Europe Soya Guidelines

February 2025

Content

Europe Soya Standard

The Europe Soya programme has been established to promote and propagate the cultivation, processing and marketing of GM-free, origin-controlled and sustainable **quality soya from Europe**. Our vision is to develop and guarantee a sustainable, safe and European protein supply.

Europe Soya is a product of controlled origin and quality. Historically, it has two essential characteristics: The soya originates from Europe (**European origin**), and the soya beans and their products are **GM-free**. Food produced from or using Europe Soya soya beans may be labelled as "Europe Soya" or "Fed with Europe Soya". Use of the **brand** is subject to signing a Licence Contract as well as to compliance with the Donau Soja and Europe Soya Agreement for Logo Use.[1]

Partners located in both **EU and non-EU member states** shall comply with the current **legal provisions of EU law**[2], particularly those concerning Deforestation, Good Agricultural Practices, the use of pesticides in soya bean cultivation and the processing of raw soya beans along the processing chain. Furthermore, both EU-wide and international regulations on labour and social rights[2] (ILO Conventions) shall apply. Farmers producing Europe Soya soya beans (hereinafter referred to as "Europe Soya soya bean farmers") shall undertake in writing to comply with all Europe Soya requirements (**Declaration of Self-Commitment**[3]).

Whereas Donau Soja certified produce may be used in Europe Soya programmes, Europe Soya certified produce must **not** be used in Donau Soja programmes due to its wider geographical scope.

The Europe Soya Standard is based on the following ten **Europe Soya principles of soya bean cultivation**. These principles cover Europe Soya's two essential characteristics of "European origin" and "GM-free status", along with **additional social, environmental and economic aspects**.

1 European origin of soya beans and soya products
2 GM-free status of soya beans and soya products
3 Responsible farm management and community relations
4 Use of best practices in soil and nutrient management
5 Use of best practices in crop protection
6 Use of best practices in water management
7 Use of best practices in waste management
8 Responsible land use and biodiversity protection
9 Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
10 Compliance with human and labour rights and safe working conditions

All applicable provisions of the Europe Soya Standard, like those referring to Good Agricultural Practices, environmental and biodiversity protection as well labour and social rights, are based

[1] Donau Soja and Europe Soya Agreement for Logo Use: http://www.donausoja.org/en/downloads
[2] All relevant EU directives und EU regulations as well as the individual ILO conventions are listed in the **Annex 1** to the Europe Soya Guidelines.
[3] For details, see document *Declaration of Self-Commitment – Farmers*

on EU legislation.[2] However, the requirements of the Europe Soya Standard exceed the legal requirements passed by the EU in several aspects.[4]

Overview of Europe Soya Principles of Soya Bean Cultivation

The following section provides a brief overview of the Europe Soya principles of soya bean cultivation.

- **European origin of soya beans and soya products (Principle 1)**

The countries and regions of origin of Europe Soya soya beans are defined in both political and geographical terms. The borders of the Europe Soya region are based on Philip Johan von Strahlenberg's definition regarding the boundaries of the Russian border regions. The countries and geographical regions detailed on the Europe Soya Map (= Europe Soya bean cultivation areas) are a permanent feature of the Europe Soya Standard.

- **GM-free status of soya beans and soya products (Principle 2)**

Europe Soya soya beans and soya products are derived from GM-free cultivation using GM-free soya bean varieties either listed in the EU common catalogue of plant varieties or in the respective national catalogue of plant varieties. Europe Soya soya bean farmers are not allowed to grow GM soya beans or any other GM crop. Animal feed with the quality label "Europe Soya" is suitable as feed for livestock, whose products may subsequently be marketed with the quality label "Ohne Gentechnik hergestellt" / "Produced without GMOs".

The GM-free status shall be based on the minimum requirements set out by the following European "GM-free" certification schemes:

- German *EG-Gentechnik-Durchführungsgesetz (EGGenTDurchfG)*[5]*,* with audits performed as stipulated by the German Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik (VLOG);
- Austrian Food Codex (Codex Alimentarius Austriacus) and the corresponding *Leitfaden zur risikobasierten Kontrolle auf Gentechnikfreiheit* (Guideline on the Risk-Based Monitoring of GMO-Free Production);[6]
- Non-GM Danube Region Production and Labelling Standard & Non-GM Danube Region Inspection Standard.[7]

In other words, apart from the possibility of obtaining a non-GM certification in accordance with the Austrian Food Codex, German VLOG or Non-GM Danube Region Standards, the GM-free status can also be verified during Europe Soya audits and certifications by checks conducted in compliance with the Non-GM Danube Region Standards[6], both published in 2015.

[4] For details, see document *Requirements 01b: Europe Soya Principles of Soya Bean Cultivation*
[5] *EG-Gentechnik-Durchführungsgesetz (EGGenTDurchfG):* www.gesetze-im-internet.de/eggentdurchfg/BJNR124410004.html
[6] *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.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/lebensmittel/buch/codex/beschluesse/Gentechnikfrei_RL_15_1_2018.pdf?6fdsmn
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%20Gentechnikfreiheit_V03_20150304.pdf
[7] Non-GM Danube Region Production and Labelling Standard & Non-GM Danube Region Inspection Standard: http://www.donausoja.org/de/downloads

- **Responsible farm management and community relations (Principle 3)**

Europe Soya soya bean farmers shall comply with all applicable legislation. All forms of bribery, conflict of business interest and fraudulent practices shall be prohibited. Existing land rights shall be respected. Negative impacts on the wider community shall be avoided and communication channels shall be in place.

- **Environmental responsibility and Good Agricultural Practices (Principles 4–7)**

The relevant legal provisions of EU law shall apply. Europe Soya soya bean farmers within the EU shall participate in the implementation of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) with mandatory conditionality inspections. Europe Soya soya bean farmers shall apply best practices in soil, water and waste management to protect soil, water and air. Only pesticides containing EU-approved active ingredients may be used for the cultivation of Europe Soya soya beans—this also applies to farmers located outside the EU. Furthermore, substances listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions[8] as well as all substances the World Health Organization (WHO) has categorised as extremely hazardous (Class 1a) and highly hazardous (Class 1b)[9] shall be prohibited. Lastly, the use of desiccants prior to harvest (e.g. glyphosate and diquat) as well as aerial application of pesticides (aerial spraying) shall be prohibited. The Best Practice Manual, published and continuously updated by the Donau Soja Organisation, shall serve as a non-binding recommendation for both improving the profitability of soya bean production and reducing the use of plant protection products.

- **Responsible land use and biodiversity protection (Principle 8)**

Deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems (including, but not limited to, wetlands, peatlands and grasslands) for the cultivation of Europe Soya soya beans shall be prohibited. The farmer shall only use land that was dedicated to agricultural use no later than 1 January 2008, hence excluding any further agricultural expansion for the cultivation of Europe Soya soya beans. Europe Soya soya beans shall not be cultivated in protected areas unless the use of such areas for agricultural purposes is explicitly allowed in the respective management plan.

- **Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (Principle 9)**

Europe Soya soya bean production shall contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate protection. Europe Soya soya bean farmers shall have knowledge of how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the sequestration of greenhouse gases on their farms. Any applicable data, such as yields, seed inputs, fertiliser application, pesticide application and fuel use, shall be recorded. The farmer shall implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase sequestration.

[8] Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants: www.pops.int/Portals/0/download.aspx?d=UNEP-POPS-COP-CONVTEXT-2017.English.pdf
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade: www.pic.int/Portals/5/download.aspx?d=UNEP-FAO-RC-CONVTEXT-2017.English.pdf
[9] World Health Organisation (WHO) Classification of Pesticides by Hazard: https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/

- **Compliance with human and labour rights and safe working conditions (Principle 10)**

Europe Soya soya bean production shall comply with both EU-wide and international labour and social standards (see Annex 1 for a list of relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization [ILO][10]). These include the following fundamental principles and labour rights: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; the elimination of discrimination with respect to employment and occupation. Also included are: transparent and legally compliant employment conditions, safe working conditions and training of workers.

Inspections:

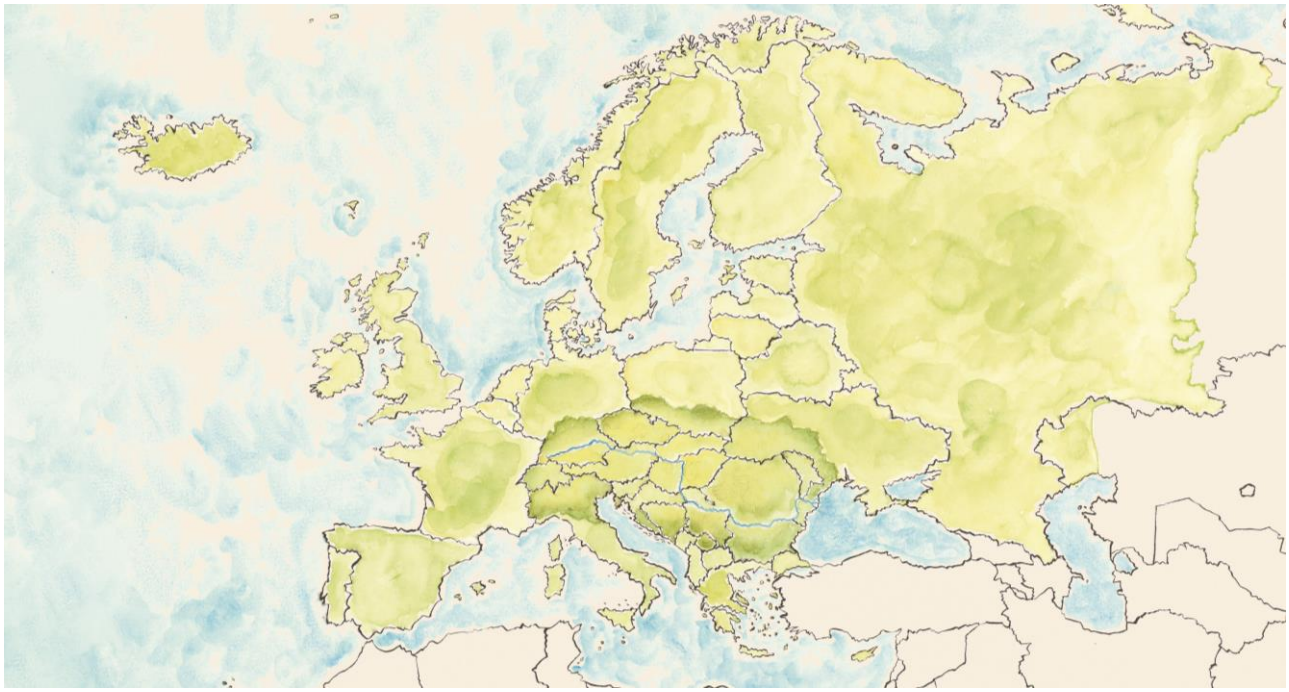
Compliance with the Europe Soya Standard shall be verified against the detailed requirements specified in the Europe Soya Guidelines by an independent external certification body accredited in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17065:2012 standard. Furthermore, the Donau Soja Organisation shall commission risk-based supervisory inspections.

If there is reason to suspect that any provision has not been complied with, special inspections shall be conducted. Any breach of the Europe Soya Guidelines shall result in remedial measures, including the payment of penalty fees, up to and including exclusion from the Europe Soya programme.

[10] Introduction to the standards-related work of the International Labour Organization: https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/information-resources-and-publications/publications/WCMS_672549/lang--en/index.htm

Geographical map showing the Europe Soya cultivation areas

Europe Soya Map



All countries of the Donau Soja region are located within the Europe Soya defined area. The following countries are part of the Europe Soya Region: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan (European part), Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation (Nenetsia, Komi-Permyak, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Orengburg), Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey (European part), Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Core Principles of Inspection (Overview)

Europe Soya is a product of controlled quality and origin. The requirements specified in the Europe Soya Guidelines provide the details for complete inspection of the origin of the produce (Principle 1), ensuring a GM-free status throughout the entire value chain (Principle 2) and implementing all other sustainability criteria (Principles 3–10).

As a rule, the relevant legal provisions of EU law shall apply for the production, treatment and processing of Europe Soya. The GM-free status shall be based on the minimum requirements set out by the following European "GM-free" certification schemes:

- German *EG-Gentechnik-Durchführungsgesetz (EGGenTDurchfG)*[11], with audits performed as stipulated by the German Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik (VLOG);
- Austrian Food Codex (Codex Alimentarius Austriacus) and the corresponding *Leitfaden zur risikobasierten Kontrolle auf Gentechnikfreiheit* (Guideline on the Risk-Based Monitoring of GMO-Free Production);[12]
- Non-GM Danube Region Production and Labelling Standard & Non-GM Danube Region Inspection Standard.[13]

Other certification schemes assessing compliance with the criterion of ensuring GM-free status may be recognised by the Donau Soja Organisation as being equivalent to the above-mentioned certification schemes. In any case, Europe Soya products and Europe Soya animal feed shall be of such a quality that it can be labelled as non-GM food or feed or is suitable for use in non-GM food production.

For reasons of general quality assurance, all oil mills and compound feed producers shall be obliged to participate in a QA programme recognised by the Donau Soja Organisation. A list of recognised programmes and standards can be found in the requirements specified in R 04 (Soya Bean Primary Processor) and R 05 (Compound Feed Producer).

The Europe Soya inspection system is comprised of three stages:

- quality assurance and self-monitoring systems operated by the participants in the Europe Soya system themselves;
- external inspections and certifications commissioned by the licensees; these shall be conducted by ISO/IEC 17065:2012-accredited certification bodies approved by the Donau Soja Organisation;
- supervisory inspections conducted in collaboration with a certification body or inspectors, directly commissioned by the Donau Soja Organisation; supervisory inspections shall be risk-based; 10 % of the licensed quantity of Europe Soya soya beans and soya bean products are sampled for testing.

[11] *EG-Gentechnik-Durchführungsgesetz (EGGenTDurchfG):* www.gesetze-im-internet.de/eggentdurchfg/BJNR124410004.html

[12] *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.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/lebensmittel/buch/codex/beschluesse/Gentechnikfrei_RL_15_1_2018.pdf?6fdsmn
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%20Gentechnikfreiheit_V03_20150304.pdf

[13] Non-GM Danube Region Production and Labelling Standard & Non-GM Danube Region Inspection Standard: http://www.donausoja.org/en/downloads

Europe Soya certification shall apply to the following levels of operation throughout the entire food and feed value chain:

- Soya Bean Farmer (Producer)
- Agricultural Soya Bean Collector and Primary Collector
- Soya Trader
- Soya Bean Primary Processor
- Compound Feed Producer
- Agricultural Processor
- Food Processor through Marketer

To guarantee comprehensive monitoring, all participants in the Europe Soya programme shall be subject to inspections. **Confirmation of compliance** with the Europe Soya Guidelines resulting from external inspections shall be passed on within the value chain in the form of a **certificate**. The certificates and the company's master data (name, scope and location) are published on the Donau Soja website. In the case of certified unprocessed soya beans, lot-based certificates (**lot certificates**) shall additionally be issued from the agricultural collector to the primary processor. In the case of certified processed soya products, **certificates of traceability** shall additionally be issued from the primary processor to the marketer where required by the EU Deforestation Regulation (EU) 2023/1115; these certificates can also be issued on a voluntary basis. All participants in the Europe Soya programme are required to keep the relevant documentation for at least 5 years, or longer if otherwise agreed by contract with Donau Soja Organisation. All participants in the Europe Soya system may be inspected at any time, and on a risk basis, in the form of risk-based sampling in supervisory inspections.

Europe Soya soya bean farmers shall be registered with the agricultural collector. During this registration, farmers shall undertake to comply with the Europe Soya Guidelines on behalf of their agricultural holdings by signing the **Declaration of Self- Commitment – Farmers (Soya Bean Producers)**[14], and shall be individually certified or part of a group certification. Additionally, the farmer shall accept risk-based sampling in supervisory inspections. The inspection scope may include fields where soya beans are cultivated, but may also include any non-soya growing areas, uncultivated areas, infrastructure, and facilities as well as other areas that form part of the farm.

Primary processors (such as oil mills, toasters, food producers and producers of food ingredients and food additives), processing and/or treating soya beans chemically or physically most substantially, shall conclude a contract with the Donau Soja Organisation in which they pledge, among other things, to:

[14] For details, see document "Declaration of Self-Commitment – Farmers"

1. know and comply with the Europe Soya Guidelines;
2. conclude, at their own expense, a certification contract with an external ISO/IEC 17065:2012-accredited certification body approved by the Donau Soja Organisation;
3. accept risk-based sampling in supervisory inspections directly commissioned and paid by the Donau Soja Organisation;
4. pay a Europe Soya fee to the Donau Soja Organisation (the fee shall only be charged once within a continuous processing chain, namely at the primary processor stage);
5. impose bullets 1 to 3 on all their suppliers (including their suppliers' suppliers upstream) by contract, up to and including the agricultural collector.

This ensures that all participants in the Europe Soya system are aware of the Europe Soya Guidelines, have compliance with these Guidelines verified externally by certification bodies that are approved by the Donau Soja Organisation, and agree to supervisory inspections.

Compound feed producers shall also conclude a contract with the Donau Soja Organisation in which they undertake to comply with the above-mentioned points 1 to 3.

Marketers intending to place products with the Europe Soya logo on the market shall undertake not only to comply with the above-mentioned points 1 to 3, but also to impose the obligation to comply with the Europe Soya Guidelines, together with the audit requirements, on their suppliers and their suppliers' suppliers upstream by contract.

The frequencies of external inspections and the frequency of supervisory inspections as well as additional requirements for Soya Bean Farmers (Producers) within the Donau Soja system shall be based on five risk categories (a-e).

a. Contamination with GMO
b. Geographical origin
c. Pesticide use and desiccation practices
d. Legal compliance
e. Land conversion and soya bean cultivation in protected areas

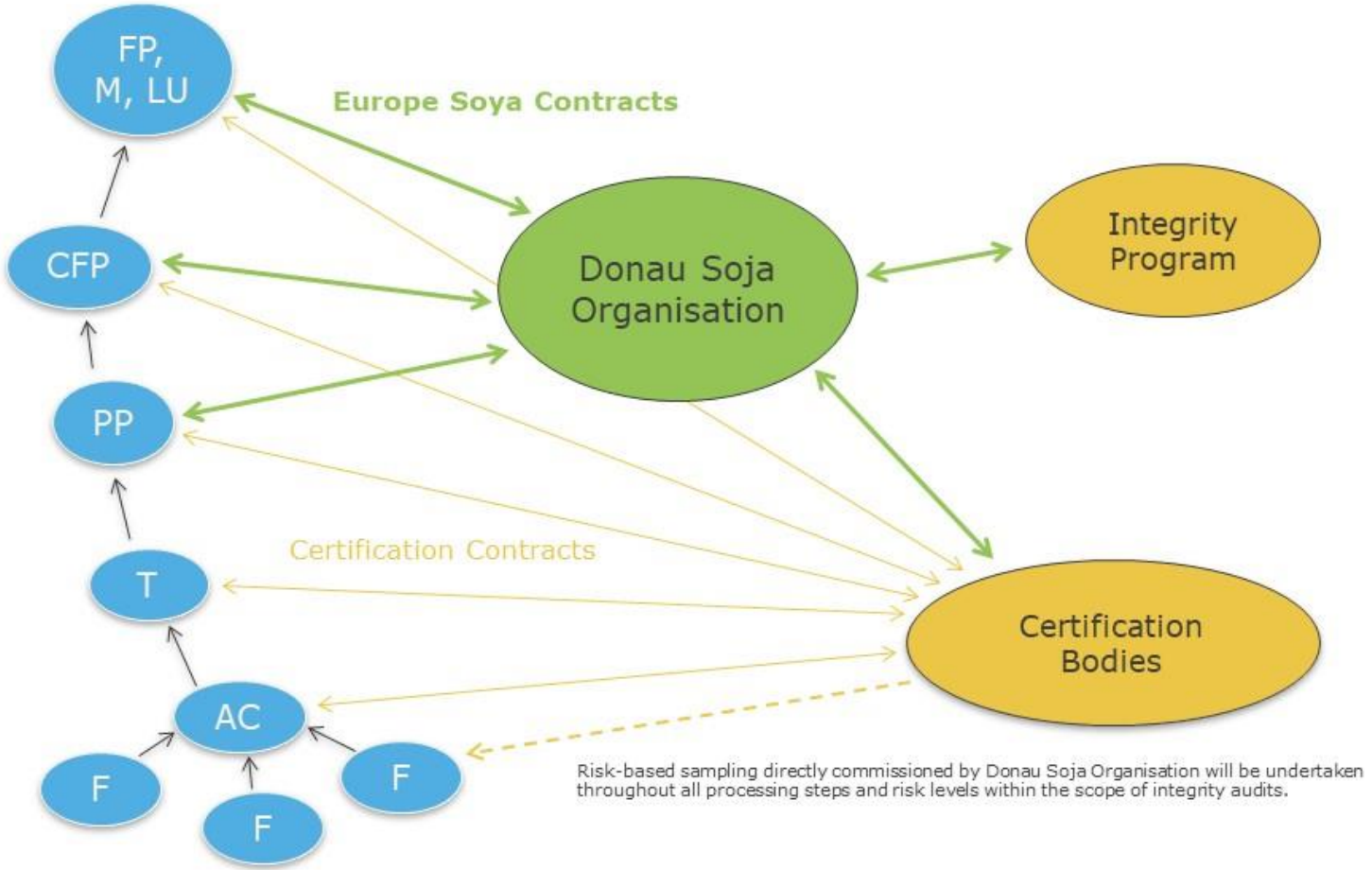
The frequencies of external inspections and the frequency of supervisory inspections for certified companies in the supply chain, other than farmers, (e.g. collectors, traders, processors, compound feed producers, marketers) shall be based on the risk of contamination with GMO.

