hazelnuts from Turkey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA8000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDEX/SMETA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTZ</td>
<td>Only for hazelnuts from Turkey.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exceptions:**
- Operations with less than 5 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 accountability certification 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 accountability standards that do not completely meet ILO norms.

1.3.8.2 **Confirmation by means of a Bio Suisse 'Social Accountability' self-declaration form**

Operations which have 20 or more employees and which do not fall under the external social accountability certification/auditing obligation (as per section 1.3.8.1) must fill out and sign a self-declaration form (checklist) supplied by Bio Suisse.
Operations which meet one of the following criteria and which possess a valid document (certificate/audit report) need not fill out the Bio Suisse 'Social Accountability' self-declaration form:
- BSCI Primary Production
- Ecocert Fair Trade
- Fair for Life (IMO)
- Fair Trade (FLO)
- FLO CERT (smallholder)
- For Life (IMO)
- GlobalG.A.P. GRASP
- IBD Fair Trade
- Naturland
- Rapunzel Hand in Hand
- SA8000
- SEDEX/SMETA
- Soil Association Ethical Trade
- Union Fair Choice

1.4 **Fair trade**

For standards regarding fair trade relations and responsible trade practices within Switzerland, see part I, chapter 5.

1.5 **Clearing high conservation value areas**

Based on the part I and the Bio Suisse mission statement

Bio Suisse prohibits the clearing of high conservation value areas for agricultural use. Such areas include virgin forests and primary forests, high-value secondary forests, steppes, savannahs and high-mountain vegetation (as per section 1.5.1). Certification according to 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.

1.5.1 **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 their health)
- 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)

1.6 **Water resources management**

Based on part I and the Bio Suisse mission statement

Water is a valuable natural resource that is not infinitely available. Farming operations that are certified according to 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, as well as adverse effects on the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water and on the quality of harvested products.

1.6.1 **General requirements**

The requirements as per sections 1.6.1.1 to 1.6.1.3 must be met by all farming operations that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards, regardless of whether the operation is located in an area of scarce or sufficient water resources.
1.6.1.1 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.

1.6.1.2 Irrigation and product quality
Irrigation water must 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.

1.6.1.3 Irrigation and adverse effects on soil fertility
Irrigation must not have an adverse effect on the natural fertility of the soil (e.g., through salinization or erosion). Preventive measures must be taken if there is also a heightened risk.

1.6.2 Use of water in areas with scarce water resources
Farming operation in areas with scarce water resources must meet additional requirements.

1.6.2.1 Definitions
Bio Suisse uses two definitions for areas with scarce water resources. Additional requirements go into effect as soon as one of the two definitions applies.

a) Areas in desert or steppe climates (climates classified as BW or BS according to the Köppen-Geiger climate classification system).

This rule will be progressively implemented, starting with areas classified as BW. Farming operations located in areas classified as BS must comply with these requirements at a later date. The areas in question can be identified via the 'World map of the Köppen-Geiger classification' created by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory: 'World map of the Köppen-Geiger climate classification' (https://webmap.ornl.gov/ogc/dataset.jsp?ds_id=10012).

b) Areas affected by water stress, which occurs when high water consumption (due to natural and human factors) exceeds the availability of renewable sources of water. Areas whose water shortage is covered by transferring water from other areas may also be defined as experiencing water stress.

Operations are classified according to the 'Baseline Water Stress' (BWS) map (available at: www.wri.org). The 'Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas' is a classification tool on a global scale (www.wri.org/applications/maps/aqueduct-atlas). As a first step, Bio Suisse will classify areas showing a BWS value of 80% or higher as areas affected by water stress as per section 1.6.2.1 b).

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

1.6.2.2 Water resources management plan
Farming operations in areas with scarce water resources must devise a water resources management plan. It must contain a risk analysis, a plan of action and up-to-date records. The farming operations 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 resources management plan must accurately represent the current situation of the farming operation. A template for a sustainable water resources management plan is available on the Bio Suisse website.

A completed and signed water resources management plan must be furnished at inspections.

1.6.2.3 Irrigation systems
In areas with scarce water resources, only irrigation systems that use water sparingly may be used (e.g., drip or centre pivot irrigation systems and mini sprinklers). Any use of less efficient systems must be justified during inspections (e.g., if small farmers cannot bear the costs of investing in drip irrigation systems), and the Label Commission 'Import' (LCI) may grant derogations in exceptional cases.

