

Steps of Certification

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NOTE:

This summary does not replace our Guidelines neither does it affect their scope or validity. The complete Donau Soja and Europa Soya Guidelines are available on our Website at

www.donausoja.org/en/downloads

Welcome to Donau Soja & Europe Soya!

We are delighted about your interest in a certification in accordance with our Guidelines¹! By participating in our programme you are making a valuable contribution to the promotion of GMO-free soybean cultivation in the Danube region as well as in Europe. In addition, you are joining a broad network of certified partners from the whole value chain (primary processors, compound feed producers, agricultural traders and many more).

Why Donau Soja & Europe Soya?

- + *Non-GM*
- + *Guaranteed from the Danube region / Europe*
- + *Transparent and consistent Hard IP program*
- + *No use of glyphosate prior to harvest (desiccation)*
- + *No land use change*



Europe Soya Region

Donau Soja countries are highlighted in darker green: AUT, BGR, BIH, CHE, CZE, GER, HRV, HUN, ITA, MDA, POL, ROU, SRB, SVK, SVN, UKR

Steps towards your Certificate

In the following, we give you a short overview of the points, which have to be considered for a successful certification. All participants of the value chain are registered in order to assure quality and origin of the products. As our partner, you shall **buy Donau Soja or Europe Soya produce from certified partners only** and you shall **distribute products as Donau Soja or Europe Soya produce only as soon as your certification has been completed.**

STEP 1: Collect Information

Our Standards and the corresponding Guidelines¹ serve as a basis for your certification. The Guidelines are based on a continuous certification of Donau Soja / Europe Soya products from the farm to the customer. Certification of the participating partners by external certification bodies (which have been approved by Donau Soja Organisation) begins with the primary agricultural collector and ends at the marketer. All operations upstream of the agricultural producer (such as agricultural collectors, traders, primary processors, compound feed producers, agricultural processors, food processors or marketers) participating in our system have to conclude an inspection contract with a certification body and have to be certified.

Agricultural Producer (Farmer) shall either be individually certified or can participate in a group certification or -inspection according to the "production area risk level" (F-RL 0-2). Agricultural Producer (Farmer) in production areas of risk level 3 (Moldova, Ukraine,

¹ The terms „our Standards“ and “our Guidelines“ refer either to the Donau Soja Standard and Guidelines or to the Europe Soya Standard and Guidelines

Belarus²) shall conclude an inspection contract with certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation. By signing the Donau Soja or Europe Soya declaration of self commitment for farmers, all farmers compliance with the Donau Soja / Europe Soya requirements.

To ensure traceability, a lot certification system is in use for trading/transportation of Donau Soja or Europe Soya soybeans from the primary agricultural collector through to the primary processor. Lot certificates are usually issued at the seller and accompany the produce to the buyer. Particular care should be taken to ensure that produce is purchased and sold **with a valid lot certificate only**, as otherwise the soybeans cannot be recognised as Donau Soja / Europe Soya produce. Lot certificates are only required for soybeans, not for processed soya products or compound feed. However, **Certificates of Traceability** for processed soya products such as meal, oil or lecithin can be issued upon request.

Donau Soja certified produce may be used in **Europe Soya** programmes, but Europe Soya certified produce shall not be used in Donau Soja programmes due to a wider geographical scope.

Within the Europe Soya certification, primary processors, compound feed plants and soya product traders acting as agricultural collectors have the option to apply for the **Quantity Equivalence System** using "Approved by Europe Soya" soybeans. This system allows joint processing and/or storing of Europe Soya soya or products (such as toasted beans or soymeal) with soya or products fulfilling the *approved by* criteria (non-GM, European origin proven by Isotope testing, traceability).

- For further details on the Quantity Equivalence System, please get in touch with us!

STEP 2: Implement the Requirements at your Company

What requirements have to be met by your company in order to participate in the Donau Soja or Europe Soya programme?

General requirements to be met at ALL stages of production...

- ✓ segregation between Donau Soja / Europe Soya, non-GM, and GM produce has to be ensured
- ✓ Donau Soja / Europe Soya produce has to be clearly labelled as such internally and externally (delivery notes, invoices)
- ✓ supervisory inspections by the Donau Soja Organisation are conducted at all stages of production and are to be accepted and supported by all participants
- ✓ use of the logo is subject to signing a Licensing Agreement as well as compliance with the Donau Soja and Europe Soya Agreement for Logo Use

² For the entire risk classification, please consult the Donau Soja or Europe Soya Standard

In addition to these general requirements, more specific requirements apply depending on your company's role in the supply chain. These requirements are described on the following pages!