For details on the risk assessment see Annex 4 "Risk-Based Donau Soja Inspection System".

Precise requirements and obligations for the different risk levels (RL) at the stage of farmers, traders, agricultural collectors, primary processors, compound feed producers, agricultural processors and marketers, as well as binding inspection frequencies shall be specified in the requirements for all participants in the Europe Soya system.

September 2021

Europe Soya Contract System



F = Farmer, AC = Agricultural Collector, T = Trader, PP = Primary Processor, CFP = Compound Feed Producer, FP = Food Processor, M = Marketer, LU = Logo User

Please note: exemplary flow of Europe Soya value chain

REQUIREMENTS 01a, Version 10

Agricultural Producer (Farmer)
General Requirements for Europe Soya Producers

Purpose	Specify the general requirements to be met by Europe Soya soya bean farmers (producers).
Definition	Soya bean farmer (producer): agricultural holding growing and harvesting soya beans
Outline	
Status	Version 10: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Risk assessment

1.1 The farmer shall be assigned a "production area risk level" (= F-RL) based on the risk assessment (see Annex 04):

- F-RL 0: AUT, CHE, DEU, HUN, NLD, SVN;
- F-RL 1: BGR, CZE, ESP, FRA, GRC, HRV, ITA, POL, SVK, SRB;
- F-RL 2: BIH, ROU, RUS (Nenetsia, Komi-Permyak, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Orenburg);
- F-RL 3: MDA, UKR.

For the following production areas, the risk level has not yet been defined; classification possible on request: ALB, BEL, BLR, CYP, DNK, EST, FIN, GBR, IRL, ISL, KAZ (European part), LTU, LUX, LVA, MLT, MKD and MNE, NOR, PRT, SWE, TUR (European part).

2 Cultivation

2.1 The farmer shall produce according to the Europe Soya Principles of Soya Bean Cultivation (see R 01b).

3 Delivery, settlement, certification as agricultural collector

3.1 The farmer shall hand over to the primary collector the Declaration of Self-Commitment – Farmers (Soya Bean Producers) signed by an authorised representative, and shall retain a copy of this declaration. Alternatively, the farmer shall confirm on the accompanying shipping document (delivery note) both compliance with the Europe Soya Requirements and the quantity of Europe Soya soya beans delivered, and shall retain a copy of this confirmation. The delivery note shall include the following elements:

- Compliance Clause: "With my signature I confirm to have fully read, understood and followed the current Europe Soya Requirements for Farmers, as amended."
- Farmer's signature
- By signing, the farmer acknowledges the privacy policy at https://www.donausoja.org/privacy-policy-2/ and agrees to the transfer of his data to the Donau Soja Organisation as well as to the storage and processing by the Donau Soja Organisation for the purpose of system control. Furthermore, he confirms that relevant information is available for the submission of the due diligence declaration in accordance with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and agrees to the transmission along the supply chain.

3.2 The farmer shall hand over a list of all plots of land on which the soya beans were produced including the geographical location of these plots[1], described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least 6 decimal digits.

For plots of land of more than 4 hectares, the geolocation shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.[1]

Upon application, it is possible to recognize equivalent systems to document freedom from deforestation.

3.3 The farmer shall document all quantities of marketed soya beans with copies of all delivery notes and commercial invoices for primary collectors and other customers, and shall include a reference to the quality label "Europe Soya".

3.4 The farmer shall keep the relevant documentation for at least 5 years.

3.5 If a soya bean farmer, located in a production area of risk level 2 or 3 (F-RL 2 or F-RL 3), sells Europe Soya soya beans directly to a trader not acting as an agricultural collector, they need to be certified as an agricultural collector and may only sell Europe Soya soya beans by means of Europe Soya lot certificates (in accordance with paragraph 10.2 in R 02).

4 Registration of farmers

4.1 If the farmer is located in a production area of risk level 3 (F-RL 3):

The farmer shall notify Donau Soja Organisation by email that they produce Europe Soya soya by 30 July of the current harvest year (quality@donausoja.org). Alternatively, the farmer can be registered by their primary collector (also by 30 July of the current harvest year).

[1] For micro and small farms within the EU, also the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026. As an alternative to the field data, the reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 shall also be accepted as evidence.

5 Directly commissioned inspections

5.1 If the farmer is located in a production area of risk levels 0–2 (F-RL 0, F-RL 1 or F-RL 2):

The farmer shall either be individually certified or participate in a group certification as set out in paragraph 3 of the "Requirements for Group Certifications". The farmer shall be inspected in accordance with the risk assessment (see Annex 04, paragraph 1). For farmers with F-RL 0 or 1, it is possible to recognize equivalent certification systems for inspection purposes upon application.

5.2 If the farmer is located in a production area of risk level 3 (F-RL 3):

The farmer shall conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation, commissioning this body to undertake a chargeable first inspection as well as further annual inspections. The name of the certification body commissioned shall be announced at the same time as the farmer is registered according to paragraph 4.1.

The directly commissioned certification body shall take a composite sample of Europe Soya green soya plants from the fields within the scope of their Europe Soya audit, and shall conduct rapid GM tests (Roundup Ready). A positive rapid test result shall entail two further rapid GM tests. If any two of the three rapid tests conducted give a positive result, the farmer shall have a PCR test performed.

Please note: In soya plants older than 36 days, samples shall be taken from cotyledons or leaf pair 1 or 2.

Farmers may be exempt from rapid GM testing if they meet all of the following four criteria:

- the farmer delivers exclusively to a certified agricultural collector belonging to the same agricultural enterprise as this farmer;
- the farmer is inspected by the same certification body as the agricultural collector;
- the farmer does not receive their own certificate, but is listed in the annex to the certificate belonging to the agricultural collector;
- the directly commissioned certification body shall undertake a chargeable inspection of the farmer every year prior to harvest.

6 Supervisory inspections

6.1 The farmer shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by certification bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation.

REQUIREMENTS 01b, Version 02

Agricultural Producer (Farmer) – Principles of responsible crop cultivation

Purpose	Specify the Europe Soya principles of responsible crop cultivation.
Definition	Agricultural producer (farmer): agricultural holding growing and harvesting arable crops
Outline	
Status	Version 02: released by the Board on 29 November 2023

1 European origin of arable crops and derived products

1.1 The farmer shall be geographically located within the Europe Soya region.

The countries and regions of origin of Europe Soya arable crops are defined in both political and geographical terms. The borders of the Europe Soya region are based on the definition of the delimitation of the Russian border regions, as given by Philip Johan von Strahlenberg. The Europe Soya region consists of the following European countries:

Albania (ALB), Austria (AUT), Belarus (BLR), Belgium (BEL), Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), Bulgaria (BGR), Croatia (HRV), Cyprus (CYP), Czech Republic (CZE), Denmark (DNK), Estonia (EST), Finland (FIN), France (FRA), Germany (DEU), Greece (GRC), Hungary (HUN), Iceland (ISL), Ireland (IRL), Italy (ITA), Kazakhstan (KAZ) (European part), Latvia (LVA), Lithuania (LTU), Luxembourg (LUX), North Macedonia (MKD), Malta (MLT), Republic of Moldova (MDA), Montenegro (MNE), Netherlands (NLD), Norway (NOR), Poland (POL), Portugal (PRT), Romania (ROU), Russian Federation (RUS) (Nenetsia, Komi-Permyak, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Orenburg), Serbia (SRB), Slovakia (SVK), Slovenia (SVN), Spain (ESP), Sweden (SWE), Switzerland (CHE), Turkey (TUR) (European part), Ukraine (UKR), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GBR).

2 GM-free status of arable crops and derived products

2.1 The farmer shall only grow GM-free arable crop varieties either listed in the EU common catalogue of plant varieties or in the respective national catalogue of plant varieties. Only these varieties shall have been used the last three years.

2.2 The farmer shall not have grown any other GM crop (e.g. GM maize) for one year.

2.3 If the farmer is located in a risk level 3 production area:

The farmer shall use certified seeds only and shall document this with invoices covering the purchase of the certified seeds.

2.4 The farmer shall document all quantities of arable crops, both grown and harvested, by keeping their own records.

2.5 The farmer shall not use genetically modified organisms or products produced from or by GMOs. As to agricultural inputs that are marketed as originating either from GMOs or from GM-free production (such as plant protection products, fertilisers and soil conditioners), only products labelled as GM-free shall be used. This confirmation is waived for products where, according to our current knowledge, no practical methods are known which would suggest that these products are GMOs, contain GMOs or were produced from GMOs or using GMOs. This, for example, currently applies to pure minerals, mineral fertilisers, chemical or synthetic active substances of plant protection products and certain micro-organisms.

3 Responsible farm management and community relations

3.1 The farmer shall conduct business with integrity, respecting applicable laws, including, but not limited to tax, anti-corruption, trade and customs regulations and avoiding all forms of bribery, conflicts of business interest and fraudulent practices.

3.2 The farmer shall have basic economic documentation appropriate to the farm size, including, but not limited to, records of costs, yields, income and profitability.

3.3 The farmer shall be aware of and follow the recommendations contained in the Donau Soja Best Practice Manual.

3.4 The farmer shall assess the environmental and social impacts of current or planned activities on their land. The farmer shall also assess the impact of their activities as it pertains to the wider community.

3.5 The farmer shall implement appropriate measures to allow for the coexistence of different production systems.

3.6 *In areas with traditional land users:* Where rights have been relinquished by traditional land users, there shall be documented evidence present showing that the affected communities are compensated subject to their free, prior, informed and documented consent (FPIC). In the case of disputed use rights, a comprehensive, participatory and documented community rights assessment shall be carried out and the recommendations from this assessment shall be followed.

3.7 As for communication with local communities, communication channels shall be in place (written sign or website with the following information: email address, mobile phone number, P.O. box address) that adequately enable communication between the farmer and the community. The communication channels shall have been made known to the local communities.

3.8 The farmer shall deal with complaints and grievances from workers, neighbours, local communities and traditional land users in an appropriate way and shall maintain documented evidence. In case a relevant competent authority requires the farmer to react to a complaint in a certain way, the farmer will do so in a timely manner.

3.9 The complaint mechanism (e.g. appointed independent ombudsman; written complaint form, being accessible via email, telephone or postal mail) is transparent, has been made known and is available to all workers, local communities and traditional land users.

4 Use of best practices in soil and nutrient management

4.1 The farmer shall comply with relevant local and national legislation related to soil management.

4.2 The farmer shall ensure that crops are grown on suitable soils.

4.3 The farmer shall take appropriate measures to protect and improve the soil and to avoid erosion and soil compaction. These shall include, but not be limited to a ban on burning stubble, crop rotation and the use of cover crops, the cultivation of legumes and balanced fertilization.

4.4 The farmer shall take appropriate measures to establish a minimum level of soil cover in the most sensitive periods. These shall include, but not be limited to, sowing a winter crop after the harvest, sowing cover crops, leaving crop residues on the soil surface, mulching and non-turning tillage measures.

4.5 The farmer shall include legumes in their crop rotation or develop and implement a crop rotation plan.

4.6 There is monitoring, appropriate to scale, to demonstrate that the practices to protect soil quality and prevent soil erosion are in place.

4.7 The farmer shall apply nutrients for soil improvement in accordance with best practices. This shall include but not be limited to soil assessment and nutrient application in line with the nutrient balance of the soil.

4.8 The farmer shall apply organic and mineral fertilisers from trustworthy and legal sources.

4.9 The farmer shall keep records of fertiliser application.

5 Use of best practices in crop protection

5.1 The farmer shall comply with all relevant local, national and EU level plant protection legislation.

5.2 Negative environmental and health impacts of phytosanitary products shall be reduced by implementing systematic, recognised Integrated Crop Management techniques.

5.3 An Integrated Crop Management plan shall be developed and implemented, including adequate and continuous monitoring of crop health, use of non-chemical and chemical control methods and measures to improve crop resilience.

5.4 The farmer shall have acquired knowledge on the implementation of Integrated Pest Management systems through training, education or advice. Integrated Pest Management principles and corresponding techniques are implemented to avoid harm to human health, wildlife and/or plant biodiversity; as well as to soil, water and air quality.

5.5 The farmer shall only apply agrochemicals authorised for use in the EU.

5.6 The use of agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention and Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention[1] shall be prohibited.

5.7 The use of agrochemicals the active ingredients of which are categorised as Class 1a or 1b in the World Health Organization (WHO) Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard[2] shall be prohibited (e.g. tefluthrin, zeta-cypermehtrin or zinc phosphide).

5.8 The use of desiccants prior to harvest (e.g. glyphosate or diquat) shall be prohibited.

5.9 There shall be no application of pesticides within 30 meters (or more if required by national law)[3] of any populated area or water body, and all necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent people from entering recently sprayed areas.

5.10 Aerial application of pesticides (aerial spraying) shall be prohibited.

5.11 The staff dealing with plant protection products shall be competent and shall envisage the use of non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.

5.12 The farmer shall ensure that any use of biological control agents complies with national legislation.

5.13 When using a plant protection product, the farmer shall follow:

- the manufacturer's instruction for use (to avoid under- or overdosing);

[1] Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants: https://www.pops.int/Portals/0/download.aspx?d=UNEP-POPS-COP-CONVTEXT-2017.English.pdf
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade: https://www.pic.int/Portals/5/download.aspx?d=UNEP-FAO-RC-CONVTEXT-2017.English.pdf

[2] The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332193/9789240005662-eng.pdf?ua=1

[3] In case the minimum distance cannot be kept, a justification shall be provided per e-Mail and approved by Donau Soja Organisation (quality@donausoja.org).

- the label recommendations;
- the appropriate pre-harvest and re-entry intervals.

5.14 The farmer shall ensure that there is regular maintenance of machinery, equipment and materials in order to ensure safe functioning of these devices.

5.15 The application of agrochemicals shall be duly documented.

5.16 The farmer shall manage and dispose of waste, including hazardous materials as well as agrochemicals and their containers, in such a manner as to avoid any risks to humans and the environment.

6 Use of best practices in water management

6.1 Existing water rights, both formal and customary, shall be respected, and water use shall be in compliance with applicable regulations and local legislation.

6.2 *In case of irrigation:* The farmer shall hold a valid water extraction license and ensure that any use of water, other than rainwater, has been approved by the relevant authorities. The farmer shall also ensure that their practices (e. g. water extraction) do not impact sensitive wetlands or swamps in the vicinity of their operation.

6.3 The farmer shall ensure that the water used for irrigation is in compliance with applicable regulations, including food safety legislation.

6.4 There shall be monitoring, appropriate to scale, of water quality and water use on the farm. The farmer shall implement actions to reduce water use wherever possible.

6.5 The farmer shall implement Good Agricultural Practices to minimise diffuse and localised impacts on surface and ground water quality from chemical residues, fertilisers, erosion or other sources. This shall include but not be limited to the following:

- The farmer shall take appropriate measures to avoid pollution from waste water.
- The farmer shall employ practices to prevent the runoff of any chemical, mineral or organic substance (including crop protection products, fertilisers and manure).
- The quality of water bodies on or close to the farm and farm land shall be protected by establishing riparian buffer strips along water courses.
- Any direct evidence of localised contamination of ground or surface water shall be reported to, and monitored in collaboration with and as required, by local authorities.

6.6 The farmer shall use sewage sludge in line with best practices and comply with applicable regulations and local legislation:

- The farmer shall follow applicable regulations regarding the analysis and treatment of raw sewage sludge before use.

- The farmer shall apply Good Agricultural Practices when applying treated sewage sludge to soils.
- Sludge shall not be applied directly to the crop after flowering.
- The discharge of sewage must not contaminate water, soils or crops.

7 Use of best practices in waste management

7.1 The farmer shall comply with all relevant legislation for the safe and proper handling, storage, transportation and disposal of waste material, especially hazardous substances.

7.2 The burning on any part of the property of crop residues or waste, or as part of vegetation clearance, shall not be allowed, unless it is required by national legislation as a sanitary measure.

7.3 The farmer shall handle biodegradable waste and agricultural by-products appropriately to avoid pollution and prevent pathogenic contamination.

7.4 The premises shall have adequate provisions for waste disposal.

7.5 Waste materials shall be stored in a proper and legal manner.

- Waste shall be stored in a segregated manner (e.g. hazardous waste is store separately from non-hazardous waste, waste is not stored together with non-waste).
- Waste storage areas shall be located an appropriate distance from housing, water bodies and conservation areas.

7.6 The farmer shall establish procedures and make equipment available to deal with accidents with and spills of crop protection products, fertilisers and fuels.

7.7 The farmer shall implement measures to reduce, reuse and recycle waste where possible.

8 Responsible land use and biodiversity protection

8.1 Deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems including, but not limited to, forests, wetlands, peatlands, grasslands, riparian areas or steep slopes for the cultivation of Europe Soya soya beans and other arable crops shall be prohibited.

The farmer shall only use cropland that was dedicated to agricultural use no later than 1 January 2008, hence excluding any further expansion of agricultural land for the cultivation of Europe Soya soya beans and other arable crops.

8.2 The farmer shall take appropriate measures to protect carbon-rich ecosystems such as wetlands and peatlands; this shall include but not be limited to a ban on drainage and a ban on the burning of peatland.

8.3 The farmer shall not grow Europe Soya soya beans and other arable crops in the following protected areas unless the use of such areas for agricultural purposes is

explicitly allowed in the respective management plan while respecting the protection goals within the protected area:

- areas designated by law or by the relevant authority for nature protection purposes;
- areas for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species (recognised by international agreements or the European Commission or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organisations or the International Union for Conservation of Nature [IUCN]).

8.4 In case of any alteration of protected areas, these areas shall be restored to their former state, or legally approved compensating actions shall be taken.

8.5 The farmer shall identify natural and semi-natural habitats, water courses and production areas on their farm and implement measures to avoid damage or deterioration of habitats and to enhance biodiversity. Measures shall include but not be limited to the following:

- The farmer shall maintain or, if necessary, establish land devoted to non-productive features or areas, including, but not limited to, set-aside land, buffer zones or special landscape features.
- The farmer shall take appropriate measures to minimise land fragmentation and shall maintain existing ecological corridors.
- The farmer shall retain landscape features, including, but not limited to, hedgerows, ditches or woods. The farmer shall not cut hedges and trees during the bird breeding and nesting season.
- The farmer shall maintain or restore areas of natural vegetation around bodies of water (riparian vegetation and floodplains) and on areas sensitive to erosion (steep slopes and hills).
- The application of plant protection products or fertilisers in riparian buffer strips or in natural and semi-natural habitats shall be prohibited.

8.6 The farmer shall protect rare, threatened or endangered species on the farm including, but not limited to, a ban on gathering or hunting threatened or endangered species as well as illegal hunting or fishing.

8.7 The farmer shall take appropriate measures to prevent the spreading of invasive alien species by preventing their introduction, by removing them as quickly as possible once detected and by notifying local authorities when their spreading cannot be stopped locally.

9 Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

9.1 The farmer shall have knowledge of how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the sequestration of greenhouse gases on the farm.

9.2 The farmer shall monitor relevant data contributing to greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. yields, seeds, fertiliser, pesticide and fuel use).

9.3 The farmer shall identify and implement measures to minimise greenhouse gas emissions on the farm, including, but not limited to, reducing the use of fossil fuels (e.g. by increasing the share of renewable energies, implementing precision agriculture techniques, controlled traffic farming [CTF] or lighter machinery).

9.4 The farmer shall identify and implement measures to increase carbon sequestration on the farm (e.g. by planting cover crops or applying intercropping practices).

10 Compliance with human and labour rights and safe working conditions

10.1 The farmer shall comply with fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO Conventions). This shall include but not be limited to:

- All workers shall have the right to form or join organisations that defend their interests, and shall have the right to negotiate for fair wages and working conditions.
- The effective functioning of worker associations/organizations of workers shall not be impeded. Representatives shall not be subject to discrimination and shall have access to their members in the workplace on request.
- No forced, compulsory, bonded, trafficked or otherwise involuntary labour shall be used in any stage of production. Workers shall not be subject to corporal punishment, mental or physical oppression or coercion, verbal or physical abuse, sexual harassment or any kind of intimidation. No workers of any type shall be required to lodge their identity papers with anyone, unless required by law.
- Child labour shall be forbidden. Children under 15 years (or at a higher age as established in national law) shall not perform any productive work. Young workers (15–18 years) must not undertake hazardous work that jeopardizes their health and welfare, including by interfering with their education.
- Equal work must be equally paid. All workers shall have equal access to training and benefits, and shall have equal opportunities for promotion and for filling any available position.
- There shall be no engagement in, support for, or tolerance of any form of discrimination.

10.2 The working conditions of all workers shall be in line with human rights as well as with local, national and EU-wide regulatory requirements and relevant collective bargaining agreements.

10.3 All workers shall have a written contract in a language they can understand. In those countries where there are no requirements for formal labour agreements between workers and employers, alternative documented evidence of a labour relationship shall be present.

10.4 Farmers shall implement policies and procedures to address workers grievances.

10.5 Gross wages, benefits and social security, holiday entitlement, parental leave, periods of notice, etc. shall comply with the relevant legislation and industry-specific agreements.

10.6 The work week shall be set according to local and national laws, shall be consistent with local industry standards, and shall not routinely exceed the maximum of 48 hours per week.

10.7 Overtime in excess of 12 hours per week shall only be allowable if it happens in extraordinary, limited periods where there are time constraints or risks of economic loss and where conditions regarding overtime in excess of 12 hours per week have been agreed between workers and management.

10.8 Overtime shall always be voluntary and shall be paid in accordance with local and national laws or sector agreements.

10.9 Working hours and overtime shall be monitored.

10.10 Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes shall not be made unless legally permitted. Wages paid shall be recorded by the employer.