1 www.wri.org/our-work/project/aqueduct ↩ publications ↩ Aqueduct Global Maps 2.1 Indicators ↩ download
1.6.2.4 List of water sources, irrigation facilities and amounts used
Farming operations in areas with scarce water resources must furnish a map on which all sources of water and all irrigation facilities used by the operation are indicated (where water is drawn from flowing or standing waters, wells, reservoirs or rainwater catchments, from irrigation associations, from the public water supply, etc.). The farming operation’s total annual water consumption and annual usage per hectare must be measured and recorded in the water resources management plan. The groundwater level below wells must be measured and recorded in the water resources management plan at least once a year.

1.6.2.5 Legality of all water abstraction
Water abstraction must comply with applicable national and international laws and regulations. Bio Suisse may demand proof of the legality of water abstraction as a prerequisite for certification.

1.6.2.6 Cooperation with relevant stakeholder groups (water stewardship)
With regard to water management, BIO SUISSE ORGANIC producers should 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 as well as at the regional level (e.g., watersheds). The identified stakeholder groups, the sustainability efforts of the producers and all planned or completed optimization measures must be documented in the water resources management plan.

1.6.2.7 Additional requirements for the use of water in areas with a desert climate
The use of water in areas with a desert climate (climate category BWh) is only permitted under certain conditions:
- Irrigation may only take place at night and in the early morning hours.
- 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 which has been cultivated year-round for at least 50 years.

1.6.3 Use of nonrenewable water resources
The use of nonrenewable (fossil) water resources for agricultural production is only permitted if credible documentation can be furnished in the water resources management plan 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 resources management plan and the documentation must be submitted to Bio Suisse for assessment prior to certification.

1.7 Land grabbing
Based on part I and the Bio Suisse mission statement

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 gaining, 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 gained
- 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 gained 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 organizations can be called upon to investigate any suspicious circumstances. (See also the FAO 'Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure').

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

1.8 Policy on residues

Based on sections 1.6, 2.2.5, 2.2.6, and 3.1.; see also part II, sections 1.3.2, 2.5 and 2.6.3.

1.8.1 Avoidance of residues

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

1.8.2 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 which must be taken.

Importers of products which 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 which carry potential risk' and requirements for sample-taking and analysis are given in the appendix to part V, section 1.8.

1.8.3 Occurrence of residues

Where residues do occur, and depending on the degree of contamination and the nature of the residues, certification of the products may be suspended until such time as the pollution source has been identified and the question of fault has been resolved. The decision will be based on the 'Bio Suisse decision chart for assessing pesticide residues in ''Bud'' products'. The farming 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 farming operation or project concerned must present a plan of action which 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). 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.
Appendix to part V, section 1.8

Products which carry potential risk

**The following products or places of origin carry a heightened risk of contamination**
- Soybeans, maize (corn), rapeseed, alfalfa, linseed, mustard seed, papayas, rice and sugarcane with regard to GMO contamination
- Pumpkin seeds and products containing pumpkin seeds with regard to organochlorine pesticide contamination
- Products from areas that may be affected by nuclear reactor accidents with regard to radioactivity
- Products from Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan with regard to pesticide contamination
- Products from India (sesame, soybeans and linseed) with regard to pesticide contamination

1. General requirements
- The samples must be taken from actual imported products (the sampling must take place in Switzerland.
- Aggregate tests of meaningful units of the same respective product may be conducted at least once per calendar year.
- In the event that residues are detected, it must be possible to conduct individual analyses of individual deliveries.
- Each test report must clearly pertain to a specific imported product, for instance by naming the lot number.
- Testing must be conducted by a laboratory in Switzerland or in 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 testing takes place in an accredited area of the laboratory.
- Positive test results must be reported without undue delay to the certification body (in conformance with the terms of the contract with the certification body) and to Bio Suisse (by means of a residues notification form, which is available under: www.bio-suisse.ch Import with Bio Suisse Residues & Pest Management Procedure for residues)
- In individual cases, if the procedure described above cannot be followed, then derogations can be granted upon request.