For Agricultural Producer (Farmer) (R 01)

- ✓ Soya cultivation according to the Donau Soja / Europe Soya Principles
- ✓ using GM-free soya bean varieties only and no cultivation of other GM crops
- ✓ no use of GMOs or products produced from or by GMOs
- ✓ signing the declaration of self-commitment or confirming compliance with the DS/ES requirements on the shipping document and forwarding this declaration to the agricultural collector
- ✓ use of desiccants prior to harvest (e.g. glyphosate or diquat) shall be prohibited, and other restrictions on pesticide use (e.g. use of agrochemicals listed in the WHO lists 1a and 1b shall be prohibited as of 1 January 2019)
- ✓ participation in the implementation of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) with mandatory conditionality inspections; alternatively, the farmer shall participate in an ISCC certification programme or an equivalent sustainability certification programme
- ✓ shall follow the recommendations contained in the Donau Soja Best Practice Manual (see www.donausoja.org →DOWNLOADS)
- ✓ directly commissioned inspection / certification necessary. Depending on the "production area risk level" (F-RS) individual certification required (for F-RS 3: Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus) or participation in a group certification (for F-RS 0-2) under the direction of this primary collector.



Additional requirements for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine:

- ✓ use of original seeds, registration at Donau Soja, directly commissioned inspection / certification

For **Organic Agricultural Producer** in P-RS 0-2, which are certified according to EU-Regulation 2018/848 (Organic Regulation), external sections at farmer level are not required.

For Agricultural Soybean Collectors / Primary Collectors (R 02)

- ✓ directly commissioned inspection / certification
- ✓ collecting declarations of self-commitment or signed shipping documents in compliance with R 01 and checking the quantities delivered for plausibility
- ✓ Accepts produce either from individually certified farmers or establish a group certification (F-RS 0-2)
- ✓ sending harvest declarations incl. list of farmers and carry over of remaining stock (by August 31) to the certification body
- ✓ obtaining retained samples of each storage unit (at least once per 100 tonnes)
- ✓ lot certification (+ notifications to the certification body)
- ✓ documentation (incoming and outgoing produce)
- ✓ possibility of group certification

Additional requirements for agricultural collectors in countries of area risk level 2 and 3 or for agricultural collectors who store GMOs (soya or others):

- ✓ operating an in-house QM system to prevent GM contamination
- ✓ conducting rapid GM tests (Roundup Ready) on each storage unit (at least once per 100 tonnes)

Additional requirements for agricultural collectors in Romania, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine:

- ✓ conducting rapid GM tests (Roundup Ready and LibertyLink) on each delivery unit (at least once per 100 tonnes) before taking into storage is completed
- ✓ initial certification before taking into storage begins

Special forms of primary collection:

- ✓ primary processor acting as a primary collector
- ✓ Agricultural Producer (farmer) acting as a primary collector

For Soya Traders (R 03)

(company buying and selling soybeans or soya products and/or products containing or consisting of soybeans (e.g. compound feed), but without making use of an agricultural collector)

- ✓ directly commissioned inspection / certification
- ✓ purchase and sale only with a valid lot certificate (only for unprocessed soybeans)
- ✓ documentation of all purchases and sales

Special form:

- ✓ traders also acting as agricultural collectors



For Soybean Primary Processors (R 04)

(e.g. oil mill, toaster, food producer, producer of food ingredients and food additives)

- ✓ directly commissioned inspection / certification
- ✓ contract with Donau Soja Organisation
- ✓ obtaining retained samples of each Donau Soja / Europe Soya transport unit accepted and delivered to a customer (at least once per 100 tonnes)
- ✓ conducting rapid GM tests (Roundup Ready) on each Donau Soja / Europe Soya transport unit (at least once per 100 tonnes) of the incoming produce
- ✓ documentation of all incoming and outgoing deliveries
- ✓ monthly quantity notification to Donau Soja Organisation and to the contracted certification body
- ✓ operating an in-house QM system to prevent GM contamination
- ✓ "Donau Soja" or "Europe Soya" labelling on the packaging of Donau Soja or Europe Soya soya produce and mixed products is possible under certain conditions

Oil mills and toasters:

- ✓ additional certification according to one of the following QA systems: AMA Pastus+, QS, GMP+, SFPS, QSGF, EFISC or another equivalent programme

- ✓ chronological segregation of GM and non-GM soybeans may be approved in specific individual cases
- ✓ oil mills: mandatory Salmonella monitoring
- ✓ marketing of phospholipid mixtures as Donau Soja / Europe Soya lecithins: compliance with the requirements detailed in Commission Regulation (EU) No 231/2012 for E 322

Special forms:

- ✓ own-use primary processor
- ✓ transfer/imposition of responsibilities of a primary processor to/on other participants in our system (particularly traders)