10.11 Producers and their employees shall demonstrate an awareness and understanding of health and safety matters.

- A written health, safety and hygiene policy shall be in place on the farm.
- Relevant health and safety risks shall be identified, procedures shall be developed by employers to address these risks, and these procedures shall be monitored.
- Workers shall receive adequate health and safety training.
- Dangerous and/or complex work shall be carried out by qualified workers.
- Restrictions related to hazardous activities shall be in place on the farm.

10.12 Accident and emergency procedures shall be in place and instructions must be clearly understood by all workers. Procedures and measures shall include but not be limited to:

- the availability of equipment to prevent and handle accidents (e.g. protective clothing, first aid kits, safety procedures);
- the availability of qualified personnel with first aid skills.

10.13 All accidents shall be recorded and shall be reported to the local authority as required.

10.14 All workers shall have access to clean and safe drinking water, adequate sanitary facilities and protective equipment.

10.15 All workers living on the farm shall have access to adequate, safe and clean facilities.

10.16 All children living on the farm shall have access to quality primary school education.

REQUIREMENTS 02, Version 08

Agricultural Soya Bean Collector and Primary Collector

Purpose	Specify the requirements to be met by agricultural Europe Soya soya bean collectors and Europe Soya primary collectors.
Definition	Agricultural soya bean collector: company accepting, storing and passing on soya beans; where applicable, they also clean and dry the beans (slight heating to ensure storability, no toasting) Primary agricultural soya bean collector (primary collector): company accepting and/or storing soya beans obtained directly from the soya bean producer
Outline	
Status	Version 08: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Risk assessment

1.1 The agricultural collector shall be assigned an "agricultural collector risk level" (= C-RL) based on the deliveries accepted and taken into storage by them.

- C-RL 0: only Europe Soya soya beans are stored;
- C-RL 1: only GM-free crops are stored, but GM-free soya beans of other origins (without Europe Soya certificates) may also be stored;
- C-RL 2: only GM-free soya beans (even without Europe Soya certificates) are stored, but other GM crops (e.g. maize) may also be stored;
- C-RL 3: GM soya beans and GM soya bean meal may also be stored; the primary collector is located in a production area of F-RL 2 or 3, with a GM risk level 2 or 3

2 Incoming soya bean deliveries

2.1 The primary collector shall obtain from the farmers delivering Europe Soya soya beans to the collector a signed Declaration of Self-Commitment – Farmers (Soya Bean Producers) for each Europe Soya soya bean delivery or the entire Europe Soya quantity delivered and retain this declaration. Alternatively, the primary collector shall obtain for each Europe Soya quantity delivered a signed accompanying shipping document in compliance with the Requirements R 01a, paragraph 3.1 (delivery note),

and shall retain this document. The primary collector shall be obliged to inform soya bean farmers about the latest Europe Soya Requirements.

The primary collector shall keep an up-to-date list of all farmers delivering Europe Soya soya beans to the collector.

2.2 <u>If the farmer delivering soya beans to the primary collector is located in a production area of risk level 0-2 (F-RL0, F-RL1, F-RL2):</u>

The primary collector accepts produce either from individually certified Europe Soya soya bean producers or shall establish a group certification including all Europe Soya soya bean producers delivering to the primary collector (see Group certification paragraph 3).

2.3 <u>If the farmer delivering soya beans to the primary collector is located in a production area of risk level 3 (F-RL 3):</u>

The primary collector shall verify that the farmer has registered in due time with Donau Soja Organisation, i.e. by 30 July of the respective harvest year (see Requirements R 01a, paragraphs 4.1 and 5.1).

The primary collector shall keep an up-to-date list of all farmers belonging to the same agricultural enterprise as this collector and delivering Europe Soya soya beans exclusively to this collector (see Requirements R 01a, paragraph 5.1). These farmers shall be listed in the annex to the certificate belonging to the primary collector.

2.4 The primary collector shall document each soya bean supplier, including their EU registration number (or an equivalent specification in non-EU countries), the quantity delivered by them, the country of origin, the geolocation[1] of all plots of land on which the soya beans were produced and the quality label ("Europe Soya") and shall keep the relevant documentation for at least 5 years.

2.5 The primary collector shall check the plausibility of the details given by all Europe Soya soya bean farmers. This plausibility check shall be based on calculations of the size of areas under crops and the quantities delivered by the soya bean farmers to the collector.

2.6 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall take a retained sample of each soya bean lot accepted by them, and shall store this sample for at least one year safely and without influencing its quality, ensuring traceability.

2.7 The storage period of retained samples can be reduced to six months from the date of sale if the following two requirements are met:

- the primary collector can demonstrate that the storage period for the Europe Soya soya beans concerned has also been reduced; and

[1] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026. As an alternative to field data, the reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 shall also be accepted as evidence.

- the primary collector is located in a production area of GM-risk level 1 (GM-RL 1) and if the farmer delivering soya beans to this collector is also located in such a production area.

Composite samples shall be permitted as long as they do not exceed five individual deliveries (e.g. truck, tractor) and 100 tonnes per day. In this case, the primary collector shall additionally conduct rapid GM tests on each delivery unit (vehicle). The primary collector shall also document the results of these tests as well as the origin of the individual deliveries.

Please note: Sampling and storage shall be in accordance with the customs of the Agricultural Products Exchange in Vienna (Börse für landwirtschaftliche Produkte in Wien) or with the GAFTA Sampling Rules No. 124 (chapter 3 „General", chapter 4 „Method of Drawing Samples", chapter 5 „Sample Labels").

3 Soya bean storage

3.1 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall ensure that no mixing of different soya bean qualities occurs. For this purpose, the use of each soya bean lot delivered to the collector shall be documented in the individual transfer and loading cells. The collector shall refer to soya beans certified as "Europe Soya" in internal documentation and ensure correct declaration on site.

3.2 The primary collector shall send harvest declarations to both their contracted certification body and Donau Soja Organisation (quality@donausoja.org) on the following occasions:

- main declaration: notification after the expected end date of incoming delivery, but no later than 30 November of the current calendar year;
- post-declaration: notification if the primary collector still accepted produce following a main declaration. Post-declarations shall be provided within 30 days after delivery including a justification, for the quantity to be recorded in the Europe Soya system. Post declarations which are made after the defined deadline shall be agreed in advance with Donau Soja Organisation.

Each harvest declaration shall include the following information:

- reason for the notification: main declaration or post-declaration (see above);
- stock of Europe Soya soya beans;
- stock of soya bean qualities other than Europe Soya;
- name, postal and e-mail addresses of the primary collector;
- name, postal and e-mail addresses of the delivering Europe Soya soya bean farmers;
- harvest year;
- country of origin and, where relevant, parts thereof;

- geolocation[2] of all plots of land on which the crop was produced;
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115; and
- date of incoming deliveries and delivery volume of Europe Soya soya bean farmers.

4 Acquisition of lot certificates

4.1 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall send lot certificate requests to their certification body. Each of such request shall include the following information:

- name and contact information of the buyer;
- where applicable, codes of the lot certificates related to the quantity of Europe Soya soya to be sold;
- type, trade name and quantity of the soya beans to be sold as Europe Soya or to be delivered to the buyer;
- harvest year;
- reference numbers of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes); and
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.

4.2 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall accept as response from their certification body the lot certificate in the form of a signed PDF document. The lot certificate shall include the following information:

- name, postal and e-mail address of the seller;
- name, postal and e-mail address of the buyer;
- code of the certification body;
- code of the lot certificate;
- quantity of the soya bean lot certified as Europe Soya;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes);
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115;
- "Europe Soya" logo.

Additionally, data on the geolocation[3] of the plots of land on which the soya beans were produced can be provided on request.

4.3 The maximum quantity of Europe Soya soya beans comprised by a lot is the quantity stipulated in the supply contract.

[2,3] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026.

5 Outgoing soya bean deliveries

5.1 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall send the lot certificates to the buyer of the corresponding lots.

5.2 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall document each soya bean lot delivered, including the quantity delivered, the quality label ("Europe Soya"), the buyer's EU registration number (or an equivalent specification in non-EU countries) and codes of the corresponding lot certificates.

5.3 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall take a retained sample of each soya bean lot delivered, and shall store this sample for at least one year safely and without influencing its quality.

Please note: Sampling and storage shall be in accordance with the customs of the Agricultural Products Exchange in Vienna (Börse für landwirtschaftliche Produkte in Wien) or with the GAFTA Sampling Rules No. 124 (chapter 3 „General", chapter 4 „Method of Drawing Samples", chapter 5 „Sample Labels").

5.4 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall refer to soya beans certified and delivered (sold) to a customer as "Europe Soya" ("ES") in internal documentation and on all delivery notes, invoices, as well as packaging (if applicable).

6 Soya bean stock management

6.1 In the following cases, the agricultural collector/primary collector shall send to their certification body quantity amendment notifications regarding the stock of Europe Soya soya beans, specifying the reason for the notification:

- carry-over: remaining stock from the previous harvest year (notification by 31 August of the current calendar year, otherwise these quantities in store shall no longer qualify as Europe Soya);
- deviation of quantities delivered: outgoing deliveries deviating from contracted delivery quantities.

7 Quality management

7.1 <u>In-house QM System</u>

If the agricultural collector/primary collector is **located in a production area of GM-risk level 2 or 3 (GM-RL 2 or GM-RL 3),**

<u>or</u>

If the agricultural collector/primary collector accepts produce from **a production area of GM- risk level 2 or 3 (GM-RL 2 or GM-RL 3),**

<u>or</u>

If the agricultural collector / primary collector **is categorised at risk level 2 or 3 (C-RL 2 or C-RL 3):**

The agricultural collector / primary collector shall operate a documented in-house QM system establishing standard operating procedures to prevent GM contamination (incorporated into the HACCP system) throughout the company and including, at the least, the following elements:

- process chart including all details such as the conveying paths;
- determination of the critical control points with respect to the GM risk (identify, manage, verify);
- documentation of internal inspections.

7.2 Rapid tests / PCR tests after delivery / in the warehouse:

If the primary collector is **located in a GM risk level 2 (GM-RL2) production area (Romania excepted),**

or

if the primary collector **accepts produce from GM risk level 2 (GM-RL2) production areas (Romania excepted) ,**

or

if the primary collector is **categorised at risk level 2 or 3 (C-RL 2 or C-RL 3):**

Once taking into storage is completed, the collector shall conduct, at the least, one rapid GM test (Roundup Ready) on each storage unit and per 100 tonnes respectively. A positive rapid test result shall entail two further rapid GM tests. If any two of the three rapid tests conducted give a positive result, the collector shall have a PCR test performed.

If the PCR test detects the presence of GM content: The collector shall inform their contracted certification body of the result and, at the same time, send the relevant lot certificate to this certification body. Afterwards, the collector shall take the appropriate measures (root cause analysis and/or marketing ban).

Please note: Sampling and storage shall be in accordance with the customs of the Agricultural Products Exchange in Vienna (Börse für landwirtschaftliche Produkte in Wien) or with the GAFTA Sampling Rules No. 124 (chapter 3 „General", chapter 4 „Method of Drawing Samples", chapter 5 „Sample Labels").

7.3 Rapid tests / PCR tests on delivery:

If the primary collector is **located in a production area of GM-risk level 3 (GM-RL 3) or in Romania**

or

if the primary collector **accepts produce from GM-risk level 3 production areas (GM-RL 3) or from Romania:**

Before the produce is accepted and taken into storage, the collector shall conduct at least one rapid GM test (Roundup Ready) on each delivery unit and at least once per 100 tonnes respectively. A positive rapid test result shall entail two further rapid GM tests. If any two of the three rapid tests conducted give a positive result, the collector shall have a PCR test performed.

If the PCR test detects the presence of GM content: The collector shall inform their contracted certification body of the result and, at the same time, send the relevant information (e.g. Declaration of Self-Commitment - Farmers) to this certification body. Afterwards, the collector shall take the appropriate measures (root cause analysis and/or marketing ban).

Please note: Sampling and storage shall be in accordance with the customs of the Agricultural Products Exchange in Vienna (Börse für landwirtschaftliche Produkte in Wien) or with the GAFTA Sampling Rules No. 124 (chapter 3 „General", chapter 4 „Method of Drawing Samples", chapter 5 „Sample Labels").

7.4 Physical and technical separation:

If the agricultural collector/primary collector **is located in a production area of GM-risk level 3 (GM-RL 3),**

or

if the agricultural collector/primary collector **accepts produce from production area of GM-risk level 3 (GM-RL 3),**

or

if the agricultural collector/primary collector **is categorised at risk level 2 or 3 (C-RL 2 or C-RL 3):**

The different soya bean qualities shall be separated both physically and technically. If only chronological separation is possible a duly justified explanation shall be available.

8 Directly commissioned inspections

8.1 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation, commissioning this body to undertake chargeable inspections at the following frequency:

- collectors of all risk levels: first inspection;
- collectors of risk levels 0 to 2 (C-RL 0–2): further inspections every two years;
- collectors of risk level 3 (C-RL 3): further inspections once a year.

If the collector complies with the stated requirements, they shall be certified as a Europe Soya agricultural collector.

Primary collectors in production areas of GM-risk level 2 or 3 (GM-RL 2, GM-RL 3) need to be initially certified before the (harvested) soya beans are taken into storage.

8.2 All other collectors may be initially certified at a later date; however, in any case the initial certification has to be conducted before the first Europe Soya lot is sold. The directly commissioned certification body shall take a composite sample of the Europe Soya soya from the entire company within the scope of their Europe Soya audit, and shall submit this sample for a PCR test.

8.3 If the primary collector is located in production areas with pesticide risk level 2 (PESTICIDE-RL 2):

The directly commissioned certification body shall take a composite sample of the Europe Soya soya from the entire company each year following the harvest and shall submit this sample for a pesticide residue analysis.

8.4 If the certified agricultural collector/primary collector suspends or terminates their Europe Soya activity, Donau Soja Organisation may, at the expense of the agricultural collector, demand a final inspection by the directly commissioned certification body to verify all conformities from the last audit to the date of termination of the contract. The scope of the final inspection shall be reduced compared to a normal inspection, whereby the exact scope shall be determined by Donau Soja Organisation, if necessary with the directly commissioned certification body.

9 Supervisory inspections

9.1 The agricultural collector/primary collector shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation.

10 Special forms of primary collection

The primary collection of Europe Soya soya beans shall usually be undertaken by agricultural collectors who, on the one hand, receive Europe Soya Declarations of Self-Commitment from the farmers (soya bean producers), document them and check them for plausibility and, on the other hand, launch the process of lot certification with the aid of their respective certification body.

Alternatively, the soya bean farmers (producers) may deliver their Europe Soya soya beans directly to a primary processor. In this case, this primary processor shall act as the primary collector (see paragraph 10.1).

Soya bean farmers (producers), located in a production area of risk level 2 or 3 (F-RL 2 or F-RL 3), shall assume the primary collector's function if they sell their Europe Soya harvest directly to a trader. In this case, the soya bean farmer needs to be certified as an primary collector and may only sell Europe Soya soya beans by means of Europe Soya lot certificates (see paragraph 10.2).

10.1 Soya bean primary processor acting as a primary collector

10.1.1 A soya bean primary processor shall be considered a primary collector of Europe Soya soya beans if a soya bean farmer (producer) sells and delivers the Europe Soya soya beans directly to this soya bean primary processor and therefore needs to be certified as a primary collector.

10.1.2 In this case, the soya bean primary processor shall assume the obligations laid down in paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 of the Requirements R 02 for Agricultural Collectors.

10.1.3 Issuance of lot certificates (in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5) may be waived. However, the soya bean primary processor has to ensure internally that the produce entering and leaving "storage capacity" unit as well as the produce entering and leaving the "processing" unit are documented separately and verifiably. The directly commissioned certification body shall inspect the area of internally separated documentation of the flow of produce during the first inspection.

10.2 Soya bean farmer (producer) acting as a primary collector

The following shall apply to soya bean farmers (producers) located in a risk level 2 or 3 production area (F-RL 2 or F-RL 3):

10.2.1 A soya bean farmer (producer) shall become primary collector if they sell their Europe Soya harvest directly to a trader.

10.2.2 In this case, the soya bean farmer needs to be certified. The directly commissioned certification body shall verify compliance with the Requirements R 01b for Soya Bean Farmers as well as compliance with the spirit of the Requirements R 02 for Agricultural Soya Bean Collectors (particularly paragraph 3.1 and, where applicable, paragraph 7 of the Requirements R 02 – avoidance of mixing Europe Soya soya with other soya qualities during storage) within the scope of their audit. The soya bean farmer shall also accept supervisory inspections as described in paragraph 9.

10.2.3 Issuance of lot certificates shall be carried out, mutatis mutandis, in accordance with paragraphs 3.2 (harvest declarations), 4.1 and 4.2 (acquisition of lot certificates), 5 (outgoing soya bean deliveries), and 6 (stock management).

10.2.4 Directly commissioned inspections shall be performed in accordance with paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2.

11 Group certification

11.1 Agricultural collectors and primary collectors have the option of applying for a group certification under the conditions as set out in "Requirements for Group Certifications" paragraph 2.

11.2 Primary collectors located in a production area of risk level 0-2 (F-RL 0 or F-RL 1 or F-RL 2) shall be responsible for group certification of the farmers delivering to collector as set out in "Requirements for Group Certifications" paragraph 3.

REQUIREMENTS 03, Version 08

Soya Trader

Purpose	Specify the requirements to be met by Europe Soya soya traders.
Definition	Soya trader: company buying and selling soya beans or soya products and/or products containing or consisting of soya beans (e.g. compound feed)
Outline	
Status	Version 08: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Risk assessment

1.1 The soya trader shall be assigned a "trader risk level" (= T-RL) based on the soya beans/products bought and sold by them.

- T-RL 0: soya trade with Europe Soya soya only;
- T-RL 1: soya trade with GM-free soya only, but GM-free soya beans/products other than Europe Soya soya are possible;
- T-RL 2: is not defined since the produce is not physically moved at this level (and the trade with crops other than soya is therefore not relevant);
- T-RL 3: soya trade with GM soya and GM soya bean meal is also possible.

2 Purchasing and selling soya beans and products, lot certification

2.1 The trader may only buy and sell Europe Soya soya beans/products if these are referred to as "Europe Soya soya", "Europe Soya" or "ES soya" on all invoices and delivery notes.

2.2 The trader may only buy and sell Europe Soya unprocessed soybeans if a lot certificate in the form of a signed (PDF) document is handed over to the trader for these soya beans. This lot certificate shall include the following information:

- name, postal and e-mail address of the seller;
- name, postal and e-mail address of the buyer;
- code of the certification body;
- code of the lot certificate;
- quantity of the soya bean lot certified as Europe Soya;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes);
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115;
- "Europe Soya" logo.

A lot certificate is needed only for trading in unprocessed soya beans.

In case processed soya products are imported to or exported from the EU market:
A traceability certificate is optional for trading in Europe Soya processed soya products to and from the EU starting from the harvest 2024. This traceability certificate shall comply with paragraph 2.2 of the Requirements for the Soya Trader (R03) as well as with the Requirements for the Traceability System.

2.3 For selling Europe Soya soya, the trader shall send a lot/traceability certificate request to their certification body. Each request shall include the following information:

- name and contact information of the buyer;
- where applicable, codes of the lot/traceability certificates related to the quantity of Europe Soya soya to be sold;
- type, trade name and quantity of the soya bean/product to be sold as Europe Soya soya or to be delivered to the buyer;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes); and
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.

2.4 The trader shall accept as response from their certification body the lot/traceability certificate in the form of a signed PDF document. The lot/traceability certificate shall include the following information:

- name, postal and e-mail address of the seller;
- name, postal and e-mail address of the buyer;
- code of the certification body;
- code of the lot/traceability certificate;
- quantity of the soya bean lot/product unit certified as Europe Soya;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes);
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115;
- "Europe Soya" logo.

Additionally, data on the geolocation[1] of the plots of land on which the soya beans were produced can be provided on request.

2.5 The trader shall document the following information on all purchases and sales of soya beans/products and shall keep the documentation for at least 5 years from the date the soya beans/products were placed on the market or exported:

[1] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026.

- names, postal and e-mail addresses and, where applicable, EU registration numbers (or equivalent specifications in non-EU countries) of all suppliers and customers;
- lot, trade name and type, quantity, quality label "Europe Soya", and lot/traceability certificates;
- country of origin and the geolocation of all plots of land on which the soya beans, that the relevant product contains or has been made from, were produced; [2]
- harvest year;
- delivery date, carrier and receiver.

3 Directly commissioned inspections

3.1 The trader shall conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation, commissioning this body to undertake chargeable inspections at the following frequency:

- traders of all risk levels: first inspection;
- traders of risk levels 0 and 1 (T-RL 0 and 1): additional inspection every two years;
- traders of risk level 3 (T-RL 3): additional annual inspection.

3.2 If the certified trader suspends or terminates their Europe Soya activity, Donau Soja Organisation may, at the expense of the trader, demand a final inspection by the directly commissioned certification body to verify all conformities from the last audit to the date of termination of the contract. The scope of the final inspection shall be reduced compared to a normal inspection, whereby the exact scope shall be determined by Donau Soja Organisation, if necessary after consultation with the directly commissioned certification body.

4 Supervisory inspections

4.1 The trader shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation.

5 Traders also acting as agricultural collectors

5.1 <u>If the trader stores products produced with or from Europe Soya soya beans:</u>

The trader shall ensure that Europe Soya soya products are not mixed with soya products of other qualities.

5.2 <u>If the trader stores Europe Soya soya beans:</u>

The trader needs to be certified as an agricultural collector in compliance with the Requirements R 02.

[2] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026. As an alternative to field data, the reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 shall also be accepted as evidence.

6 Special case

Transfer/imposition of responsibilities of an agricultural collector to/on a trader

6.1 If a trader exclusively buys Europe Soya soya beans from one agricultural collector or primary collector, they may assume specific, precisely defined obligations of this collector.