Test documentation requirements:
Compliance with the requirements will be queried and checked periodically. The following documents must be available for submission if requested:
- 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 (corn) und rapeseed**
Samples must be taken from every batch of imported soybeans (including soy milk), maize (corn), 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, papayas, rice and sugarcane**
Samples of alfalfa, linseed, mustard seed, papayas, rice and sugarcane and all products containing these must be analysed by means of a GMO-screening test if imported from a country given on the following list:
- Alfalfa: Samples must be taken from every batch imported from the USA
- Linseed: At least one random sample must be taken per year for batches imported from Canada or the USA.
- Mustard seed: At least one random sample must be taken per year for batches imported from any country.
- Papayas: Samples must be taken from every batch imported from Hawaii. 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.
- Sugarcane: products produced from sugarcane from Indonesia and Brazil must be handled as outlined under c) Highly processed products.
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 Bio Suisse certification. Examples include:
- refined oil of rapeseed, maize or soya
- maize (corn) starch / waxy maize (corn) starch
- soy lecithin and soy sauce
- maize (corn) extrudate, glucose, maltose or dextrose
- cane sugar, molasses and instant caramel flavouring derived from sugarcane

d) Testing requirements and methods
The detection limit of the analytical equipment must be at least as low as 0.01 % 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 ≤ 0.01 mg/kg
- Samples should be tested for the following organochlorine pesticide contaminants: aldrin, chlordane isomers, DDE isomers, DDT isomers, dicofol, dieldrin, endosulfan isomers, endosulfan sulphate, endrin, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), hexachlorocyclohexanes (HCH), heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide (cis and trans), isodrin, lindane, methoxychlor, mirex, oxychlordane, and tetrachlor. In the case of isomers, testing must be performed for all present isomers.

2.3 Products from areas subject to contamination from nuclear reactor accidents
Products from areas affected by nuclear reactor accidents (e.g., Chernobyl, Fukushima) must be tested for radioactive contamination in accordance with the Bio Suisse decision chart for radioactive residues: www.bio-suisse.ch

2.4 Products from former Soviet states (Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan)
Products from Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan 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
- carbendazim (a benzimidazole fungicide) if not already covered by pesticide screening: LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg
- phosphine: LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg (except for fresh products, frozen products and oils)
- chlormequat and mepiquat in grain crops: LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg
- mepiquat in rapeseed, sunflower seed and all products containing these: LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg

2.5 Products from India
Sesame, soybeans and linseed
Imports from India of ‘Bud’-quality linseed, sesame and soybeans or products containing these must be tested for pesticide 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
- total inorganic bromide: LOQ ≤ 5 mg/kg
- carbendazim (a benzimidazole fungicide), if not already covered by pesticide screening: LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg
- phosphine: LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg (except oils)
- linseed and soybeans must also be tested for glyphosate (including its metabolite AMPA): LOQ ≤ 0.01 mg/kg

* The following active substances must be covered by pesticide screening for products from India: abamectin, biphenyl, carboxin, dinocap, diphenylamine, emamectin (benzoate), fipronil, flonicamid, isoprothiolane, meptyldinocap, thiocyclam and trichlorfon.
2 Directives for crop production and animal husbandry

2.1 Conversion to organic farming in compliance with Bio Suisse standards

2.1.1 The conversion period

2.1.1.1 Changing 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 which were previously managed non-organically have a two-year conversion period (this regulation is analogous to the conversion of newly farmed land).

2.1.1.2 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.

2.1.2 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’).

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).

2.1.3 Whole-farm approach and definition of a farming operation

2.1.3.1 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 IFOAM Standard in all other countries.

2.1.3.2 Definition of a ‘farming operation’

A farming operation is defined as an enterprise or one or more production sites which 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 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 recognizable 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 organized and the business is run) and where the farm’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 5-year waiting period unless both operations have converted to organic farming according to the Bio Suisse standards.

Bio Suisse is under no obligation to honour any official recognition of a farming operation.

2.1.4 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:

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 as outlined in part II, section 1.4.

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 5 years.

2.1.5 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 section 2.1.5.1) 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 which 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 Bio Suisse standards which 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 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.

2.1.5.1 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 should 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 recognized with no need to take a specimen sample. An example of such distinguishability is striped sunflower seeds in contrast with 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.

