

Sample size and audit frequency for the inspection of soya bean farmers (group members)

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1. Background

Regards the DS/ES requirements for Soya Bean Farmer (Producer) 01a under 5.1 the farmer shall either be individually certified (in accordance with the risk assessment written in Annex 4, paragraph 1 "Risk assessment for individual farmers or farmer groups") or participate in a group certification as set out in paragraph 3 of the "Requirements for Group Certifications".

Requirements of Group Certifications

Soya bean farmers located in production areas of risk levels 0–2 (F-RL 0, F-RL 1 or FRL 2) and delivering to a Donau Soja primary collector can participate in a group certification under the direction of this primary collector (see paragraph 3 of the "Requirements for Group Certifications"). The described conditions in the DS/ES standard for a group certification of soya bean farmers have to be met.

Risk assessment and external inspections

The sample size for the inspection of farmers (group members) by an external certification body shall be determined by the total quantity of Donau Soja beans delivered to the primary collector;

- up to 3,000 tonnes: 1% of the farmers delivering to the primary collector shall be inspected,
- 3,001 to 9,000 tonnes: 5% of the farmers delivering to the primary collector shall be inspected,
- 9,001 tonnes and more: the square root of the farmers delivering to the primary collector shall be inspected,

Within the “Requirements for Group certification for soya bean farmers (producer)” additions for the calculation of farmer audits have been made for groups consisting primarily of small scale farmers.

The following has therefore been added to the standard regarding the determination of the sample size for the inspection of farmers:

- If the primary collector is also Donau Soja soya bean farmer according to the Requirements 01a: The quantity of own soya bean cultivation will not be included in the calculation of the sample size for the inspection of farmers (group members). The farmer may be inspected within the regular audit frequency.
- If the quantity of Donau Soja soya beans delivered per farmer is less than 35 tons on average (taking into account the total quantity of Donau Soja beans delivered to the primary collector divided by the total amount of Donau Soja soya bean farmers): the sample size for the inspection of farmers (group members) by an external certification body, determined according to the Donau Soja standard requirements (see paragraph 3 of the “Requirements for Group Certifications”), will be divided by three.
- If the soya bean farmer (group member) delivers less than 3 tons of soya beans to the primary collector in a crop year: These small farmers will not be included in the calculation of the sample size for the inspection of farmers (group members). The farmer may be inspected within the regular audit frequency.

2. Background

The soya bean farmer (producer) shall be assigned a “production area risk level” (=F-RL) based on different risk categories (see Annex 04). The risk categories on level of the soya bean farmers are used to determine the frequency of inspections and supervisory inspections by an independent third party (i.e. an independent certification body).

The following has been added to the requirements for “inspection frequencies for individual farmers or farmer groups”:

For soya bean producers (farmers) located in risk level 0 (= F-RL 0) (AUT, CHE, DEU, HUN, SVN), inspections are postponed for a period of three years under specified conditions. This corresponds to the defined inspection frequency for the “production area risk level”. Therefore, inspections according to the Donau Soja/ Europe Soya standard by an approved Donau Soja certification body may be postponed to harvest 2025, if the following conditions are met:

- The soya bean producer shall participate in the implementation of the CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) with mandatory conditionality inspections. Therefore, the farmer receives direct payments within the framework of the CAP of the EU.
- Certification is available according to a voluntary schemes approved by the European Commission in accordance with REDII (Renewable Energy Directive), such as ISCC EU, AACS, REDcert.

Validity: From the date of publication of this document until further notice or for the specified period.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to send an e-mail to the Donau Soja Organisation (quality@donausoja.org) or contact our Quality Management team:

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