6.2 Particularly, the responsibility for buying produce in compliance with the Europe Soya requirements (with Declarations of Self-Commitment – Farmers [Soya Bean Producers] and a plausibility check), checking of incoming produce (including retained samples), handling the quality management on site (paragraph 7 of R 02), as well as taking and storing retained samples in the outgoing produce department (paragraph 5.3 of R 02) shall not be transferable.

6.3 If a trader exclusively uses one agricultural collector, this trader may commission external inspections (paragraph 8 of R 02 and paragraph 3 of the Requirements for Group Certifications) as well as the organisation and processing of lot certificates. In this case, the agricultural collector shall not receive their own certificate.

7 Direct purchases of traders, not acting as agricultural collectors, from soya bean farmers (producers)

7.1 If a trader buys Europe Soya soya beans directly from a soya bean farmer (producer) located in a production area of risk level 0 or 1 (F-RL 0 or F-RL 1), without taking these beans into storage, this trader shall be considered a direct purchaser of Europe Soya soya beans.

7.2 In this case, the trader shall assume the obligations laid down in paragraph 2.1 (accepting produce from farmer and obtaining Declarations of Self-Commitment; list of delivering farmers), paragraph 2.4 (documentation of soya bean suppliers), paragraph 2.5 (plausibility check), paragraph 3.2 (harvest declarations) and paragraph 4 (acquisition of lot certificates) and paragraph 11.2. (group certification of farmers) of the Requirements 02, as well as in paragraph 3 of the Requirements for Group Certifications. The obligations laid down in paragraph 2.5 (retained samples), paragraph 3.1 (correct storage) and paragraph 7 (quality management) of the Requirements R 02 shall remain with the primary agricultural collector.

REQUIREMENTS 04, Version 09

Soya Bean Primary Processor

Purpose	Specify the requirements to be met by Europe Soya soya bean primary processors.
Definition	Primary processor: company processing and/or treating soya beans chemically or physically most substantially, such as: - oil mill; - toaster; - soya bean primary processors acting as food producers; - producer of food and food additives.
Outline	
Status	Version 09: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Risk assessment

1.1 The primary processor shall be assigned a "primary processor risk level" (= P-RL) based on the quality of the soya beans delivered to the primary processor and processed there:

- P-RL 0: only Europe Soya soya beans are processed;
- P-RL 1: other GM-free soya beans (documented as being GM-free) are also processed;
- P-RL 2: other GM crops (except for soya beans) may also be processed (e.g. maize from countries of risk level 2 or 3);
- P-RL 3: option limited to **oil mills and toasters**, not possible for food producers:

If the processing lines are 100 % separated, both physically and technically, GM soya may also be present at the same site.

In particular cases, the Board of Donau Soja Association may temporarily approve chronological segregation between the processing of GM soya beans and the processing of GM-free soya beans (= dual processing).

Approval of dual processing is conditional on the following steps:

- The oil mill/toaster shall submit in writing a duly justified application for approval to Donau Soja Association.

- Donau Soja Association shall commission a chargeable audit in order to verify that chronological segregation does not pose an increased risk of GM-free soya being mixed with GM soya.
- The Board shall, when taking a decision, take into account any recommendations provided by audit bodies. The Board shall also limit the duration of the approval granted to the oil mill/toaster to one year. Additional conditions for obtaining the approval, such as an increased frequency of analyses (rapid tests, PCR testing), may be imposed on the oil mill/toaster.
- The oil mill/toaster shall demonstrate compliance with the spirit of all requirements as stipulated in the Requirements R 05 (for Compound Feed Producers) for dual processing, particularly with regard to the risk analysis (document) mentioned in paragraph 4.6 and the carry-over analysis mentioned in paragraph 4.7.
- The oil mill/toaster shall verify the correct functioning of chronological segregation by conducting rapid GM tests (Roundup Ready) on the first three truck deliveries of the first Europe Soya lot following the production conversion. The oil mill/toaster shall also document the results of these tests.
- If any condition of approval is violated, any approval that has been granted may be withdrawn at any time.

For **food producers:**
No P-RL 3 possible as no GM soya beans may be processed at the entire site.

2 Incoming deliveries of Europe Soya soya beans

2.1 Before accepting delivery, the primary processor shall take one sample of each transport unit (e.g. truck) and per 100 tonnes respectively. The sample shall be divided for the following purposes:

- retained sample, which shall be stored for at least one year safely and without influencing its quality, ensuring traceability;
- rapid tests (Roundup Ready) and, where applicable, further testing (see 2.2).

Please note: Sampling and storage shall be in accordance with the customs of the Agricultural Products Exchange in Vienna (Börse für landwirtschaftliche Produkte in Wien) or with the GAFTA Sampling Rules No. 124 (chapter 3 „General", chapter 4 „Method of Drawing Samples", chapter 5 „Sample Labels").

2.2 The primary processor shall conduct an approved rapid GM test (Roundup Ready) on all samples taken for this purpose and referred to in paragraph 2.1 above. Afterwards, and depending on the test result, the primary processor shall implement the following measures:

- If the 1st rapid test does not detect any GM content: The primary processor shall accept the corresponding soya bean lot.
- If the 1st rapid test detects the presence of GM content: The primary processor shall subject the sample to two further rapid tests.
- If neither the 2nd nor the 3rd rapid test detects any GM content: The primary processor shall accept the corresponding soya bean lot.

- If the 2nd or 3rd rapid test detects the presence of GM content: The primary processor shall either not accept the corresponding soya bean lot or shall store the lot separately. In addition, the primary processor shall have a PCR test performed at a laboratory accredited for this test procedure in accordance with ISO standard 17025.
- If the PCR test detects a GM content of less than 0.9 %: The primary processor shall inform their contracted certification body of the result, and send the relevant lot certificate to this certification body. Afterwards, the primary processor shall take the appropriate measures (root cause analysis).
- If the PCR test detects a GM content of 0.9 % or more: The primary processor shall inform their contracted certification body of the result (and send the relevant lot certificate to this certification body). Afterwards, the primary processor shall take the appropriate measures. The primary processor shall remove the soya lot with a GM content of 0.9 % or more from the flow of produce and shall **not** market this lot as Europe Soya.

2.3 Depending on the risk assessment (see Annex 04), further testing may be required:

The following shall apply to Europe Soya soya beans produced in production areas of GM risk level 2 (GM-RL 2, i.e. the cultivation of GM maize is possible): If the unwanted maize content in any soya bean lot exceeds the maximum level of 0.5 %, the corresponding sample shall be additionally analysed for approved GM maize varieties using rapid tests (Roundup Ready).

- If the 1st rapid test does not detect any GM content: The primary processor shall accept the corresponding soya bean lot.
- If the 1st rapid test detects the presence of GM content: The primary processor shall subject the sample to two further rapid tests.
- If neither the 2nd nor the 3rd rapid test detects any GM content: The primary processor shall accept the corresponding soya bean lot.
- If the 2nd or 3rd rapid test also gives a positive result, the primary processor shall have a PCR test performed at a laboratory accredited for this test procedure in accordance with ISO standard 17025.
- If the PCR test detects a GM content of less than 0.9 %, the primary processor shall conduct a root cause analysis together with **their own** certification body in order to determine whether the contamination occurred accidentally and/or was technically unavoidable.
- If the PCR test detects a GM content of 0.9 % or more, the primary processor shall remove the lot concerned from the flow of produce and shall **not** market this lot as Europe Soya.

2.4 The primary processor shall document the following for all incoming deliveries of Europe Soya soya beans:

- names, addresses and, where applicable, EU registration numbers (or equivalent specifications in non-EU countries) of all suppliers;
- results of rapid tests (Roundup Ready) and, where applicable, of PCR testing;
- lot, quantity, quality label "Europe Soya", and lot certificates;
- delivery date, carrier and receiver;
- transfer cell.

2.5 If the primary processor accepts Europe Soya soya beans directly from the soya bean farmer:

The primary processor shall document the Declarations of Self-Commitment – Farmers (Soya Bean Producers) for all incoming deliveries. The primary processor shall comply with all requirements laid down in R02, paragraph 10.1 ("Soya bean primary processor acting as a primary collector").

2.6 By the 10th of each calendar month, the primary processor shall send the following information to Donau Soja Organisation (quality@donausoja.org), forwarding a copy of this information to the primary processor´s contracted certification body:

- the quantity of Europe Soya soya beans (in tonnes) effectively delivered to the primary processor and processed there in the previous month, with reference to relevant lot certificates;
- the quantity of processed Europe Soya soya invoiced and/or internally used in the previous month (all marketed Europe Soya products such as meal, oil-cake, oil, or food, plus customer names).

Please note: Licence fees / certification fees shall be calculated based on the respective beans equivalent to the quantity of Europe Soya products invoiced and/or internally used; in case more than one Europe Soya product is used/invoiced, the licence fee / certification fee shall be incurred only once per beans equivalent.

3 Outgoing deliveries of Europe Soya soya

3.1 The primary processor shall document the following for all outgoing deliveries of processed Europe Soya soya products:

- names, addresses and, where applicable, EU registration numbers (or equivalent specifications in non-EU countries) of all customers;
- lot, quantity, quality label "Europe Soya";
- delivery date, carrier and receiver;
- loading cell.

3.2 A traceability certificate is optional for the placing on the market and trading with processed Europe Soya certified products.

The seller shall send a traceability certificate request to their certification body. Each request shall include the following information:

- name and contact information of the buyer;
- where applicable, codes of the lot/traceability certificates related to the quantity of Europe Soya soya to be sold;
- type, trade name and quantity of the soya product to be sold as Europe Soya soya or to be delivered to the buyer;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes); and
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.

The seller shall accept as response from their certification body the traceability certificate in the form of a signed PDF document. The traceability certificate shall include the following information:

- name, postal and e-mail address of the seller;
- name, postal and e-mail address of the buyer;
- code of the certification body;
- code of the traceability certificate;
- quantity of the soya product unit certified as Europe Soya;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes)
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115;
- "Europe Soya" logo.

Additionally, data on the geolocation of the plots of land on which the soya beans were produced can be provided on request[1].

3.3 The primary processor shall take a retained sample of each lot of processed soya products delivered, and shall store this sample for at least one year safely and without influencing its quality.

Please note: Sampling and storage shall be in accordance with the customs of the Agricultural Products Exchange in Vienna (Börse für landwirtschaftliche Produkte in Wien) or with the GAFTA Sampling Rules No. 124 (chapter 3 „General", chapter 4 „Method of Drawing Samples", chapter 5 „Sample Labels").

4 Soya stock management

4.1 In the following cases, the primary processor shall send to their certification body and to Donau Soja Organisation quantity amendment notifications regarding the stock of Europe Soya soya beans, specifying the reason for the notification:

- carry-over: remaining stock from the previous harvest year (notification by 31 August of the current calendar year, otherwise these quantities in store shall no longer qualify as Europe Soya);
- deviation of quantities delivered to the primary processor: incoming deliveries deviating from contracted delivery quantities.

5 Quality management

5.1 The primary processor shall operate a documented in-house QA system establishing standard operating procedures to prevent GM contamination throughout the company (including incoming delivery, processing, storage, cleaning, transportation, packing,

[1] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026.

and outgoing delivery). The primary processor shall also apply a risk-based PCR sampling plan ensuring that GM contamination is detected.

5.2 If the primary processor is a risk level 3 company (P-RL 3):

The primary processor shall document that GM and non-GM produce is separated 100 %, both physically and technically. Documentation shall be consistent and cover all stages from incoming produce to outgoing produce. (Companies which have been granted a temporary approval of dual processing in accordance with paragraph 1.1 are exempted from this provision.)

5.3 If the primary processor is an oil mill or a toaster:

The primary processor shall, in the field of activity of "production of single feed material" be in possession of a certificate of one of the following QA systems:

- AMA Pastus +;
- QS audit system of the animal feed industry;
- GMP +;
- FEMAS (Feed Materials Assurance Scheme);
- SFPS* (Swiss Feed Production Standard);
- QSGF Suisse* (quality assurance for cereals/animal feed);
- EFISC (European Feed Ingredients Safety Certification);
- FCA (Feed Chain Alliance Standard); or
- another equivalent programme.

General note: Other equivalent programmes will be released as such by Donau Soja Association.

Note to *: The standard will be recognised if the following conditions are met: A quality control plan, consisting of samples from both incoming and outgoing produce, satisfies at least the requirements of the applicable analysis plan of the AMA-feedstuff monitoring Pastus+ (version 1 valid from January 2020; annex 1 to AMA-Feedstuff guideline pastus+ and pastus+ Regulation for Small Quantities) as far as the point "sampling frequencies as well as methodology and frequency of analyses" is concerned. Inspections are performed at least once every two years. A certificate of conformity (e.g. inspection report) is provided to Donau Soja Association and/or the Donau Soja certification body upon request.

If the primary processor is an oil mill:

As for Salmonella monitoring, the primary processor shall apply the requirements for analysis according to the AMA-feedstuff monitoring Pastus+ (version 1 valid from January 2020; annex 1 to AMA-Feedstuff guideline pastus+ and pastus+ Regulation for Small Quantities):

Number of analysis to be performed per year and operating site:

Production in t / Substance	<1000	≥1.000-<3.000	≥3.000-<5.000	≥5.000-<10.000	≥10.000-<100.000	≥100.000-<300.000	≥300.000
Salmonella	4	6	8	12	50	90	180

No strains of Salmonella are permissible.

In case of a positive finding (self-monitoring or external sampling), the required salmonella analyses need to be intensified for a period of three months, switching from a 1-fold approach to a 5-fold approach. If no positive result is obtained within that period, the 1-fold approach may be resumed.

5.4 If the primary processor wishes to market phospholipid mixtures as Europe Soya lecithins, the requirements detailed in Commission Regulation (EU) No 231/2012 for E 322 have to be complied with and compliance with these requirements has to be verified in any case.

6 Product labelling

6.1 The primary processor may label produce delivered (packaging) as "Europe Soya" if this produce is entirely (100 %) made up of Europe Soya soya products such as Europe Soya soya bean meal or Europe Soya soya bean oil.

6.2 In case of mixed products (containing both soya components and components other than soya), 100 % of the soya components shall be Europe Soya soya and all other product components shall also comply with the non-GM requirements.

7 Europe Soya contract soya bean primary processor

7.1 The primary processor and Donau Soja Organisation shall conclude the Europe Soya/primary processor contract on the requirements to be met by the primary processor.

8 Directly commissioned inspections

8.1 The primary processor shall conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation, commissioning this body to undertake chargeable inspections at the following frequency:

- primary processors of all risk levels: first inspection;
- primary processors of risk levels 0 and 1 (P-RL 0 and P-RL 1): additional annual inspection;
- primary processors of risk levels 2 and 3 (P-RL 2 and P-RL 3): additional inspections twice a year (one unannounced inspection).

8.2 The directly commissioned certification body shall take a composite sample from the entire Europe Soya soya processing line within the scope of their Europe Soya audit, and shall submit this sample for a PCR test[2].

8.3 If the certified primary processor suspends or terminates their Europe Soya activity, Donau Soja Organisation may, at the expense of the primary processor, demand a final inspection by the directly commissioned certification body to verify all

[2] PCR tests may only be conducted for soya beans or protein-containing soya products. Soya bean oil is not relevant for PCR analysis.

conformities from the last audit to the date of termination of the contract. The scope of the final inspection shall be reduced compared to a normal inspection, whereby the exact scope shall be determined by Donau Soja Organisation, if necessary after consultation with the directly commissioned certification body.

9 Supervisory inspections

9.1 The primary processor shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation.

10 Special form: own-use soya bean primary processor

10.1 Agricultural processors mixing animal feed on their own holdings for feeding their own livestock shall be categorised as own-use primary processors and shall not be considered as compound feed producers. Acting as own-use soya bean primary processors, these operations may process own-harvested or purchased Europe Soya soya beans in a separate facility – solely for the purpose of feeding the livestock on their own holdings. Own-use soya bean primary processors may neither deal in Europe Soya soya beans (raw or processed) nor process them as a subcontractor.

The marketing of small quantities of the main product (such as soya bean cake) or of small quantities of by-products resulting from the own-use soya bean primary processor's own processing (such as soya bean oil or soya bean hulls) as Europe Soya produce will be approved on a case-by-case basis on application and following examination by Donau Soja Organisation.

10.2 For own-use soya bean primary processors, all Requirements R 04 (for Soya Bean Primary Processors) shall apply, with the following simplifications:

- Paragraph 2: Rapid GMO tests may be omitted for a farm in countries with risk levels (P-RS) 0-1, provided that the soybeans originate from countries with risk levels (P-RS) 0-1.
- Paragraph 2.5 (quantity notifications): Monthly notifications of quantities of Europe Soya soya beans may be substituted by quarterly or annual notifications.
- Paragraph 3 (outgoing deliveries of processed Europe Soya products): For outgoing deliveries of processed Europe Soya soya products, the documentation of outgoing deliveries as well as the taking and storing of retained samples is waived. The company shall document the quantities used for feeding their livestock, including the date and the lot certificate (in case of purchased soya beans).
- Paragraph 5.3 (quality management/quality certification): The company may apply for a simplified QA certification. In Austria, the AMA Gütesiegel[3] home feed compounder certification with an additional checklist for own-use toasters is recognised as being equivalent to the QA certifications mentioned in paragraph 5.3.

[3] AMA Gütesiegel is the quality label of Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA).

- Paragraph 8.1: The inspection of the own-use primary processing operation should be carried out as part of the Donau Soja inspection of the agricultural processor (A06a) at least every 3 years.

11 Special case

Transfer/imposition of responsibilities of a soya bean primary processor to/on other participants in the Europe Soya system (traders in particular)

11.1 Specific, precisely defined tasks of a primary processor may be transferred to participants in the Europe Soya system upstream or downstream of this primary processor, following approval by the Board of Donau Soja Association.

11.2 A) Particularly, the purchase of Europe Soya soya beans and the associated assurance of traceability, the availability of lot certificates and the imposition of all obligations on all upstream suppliers (as provided for in the Europe Soya Guidelines and Europe Soya contracts) may be transferred by a primary processor to a trader, for instance, who will, on the one hand, organise the purchase of the Europe Soya soya beans for this primary processor and, on the other hand, buy the processed Europe Soya soya beans (e.g. Europe Soya meal) as outgoing produce from this primary processor.

B) Specific tasks of the primary processor such as checking the incoming/outgoing produce, ensuring a QA system and a corresponding certification (paragraph 5), or conducting Salmonella analyses, may not be transferred to other participants in the Europe Soya system.

11.3 If a primary processor exclusively produces Europe Soya products for a third party (particularly a trader), the obligation to monthly report the quantities of Europe Soya soya beans and to pay the licence fee / certification fee (paragraph 2.5) may also be transferred. In this case, the inspection which is normally to be commissioned directly by the primary processor may also be commissioned by the trader – provided that the primary processor concerned is listed as an external production site in the inspection contract of this trader and is identified as such in the certificate. In this case, the primary processor does not receive his own certificate. In very exceptional cases and if expressly authorised by the Board of Donau Soja Association, paragraph 7 (contract between the primary processor and Donau Soja Organisation) may be waived if the contract between the primary processor and the trader clearly specifies that the primary processor shall fulfil at least the obligations detailed in paragraph 11.2 B).

Transfer/imposition of responsibilities of a primary collector to/on a primary processor

11.4 If a primary processor exclusively buys Europe Soya soya beans from one primary collector, they may assume specific, precisely defined obligations of this collector.

11.5 Particularly, the responsibility for buying produce in compliance with the Europe Soya requirements (with Declarations of Self-Commitment – Farmers [Soya Bean Producers] and a plausibility check), checking of incoming produce (including retained samples), handling the quality management on site (paragraph 7 of R 02), as well as

taking and storing retained samples in the outgoing produce department (paragraph 5.3 of R 02) shall not be transferable.

11.6 If a primary processor exclusively uses one primary collector, this primary processor may commission external inspections (paragraph 8 of R 02 and paragraph 3 of the Requirements for Group Certifications) as well as the organisation and processing of lot certificates. In this case, the primary collector shall not receive their own certificate.

REQUIREMENTS 05, Version 06

Compound Feed Producer

Purpose	Specify the Europe Soya requirements to be met by compound feed producers.
Definition	Compound feed producer: company producing ready-made feed material or complementary feed material by mixing single feed materials **Non-GM (produce):** non-genetically modified (produced without GMOs) **GM (produce):** genetically modified (produced with GMOs)
Outline	
Status	Version 06: released by the Board on 29 November 2023

1 Donau Soja definition of compound feed producer

1.1 According to the definition by Donau Soja Organisation, compound feed producers are no primary processors because, as a rule, these producers do not use unprocessed soya beans. Compound feed producers are therefore downstream of primary processing.

1.2 If one site contains both a compound feed plant and a toasting plant, the processing line of toasting, along with all its plant sections, shall come under the requirements for primary processors (see Requirements R 04).

2 Incoming produce

2.1 The origin, type and quantity of the agricultural raw materials and inputs purchased and used shall be documented by keeping records (delivery notes, invoices), and disclosed to the certification body upon request. The critical species/plants used at the factory shall be documented, critical plants being those species where GM cultivation is practised all over the world (such as particularly soya beans, maize and rapeseed).

2.2 For critical raw materials from outside the EU, hard IP documentation shall be available. This particularly means:

- detailed information about suppliers, the quantity and the product name shall be available;

- the origin of the produce shall be verified with certificates that guarantee traceability for the certification body and are based on analytical results;
- delivery notes/invoices shall not include a GM declaration.

2.3 For critical raw materials from within the EU, the following documentation is available:

- detailed information about suppliers, the quantity and the product name (Europe Soya where applicable);
- supplier contracts and framework agreements shall not suggest that the raw material is a GM product, and shall include the Europe Soya requirements;
- delivery notes/invoices shall not include a GM declaration;
- the origin of the produce is traceable for the certification body.