2.2 **Crop production**

2.2.1 **Soil protection**

*Based on part II, section 2.1*

2.2.1.1 **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 such 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 6-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 6-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 twelve-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 2 to 3 consecutive years in temperate climate zones. 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 mobilization)
- enhancement of biodiversity (through diversity of the crop rotation)

**Rules for derogations concerning sugarcane**

- Sugarcane may not be grown for more than 10 consecutive years on the same plot.
- Prior to each new planting of sugarcane, crops other than sugarcane must have been grown on the same plot for a period of no less than 6 months.
- The requirement that 20% of the crop rotation must protect or improve the soil or accumulate nutrients (as per section 2.2.1.1 a) need not be met for sugarcane.

2.2.1.2 **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.

2.2.1.3 **Ground cover in permanent crops**

Based on part II, chapter 3

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.

2.2.2 **Propagating material (seeds and vegetative propagating material) and planting stock**

Based on the part II, section 2.2

2.2.2.1 **Definitions**

The terminology used in part II, 2.2 applies. The term 'propagating material' covers both seeds and vegetative propagating material. The term 'source material' covers seeds, vegetative propagating material and planting stock.

2.2.2.2 **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.

2.2.2.3 **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 nonavailability in conformance with EU 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 wheat [Triticum monococcum], emmer wheat [Triticum dicoccon], khorasan wheat, durum wheat, 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 nonavailability by the same)
- confirmation of enquiries made with 2 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 section 2.2.2.4).

### 2.2.2.4 Planting stock and vegetative propagating material

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 synthetic trace elements or other additives; only permitted fertilizers).

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 parent 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.

### 2.2.2.5 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 Bio Suisse standards. Bio Suisse maintains a register of the countries and crops concerned.

### 2.2.3 Enhancement of biodiversity

Based on part II, section 2.3

Organic farming should 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 beneficials.

Producers who are certified according to 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 within and beyond areas of production. Producers who are certified according to Bio Suisse standards increase the already high ecological performance achieved by organic agriculture by implementing further measures.

Producers who are certified according to 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 fertilizers 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 synthetic plant protection products (see part II, section 2.6)
- not using herbicides, growth regulators or wilting agents
- not using synthetic fertilizers (see part II, section 2.4)
- 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, enhance or create near-natural habitats (areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity, ADEB) and to care for them in a professional manner.
2.2.3.1 Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity (ADEB)

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

Landscaping elements that may be counted include:
- unfertilized, species-rich permanent meadows and pastures
- species-rich strips sown in wildflowers and herbs (for at least 18 months of the year); Strips sown in wildflowers and herbs are uncultivated rotational areas where natural or sown, species-rich plant communities grow.
- conservation headlands: unfertilized, species-rich strips at least 3 m in width along the edge of fields, parallel to the furrows
- species-rich strips to promote beneficials
- 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 and 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 1/3 cover
- species-rich woodland, except for intensively managed plantations with little biodiversity value (e.g., eucalyptus or poplar)

2.2.3.2 Requirements regarding the quality of ADEB

The following three points regarding the quality of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity 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 section 1.5).
- At least 2 of the following quality standards must be met:
  - On larger plots of land (> 50 ha), the ADEB are broadly distributed or located in many places throughout the plot.
  - On operations with smaller plots of land, the ADEB are broadly distributed or located on > 50% of all operational plots.
  - The ADEB are established or maintained in such a way that they are connected throughout the operational acreage. This means that propagation areas (e.g., forest) and refuge areas (e.g., copses) are connected by corridors (e.g., hedges or uncultivated strips).
  - The ADEB exceed 20% of the operational acreage.
  - At least 5 of the landscaping elements listed under section 2.2.3.1 are present on the farming operation.
  - At least 3 bee colonies are kept on the farming operation throughout the entire vegetation period.
  - Endangered crop species or varieties (e.g., khorasan wheat, flax, heirloom vegetables, fruit and grapes, landraces, and 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 2 x within a 5-year crop rotation period).
  - In the cultivation of permanent crops, the operation largely abstains from tillage (max. 1 x annually).
  - Nesting boxes / nesting opportunities for birds, bats and wild bees are provided on the operation (> 2/ha).
  - Manure compost is used in order to promote soil organisms.
  - Other biodiversity enhancement measures not listed above are carried out by the operation.

