



Version 02

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 02: released by the Board on 30 January 2020

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;
- all operations participating in the certification (suppliers) are either listed in the annex to the certificate belonging to the project operator or receive their own certificate, issued by the directly commissioned certification body.

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;

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.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.bmwfw.gv.at/TechnikUndVermessung/Akkreditierung/Documents/Leitfaden%20L25_Risikobasierte%20Kontrolle%20Genetechnikfreiheit_V03_20150304.pdf

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



- 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;
- 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;
 - harvest declarations for each collector (the group manager's own collector as well as other collectors participating in the group certification) are collected by the group manager and submitted to Donau Soja Organisation;
 - 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;
- all operations participating in the certification (suppliers) are either listed in the annex to the certificate belonging to the company mainly responsible for the group certification/group manager or receive their own certificate, issued by the directly commissioned certification body.

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