3 Animal feed formulation

3.1 In animal feed which bears a mark stating "geeignet zur Herstellung gentechnikfreier Lebensmittel mit Europe Soya Auslobung"/"suitable for the production of GM-free food labelled as Europe Soya" or which is labelled as "Europe Soya", the total amount of soya has to be Europe Soya soya (incl. soya components such as oil added to the animal feed).

Exemption: If the availability of individual soya components such as soya lecithin in sufficient quality cannot be ensured by at least two independent providers, other components certified as GM-free may be used on application and with the written consent of the Donau Soja Organisation.

3.2 In the production of animal feed, the specified minimum percentage of soya for the respective animal species shall be taken into account (see requirements A 06a, point 4.3).

3.3 Animal feed formulations and/or lot records shall be disclosed to the certification body for quantitative flow calculation.

4 Processing, storage and packing

4.1 The certification body shall have access to and power of audit in all relevant areas of the compound feed plant.

4.2 Acceptance, storage as well as internal transportation of non-GM produce shall be segregated from other/GM produce in either space or time.

4.3 Use of equipment for processing non-GM produce shall be segregated from other/GM produce in either space or time.

4.4 Standard operating procedures for spatial or chronological segregation of the flows of produce shall be available on site, and compliance with these procedures shall be documented on site.

4.5 All staff in the areas of incoming produce, storage, processing, packing, transportation, and outgoing produce have been trained in complying with relevant standard operating procedures.

4.6 The compound feed producer shall conduct a risk analysis indicating the critical points (= control points) with respect to possible GM contamination and GM carry-over. Afterwards, the company's certification body shall check the analysis document.

4.7 In case of dual plants (= chronological segregation between non-GM and other/GM produce): A carry-over analysis shall be conducted and documented.

5 Documentation and record keeping

5.1 A description of the company as well as a site plan of the plant, an organisational chart and a product flow diagram shall be available and open for inspection.

5.2 A list of the raw materials and suppliers as well as a list of the product catalogue and customers shall be available and open for inspection.

5.3 Not only incoming and outgoing produce, but also stocks and produce entering or leaving storage premises shall be quantified and recorded.

5.4 Standard operating procedures and documentation shall be available for the following areas:

- separate acceptance and storage in the incoming produce department;
- separate processing of produce;
- measures to prevent contamination and carry-over in all areas (blenders, conveyor belts, storage depots, transport vehicles, etc.);
- separate flow of produce in the outgoing produce department, packing;
- charts showing the transport routes and means of transport from the factory to the customer, plus measures to prevent contamination and carry-over in this area.

5.5 A documentation of staff trainings for compliance with the above mentioned standard operating procedures shall be available.

5.6 A complete list of customers, indicating which customers have received which lots of animal feed/raw materials shall, be available and open for inspection by the certification body at any time.

5.7 Lot-based traceability shall be possible at any time by virtue of the company’s records.

A sample “as shipped” shall be kept for each production lot in the compound feed plant at least until the specified expiry date.

5.8 Routine PCR sampling in the outgoing produce department (sampling plan) shall be incorporated into the compound feed producer’s QM system, and include, at the least, the following information:

- responsible staff member(s) in the compound feed plant;
- standard operating procedure(s) for representative sampling;
- number of quarterly composite samples depending on the size and quantity of the produced animal feed lots in the outgoing produce department;
- preparation and storage of the retained sample of each lot;
- name of the laboratory commissioned.

5.9 A plan for sampling incoming critical raw materials for PCR testing shall be available.

5.10 A risk-based plan for sampling non-critical raw materials for PCR testing shall be available.

5.11 All available PCR test results shall be documented and open for inspection.

6 Outgoing produce, product labelling

6.1 The type and quantity of animal feed as well as their buyers shall be precisely documented in the outgoing produce department.

6.2 The produce itself (packaging) as well as outgoing invoices and delivery notes shall bear a mark stating "geeignet zur Herstellung gentechnikfreier Lebensmittel mit Europe Soya Auslobung"/"suitable for the production of GM-free food labelled as Europe Soya", such mark pointing out that the relevant animal feed is suitable for the production of animal products labelled as "fed with Europe Soya".

6.3 Single feed material (packaging) may be labelled as "Europe Soya" if this produce is entirely (100%) made up of Europe Soya soya or a processed Europe Soya soya product such as soya bean meal.

6.4 Compound feed (packaging) containing soya or a processed soya product such as soya bean meal may also be labelled as "Europe Soya" if 100% of the soya components is Europe Soya soya and all other compound feed components comply with the non-GM requirements.

7 Quantitative flow monitoring

7.1 Quantitative flow shall be monitored based on actual incoming produce and produce leaving for sale or production use. The certification body shall be entitled to request and inspect individual delivery notes and invoices. The quantities shall match with due regard to the formulations used and the lot records.

7.2 Not just the quantitative flow of non-GM produce, but the quantitative flow of Europe Soya as well shall be checked. These checks shall be performed as specified in paragraph 7.1. The quantities shall match with due regard to the formulations used.

8 PCR testing

8.1 PCR tests shall be performed in laboratories accredited in accordance with ISO standard 17025.

8.2 All available PCR test results shall be documented and open for inspection.

8.3 The results of PCR testing in accordance with the plant-specific sampling plan (see paragraph 5.8) for quarterly PCR tests shall be available.

8.4 The results of testing of incoming produce samples shall be available (see paragraph 5.9).

8.5 The results of testing of risk-based samples of non-critical raw materials shall be available (see paragraph 5.10).

8.6 If the PCR test detects the presence of GM content:
The contracted certification body shall be informed of the result, and the appropriate measures shall be taken depending on the GM content (lot identification, root cause analysis, marketing ban where applicable, etc.).

Comments on the marketing ban procedure in case of violations of GM thresholds:
In case of agricultural holdings and processors, composite samples shall be pooled.
If the PCR test result is less than 0.9 %, the individual retained samples shall be subjected to further testing, and the individual sample responsible for this result shall be identified. The compound feed producer concerned shall be informed, and the retained sample shall be tested.
If the PCR test result for the retained sample is greater than or equal to 0.9 %, the animal feed of the lot concerned shall be banned from being used for non-GM feeding immediately and withdrawn at the expense of the compound feed producer. The lot to be delivered next to the compound feed producer shall be sampled immediately.

8.7 If the sample of a compound feed producer has a GM content of 0.9 % or more twice in a half-year period (i.e. 6 months), the producer shall submit samples for PCR testing on a weekly basis. Weekly sample is to be understood as meaning a composite sample (from several non-GM products of a single compound feed producer).

9 General quality assurance

9.1 For reasons of general quality assurance, all compound feed producers shall, in the field of activity of "production of compound feed material" be obliged to participate in one of the following quality assurance programmes:

- AMA Pastus +;
- QS audit system of the animal feed industry;
- GMP +;
- FEMAS (Feed Materials Assurance Scheme);
- SFPS* (Swiss Feed Production Standard);
- QSGF Suisse* (quality assurance for cereals/animal feed);
- UFAS* (Universal Feed Assurance Scheme);
- EFISC (European Feed Ingredients Safety Certification);
- FCA (Feed Chain Alliance Standard); or
- another equivalent programme.

General note: Other equivalent programmes will be released as such by Donau Soja Association.
Note to *: The standard will be recognised if the following conditions are met: A quality control plan, consisting of samples from both incoming and outgoing produce, satisfies at least the requirements of the applicable analysis plan of the AMA-feedstuff monitoring Pastus+ (version 1 valid from January 2020; annex 1 to AMA-Feedstuff guideline pastus+ and pastus+ Regulation for Small Quantities) as far as the point "sampling frequencies as well as methodology and frequency of analyses" is concerned. Inspections are performed at least once every two years. A certificate of conformity (e.g. inspection report) is provided to Donau Soja Association and/or the Donau Soja certification body upon request.

10 Europe Soya contract compound feed producer

10.1 The compound feed producer and Donau Soja Organisation shall conclude the Europe Soya compound feed producer contract on the requirements to be met by the compound feed producer.

11 Directly commissioned inspections

11.1 The compound feed producer shall conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation, commissioning this body to undertake chargeable inspections.

11.2 The directly commissioned certification body shall take a composite sample of the Europe Soya soya from the entire company within the scope of their Europe Soya audit, and shall submit this sample for a PCR test.

11.3 Whenever possible, Europe Soya audits and certifications shall always be conducted together and in combination with non-GM inspections. If this is not possible, the Europe Soya audit shall be conducted at least once a year.

11.4 The certification body shall be obliged to observe secrecy towards third parties.

11.5 If the certified compound feed producer suspends or terminates their Europe Soya activity, Donau Soja Organisation may, at the expense of the compound feed producer, demand a final inspection by the directly commissioned certification body to verify all conformities from the last audit to the date of termination of the contract. The scope of the final inspection shall be reduced compared to a normal inspection, whereby the exact scope shall be determined by Donau Soja Organisation, if necessary after consultation with the directly commissioned certification body.

12 Supervisory inspections

12.1 The compound feed producer shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors. These bodies, or people, shall have been commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation and shall be obliged to observe secrecy towards third parties.

REQUIREMENTS 06a, Version 04

Agricultural Processor

Purpose	Specify the Europe Soya requirements to be met by agricultural processors (animal keepers).
Definition	Agricultural processor: Company or agricultural holding engaged in animal husbandry and feeding soya-containing single or compound feed to their animals (e.g. farms, where laying hens, fattening poultry, fattening pigs, beef cattle or dairy cattle are kept.) **Non-GM:** non-genetically modified **GM:** genetically modified **GMO:** genetically modified organism **Codex:** Guideline on the Definition of "GMO-Free Production" of Food and its Labelling (*Richtlinie zur Definition der "Gentechnikfreien Produktion" von Lebensmitteln und deren Kennzeichnung*) published in the Austrian Food Codex (Codex Alimentarius Austriacus)[1] in combination with its Guideline on the Risk-Based Monitoring of GMO-Free Production (*Leitfaden zur risikobasierten Kontrolle auf Gentechnikfreiheit*)[2] **VLOG:** German „Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik" (VLOG, www.ohnegentechnik.org) **Non-GM Danube Region Standard**[3]
Outline	
Status	Version 04: this version was released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Risk assessment

1.1 Presence of GM animal feed

The animal keeper shall be assigned an "animal keeper risk level" (= A-RL) based on the qualities of the soya delivered to the company and stored and fed to the animals there:

- A-RL 0: Europe Soya soya single or compound feed only;
- A-RL: 1: also other non-GM soya single or compound feed (non-GM is documented);

[1] 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: https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/lebensmittel/buch/codex/beschluesse/Gentechnikfrei_RL_15_1_2018.pdf?6fdsmn

[2] 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%20Gentechnikfreiheit_V03_20150304.pdf

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

- A-RL 2: also GM single or compound feed, but only in another farm activity (e.g. certified laying hen feed & conventional fattening pig feed), no GM feed or raw materials in the same facilities;
- A-RL 3: also GM single or compound feed in the same facilities, but only if appropriate measures to minimise the GMO contamination risk are taken.

2 Incoming produce with declaration

2.1 Soya-containing animal feed

The type and quantity of single or compound feed, premixtures, additives and (processing) aids purchased and used shall be consistently documented using appropriate accompanying shipping documents (delivery notes, invoices), including the complete and correct quality label "Europe Soya", and shall be open to inspection.

2.2 Animal feed

In compound feed (containing also non-soya components), 100 % of the soya components shall be Europe Soya soya. All feed components shall comply with the non-GM requirements (e.g. maize, rapeseed or premixtures).

A valid Europe Soya certificate from each supplying single or compound feed producer shall be open to inspection.

3 Documentation and record keeping

3.1 The number and density of livestock, along with the date of their entry and exit, shall be documented in a way that a plausibility check on the animal feed used (e.g. feed ration per day or per fattening period) can be done immediately and at any time.

3.2 A list of animal feed and suppliers as well as a list of customers shall be available and open to inspection.

3.3 Internal documentation of animal feed use shall enable a plausibility check to be made on the matching of the Europe Soya quantities used with the quantity of products produced therewith and with the number of livestock.

3.4 In case of home feed compounders and mobile blenders at the company: The use of compliant animal feed, premixtures, additives and (processing) aids shall be appropriately documented so that a plausibility check on the animal feed used can be done immediately and at any time.

3.5 Animal keepers utilising mobile blenders shall ensure that these blenders have been appropriately cleaned so that they are empty, clean and free of any GMO traces before they come into contact with Europe Soya products.

3.6 In case of direct marketers: The animal keeper shall conclude a Europe Soya Licence Contract with Donau Soja Organisation on the requirements to be met.

4 Outgoing produce, product labelling

4.1 The quality and quantity of Europe Soya produce as well as their buyers shall be precisely documented in the outgoing produce department.

4.2 The produce itself (packaging) as well as the accompanying shipping documents (delivery notes, invoices) shall bear a mark stating "fed with Europe Soya".

4.3 Minimum percentages of soya

The product name "fed with Europe Soya" may only be used if the following two criteria are met:

- In products that consist of soya, contain soya (components) or were produced using soya beans as animal feed (incl. soya components such as oil added to the animal feed), the total amount of soya has to be Europe Soya soya.

  Exemption: If the availability of individual soya components such as soya lecithin in sufficient quality cannot be ensured by at least two independent providers, other components certified as GM-free may be used on application and with the written consent of the Donau Soja Organisation.

- In the production of animal products, the entire feed ration shall have the following minimum percentages of soya:

Animal species	**Minimum percentage of soya**
Fattening pigs	5 %
Fattening poultry	10 %
Laying hens	5 %*
Beef cattle	250 g/animal/day
Dairy cows	100 g/animal/day**

* calculated over the entire laying period of a flock

If an egg packing station (working with several egg suppliers) wishes to label their products as "Europe Soya", they have to make sure that at least 80 % of the certified eggs come from laying hens being fed on the aforementioned minimum amount of soya.

** applicable for self-marketers of milk and milk products

If a dairy company (working with several milk suppliers) wishes to label their products as "Europe Soya", they have to make sure that at least 20 % of the milk comes from cows being fed on the aforementioned minimum amount of soya.

Lower minimum percentages of soya will be approved on a case-by-case basis on application and following examination by Donau Soja Organisation.

Home feed compounders shall comply with the required minimum percentage of soya in the feed ration (see table), and the total amount of soya has to be Europe Soya soya. Compliance with these requirements shall be demonstrated by formulations and mixing protocols.

4.4 Conversion periods

Once the conversion of a herd to GM-free feeding in accordance with the Austrian Food Codex, or the requirements of the German *EG-Gentechnik-Durchführungsgesetz* (EC Genetic Engineering Implementation Act), or the Non-GM Danube Region Standard is completed, the product may be marked with the product name "fed with Europe Soya" immediately after the feeding was converted to Europe Soya soya on farms where laying hens or dairy cows are kept and which are converted for the first time.

In all other cases, the same conversion periods as for the "GMO-free" labelling in the Austrian Food Codex Guideline, or in the German *EG-Gentechnik-Durchführungsgesetz* (EC Genetic Engineering Implementation Act), or in the Non-GM Danube Region Standard shall apply to Europe Soya product labelling until a product can be placed on the market.

4.5 In case of direct marketers: The animal keeper may label produce delivered to a customer (packaging) as "fed with Europe Soya" provided that all requirements are met.

5 Directly commissioned inspections

5.1 The animal keeper shall conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation, commissioning this body to undertake chargeable inspections at the following frequency:

- animal keepers of all risk levels: first inspection;
- animal keepers of risk levels 0 to 2 (A-RL 0–2): further inspections every two years;
- animal keepers of risk level 3 (A-RL 3): additional inspection once a year.

Whenever possible, Europe Soya audits and certifications shall always be conducted together and in combination with non-GM inspections.

5.2 Europe Soya certifications and inspections only relate to those animal species the products of which are designated as "fed with Europe Soya". Other production lines do not need to be subject to the scope of testing provided that there is no risk of Europe Soya soya being mixed with other soya qualities.

Please note: Home feed compounders purchasing soya bean meal, toasted soya beans or other soya components such as soya bean oil are to be considered as farmers. Home feed compounders processing own-harvested or purchased soya beans in a separate facility for the purpose of feeding the livestock on their own holdings, are primary processors according to the Europe Soya Guidelines (see Requirements R 04 for Soya Bean Primary Processors).

5.3 If the certified animal keeper suspends or terminates their Europe Soya activity, Donau Soja Organisation may, at the expense of the animal keeper, demand a final inspection by the directly commissioned certification body to verify all conformities from the last audit to the date of termination of the contract. The scope of the final inspection shall be reduced compared to a normal inspection, whereby the exact scope shall be determined by Donau Soja Organisation, if necessary after consultation with the directly commissioned certification body.

6 Supervisory inspections

6.1 The company shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation.

7 Group certification

7.1 Agricultural processors have the option of applying for a group certification under the conditions as set out in the Europe Soya "Requirements for Group Certifications".

REQUIREMENTS 06b, Version 03

Food Processor through Marketer

Purpose	Specify the requirements to be met by producers of processed food products and semi-finished products as well as by food producers, food marketers and distributors of labelled products (logo users).
Definition	Company processing animal products or processing soya and soya components for food use (soya bean primary processors acting as food producers—see Requirements R 04) This shall include, in particular, the following companies: - producers of processed food products/producers of semi-finished products (e.g. egg breaking plants, fresh egg processors, slaughterhouses)—products are not intended for the final consumer here; - food producers, food marketers (e.g. egg packing stations, dairies, cutting plants, butcher's shops and soya bean oil refineries or soya product producers, respectively, but also convenience food producers)—products are intended for the final consumer here; - distributors of labelled products (logo users). **GM:** genetically modified **Non-GM:** non-genetically modified
Outline	
Status	Version 03: released by the Board on 29 November 2023

1 Incoming produce

1.1 The type and quantity of raw materials and components purchased and used shall be consistently documented using appropriate accompanying shipping documents (delivery notes, invoices), including the complete and correct quality label "Europe Soya", and shall be open to inspection.

1.2 A valid Europe Soya certificate from each supplying Europe Soya supplier shall be open to inspection.

1.3 All soya components or all animal products that were produced using soya beans as animal feed shall comply with the Europe Soya requirements. In addition, all components shall comply with the non-GM requirements.

2 Processing, storage and packing

2.1 The certification body shall have access to and power of audit in all relevant areas of the processor's/marketer's premises.

2.2 Acceptance of produce, storage as well as the internal transportation of Europe Soya produce shall be segregated in either space or time from other produce not labelled as Europe Soya.

2.3 Use of equipment for processing Europe Soya produce shall be segregated in either space or time from other produce not labelled as Europe Soya.

2.4 Standard operating procedures for spatial or chronological segregation of the flows of produce shall be available on site, and compliance with these procedures shall be documented on site.

2.5 GM soya beans may not be processed or stored throughout the entire site.

3 Documentation and record keeping

3.1 All staff in the areas of incoming produce, storage, processing, packing, transportation and outgoing produce have been appropriately trained in complying with relevant standard operating procedures.

3.2 A description of the company as well as a site plan of the plant, an organisational chart and a product flow diagram shall be available.

3.3 A complete list of raw materials and suppliers shall be available.

3.4 All certification-relevant formulations and/or lot records shall be available for quantitative flow calculation.

3.5 A product range list of certified Europe Soya products is available.

3.6 A complete list of customers, indicating which customers have received which lots, shall be available at any time.

3.7 Not only incoming and outgoing produce, but also stocks and produce entering or leaving storage premises shall be quantified and recorded.

4 Outgoing produce, product labelling

4.1 The type and quantity of processed products as well as their buyers shall be precisely documented in the outgoing produce department.

4.2 The product name appearing on accompanying shipping documents (outgoing invoices or delivery notes) shall include "Europe Soya". In animal products, the product name shall include "fed with Europe Soya".

4.3 The brand "Europe Soya" or "fed with Europe Soya" may only be used if the following criteria are met:

- soya (components), products containing soya (components), and animal products that were produced using soya beans as animal feed component shall be of 100 % certified Europe Soya quality;

Exemption: If the availability of individual soya components such as soya lecithin in sufficient quality cannot be ensured by at least two independent providers, other components certified as GM-free may be used on application and with the written consent of the Donau Soja Organisation.

- animal-based raw materials (e.g. meat, eggs, milk, …) shall comply with the required minimum percentage of soya beans in the entire feed ration (see Requirement R 06a).

  If a dairy company (working with several milk suppliers) wishes to label their products as "Europe Soya", they have to make sure that at least 20 % of the milk comes from cows being fed on the minimum amount of soya (see Requirements R 06a).

5 Quantitative flow monitoring

5.1 Quantitative flow shall be monitored based on actual incoming produce and produce leaving for sale or production use. The certification body shall be entitled to request and inspect individual delivery notes and invoices. The quantities shall match with due regard to the formulations used and the lot records.

6 Europe Soya Contract

6.1 The company shall conclude a Europe Soya contract with Donau Soja Organisation on the requirements to be met.

7 Directly commissioned inspections

7.1 The company shall conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation, commissioning this body to undertake chargeable inspections to verify compliance with the Europe Soya Guidelines.

7.2 The Europe Soya audit shall be conducted at least once a year. Whenever possible, Europe Soya audits and certifications shall always be conducted together and in combination with non-GM inspections.

7.3 If the certified company suspends or terminates their Europe Soya activity, Donau Soja Organisation may, at the expense of the company demand a final inspection by the directly commissioned certification body to verify all conformities from the last audit to the date of termination of the contract. The scope of the final inspection shall be reduced compared to a normal inspection, whereby the exact scope shall be determined by Donau Soja Organisation, if necessary after consultation with the directly commissioned certification body.