2.2.3.3 Rules for derogations

If the following criteria are met, then the 7% ADEB need not involve the operational acreage of the farming operation nor its usual cultivation area:
- The vicinity of the farming operation is still in its natural state (woodland, desert, steppe directly adjoining at least 30% of the farming operation’s perimeter); or
- Dedicating 7% of the UAA 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 Bio Suisse standards has been consolidated. The 7% ADEB will be calculated on the basis of the total operational acreage farmed by the group.
The quality standards listed under section 2.2.3.2 need not be met by smallholder groups (defined under section 1.1.1.3). This also applies to operations where at least 30% of the farming operation’s perimeter directly adjoins land that is still in a natural state.

2.2.4 Fertilizer use
Based on part II, section 2.4

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

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

2.2.4.2 Fertilizer limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum input (per ha/year)</th>
<th>N(_{\text{tot}}) (kg)</th>
<th>P(_2\text{O}_5) (kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable crops grown in greenhouses</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder crops/vegetable crops/herbs/ornamental plants grown in the open</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field crops (root crops, grains)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pineapples</td>
<td>180*</td>
<td>40*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberries</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree and shrub crops</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>except for: Avocados</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bananas</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus fruit</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil palms</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A total maximum of 300 kg N and 80 kg P\(_2\text{O}_5\) /ha may be applied during an 18–24-month cultivation period.

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

2.2.4.4 Phosphorus-based fertilizer
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 fertilizer limits must be adhered to.

2.2.5 Management of spray drift
Based on part II, section 2.5

Any possible spray drift into areas at risk must be monitored, for example by means of indicator strips. If the result is positive, the edge strips or 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.

Where 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.
2.2.6 Cultivation of former GMO plots

Based on part II, section 2.5.1

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. Such plots must be specially marked and named on the land use plan. The crop rotation and other measures should be 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.

2.2.7 Crop protection and plant protection products

Based on part II, section 2.6

2.2.7.1 Substances and measures

For permitted measures, see part II, section 2.6 as well as the plant protection products listed under appendix II of Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007.

However, the following are not permitted according to Bio Suisse standards:

- synthetic pyrethroids (including in traps)
- bioherbicides
- plant growth regulators
- sulphur-based or copper-based products in the cultivation of grains, legumes and oilseeds and in all other annual crops for which copper products may not be used (as per section 2.2.7.3).

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

2.2.7.2 Government-imposed use of synthetic plant protection products

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

2.2.7.3 Use of copper

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

- pome fruit: 1.5 kg
- stone fruit: 4 kg
- soft fruit: 2 kg
- pineapples: 4 kg
- vegetables: 4 kg (only in beans, beets, brassica crops, carrots, celery, cucurbit crops, eggplants, salsify and tomatoes)
- potatoes: 4 kg
- ornamental plants: 4 kg
- vegetables and herbs for seed production: 4 kg
- hops: 4 kg
- viticulture: 4 kg, whereby this quantity may be balanced over a 5-year period. However, the maximum application rate of 6 kg per hectare and year may never be exceeded. Quantities exceeding 4 kg per hectare and year must be reported to the BSO certification body.
- other permanent crops (incl. tropical and subtropical ones): 4 kg

For first-time certification, the maximum application rates under Bio Suisse standards may be exceeded by no more than 20%; for subsequent certifications, the Bio Suisse maximum application rates apply. If, in the first year of certification, a crop is grown for which certification according to Bio Suisse standards is not being sought, the amount of copper used may exceed the maximum application rate by no more than 100%.
2.2.7.4 **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.

2.2.7.5 **Soil sterilization**

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

2.2.8 **Burning**

Based on part II, section 2.6

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.

2.3 **Specific regulations for crop production**

2.3.1 **Meadow orchards**

Fruit from scattered trees 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 part II, chapter 1); or
- the fruit originates from smallholder groups than can be certified as such; or
- the fruit can be classified as collected in the wild (see chapter 4).

2.3.2 **Sugar maple plantations**

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

- They must be certified according to the Canadian Organic Standard (COS), Art. 7.2, 'Maple Products'.
- There is no use of nanofilters.

The farm operations manager may not hold a managerial position on a non-organic farming operation.

