



Information note for producers outside of Switzerland

Summary of the Bio Suisse Standards - Version 1.1.2006

Dear organic producer,

Are you interested in obtaining Bio Suisse approval for your products? We can help you in this endeavour! If you meet the requirements of EU Regulation 2092/91 you are well on the way. In this leaflet we have summarized the additional requirements you will need to fulfil.

Are your products already approved by Bio Suisse? If the answer is yes, please also refer to the conditions specified for your holding/operation. These are particularly important! You will have received them together with your organic licence.

We wish you all a successful year in farming!

1. Whole-farm approach

The entire agricultural holding must be managed to organic standards. Holdings which include conventional livestock enterprises or plots which are not under organic management can not be approved. In this regard the Bio Suisse definition of an agricultural holding is binding:

- The whole of the lands, buildings, equipment, and workforce with one farm operation centre;
- Independent, segregated produce flow, and an individual, unmistakable outward identity;
- The farm manager must not be in charge of conventional holdings or parts of holdings.

2. Fertilizer use

The following fertilizer limits per hectare and year must be adhered to:

	kg N _{tot} /ha	kg P ₂ O ₅ /ha	
Field fodder production and field vegetables	225	80	Other limits apply to specialty crops.
Tillage crops (root crops, cereals)	180	60	
Viticulture, top fruit, soft fruit, etc.	100	30	

Prohibited: Peat for soil improvement and highly concentrated potassium salts.

You must establish need in order to obtain permission to use trace elements or mineral potassium products.

3. Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity

At least 7% of your agricultural area must be dedicated to the promotion of biodiversity. Examples for eligible areas are: unfertilized, species-rich permanent pastures and meadows / strips sown in wildflowers and herbs (for at least 18 months) / standard traditional orchard trees and site-appropriate specimen trees (1 are, i.e. 100 m², per tree) / hedges, copses, and riparian woodlands / ditches, ponds, peatlands / ruderal vegetation.../ stone mounds, dry-stone walls / unpaved tracks (at least 1/3 grass cover).

4. Reproductive material (seeds, vegetative propagating material) and transplants

- You may only use undressed conventional reproductive material if the inspection body has established that organic material is unavailable.
- The use of chemically dressed reproductive material is prohibited. Its use will lead to the crop losing its approval and the relevant plot reverting to conversion status.
- For crops which in the country in question are also grown as GMO, organic reproductive material must be used.
- Transplants grown as annual crops (incl. strawberry transplants) must be certified organic. The growing medium must contain no more than 70% peat.

5. Plant protection

- Prohibited: metaldehyde / ferric ortho-phosphate (for slug/snail control), pyrethroids (also in traps) / bioherbicides / growth regulators.
- The use of copper preparations is subject to restrictions (in terms of pure copper per hectare and year): Vegetables, potatoes, wine, hops, and stone fruit 4kg / soft-fruit 2 kg / pome fruit 1.5 kg.

6. Crop rotation

- The crop rotation must include a minimum of 20% soil building crops (e.g. grain legumes, green manure, leys etc.).
- Outside of the growing season a cover crop must be established on at least 50% of the open tillage area to ensure a green cover.
- For annual crops you must have at least a one year break between two main crops of the same species (exception: rice).
- The maximum share in the rotation are 67% for grain legumes, rice, or cereals, and 50% for wheat or maize.

7. Green cover in viticulture and tree crops

In vineyards and tree crops a green cover must be maintained throughout the year. In arid climates the green cover may be limited to four months. If the naturally occurring vegetation is too sparse you must sow a green manure crop.

8. Clearing and burning

Clear-felling of virgin forests (primary and secondary) or the burning of sites (pre- or post-harvest) are prohibited.

9. Livestock

In the EU you must comply with the regulations for the keeping of livestock laid down in EU Regulation 2092/91. In all other countries you must comply with at least the IFOAM Standards.

10. Conversion period

The minimum conversion period is two full calendar years. The conversion period may not be shortened based on previous management.

11. Parallel production

Parallel production on fully converted plots and on plots in-conversion will entail the reversion of the entire harvest of the product in question to conversion status.

Exception: Perennial crops and varieties which are visually clearly distinguishable (e.g. yellow/red tomatoes). The inspection body must monitor and confirm produce flow segregation and complete traceability of each individual batch.

12. Trade and processing

- Do you grow a product which you also buy in and process? You can not obtain Bio Suisse approval for such a product. Exceptions apply if the bought-in products are approved by Bio Suisse or if the inspection body monitors produce flow segregation and traceability.
- The products must be shipped to Switzerland by surface or sea transport (air transport is prohibited).
- Storage and processing must be compliant with the Bio Suisse Standards (Chapter 5 of the Bio Suisse Standards and product-specific processing instructions; see www.bio-suisse.ch).

To finish up: the small print!

- Bio Suisse approval does not entitle you to label products with the Bud (*Knospe*) trademark. Only the Swiss importer who holds a valid licensing contract with Bio Suisse is authorized to do so.
- In case of doubt, please note that this summary is not authoritative. Refer to the full version of the Bio Suisse standards, instructions, and regulations (available at www.bio-suisse.ch/library).