8 Supervisory inspections

8.1 The company shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation.

REQUIREMENTS 07, Version 03

Transportation and Cleaning

Purpose	Specify the requirements to be met by all participants in the Europe Soya supply chain when transporting Europe Soya produce.
Definition	Transportation: transportation of Europe Soya produce (Europe Soya soya beans, Europe Soya soya products or products consisting of or containing Europe Soya soya beans) Carrier: company or agricultural holding transporting Europe Soya produce (e.g. ship and train loadings) Cleaning: removal of undesirable substances, particularly of genetically modified material
Outline	
Status	Version 03: released by the Board on 29 November 2023. Amended 27.07.2024

1 Transportation

1.1 When transporting Europe Soya soya beans, Europe Soya soya products and products containing or consisting of Europe Soya soya beans, particular care should be taken to ensure that no contamination with genetically modified produce, products of a different quality and/or other undesirable substances occurs.

1.2 The container used for the transport (trailer, truck, shipping container, etc.) as well as the facilities and equipment used for loading and unloading goods have to be empty, clean and dry before they come into contact with Europe Soya produce.

1.3 In case of vehicles or shipping containers which are not used exclusively for transporting Europe Soya produce, documentary proof of the last three substances transported prior to the current cargo (previous cargoes) needs to be obtained.

The supporting documents shall, at least, include the following points:

- name and signature of the driver;
- registration numbers of the vehicle and the trailer;
- nature of the cargo;
- date of transportation.

1.4 If any of the three previous cargoes jeopardises the GM-free status of the Europe Soya produce or jeopardises the food or feed safety, a certificate that the container or vehicle was appropriately cleaned after transportation needs to be provided.[1] The certificate of cleaning shall include the following points:

[1] E.g. raw materials, food and feed subject to GM labelling as a previous cargo, e.g. soya bean meal or maize

- name and signature of the person who did the cleaning;
- date and time (from … to …) of cleaning;
- cleaning measures;
- place of cleaning.

1.5 The carrier shall document all transportation of Europe Soya produce. The documentation shall include the following points:

- company commissioning the transportation, name and address;
- place of loading and unloading, company, address;
- quantity;
- corresponding lot / where applicable, traceability certificates.

1.6 If a transportation is carried out by the respective Europe Soya certified company itself, this company shall comply with all requirements concerning the transportation and shall document this compliance.

1.7 If a non Europe Soya certified company is commissioned to carry out the transportation, the Europe Soya certified company commissioning the transportation shall be responsible for compliance with all requirements concerning the transportation. The Europe Soya certified company commissioning the transportation shall monitor and document compliance with these requirements on their own. If this is not possible, this company has to document in writing that these tasks are assumed by the carrier.

1.8 If Europe Soya certified products are temporarily stored at transshipment terminals or port facilities operated by a non-Europe Soya certified company, the Europe Soya certified company commissioning the transportation shall ensure that no contamination and/or mixing of Europe Soya soya with soya of other qualities occurs during storage and that the corresponding Europe Soya Subcontracting Agreement is signed. Inspections of transshipment terminals and port facilities shall be conducted by a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation.

1.9. If Europe Soya certified products are loaded directly onto a ship at transshipment terminals or port facilities, operated by a non Europe Soya certified company, a retained sample of each hold/container in the ship shall be taken by a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation; this sample shall be stored for at least one year safely and without influencing its quality, ensuring traceability.

2 Cleaning

2.1 All facilities (gutters, elevators, drying sections, etc.), equipment (tools, excavators, trucks, etc.) and deposits (silos, warehouses, storage depots, etc.) coming into direct or indirect contact with Europe Soya produce have to be appropriately cleaned before contact if the risk of contamination of Europe Soya produce cannot otherwise be excluded.

2.2 Cleaning shall be documented in writing. The documentation shall include the following points:

- name and signature of the person who did the cleaning;
- date and time (from … to …) of cleaning;

- cleaning measures;
- reason for cleaning.

2.3 The cleaning measures shall be adjusted in such a way that no contamination with genetically modified produce, products of a different quality, substances impairing the food or feed safety and/or other undesirable substances occurs (e.g. wet cleaning of equipment, flushing batches, etc.).

3 Directly commissioned inspections

3.1 Compliance with the requirements concerning the transportation of Europe Soya produce and cleaning shall be verified as part of the directly commissioned inspections at all stages of the supply chain.

4 Supervisory inspections

4.1 The company or carrier shall accept supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation.

4.2 If a non Europe Soya certified company is commissioned to carry out the transportation, a written confirmation that the carrier accepts supervisory inspections (risk-based sampling) by inspection bodies or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation shall be provided to the company commissioning the transportation.

REQUIREMENTS 08, Version 05

Certification Body

Purpose	Specify the requirements to be met by certification bodies recognised by Donau Soja Organisation.
Definition	Certification body: independent, accredited inspection company verifying compliance with requirements by the participating operations
Outline	
Status	Version 05: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Contract

1.1 The certification body and Donau Soja Organisation shall conclude the Donau Soja certification body contract. This contract shall authorise the certification body to offer and carry out inspections and certifications as a recognised Donau Soja certification body.

1.2 A recognised Donau Soja certification body shall be authorised to offer and carry out also Europe Soya inspections and certifications.

2 Inspectors

2.1 The certification body shall only employ inspectors who have sector-specific audit experience as well as the following qualification:

- initial one-day training on the following topics: GM-free status, requirements for Europe Soya operations and sampling;
- annual refresher course;
- annual minimum number and minimum duration of inspections carried out (to be determined by the certification body).

3 Implementation of inspections, certification and first inspection

3.1 The inspectors shall carry out inspections on the basis of the advance information received (applications; reports of previous inspections where applicable) and in accordance with the following requirements. They shall:

- actively inspect all relevant areas of the site of business;
- inspect the operating equipment, operational processes and operations documentation;
- challenge facts;
- check the plausibility of details given relating to areas under crops, seeds and quantities delivered.

3.2 The inspectors shall check all points defined in the requirements documents and the checklist for the relevant type of operation, at the frequency specified for each type of operation and risk level.

3.3 The inspectors shall summarise all information including annexes (plans, process descriptions, organisational chart, etc.) in a description of the company. This information shall be completed with evidence (copies of delivery notes, analysis reports, etc.) and the inspectors' own records (particularly the completed checklist). Documentation describing the company shall, in any case, also be drawn up in the English or German language.[1]

3.4 During the first inspection, the certification bodies shall check for the first time whether the company inspected has been categorised at the correct risk level. The frequency of further inspections of the company depends on the result of this check. When an inspection certificate is issued for the first time for a primary processor, a compound feed producer or a licensee, this certificate shall be submitted to the certified company only upon confirmation by Donau Soja Organisation to the certification body that a valid contract with the company concerned exists.

3.5 If a Europe Soya certified company suspends or terminates their Europe Soya activity, Donau Soja Organisation may demand a final inspection at the expense of the certified company.

3.6 The inspectors shall take a sample of Europe Soya soya beans or Europe Soya soya products and shall submit this sample to an analysis as defined in the respective paragraph "Directly Commissioned Inspections" in Requirements 01-06b.

4 Lot-/Traceability Certification[2]

4.1 The certification body shall accept harvest declarations from contracted primary agricultural collectors, and document the quantities declared in the Donau Soja internet portal.

4.2 The certification body shall accept requests for lot certificates (LOT) or certificates of traceability (COT) from contracted agricultural collectors, primary collectors, traders or primary processors, and create lot/traceability certificates via the Donau Soja internet

[1] "Documentation describing the company" is to be understood as meaning those documents the certification body absolutely needs in order to be able to evaluate the company's conformity with the requirements of the Europe Soya Guidelines. These shall include at least the following documents provided that they are applicable to the respective type of operation: company description form, standard operating procedures to prevent GM contamination (acceptance, storage, processing, transportation, cleaning, carry-over risks), sampling plans, organisational chart.

[2] The use of traceability certificates is optional.

portal after a successful plausibility check. Within two working days the certification body shall issue lot/traceability certificates in form of signed PDF documents to the company (with a copy to Donau Soja Organisation), which shall include the following information:

- name, postal and e-mail address of the seller;
- name, postal and e-mail address of the buyer;
- code of the certification body;
- code of the lot/traceability certificate;
- quantity of the soya bean lot/product unit certified as Europe Soya;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes);
- where applicable, reference number of the due diligence statement associated to the product according to regulation (EU) 2023/1115;
- "Europe Soya" logo.

4.3 The certification body shall accept quantity amendment notifications from contracted agricultural collectors and primary collectors, and update the Europe Soya soya bean stock in the Donau Soja internet portal. The Europe Soya soya bean stock of all agricultural collectors and primary collectors shall be set to 0 (zero) in the internet portal by 1 September of the current calendar year, unless carry-overs were reported within the scope of quantity amendment notifications documented by the certification body in the internet portal.

4.4 Certification bodies shall be obliged to use the Donau Soja internet portal for the documentation of harvest declarations, quantity amendment notifications and for issuing lot/traceability certificates.

5 Remedial Measures

5.1 In case of non-compliance with any requirement, the inspectors shall determine remedial measures in accordance with the document "Catalogue of Remedial Measures" during their inspections. Each non-compliance issue registered shall be documented by objective evidence (copies of documents, photos, etc.).

5.2 If the certification body imposes a level 3 remedial measure, they shall inform Donau Soja Organisation immediately and in writing. Donau Soja Organisation shall be allowed to accompany re-inspections; the re-inspection result shall also be communicated to Donau Soja Organisation in writing.

5.3 If the certification body imposes a level 4 remedial measure, they shall inform Donau Soja Organisation immediately and in writing. Donau Soja Organisation shall also be notified in writing of the result of a necessary re-inspection.

5.4 Before imposing a level 5 remedial measure, the certification body shall inform Donau Soja Organisation in writing of the measure they intend to take and give reasons for their decision to take this measure. A level 5 remedial measure can only be applied if a level 4 remedial measure was imposed before.

6 Inspection reports

6.1 The inspectors shall summarise the inspection results in inspection reports, which shall include, at the least, the following information about the company inspected:

- current master data including the address of the audited company;
- Audited scopes (abbreviations according to selection in the applied checklist);
- risk categorisation;
- non-compliance with the stated requirements (with a reference to the requirements' numerical code, the extent of non-compliance and explanatory notes on this information where applicable).

6.2 The inspectors shall hand over to the representative of the company inspected a copy of the inspection report, and obtain an acknowledgement of receipt for this copy.

6.3 The certification body shall send both inspection reports and original checklists as well as other documentation gathered and relevant to inspection to Donau Soja Organisation when requested to do so by the latter.

7 Testing of samples and measures to prevent GM contamination

7.1 For laboratory testing for the presence of GM residues, the certification body shall only employ laboratories accredited for this test procedure in accordance with ISO standard 17025.

7.2 If the **certification body** of a **primary processor** is notified of positive PCR test results for GM **soya**:

The certification body shall inform the certification body commissioned by the agricultural collector concerned, and send the relevant lot certificate as well as the test findings to this certification body.

7.3 If the **certification body** of a **primary processor** is notified of positive PCR test results for GM **maize**:

The certification body shall conduct a root cause analysis in order to determine whether the contamination occurred accidentally and/or was technically unavoidable. If the contamination did not occur accidentally or was technically avoidable, a warning with a corresponding corrective action shall be issued.

The certification body of the primary processor is responsible for calling in also the certification body of the agricultural collector concerned.

In case of repeated non-accidental or technically avoidable GM contamination, the marketing of the produce as Europe Soya shall be banned until such time as the cause of such contamination has been rectified and the corrective actions have been completely implemented (level 4 remedial measure).

In case of positive PCR results showing GM contents of 0.9 % or more, the primary processor shall remove the lot concerned from the flow of produce and shall not market this lot as Europe Soya (level 4 remedial measure).

7.4 If the **certification body** of an **agricultural collector** is notified of positive PCR test results showing GM contents of less than 0.9 %:

The certification body shall immediately inspect the agricultural soya bean collector concerned on site, identify and secure during this inspection the retained samples concerned, conduct a root cause analysis of the GM contamination and send the analysis document to Donau Soja Organisation, along with a report on the measures taken. The main purpose of the root cause analysis is to determine whether the GM contamination occurred accidentally and/or was technically unavoidable. If the contamination did not occur accidentally or was technically avoidable, a warning with a corresponding corrective action shall be issued. In case of repeated non-accidental or technically avoidable GM contamination, the marketing of the produce as Europe Soya shall be banned until such time as the cause of such contamination has been rectified and the corrective actions have been completely implemented (level 4 remedial measure).

7.5 If the **certification body** of an **agricultural collector** is notified repeatedly of positive PCR test results showing GM contents of less than 0.9 %, or is notified once of a positive PCR test result showing a GM content of 0,9 % or more:

The certification body shall stipulate, in any case and on reasonable notice, that the agricultural collector should separate GM and non-GM produce 100 %, both physically and technically, as a corrective action. The agricultural collector shall remove produce with a GM content of over 0.9 % from the product pipeline and shall not market this produce as Europe Soya (remedial measure 4).

8 Data forwarding, reporting

8.1 The certification body shall inform Donau Soja Organisation at least annually (until 31 January of the following year) about the inspection results, providing, at the least, the following data:

- number of inspections conducted for each type of operation;
- number of remedial measures imposed for each type of operation.

8.2 Certification bodies shall be obliged to use the Donau Soja internet portal for submitting the following information:

- registration of new companies including contact details and company type (as soon as the inspection contract is signed);
- summary inspection reports;
- inspection certifications;
- harvest declarations and quantity amendment notifications;
- lot/traceability certificates.

8.3 Certification bodies shall submit the following details to Donau Soja Organisation no later than one month after the audit has taken place via the Donau Soja internet portal as summary inspection report:

- general information about the company and the type of operation;
- risk level of the company and the country;
- type of audit;
- non-compliance issues identified with corresponding remedial measures and corrective actions.

8.4 The conclusion of new Europe Soya inspection contracts as well as the termination of existing Europe Soya inspection contracts shall be reported immediately and directly to Donau Soja Organisation.

9 Quality management, inspections

9.1 The certification body shall accept external supervisory inspections by an inspection body or inspectors commissioned by Donau Soja Organisation. During these inspections, the certification body shall provide insights into the records kept and databases created, and hand over reports generated from this material when requested to do so.

9.2 The certification body shall be in possession of a valid accreditation as a certification body in accordance with standard ISO/IEC 17065:2012 in the agriculture and food sector. Certification bodies working in Austria shall also be authorised for the GM-free scope in accordance with the Austrian Food Codex (Codex Alimentarius Austriacus), and shall be recognised by the Austrian ARGE Gentechnik-frei (Platform for GMO-Free Food Products).

10 Information sharing in case of substantial deficiencies or non-compliance with legal requirements

10.1 If a certification body learns of any breach of legislation or other deficiencies relevant for Donau Soja Organisation at the site of business of a participant in the Europe Soya system within the scope of audits (for another standard holder), Donau Soja Organisation shall be informed immediately and in writing.

11 Inspection certificate

11.1 Minimum requirements for the information contained in a Europe Soya certificate:

- name and address of the company;
- name, address and Donau Soja code of the certification body;
- activity of the operation according to the definitions in the respective Europe Soya Requirements (agricultural soya bean collector, primary collector, soya trader, primary processor, compound feed producer, etc.);
- certified products;
- reference to the Europe Soya Guidelines;
- period of validity– certificates are valid for 1 or 2 years, depending on the risk-based inspection frequency (Annex 4);
- date of inspection;
- Europe Soya logo;

11.2 <u>If the certification body issues a Europe Soya certificate with an annex (see Requirements for Group Certifications, paragraphs 1 and 2):</u>

The annex shall include the following information on other companies participating in the certification:

- name and address of the company;

- activity of the operation according to the definitions in the respective Europe Soya Requirements (soya bean farmer, agricultural soya bean collector, primary collector, agricultural processor, etc.).

11.3 The certification body shall submit inspection certifications to Donau Soja Organisation within one week after they have been issued via the Donau Soja internet portal. When an inspection certificate is issued for the first time for a primary processor, a compound feed producer or a licensee, this certificate shall be submitted to the certified company only upon confirmation by Donau Soja Organisation to the certification body that a valid contract with the company concerned exists.

Version 03

Requirements for the traceability system

Purpose	A summarised presentation of the Europe Soya traceability system, starting from the harvest declaration to the certification of unprocessed soya beans (=lot certification) from the primary agricultural collector to the primary processor as well as of processed soya products (=traceability certification) from the primary processor to the marketer.
Definition	Traceability system: the purpose of the Europe Soya traceability system is to continuously transmit relevant information on the origin of products in the supply chain. Harvest declaration: the purpose of the harvest declaration is to provide harvest information to the certification body and Donau Soja Organisation. Lot certification: the purpose of the Europe Soya lot certification system is to ensure the traceability of unprocessed Europe Soya certified soya beans. Lot-based certification covers the stages from the primary agricultural collector to the primary processor. Traceability certification: the purpose of the Europe Soya traceability certification system is to ensure the traceability of processed Europe Soya certified soya products. Traceability certification covers the stages from the primary processor to the marketer on a voluntary basis.
Outline	
Status	Version 03: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Traceability of soya bean production

1.1 Harvest declarations are submitted by the primary collector to both their contracted certification body and Donau Soja Organisation after harvest (see R02, 3.2).

1.2 Harvest declarations are the starting point of the traceability system and include the following information:

- name, postal and e-mail addresses of the primary collector;
- name, postal and e-mail addresses of the delivering Europe Soya soya bean farmers;
- stock of Europe Soya soya beans;
- stock of soya bean qualities other than Europe Soya;
- harvest year;
- date of incoming deliveries and delivery volume of Europe Soya soya bean farmers.
- country of origin and, where relevant, parts thereof;

- geolocation of all plots of land on which the crop was produced[1]; or
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.

2 Traceability of unprocessed soya beans (=lot certification)

2.1 A lot certificate is needed only for trading in unprocessed soya beans.

2.2 The following operations shall be in possession of Europe Soya lot certificates for trading in unprocessed Europe Soya soya beans:

- soya bean farmers (producers) acting as primary collectors by selling Europe Soya soya beans directly to a trader (as defined in Requirements R 02, paragraph 10.2);
- agricultural collectors / primary collectors (as defined in Requirements R 02);
- traders (as defined in Requirements R 03); and
- primary processors (as defined in Requirements R 04).

3 Traceability of processed soya products (=traceability certification)

3.1 A traceability certificate for placing on the market and trading in processed Europe Soya certified soya products shall be optional.

4 Selling Europe Soya soya beans and products using certificates

4.1 The seller shall send lot/traceability certificate requests to their certification body. Each request shall include the following information:

- name and contact information of the buyer;
- where applicable, codes of the lot/traceability certificates related to the quantity of Europe Soya soya to be sold;
- type, trade name and quantity of the soya bean/product to be sold as Europe Soya soya or to be delivered to the buyer;
- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes); and
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.

4.2 The seller shall accept as response from their certification body the lot/traceability certificate in the form of a signed PDF document. The lot/traceability certificate shall include the following information:

- name, postal and e-mail address of the seller;
- name, postal and e-mail address of the buyer;
- code of the certification body;
- code of the lot/traceability certificate;
- quantity of the soya bean lot/product unit certified as Europe Soya;

[1] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026.

- harvest year;
- reference number of accompanying documents (e.g. contracts, delivery notes);
- where applicable, reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115;
- "Europe Soya" logo.

Additionally, data on the geolocation of the plots of land on which the soya beans were produced can be provided on request.[2]

4.3 The maximum quantity of Europe Soya soya beans or products comprised by a lot/unit is the quantity stipulated in the supply contract.

4.4 The seller shall send the lot/traceability certificates to the buyer of the corresponding lots/units.

5 Purchasing Europe Soya soya using lot / traceability certificates

5.1 Agricultural collectors, traders and primary processors may only buy Europe Soya soya beans if a lot certificate in the form of a signed document is handed over to them for the corresponding lot or the corresponding contract. This lot certificate shall include the information specified in paragraph 4.2.

5.2 Obtaining a traceability certificate for purchasing, storage, processing and trading of processed Europe Soya soy products is optional.

6 Quantity amendment notification

6.1 If quantities delivered to a buyer deviate from the contracted delivery quantities, the company shall send a quantity amendment notification to their certification body, specifying the reason for the notification. The certification body shall then issue the amended lot/traceability certificate to the seller. The seller shall then forward the amended lot/traceability certificate to the buyer.

[2] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026.

Version 04

Requirements for Group Certifications

Purpose	Specify the requirements for group certifications for agricultural processors, agricultural and primary collectors as well as soya bean farmers (producers).
Outline	
Status	Version 04: released by the Board on 29 November 2023

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

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

- project companies/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 companies 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 VLOG[1]/Austrian Food Codex[2]/Non-GM Danube Region Standard[3]);
- all project companies/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 companies participating in the certification (suppliers) are either listed in the annex to the certificate belonging to the project operator or receive their own certificate indicating the project operator and issued by the directly commissioned certification body.

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

[1] German „Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik" (VLOG, http://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: http://www.verbrauchergesundheit.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.bmwfw.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

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

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

- one of the companies 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;
- a detailed project description is presented, which includes at least the following elements:
  - project companies/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 companies 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;
- the aforementioned 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 Donau Soja Organisation anytime on request;
- all companies 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 indicating the company mainly responsible for the group certification/group manager and issued by the directly commissioned certification body.

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

3 Group certification for soya bean farmers (producers) (as defined in R 01a and R 02)

Soya bean farmers located in production areas of risk levels 0–2 (F-RL 0, F-RL 1 or F-RL 2) and delivering to a Europe Soya primary collector can participate in a group certification under the direction of this primary collector. The following conditions shall be met for a group certification of soya bean farmers:

- the primary collector is mainly responsible for the group certification and acts as the group manager; this company is responsible for the soya bean farmers (group members) delivering to this collector and has a complete list of all farmers participating in the group certification (group members) at its disposal; in case of group certifications of primary collectors (see paragraph 2), the group manager assumes such responsibility for the entire group;
- the inspection frequency for the primary collector is based on the risk assessment as specified in the Requirements 02, paragraph 1.1, and in Annex 04, paragraph 2;
- the list of farmers is submitted by the primary collector (group manager) to the certification body and to Donau Soja Organisation by 30 November each year;
- the primary collector (group manager) operates a functional internal quality management (QM) system for the group, according to the Requirements R 02, paragraph 7;
- the primary collector (group manager) informs the soya bean farmers (group members) delivering to this collector regularly and proactively about the applicable Europe Soya requirements (see R01a and R01b).