Optional:

- ✓ Certificates of Traceability for processed soya upon request

For Compound Feed Producers (R 05)

- ✓ directly commissioned inspection / certification
- ✓ contract with Donau Soja Organisation
- ✓ documentation of all purchased goods; for critical raw materials, "hard IP" documentation has to be available
- ✓ operating an in-house QM system to prevent GM contamination
- ✓ keeping comprehensive operational records
- ✓ applying a PCR sampling plan in the outgoing produce department and a (risk-based) PCR sampling plan for the incoming produce
- ✓ spatial or chronological segregation between GM and non-GM produce
- ✓ additional certification according to one of the following QA systems: AMA Pastus+, QS, GMP+, SFPS, QSGF, EFISC, UFAS or another equivalent programme
- ✓ "Donau Soja" or "Europe Soya" labelling on the packaging of Donau Soja or Europe Soya soya produce and compound feed is possible (if 100 % of the soya components is Donau Soja or Europe Soya)

For Agricultural Processors = Animal Keepers (R 06a)

- ✓ directly commissioned inspection / certification
- ✓ direct marketers: contract with Donau Soja Organisation, "fed with Donau Soja / Europe Soya" labelling
- ✓ documentation of all goods purchased and used incl. correct declaration
- ✓ records of number and density of livestock, fodder consumption, suppliers, customers
- ✓ home feed compounders and mobile blenders: documentation of compliant use of animal feed to additives, formulations and mixing protocols
- ✓ use of mobile blenders: records of correct cleaning
- ✓ minimum percentage of soya in animal feed (e.g. 5 % for laying hens and 10% for fattening pigs)
- ✓ total amount of soya (e.g. soya meal, oil, cake) has to be Donau Soja or Europe Soya
- ✓ documentation of all outgoing deliveries
- ✓ mark "fed with Donau Soja / Europe Soya" on packaging and shipping documents of animal products

- ✓ adhering to conversion periods, when converting to GM-free feeding
- ✓ possibility of group certification

For Food Processors through Marketers (R 06b)

(e.g. slaughterhouses, butchers, egg packing stations, egg breaking plants, dairies, soya bean oil refineries)

- ✓ directly commissioned inspection / certification
- ✓ contract with Donau Soja Organisation
- ✓ documentation of all goods purchased and used incl. correct declaration
- ✓ keeping comprehensive operational records (incoming deliveries, storage, internal product flow, processing, trainings, company description, suppliers, customers, product range, outgoing deliveries)
- ✓ spatial or chronological segregation of the flows of produce of Donau Soja / Europe Soya and non-Donau Soja / non-Europe Soya
- ✓ mark "fed with Donau Soja / Europe Soya" on shipping documents of animal products
- ✓ "Donau Soja / Europe Soya" or "fed with Donau Soja / Europe Soya" labelling possible

For Transportation and Cleaning (R 07)

Transportation of unpacked goods is an important aspect for maintaining product safety and avoiding contamination. To maintain product quality and avoid contamination, certain minimum requirements have been determined. However, no separate certification is required for transporting Donau Soja and Europe Soya products.

Transportation:

- ✓ preventing GM contamination
- ✓ cleaning of all shipping containers
- ✓ obtaining a proof of previous cargoes unless only Donau Soja / Europe Soja produce is transported
- ✓ providing a certificate of cleaning in case of critical previous cargoes
- ✓ documentation of transportation of Donau Soja / Europe Soya produce
- ✓ directly commissioned inspection of harbour silos, if Donau Soja / Europe Soya produce is temporarily stored



Cleaning:

- ✓ cleaning all equipment, facilities, etc. before they come into contact with Donau Soja / Europe Soya produce
- ✓ documentation of cleaning

STEP 3: Contact an approved Donau Soja Certification Body

Certification of all the above-mentioned partners is carried out directly by a certification body approved by the Donau Soja Organisation. We collaborate with several certification bodies all over Europe. You can find those approved certification bodies on our website (www.donausoja.org → Certification/Approved certification bodies). Please get into contact with the certification body of your choice and arrange a first audit. Feel free to contact us if your chosen certification body is not yet on our list!

STEP 4: Sign a Contract with Donau Soja and join Donau Soja as a Member

Primary processors, compound feed producers, food processors, marketers and logo users conclude - in addition to their certification - a contract with the Donau Soja Organisation and join the Donau Soja Association as a member. The relevant documents will be sent to you via email.

STEP 5: On-site Inspection and Certification

During the first audit and the follow-up audits, the certification body verifies compliance with the Donau Soja or Europe Soya requirements. After a successful audit, the certification body issues a certificate and submits it directly to your company.

Contact the Quality Management team for further information!

quality@donausoja.org

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