2.3.3 **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 should be 2 to 3 m wide and should 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.
2.4 Animal husbandry

2.4.1 Certification of farming operations with animal husbandry: certification of animal products

To obtain certification according to Bio Suisse standards for plant products, animal husbandry on the same operation must comply with 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 transferring 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, or 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, including: 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 synchronize heat, and synthetic growth promoters
- No tooth-cutting or tail-docking in pigs
- No de-beaking in poultry

To obtain certification according to Bio Suisse standards for animal products, animal husbandry on the operation must comply with Bio Suisse standards (with the exception of shrimp and mussels as per section 2.4.2 and beekeeping as per section 2.4.3). Inspections must be carried out by an inspection body named by the LCI; normally, this is a body accredited in Switzerland to carry out Bio Suisse inspections.

2.4.2 Aquaculture

Based on part II, chapter 1 and part II, section 5.7

As long as aquaculture is not regulated by the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), both EU organic certification and Naturland certification for the production, processing and trade of aquaculture products will be recognized 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 set under 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.
- A derogation for ice water slaughter may be sought in justified cases for Mediterranean fish and warm-water species. The use of natural plant-based preparations such as clove oil as an anaesthetic is permitted.
- For reproduction and breeding, see part II, 5.7.1. Deviation: Purchased juvenile fish and eggs must be derived from organic operations, and the maximum permitted transport duration is 10 hours for juvenile fish. For transport density, see part II, section 5.7.6. Derogations may be sought regarding transport time. Non-organic juvenile fish or eggs may be used if organic ones are not available. In such 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 according to 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., DE-Gräfelfing.
- 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.

1 www.naturland.de
2.4.3 Beekeeping
Based on part II, section 5.8 and part III, chapter 11

Certification according to 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.

The honey must be harvested as per part III, section 11.2.
Directives for processing and trade

3.1 Separation of the flow of goods; traceability of products that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards

Based on part I, section 2.1.3.1 and part III, sections 1.4 and 1.5

3.1.1 Traceability

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

3.1.2 Requirements pertaining to traceability and shipping documents

During 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 sack, etc.), the larger container is considered a packaged unit.

During processing, packaging and transport: Each time commodities that are certified according to 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 and a new shipping document. Both the container and the shipping document must indicate the following:
- the packaging and/or processing date
- the inspection status (‘BIOSUISSE ORGANIC’ or ‘BIOSUISSE ORGANIC, in-conversion product’)
- the name of the producer (or the lot number if products from several producers are commingled)
- the name and/or quality of the product
- the 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.

3.1.3 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 at each change of containers.

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 segregation of commodities that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards from those that are not.

3.1.4 Exporting/importing to Switzerland

In order to export/import to Switzerland, there must be an electronic traceability attestation in the SCM (Supply Chain Monitor)² for each delivery of products that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards. This must show the entire chain of custody, including every stage of trade beginning with the producer of the raw product.

1 www.international.biosuisse.ch
3.2 Pest control in storage and processing

Based on part III, section 1.12

3.2.1 Basic principles

- Preventive measures take absolute precedence over any kind of treatment.
- The aim is to refrain from the use of synthetic 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:
  - operations on which large-scale pest control treatments are carried out (fogging and/or fumigation)
  - operations which 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)

3.2.2 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:
1. The operation is BRC or IFS certified; or
2. An integrated pest control system has been installed at the operation by a professional pest control company; or
3. The operation has its own pest control system (incl. 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 which are also used to store or process products that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards are subjected to large-scale treatments, then an internal pest control system will not suffice.

3.2.3 Pest control in cases of acute infestation

All permitted substances and measures are given in appendix 1 to section 3.2. The Label Commission 'Import' (LCI) maintains the list of permitted substances and measures.

3.2.3.1 Direct application to products

All permitted substances and measures are given under appendix 1 to part V, section 3.2, point 1.

3.2.3.2 Localized applications in rooms and on equipment

All permitted substances and measures are given under appendix 1 to part V, chapter 3.2, point 2.

Products that are certified according to 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.

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

The following requirements apply to all rooms:
- All permitted fogging agents are given under appendix 1 to part V, section 3.2, point 3.
- All products that are certified according to 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 semifinished products in gastight packaging (e.g., gastight 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 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):
  a) The rooms and equipment must be sufficiently cleaned.
  b) The first production batch [except from bins] following treatment may not be marketed as certified according to Bio Suisse standards.