Risk assessment and external inspections

- The inspection frequency for soya bean farmers (producers) shall be risk-based; the risk classification shall be based on the risk assessment for farmers (see Annex 04, paragraph 1), resulting in the following inspection frequency for farmers (group members) in the scope of group certification:
  - F-RL 0: inspection required every 3 years,
  - F-RL 1: inspection required every 2 years,
  - F-RL 2: annual inspection required;
- the sample size for the inspection of farmers (group members) by an external certification body shall be determined by the total quantity of Europe Soya 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;

- If the quantity of certified soya beans per farmer is less than 35 tonnes on average (taking into account the total quantity of Europe Soya soya beans delivered to the primary collector divided by the total number of Europe Soya soya bean farmers): the sample size for the inspection of farmers (group members) by an external certification body shall be divided by three.
- If the soya bean farmer (group member) delivers less than 3 tonnes of soya beans to the primary collector in a crop year: these small farmers shall not be included in the sample size calculation for the inspection of farmers (group members). These farmers can be inspected according to the regular inspection frequency.
- in the case of a group certification of primary collectors, the total quantity of Europe Soya beans collected by the entire group can be used as a baseline for determining the sample size;
- a minimum of *one* farmer (group member) per certification period (depending on the F-RL of the farmers) and per primary collector or group of primary collectors shall be inspected;
- the external inspector shall select the farmer(s) (group members) to be inspected in a given year/certification period. In this context, the following aspects shall be taken into account:
  - farmers (group members) who have not been inspected in the previous year(s) shall be given priority for being inspected, unless a significant non-compliance issue was identified during a previous inspection,
  - farmers (group members) selected for inspection, shall be as representative as possible of the farmers in the whole group in terms of size and location;
- the inspection results are submitted to Donau Soja Organisation anytime on request;
- all farmers inspected throughout one year shall be listed in the summary inspection report of the primary collector, including the following information:
  - name and address of the farmer (group member),
  - production area risk level (F-RL),
  - non-compliance issues identified, together with the corresponding remedial measure levels and corrective actions;
- for each farmer inspected who has one or more non-compliance issues greater than or equal to remedial measure level 3, one additional farmer shall be inspected;
- the group certification of farmers shall be an integral part of the inspection contract between the primary collector and a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation; the farmers (group members) themselves shall not be obliged to be listed in this contract or to conclude an inspection contract with a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation;
- the farmers (group members) shall not be listed on the certificate of the primary collector (group manager), nor shall they receive their own certificates.

Version 07

Declaration of Self-Commitment – Farmers for the Cultivation of Europe Soya soya

Purpose	Declaration of self-commitment for all Europe Soya soya bean farmers (producers).
Definition	Requirement for declarations of self-commitment to be signed by all farmers, deposited/handed over by the farmers at the agricultural collector in their original version and with a copy retained by the farmers Requirement to be translated into the languages of all Europe Soya countries and made available in different versions for: • Farmers of risk levels 0 to 2; and • Farmers of risk level 3.
Outline	
Status	Version 07: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

The farmer undertakes, on behalf of their holding:

1 To comply with the Europe Soya Principles of Soya Bean Cultivation

For the farmer, this means, above all, that they …:

- … shall conduct business with integrity, respecting applicable laws and avoiding all forms of bribery, conflicts of business interest and fraudulent practices;
- … shall grow soya beans within the Europe Soya region;
- use of soya bean varieties[1]:
  in EU countries: … shall only grow GM-free soya bean varieties listed in the national or EU common catalogue of plant varieties,
  in non-EU countries: … shall only grow GM-free soya bean varieties listed in the respective national catalogue of plant varieties;
- … shall not grow any other GM crop (e.g. GM maize);
- … shall not have grown any other GM crop in the previous year;
- … shall not have grown GM soya beans within the last three years;
- … shall document all quantities of soya beans, both grown and harvested, by keeping their own records;
- plant protection products:

[1] Note: The applicable legal requirements concerning the multiplication of seeds (plant variety protection laws) must be observed and complied with;

in EU countries: … shall only use plant protection products that have been approved for soya bean cultivation in the respective country,
in non-EU countries: … shall only use plant protection products that have been approved for soya bean cultivation in the respective country and contain only active substances that have been approved in the EU,
[providing a reference to the source of information in the respective national language indicating clearly which plant protection products are approved and contain only active substances that are approved in the EU];
in all countries:

- ✓ plant protection products shall be applied using methods that minimise harm to humans and the environment;
- ✓ Integrated Crop Management techniques shall be applied to minimise negative impacts of phytosanitary products;
- ✓ a plan for Integrated Crop Management shall be made and implemented;
- ✓ … shall document the application of plant protection products, fertilizers and fuel use;
- ✓ … shall not use any desiccants prior to harvest (e.g. glyphosate or diquat);
- ✓ … shall not use plant protection products listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions;
- ✓ … shall not use plant protection products whose active substances have been assessed as Class 1a or 1b in the WHO (World Health Organization) Classification of Pesticides by Hazard[2] (e.g. tefluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin or zinc phosphide);
- ✓ there is no application of pesticides within 30 meters (or more if stated in national laws)[3] of any populated area or water body and all necessary precautions are taken to avoid people entering into recently sprayed areas;
- ✓ aerial application of pesticides is not allowed;
- ✓ good agricultural practices shall be implemented;
- ✓ … shall have knowledge of techniques to maintain and control soil quality as well as to prevent soil erosion and the relevant techniques are implemented;

- … shall follow the recommendations contained in the Donau Soja Best Practice Manual, including the recommendations for the use of plant protection products[4];
- in EU countries: … shall participate in the implementation of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) with mandatory conditionality inspections[5];
- … shall submit as an annex to this Declaration a complete list of all plots of land on which the soya beans were produced (including their geolocation);[6]

[2] The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard, World Health Organization (2004): Available at https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/

[3] In case the minimum distance cannot be kept, a justification shall be provided per e-Mail and approved by Donau Soja Organisation (quality@donausoja.org).

[4] An updated version of the Best Practice Manual is available at the Donau Soja website: www.donausoja.org/en/downloads

[5] Does not apply to farmers growing soya beans on less than 1 hectare of land.

[6] For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026. As an alternative to field data, the reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 shall also be accepted as evidence.

- … shall respect nature reserves;
- … shall only use land dedicated to agricultural use no later than 2008;
- … shall comply with both national and international labour and social standards (ILO conventions[7]);
- in case of permanent or temporary workers:
  overtime is always voluntary and should be paid in accordance to local and national laws or sector agreements;
  deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are not made, unless legally permitted. Wages paid are recorded by the employer;
- in areas with traditional land users: where rights have been relinquished by traditional land users there is documented evidence that the affected communities are compensated subject to their free, prior, informed and documented consent;
- communication with local communities: there are communication channels (written sign or website with the following information: email, cell-phone, mailbox) that adequately enable communication between the farmer and the community. The communication channels have been made known to the local communities.

2 Acceptance of supervisory inspections

The farmer accepts risk-based sampling within the scope of Donau Soja Organisation's supervisory inspections.

3 Provisions concerning farmers categorised at risk level 0-2

Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply to all Europe Soya farmers.

Farmers categorised in a production area of **risk level 0-2** (F-RL 0, F-RL 1 or F-RL 2) agree to be subject to risk-based inspections by the certification body of the primary collector within the framework of the Europe Soya farmer group certification.

4 Provisions concerning farmers categorised at risk level 3

Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply to all Europe Soya farmers.

Farmers categorised in a production area of risk level 3 (F-RL 3) shall notify Donau Soja Organisation that they cultivate Europe Soya soya:

Farmers located in a production area of **risk level 3** (F-RL 3) (where the cultivation of GM soya beans is allowed) shall notify Donau Soja Organisation by e-mail that they cultivate Europe Soya soya by 30 July of the current harvest year (quality@donausoja.org) and document the use of original seeds (invoices). Alternatively, the farmer can be registered by their primary collector (also by 30 July of the current harvest year). In addition to the supervisory inspections of the farmer by or on behalf of Donau Soja Organisation, the farmer shall be obliged to have their holding inspected externally before the first Europe Soya harvest, so that they are able to present a valid certificate to the agricultural collector when delivering the harvest. This external inspection shall be repeated annually.

[7] **Annex** with ILO conventions

Version 01

Catalogue of Remedial Measures

Purpose	Specify appropriate remedial measures for Europe Soya system partners.
Definition	Remedial measure = measure to be taken when any Europe Soya system partner does not comply with any of the requirements
Outline	
Status	Version 01: released by the Board on 16 September 2015

1 Remedial measure level 1: reprimand

1.1 A level 1 remedial measure is imposed for minor non-compliance issues occurring for the first time and having no impact on product quality.

1.2 An immediate correction of deficiencies is required at this remedial measure level.

2 Remedial measure level 2: enhanced record-keeping and notification requirements

2.1 A level 2 remedial measure is imposed for repeated minor non-compliance issues.

2.2 Enhanced documentation requirements within a given period are required at this remedial measure level: improved record-keeping with regard to the accountability of compliance with the specifications and submitting relevant missing documentation to the certification body.

3 Remedial measure level 3: chargeable re-inspection

3.1 A chargeable re-inspection by the certification body is required at this remedial measure level.

3.2 Chargeable re-inspections are imposed for all (repeated) infringements covered by points 1 and 2 – particularly when it is necessary to verify whether a deficiency was corrected in time.

3.3 Furthermore, a level 3 remedial measure is imposed for major non-compliance issues which, however, do not yet entail a marketing ban.

3.4 If the certification body imposes a level 3 remedial measure, they shall inform Donau Soja Organisation immediately and in writing. Donau Soja Organisation shall also be notified in writing of the re-inspection result.

4 Remedial measure level 4: exclusion of produce/lots concerned from marketing

4.1 The exclusion of the lots concerned from being marketed as "Europe Soya" is required at this remedial measure level.

4.2 A level 4 remedial measure is imposed immediately for very serious non-compliance issues, or if a chargeable re-inspection within the scope of a level 3 remedial measure has a negative result.

4.3 If the certification body imposes a level 4 remedial measure, they shall inform Donau Soja Organisation immediately and in writing. Donau Soja Organisation shall also be notified in writing of the result of a necessary re-inspection.

5 Remedial measure level 5: termination of contract where applicable and exclusion from marketing

5.1 A level 5 remedial measure is imposed for very serious non-compliance issues showing that the necessary requirements cannot be met in a sustained manner.

5.2 Before imposing a level 5 remedial measure, the certification body shall inform Donau Soja Organisation in writing of the measure they intend to take and give reasons for their decision to take this measure. A level 5 remedial measure can only be applied if a level 4 remedial measure was imposed before.

5.3 In case of primary processors, compound feed producers and marketers/distributors of Europe Soya products (consisting of Europe Soya, containing Europe Soya, or having been produced as animal feed using Europe Soya, and labelled as such), the termination of the contract with Donau Soja Organisation, as well as the exclusion of the produce from being marketed under the product name "Europe Soya" or "fed with Europe Soya" are required at this remedial measure level. All partners who have a contract with Donau Soja Organisation shall be notified immediately of the imposition of such remedial measure.

5.4 In case of farmers, agricultural collectors, traders and other operations producing and/or processing soya designated as "Europe Soya" AND not having a direct contract with Donau Soja Organisation, a permanent marketing ban for Europe Soya shall be imposed on the operation concerned following the notification of Donau Soja Organisation by the certification body. All partners who have a contract with Donau Soja Organisation shall be notified immediately of the imposition of such remedial measure.

6 Non-compliance issues and remedial measures

6.1 In case of non-compliance with any requirement, the inspectors shall determine remedial measures in accordance with the present document "Catalogue of Remedial Measures" during their inspections.

6.2 Each non-compliance issue registered shall be documented by objective evidence (copies of documents, photos, etc.). The inspectors shall determine a deadline to solve the non-conformities, which shall not exceed twelve months.

6.3 If the non-compliance issues identified entail a level 3 or level 4 remedial measure, Donau Soja Organisation shall be informed immediately. In case of a level 5 remedial measure, Donau Soja Organisation shall be informed before imposing the remedial measure.

6.4 In case of serious non-compliance issues the Europe Soya catalogue of penalties shall be applied.

ANNEX 01, Version 03

Applicable legislation and international conventions

The purpose of this annex is to clarify and specify the obligation for legal compliance and compliance with international conventions. It provides an overview of applicable international conventions, provisions of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and other applicable provisions of European Union legislation.

International Conventions

Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) No. 87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 No. 98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 No. 29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930 No. 105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 No. 138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973 No. 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 No. 100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 No. 111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 No. 129 Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 No. 169 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 No. 184 Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184) No. 155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 Code of practice on safety and health in agriculture
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Art. 28
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Annex III
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

EU Legislation

The following list gives an overview of the most important directives and regulations of the European Union to be complied with.

Social and Labour Regulations

Treaty on the Functioning of the EU
2000/C 364/01 Charter of fundamental rights of the EU, Art. 14,
European Convention on Human Rights
Directive 89/391/EEC, on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers.
Directive 89/654/EEC, concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace
Directive 89/655/EEC and Directive 89/656/EEC on Personal Protective Equipment for workers.
Directive 2001/45/EC, concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work
Directive 92/58/EEC, on the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and / or health signs at work
Directive 2003/88/EC (Working Time Directive)

Directive 94/33/EC, on the Protection of Young People at Work
Council Directive 2000/78/EC, on establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation
Directive 2006/54/EC, on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation
Directive 2011/36/EU, on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.
Directive 91/533/EEC, on an employer's obligation to inform employees of the conditions applicable to the contract or employment relationship.

Food Safety

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, on the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety
Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, on the Hygiene of Food-stuffs
Regulation (EC) 2009/41 (GMO Contained Use in Experiments)
Regulation (EC) 2001/18 (Introduction of GMOs)
Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 (Food and Feed)
Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 (Traceability and Labeling)

Environment

Directive 92/43/EC (Habitat Directive).
Directive 2009/147/EC (Wild Birds)
Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 (Deforestation)
Decision 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the council, on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet
Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 (Prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species)
Council Directive 2000/29/EC (Protection against the introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plants or plant products)
Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.
Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive)
Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive)
Council Directive 80/68/EEC (Protection of Groundwater against pollution with Dangerous Substances)
Directive 2006/118/EC (Groundwater Directive)
Council Directive 91/676/EEC (Nitrate Directive)
Regulation (EG) Nr. 2003/2003 (Approved Fertilizers)
Council Directive 86/278/EEC (Sewage Sludge Directive)
Directive 2009/128/EC, on sustainable Use of Pesticides
Regulation (EC) 1107/2009, on Placing Plant Protection Products on the Market
Directive 2009/127/EC, on Pesticide Application Machinery

Conditionality

The rules on conditionality, listed in Annex III to Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115, relate to the following areas: climate and environment; public health, and plant health; animal welfare. Europe Soya farmers located in the European Union are subject to conditionality. Areas not relevant for arable crop production are left out (e.g. animal welfare, identification of animals).

Topic	**Requirements and Standards**
Water (SMR 1)	Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1): Article 11(3), point (e), and point (h), as regards mandatory requirements to control diffuse sources of pollution by phosphates
Water (SMR 2)	Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (OJ L 375, 31.12.1991, p. 1): Articles 4 and 5
Biodiversity and landscape (SMR 3)	Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7): Article 3(1), Article 3(2), point (b), Article 4(1), (2) and (4)
Biodiversity and landscape (SMR 4)	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7): Article 6(1) and (2)
Food safety (SMR 5)	Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1): Articles 14 and 15, Article 17(1) (6) and Articles 18, 19 and 20
Food safety (SMR 6)	Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC (OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 3): Article 3, points (a), (b), (d) and (e), and Articles 4, 5 and 7
Plant protection products (SMR 7)	Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1): Article 55, first and second sentence
Plant protection products (SMR 8)	Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 71): Article 5(2) and Article 8(1) to (5) Article 12 with regard to restrictions on the use of pesticides in protected areas defined on the basis of Directive 2000/60/EC and Natura 2000 legislation Article 13(1) and (3) on handling and storage of pesticides and disposal

	of remnants
Climate change (GAEC 1)	Maintenance of permanent grassland based on a ratio of permanent grassland in relation to agricultural area at national, regional, subregional, group-of-holdings or holding level in comparison to the reference year 2018 Maximum decrease of 5 % compared to the reference year
Climate change (GAEC 2)	Protection of wetland and peatland
Climate change (GAEC 3)	Ban on burning arable stubble, except for plant health reasons
Water (GAEC 4)	Establishment of buffer strips along water courses
Soil (GAEC 5)	Tillage management, reducing the risk of soil degradation and erosion, including consideration of the slope gradient
Soil (GAEC 6)	Minimum soil cover to avoid bare soil in periods that are most sensitive
Soil (GAEC 7)	Crop rotation in arable land, except for crops growing under water
Biodiversity and landscape (GAEC 8)	—Minimum share of agricultural area devoted to non-productive areas or features (5) —Minimum share of at least 4 % of arable land at farm level devoted to non-productive areas and features, including land lying fallow. —Where a farmer commits to devote at least 7 % of his/her arable land to non-productive areas or features, including land lying fallow, under an enhanced eco-scheme in accordance with Article 31(6), the share to be attributed to compliance with this GAEC standard shall be limited to 3 %. —Minimum share of at least 7 % of arable land at farm level if this includes also catch crops or nitrogen fixing crops, cultivated without the use of plant protection products, of which 3 % shall be land lying fallow or non-productive features. Member States should use the weighting factor of 0,3 for catch crops. —Retention of landscape features —Ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season —As an option, measures for avoiding invasive plant species
Biodiversity and landscape (GAEC 9)	Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland designated as environmentally-sensitive permanent grasslands in Natura 2000 sites

Annex 02, Version 01

Requirements for Europe Soya Produce with Restricted Geographic Origin

Purpose	Specify the requirements to declare and/or label the origin of Europe Soya produce with additionally restricted geographic origin. The requirements cover the entire value chain from the soya bean farmer to the final product. This Annex can be seen as an add-on module to the Europe Soya Guidelines.
Definition	Restricted geographic origin: Specific and verified geographic area, more restricted than defined in the Europe Soya Guidelines (e.g. specific region or country) Europe Soya produce: Europe Soya soya beans, Europe Soya soya products or products consisting of or containing Europe Soya soya beans
Outline	
Status	Version 01: released by the Board on 26 September 2019

1 Requirements

1.1 An organisation or an individual operation may apply for a declaration and/or labelling of more restricted geographic origin for Europe Soya quality products by submitting a written application to Donau Soja Organisation.

1.2 The organisation or operation applying for a declaration and/or labelling of restricted geographic origin within the scope of Europe Soya certification shall source Europe Soya soyabeans or produce from the respective country or region.

1.3 The wording of the declaration shall be agreed between Donau Soja Organisation and the respective organisation or operation.

1.4 In addition to the declaration, the produce (packaging) itself may be labelled. The label shall be agreed between Donau Soja Organisation and the respective organisation or operation.

1.5 The basis for using the agreed declaration and/or labelling (see 1.3 and 1.4) shall be compliance with all requirements of the Europe Soya Guidelines according to the scope of the operation.

1.6 All Europe Soya produce of restricted geographic origin shall be separated both physically and technically from all other qualities (including Donau Soja and Europe Soya qualities) in the areas of incoming produce, storage, processing and outgoing produce.

1.7 The quantitative flow of Europe Soya produce of restricted geographic origin shall be monitored based on actual incoming produce and produce leaving for sale or production use (calculation of the quantitative flow). The certification body shall be entitled to request and inspect individual delivery notes and invoices.

1.8 The restricted geographic origin shall be indicated on all accompanying shipping documents (invoices and delivery notes).

1.9 A list of products of certified restricted geographic origin shall be available.

2 Directly commissioned inspections

2.1 Compliance with the requirements for Europe Soya produce with restricted geographic origin shall be verified as part of the directly commissioned Europe Soya inspections.

ANNEX 03, Version 01

Glossary

Buffer zones[1]	Buffers zones are small areas or strips of land in permanent vegetation, designed to intercept pollutants and manage other environmental concerns. Buffer zones include among others: riparian buffer strips, filter strips, grassed waterways, shelterbelts, windbreaks, field borders, alley cropping, herbaceous wind barriers.
Certified seed	Internationally common name for seed that complies with the legal requirements.
Conversion[2]	Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function. Deforestation is one form of conversion (conversion of natural forests). Conversion includes severe degradation or the introduction of management practices that result in substantial and sustained change in the ecosystem's former species composition, structure, or function. Change to natural ecosystems that meets this definition is considered to be conversion regardless of whether or not it is legal.
Cropland[3]	Arable and tillable land and agroforestry systems where the vegetation structure falls below the thresholds used for the Forest Land category, and is not expected to exceed those thresholds at a later time. Cropland includes: • annual crops, including cereals, oils seeds, vegetables, root crops and forages; • perennial crops, including trees and shrubs, in combination with herbaceous crops (e.g. agroforestry), or as orchards, vineyards, plantations and short rotation coppice, except where these lands meet the criteria for categorisation as forest; • temporary fallow land (i.e., land set at rest for one or several years before being cultivated again). Arable land which is normally used for cultivation of annual crops but which is temporarily (no longer than 5 years) used for forage crops or grazing as part of an annual crop-pasture rotation (mixed system) is included under cropland.
Donau Soja cultivation areas	The countries and regions of origin for Donau Soja are defined in both political and geographical terms. The enumeration of countries where Donau Soja can be produced is based on the list of countries in the Danube river basin as delineated by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.[4]
Deforestation[5]	Loss of natural forest as a result of: i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or iii) severe and sustained degradation.
Drainage[6]	Artificial removal of water from land; drainage is employed in the reclamation of wetlands, in the prevention of erosion, and as a concomitant of irrigation in the agriculture of arid regions.

