



Version 01

Requirements for Group Certifications

Purpose	Specify the requirements for group certifications for project operators as well as for agricultural collectors and primary collectors.
Outline	1 Group certification for agricultural processors1 2 Group certification for agricultural collectors and primary collectors1
Status	Version 01: released by the Board on 6 June 2016

1 Group certification for agricultural processors (as defined in R 06a)

Project operators may apply for a group certification at the Donau Soja Organisation provided that the following conditions are met:

- project operations/participants and their suppliers are clearly defined, and the system is closed to the greatest possible extent;
- the contract system between the certification holder and the operations participating in the certification (suppliers) is outlined;
- the group operates its own sound quality management (QM) system, and the suppliers also perform self-monitoring (for detailed criteria, refer to the German VLOG¹/Austrian Food Codex²/Non-GM Danube Region Standard³);
- all project operations/participants are subject to a first inspection;
- the frequency of inspections is determined on a risk basis and is compatible with the German VLOG/Austrian Food Codex/Non-GM Danube Region Standard.

2 Group certification for agricultural collectors and primary collectors (as defined in R 02)

Agricultural and primary collectors may apply for a group certification at the Donau Soja Organisation provided that the following conditions are met:

- one of the operations is mainly responsible for the group certification and acts as the group manager; this company is responsible for the collectors (for its own collector as well as for other collectors participating in the group certification) and has a complete list of all collectors participating in the group certification at its disposal;
- external inspections of the company mainly responsible for the group certification/group manager (involving, but not limited to, the flow of produce, the internal QM system, and internal audits) are conducted at least once a year;

¹ German „Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik“ (VLOG, www.ohnegentechnik.org)

² Reference for the *Richtlinie zur Definition der „Gentechnikfreien Produktion“ von Lebensmitteln und deren Kennzeichnung* (Guideline on the Definition of GMO-Free Production of Food and its Labelling) in the Austrian Food Codex, IV edition: www.verbrauchergesundheits.gv.at/lebensmittel/buch/codex/beschluesse/Gentechnikfrei_RL_15_1_2018.pdf?6fdsmn

Reference for the *Leitfaden zur risikobasierten Kontrolle auf Gentechnikfreiheit* (Guideline on the Risk-Based Monitoring of GMO-Free Production): www.bmwf.gv.at/TechnikUndVermessung/Akkreditierung/Documents/Leitfaden%20L25_Risikobasierte%20Kontrolle%20Gentechnikfreiheit_V03_20150304.pdf

³ Reference for the Non-GM Danube Region Standard and Inspection Standard: www.donausoja.org/en/downloads



- a detailed project description is presented, which includes at least the following elements:
 - project operations/participants and their suppliers are clearly defined, and the system is closed to the greatest possible extent;
 - the contract system between the certification holder and the operations participating in the certification (suppliers) is outlined;
 - the company operates a functional internal quality management (QM) system (description), and an overall inspection framework is available;
 - each collector (the group manager's own collector as well as other collectors participating in the group certification) is audited and evaluated once a year in accordance with the internal QM rules;
 - Declarations of Self-Commitment – Farmers (Soya Bean Producers) are available;
- these collectors are subject to a 100 % first audit by an external certification body;
- risk classification is based on the first inspection by the external certification body;
- the follow-up audits by an external certification body have an inspection rate of at least 30 % of collectors per year, depending on the risk assessment;
- the audit results (internal and external audits) are submitted to the Donau Soja Organisation anytime on request.

Group certifications will be approved on a case-by-case basis on application and following examination by the Donau Soja Organisation.