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1 Farming operations may only use the following methods: thermal and mechanical methods, diatomaceous earth, and fumigation with inert gases.
Appendix 1 of part V, section 3.2

Permitted substances and measures

The following list only applies to storage and processing. It is an appendix to the Bio Suisse directive 'Pest control in storage and processing', which defines the regulations for and restrictions on the use of these active ingredients (as per section 3.2.3). Compliance with these requirements and restrictions is mandatory. The following list was approved by the Label Commission 'Import' (LCI) and is continuously updated to reflect current circumstances. It does not apply to farming operations.

1. Treating products that are certified according to Bio Suisse standards

The following 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, incl. disinfestation treatments
- a low-oxygen atmosphere
- diatomaceous earth (silicon dioxide)
- using beneficial organisms

2. Localized applications in rooms

2.1 Localized pest control using traps and bait

The following 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 Localized 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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active ingredient</th>
<th>Waiting period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural pyrethrum without added piperonyl butoxide as a synergist. Sesame oil or another plant oil may be used as a synergist.</td>
<td>At least 24 hours with proper ventilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural pyrethrum with added piperonyl butoxide (as a synergist)</td>
<td>At least 24 hours with proper ventilation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Fumigation

The following products are permitted for fumigating empty spaces:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active ingredient</th>
<th>Waiting period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phosphine (PH₃)</td>
<td>At least 24 hours with proper ventilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfuryl fluoride</td>
<td>At least 24 hours with proper ventilation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4  **Directives for wild collection**

Based on part IV

4.1  **Definitions**

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

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

4.2  **Conversion period**

There is no conversion period for wild collection.

4.3  **Product declaration**

Products that consist entirely of wild plants must be labelled as such. If products contain both wild and cultivated ingredients, the former must be declared as such in the list of ingredients (e.g., as from ‘certified wild collection’).

4.4  **Inspections**

A complete description of the wild collection area (as per section 4.5), collection activities (as per section 4.6), evidence that the collection is ecologically sound (with regard to habitat stability and biodiversity; as per section 4.7) and descriptions of storage and processing (as per section 4.8) must be furnished during inspections. The documents mentioned in sections 4.5 – 4.8 must be included in the inspection report.

4.5  **The collection area**

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

- the topographic and pedoclimatic situation of the collection area
- property rights and beneficial interest in the collection area; ownership or usufruct rights of local communities and indigenous peoples must be respected
- sources of emission/contamination in the collection area and its surroundings: What are the sources and what impact do they have on the area?
- the size, geographic location and delimitation of the collection area
- verification that no auxiliary inputs prohibited in organic agriculture have been used in the collection 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 collection areas, potential sources of emissions as well as collection and storage sites must be indicated.

4.6  **Wild collection activities**

The following details must be documented and made available during inspections:

- the entire sequence of wild collection activities from planning to collecting, storing, processing and trade
- collection reports (incl. collectors, quantities and dates)
- the qualifications and training of the collectors
- the names of the main persons responsible for the collection
- common and botanical names of the wild plants collected
The following additional documents pertaining to wild collection activities must be available:

- the authorization for wild collection (if required by law)
- lists of collectors (all adult persons engaged in collecting must be listed)
- a sample of the contract between the manager of the wild collection project and the collectors, in which the collectors agree, among other things:
  - to collect only in the areas defined by the manager of the wild collection project
  - to comply with the instructions and provisions governing sustainable collection (applicable regulations, collection techniques, intensity of use, timing of collections, etc.)
  - not to collect in areas at risk of ambient contamination
  - not to collect 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 collectors must have knowledge of sustainable wild collection; the person in charge of a wild collection activity is held accountable for the collectors’ instruction in this regard.

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

Collectors are obliged to meet Bio Suisse requirements for the entire collection of the same plant species.

4.7 Habitat stability and biodiversity

Wild collection must be conducted 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 collection activity is ecologically sound, the following details must be known and documented for inspections:

- a description of the collection area (incl. inventory)
- which parts of the wild plants are collected (whole plants, leaves, flowers, etc.) and how much of each plant is used (e.g., 1/3 of the root)
- the intensity of exploitation in the collection area
- other collection activities in the same area, including those by other collectors 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.

4.8 Processing and storage

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