[1] Compare with USDA: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/plantmaterials/technical/publications/?cid=stelprdb1042930#:~:text=Plants%20for%20Conservation%20Buffers,pollution%2C%20and%20improve%20wildlife%20habitat.

[2] https://accountability-framework.org/definitions/?definition_category=17

[3] Compare with IPCC: https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4_Volume4/V4_05_Ch5_Cropland.pdf

[4] https://www.icpdr.org/main/danube-basin/countries-danube-river-basin

[5] https://accountability-framework.org/definitions/?definition_category=17

[6] https://www.britannica.com/topic/drainage

Ecological corridor[7]	A clearly defined geographical space that is governed and managed over the long term to maintain or restore effectively the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes (i.e. ecological connectivity).
Europe Soya cultivation areas	The countries and regions of origin for Europe Soya are defined in both political and geographical terms. The borders of the Europe Soya region are based on the definition of the delimitation of the Russian border regions, as given by Philip Johan von Strahlenberg.

Forest[8]	Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or other land use. Forest includes *natural forests (see definition below)* and *tree plantations (see definition below)*.
	
	Natural forest[9]
	A forest that is a natural ecosystem.
	Natural forests possess many or most of the characteristics of a forest native to the given site, including species composition, structure and ecological function. Natural forests include:
	• primary forests that have not been subject to major human impacts in recent history;
	• regenerated (second-growth) forests that were subject to major impacts in the past (for instance by agriculture, livestock raising, tree plantations, or intensive logging) but where the main causes of impact have ceased or greatly diminished and the ecosystem has attained much of the species composition, structure and ecological function of prior or other contemporary natural ecosystems;
	• managed natural forests where much of the ecosystem's composition, structure and ecological function exist in the presence of activities such as:
	  ○ harvesting of timber or other forest products, including management to promote high-value species,
	  ○ low intensity, small-scale cultivation within the forest, such as less-intensive forms of swidden agriculture in a forest mosaic;
	• Forests that have been partially degraded by anthropogenic or natural causes (e.g. harvesting, fire, climate change, invasive species, or others) but where the land has not been converted to another use and where degradation does not result in the sustained reduction of tree cover below the thresholds that define a forest or sustained loss of other main elements of ecosystem composition, structure and ecological function.
	
	Tree plantation[10]
	A forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding that lacks key elements of a natural forest native to the area, such as species composition and structural diversity.

GM-free	The GM-free status is based on the minimum requirements set out by the following European "GM-free" certification schemes: • German EG-Gentechnik-Durchführungsgesetz (EGGenTDurchfG), with audits conducted as stipulated by the German Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik (VLOG);

[7] https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-030-En.pdf

[8] https://accountability-framework.org/definitions/?definition_category=17

[9] https://accountability-framework.org/definitions/?definition_category=17

[10] https://accountability-framework.org/definitions/?definition_category=17

	• Austrian Food Codex (Codex Alimentarius Austriacus) and the corresponding "Leitfaden zur risikobasierten Kontrolle auf Gentechnikfreiheit" ("Guideline on the Risk-Based Monitoring of GMO-Free Production"); • Non-GM Danube Region Production and Labelling Standard & Non-GM Danube Region Inspection Standard.
Good Agricultural Practices[11]	The application of available knowledge to addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability for on-farm production and post-production processes resulting in safe and healthy food and non-food agricultural products.
Grassland[12]	Terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous or shrub vegetation for at least five years continuously. It includes meadows or pasture that is cropped for hay but excludes land cultivated for other crop production and cropland lying temporarily fallow.
Integrated Crop Management	A system of crop production which conserves and enhances natural resources while producing a crop on an economically viable and sustainable foundation. This is a whole-farm, long-term strategy incorporating both new technologies and traditional knowledge and practices.
Integrated Pest Management[13]	Integrated Pest Management means careful consideration of all available plant protection methods and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of populations of harmful organisms and keep the use of plant protection products and other forms of intervention to levels that are economically and ecologically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human health and the environment. Integrated Pest Management emphasises the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms. General principles of integrated pest management: 1. The prevention and/or suppression of harmful organisms should be achieved or supported among other options especially by: ○ crop rotation; ○ use of adequate cultivation techniques (e.g. stale seedbed technique, sowing dates and densities, under-sowing, conservation tillage, pruning and direct sowing); ○ use, where appropriate, of resistant/tolerant cultivars and standard/certified seed and planting material; ○ use of balanced fertilisation, liming and irrigation/drainage practices; ○ preventing the spreading of harmful organisms by hygiene measures (e.g. by regular cleansing of machinery and equipment); ○ protection and enhancement of important beneficial organisms, e.g. by adequate plant protection measures or the utilisation of ecological infrastructures inside and outside production sites. 2. Harmful organisms must be monitored by adequate methods and tools, where available. Such adequate tools should include observations in the field as well as scientifically sound warning,

[11] http://www.fao.org/3/y8704e/y8704e.htm

[12] Compare with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R1307&from=EN

[13] Compare with Directive 2009/128/EC: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0128&from=EN

	forecasting and early diagnosis systems, where feasible, as well as the use of advice from professionally qualified advisors. 3. Based on the results of the monitoring, the professional user has to decide whether and when to apply plant protection measures. Robust and scientifically sound threshold values are essential components for decision making. For harmful organisms, threshold levels defined for the region, specific areas, crops and particular climatic conditions must be taken into account before treatments, where feasible. 4. Sustainable biological, physical and other non-chemical methods must be preferred to chemical methods if they provide satisfactory pest control. 5. The pesticides applied shall be as specific as possible for the target and shall have the least side effects on human health, non-target organisms and the environment. 6. The professional user should keep the use of pesticides and other forms of intervention to levels that are necessary, e.g. by reduced doses, reduced application frequency or partial applications, considering that the level of risk in vegetation is acceptable and they do not increase the risk for development of resistance in populations of harmful organisms. 7. Where the risk of resistance against a plant protection measure is known and where the level of harmful organisms requires repeated application of pesticides to the crops, available anti-resistance strategies should be applied to maintain the effectiveness of the products. This may include the use of multiple pesticides with different modes of action. 8. Based on the records on the use of pesticides and on the monitoring of harmful organisms, the professional user should check the success of the applied plant protection measures.
Land-use change[14]	Changes in terms of land cover between land categories (forest, grassland, cropland, wetlands). This means e.g. that a change from grassland to cropland is a land-use change, while a change from one crop (such as maize) to another (such as soya) is not. Cropland includes fallow land (i.e. land set at rest for one or several years before being cultivated again). A change of management activities, tillage practice or manure input practice is not considered land-use change.
Landscape features[15]	Features adjacent to an agricultural parcel. These include but are not limited to hedges, ponds, ditches, trees (in line, in group or isolated), field margins and terraces.
Natural habitat[16]	Terrestrial or aquatic areas distinguished by geographic, abiotic and biotic features, whether entirely natural or semi-natural.
Peatland	Peatland soils are soils with horizons of organic material (peat substrate) of a cumulative thickness of at least 30 cm at a depth of down to 60 cm. The organic matter contains at least 20 mass percent of organic carbon in the fine soil.
Protected area[17]	A geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.

[14] Compare with Communication from the Commission on the practical implementation of the EU biofuels and bioliquids sustainability scheme and on counting rules for biofuels: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:160:0008:0016:EN:PDF

[15] Compare with Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R1306&from=EN

[16] Compare with Council Directive 92/43 EEC: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN

[17] https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf

Protection goals[18]	To fulfil the protection goals within a protected area means to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity in that area through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.
Riparian buffer strips[19]	Linear bands of permanent vegetation adjacent to an aquatic ecosystem intended to maintain or improve water quality by trapping and removing various nonpoint source pollutants from both overland flow and shallow subsurface flow (interflow).
Semi-natural habitat[20]	An ecosystem with most of its processes and biodiversity intact, though altered by human activity in strength or abundance relative to the natural state.
Standard[21]	Document that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods.
Wetlands[22]	Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres. Hence, wetlands include a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six metres at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as dams, reservoirs, rice paddies and wastewater treatment ponds and lagoons. Natural Wetlands Marine and Coastal Wetlands A -- Permanent shallow marine waters in most cases less than six meters deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits. B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows. C -- Coral reefs. D -- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs. E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sand bars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks. F -- Estuarine waters; permanent water of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas. G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats. H -- Intertidal marshes; includes salt marshes, salt meadows, saltings, raised salt marshes; includes tidal brackish and freshwater marshes. I -- Intertidal forested wetlands; includes mangrove swamps, nipah swamps and tidal freshwater swamp forests. J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons; brackish to saline lagoons with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea. K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons; includes freshwater delta lagoons. Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, marine/coastal Inland Wetlands

[18] Compare with Council Directive 92/43/EEC: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN

[19] https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/metadata/adaptation-options/establishment-and-restoration-of-riparian-buffer-s

[20] https://ipbes.net/glossary/semi-natural-habitats

[21] https://www.isealalliance.org/sites/default/files/resource/2017-11/ISEAL_Standard_Setting_Code_v6_Dec_2014.pdf

[22] Compare with An Introduction to the Convention on Wetlands (previously The Ramsar Convention Manual). Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland: https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/handbook1_5ed_introductiontoconvention_e.pdf

L -- Permanent inland deltas.
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls.
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks.
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes large oxbow lakes.
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes.
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes.
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats.
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools; ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic soils; with emergent vegetation water-logged for at least most of the growing season.
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.
U -- Non-forested peatlands; includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens.
Va -- Alpine wetlands; includes alpine meadows, temporary waters from snowmelt.
Vt -- Tundra wetlands; includes tundra pools, temporary waters from snowmelt.
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands; shrub swamps, shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thicket on inorganic soils.
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands; includes freshwater swamp forests, seasonally flooded forests, wooded swamps on inorganic soils.
Xp -- Forested peatlands; peatswamp forests.
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands
Zk(b)-- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, inland
Note: ”floodplain“ is a broad term used to refer to one or more wetland types, which may include examples from the R, Ss, Ts, W, Xf, Xp, or other wetland types. Some examples of floodplain wetlands are seasonally inundated grassland (including natural wet meadows), shrublands, woodlands and forests. Floodplain wetlands are not listed as a specific wetland type herein.

ANNEX 04, Version 03

Risk-based Europe Soya Inspection System

The Europe Soya inspection system is risk-based. Different risk categories are applied to determine the respective production area risk level (F-RL) for agricultural producers (farmers) and the individual risk for all other certified companies in the supply chain. The risk-based inspection system is applicable to soya beans and other arable crops (see Annex 6).

The risk categories shall be used to determine:

- the frequency of inspections and supervisory inspections by an independent third party (i.e. an independent certification body);
- the frequency of supervisory inspections by Donau Soja Organisation;
- the applicability of certain additional quality assurance requirements (e.g. GMO analysis, pesticide analysis).

1 Risk assessment for individual farmers or farmer groups

1.1 Risk categories

At the level of the agricultural producer (farmer), the following five risk categories **(a-e)** shall be defined:

(a) Contamination with GMO: Refers to the risk that Europe Soya arable crops are contaminated with genetically modified material. This risk is based on the GMO situation in the respective producing country.

(b) Geographical origin: Refers to the risk that the produce does not originate, or does not originate 100%, from the Europe Soya region. This risk is based on the geographical origin of the Europe Soya arable crops. Countries represented with regions (only one or more parts of a country are located within the Europe Soya region) carry a higher risk.

(c) Pesticide use and desiccation practices: Refers to risks related to the use of pesticides, considering the legal framework, the national list of approved substances and the national situation with regard to desiccation practices. This risk is based on an assessment of national sectoral legislation compared to EU legislation and other relevant documents (e.g. WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard[1]).

(d) Legal compliance: Refers to the risk that farmers do not comply with applicable legislation. This risk is based on 1) the Worldwide Governance Indicators[2] by the World Bank and 2) the Country Legal Compliance Assessment[3] published by the SAI Platform.

(e) Land conversion and arable crop production in protected areas: Refers to the risk that non-agricultural land was converted to cropland after 1st January 2008. This risk is based on 1) a land use change assessment for the relevant country in line with the PAS 2050-1 methodology[4] and 2) additional data sources where applicable (e.g. satellite assessment, literature review).

[1] The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard, WHO, accessible online at: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332193/9789240005662-eng.pdf?ua=1

[2] Worldwide Governance Indicators, World Bank, accessible online at: https://databank.worldbank.org/source/worldwide-governance-indicators

[3] Country Legal Compliance Assessment, SAI Platform, accessible online at: https://saiplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/pr_country_legal_compliance_assessment_03.11.2019.pdf

[4] Direct Land Use Change Assessment; Blonk Consultants, accessible online at: https://www.blonkconsultants.nl/portfolio-item/direct-land-use-change-assessment-tool/?lang=en

1.2 Risk matrix

The risk assessment shall consider the risk categories of **a-e**; the risk shall be assessed per country and shall be summarised as "production area risk level" (**F-RL**).

Country	GVO-RL	ORIGIN-RL	PESTICIDE-RL	LUC-RL	LEGAL-RL	F-RL
Bulgaria	1	1	1	1	2	1
Germany	1	1	1	1	1	0
France	1	1	1	2	1	1
Greece	1	1	1	1	2	1
Italy	1	1	1	1	2	1
Croatia	1	1	1	1	2	1
Netherlands	1	1	1	-	1	0
Austria	1	1	1	1	1	0
Poland	1	1	2	1	1	1
Romania	2	1	1	1	2	2
Slovakia	2	1	1	1	1	1
Slovenia	1	1	1	1	1	0
Spain	2	1	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	2	1	1	1	1	1
Hungary	1	1	1	1	1	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	2	2	2	2
Moldova	**3**	1	2	1	2	3
Russian Federation	1	2	2	1	2	2
Serbia	1	1	1	1	2	1
Switzerland	1	1	1	1	1	0
Ukraine	**3**	1	2	1	2	3

1.3 Inspection frequencies for individual farmers or farmer groups

The risk assessment based on the risk categories of **a-e** shall determine the frequency of inspections to be conducted by a certification body recognised by Donau Soja Organisation. For farmers or farmer groups, inspections shall be conducted at least every three years, except for farmers with an F-RL of 0 or 1 who participate in a certification system that can, upon application, be recognised as equivalent by Donau Soja. Farmers located in production areas with the highest GMO risk shall be individually certified and be subject to annual inspections.

Company type	**Risk level**	**Inspection frequency**
Agricultural producer (farmer)	F-RL 0	Inspection every 3 years
	F-RL 1	Inspection every 2 years
	F-RL 2	Annual inspection
	F-RL 3	Annual inspection

Satellite image-supported verification of freedom from land conversion is conducted based on risk as part of the integrity programme.

2 Risk assessment for certified companies in the supply chain

2.1 Risk categories

For certified companies other than farmers in the supply chain (e.g. collectors, traders, processors, compound feed producers, marketers), the risk of GM contamination shall be taken into account.

2.2 Risk Matrix

The risk assessment shall consider the risk of contamination of Europe Soya-certified arable crops or derived products with GMOs. The risk shall be assessed for each company and shall be assigned a **company risk level** (see R 02 to R 06b, paragraph 1, for the risk levels of agricultural collectors and primary collectors [C-RL], traders [T-RL], primary processors [P-RL] and agricultural processors [A-RL]).

Company type	**Risk level**	**Definition**
Agricultural collector & primary collector; trader; primary processor	RL 0	Only Europe Soya arable crops are stored, traded or processed.
	RL 1	Only GM-free arable crops are stored, traded or processed; non-GM arable crops of origins other than Europe Soya may also be stored, traded or processed.
	RL 2	Only GM-free arable crops are stored, traded or processed (e.g. soya, rapeseed); GM crops of another type (e.g. maize) may also be stored or processed.
	RL 3	GM arable crops and GM processed products (e.g. meal) may also be stored, traded or processed.*

*Only possible for oil mills and toasters if the processing lines are 100% segregated, both physically and technically; not possible for food producers

Company type	**Risk level**	**Definition**
Agricultural processor (animal keeper)	RL 0	Europe Soya single or compound feed only
	RL 1	Also other non-GM single or compound feed (non-GM is documented)
	RL 2	Also GM single or compound feed, but only in another farm activity (e.g. certified laying hen feed & conventional fattening pig feed); no GM feed or raw materials in the same facilities
	RL 3	Also GM single or compound feed in the same facilities, but only if appropriate measures to minimise the GM contamination risk are in place

2.3 Inspection frequencies for certified companies in the supply chain

The assessment of the risk of GM contamination shall determine the frequency of inspections to be conducted by independent third parties (i.e. independent certification bodies). Inspections at the level of compound feed producers and food processors shall be conducted in accordance with the standards for non-GM inspections.

Company type	**Risk level**	**Inspection frequency**
Agricultural collector & primary collector	C-RL 0	Inspection every 2 years
	C-RL 1	Inspection every 2 years
	C-RL 2	Inspection every 2 years
	C-RL 3	Annual inspection
Trader	T-RL 0	Inspection every 2 years
	T-RL 1	Inspection every 2 years
	T-RL 2	n.a.
	T-RL 3	Annual inspection
Primary processor	P-RL 0	Annual inspection
	P-RL 1	Annual inspection
	P-RL 2	Inspection twice a year (once unannounced)
	P-RL 3	Inspection twice a year (once unannounced)
Compound feed producer	n.a.	Conducted in combination with non-GM inspections, at least once a year
Agricultural processor (animal keeper)	A-RL 0	Inspection every 2 years
	A-RL 1	Inspection every 2 years
	A-RL 2	Inspection every 2 years
	A-RL 3	Annual inspection
Food processor through marketer	n.a.	Conducted in combination with non-GM inspections, at least once a year

Annex 05, Version 06

Quantity Equivalence System using "Approved by Europe Soya" soya beans

Purpose	Define the framework conditions that allow for the joint processing and/or storing of certified Europe Soya soya beans and/or products that comply with the "Approved by Europe Soya" criteria (AB-ES soya beans) (= quantity equivalence system).
Definition	Europe Soya (ES) soya beans: Soya beans produced and certified in accordance with the Europe Soya Guidelines Approved by Europe Soya (AB-ES) soya beans: Soya beans that comply with the specified criteria and are approved for being processed and/or stored together with Europe Soya soya beans Quantity equivalence: The quantity input of ES equals the quantity output of ES in the specified cumulative period The quantity equivalence system covers the stages from soya bean primary processor to compound feed producer
Outline	
Status	Version 06: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

1 Requirements for primary processors, compound feed producers and traders

1.1 Soya bean primary processors, wishing to process and store Europe Soya soya beans and AB-ES soya beans together, shall meet the requirements of paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4. In addition to the monthly notification of quantities of Europe Soya (in line with Requirements 04, paragraph 2.5), the primary processor shall report the quantity of processed AB-ES soya beans delivered to them and invoiced and/or internally used in the previous month.

1.2 Compound feed producers and traders also acting as agricultural collectors, wishing to process and/or store Europe Soya soya products (e.g. toasted soya beans, oil, meal, cake) as well as products resulting from the joint processing of AB-ES soya beans, shall likewise meet the requirements of paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4. The quantity equivalence system is not applicable to traders not also acting as agricultural collectors. Hence, these traders may not declare and market the products they purchased as AB-ES products as Europe Soya products.

1.3 Primary processors, compound feed producers and traders also acting as agricultural collectors shall conclude a written Europe Soya contract with Donau Soja Organisation that allows for the joint processing and storing of products. Operations which have already concluded a Europe Soya contract with Donau Soja Organisation shall submit a written application to Donau Soja Organisation to use the quantity equivalence system.

1.4 Primary processors, compound feed producers and traders also acting as agricultural collectors shall become members of Donau Soja Association.

2 Criteria for "Approved by Europe Soya" (AB-ES) soya beans for soya bean primary processors

2.1 AB-ES soya beans shall comply with the following criteria:

- **Non-GM:** AB-ES soya beans shall comply with the "non-GM" requirement (in accordance with Requirements 04 of the Europe Soya Guidelines); compliance with this requirement shall be verified through rapid GM tests (strip tests) and PCR tests;
- **Origin:** AB-ES soya beans shall originate, according to the shipping documents (e.g. delivery note), from the Europe Soya region as specified in the Europe Soya Guidelines;
- **Traceability:** The primary processor shall be obliged to arrange with their suppliers of AB-ES soya beans that Donau Soja Organisation is allowed to verify the products one step back in the value chain in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002[1].
- **Deforestation-free and legality:** AB-ES soya beans shall be produced deforestation-free and in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production in accordance with regulation (EU) No 2023/1115.[2]

2.2 AB-ES soya beans from risk level 3 countries (e.g. BLR, MDA, UKR) shall comply with the following additional criteria:

- The soya beans shall be marketable within the EU by not exceeding the maximum residue levels of pesticides permitted in the EU; this marketability shall be verified by representative multi-residue analyses of pesticides including glyphosate (GC-MS/MS, LC-MS/MS ESI+, LC-MS/MS ESI-) for each lot delivered accordingly (mixed samples are permitted as long as they do not exceed 10 individual deliveries per farmer).

2.3 Upon application, existing quality assurance systems or similar standards may be recognised by Donau Soja Organisation.

[1] Link to the Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002R0178

[2] Link to the Regulation (EU) No. 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R1115

3 Labelling

3.1 AB-ES products are allowed for the purpose of joint processing, mixing and trading and shall be correctly labelled as "Approved by Europe Soya" or "AB-ES" (e.g. "Soya Bean Meal Approved by Europe Soya" or "Soya Bean Meal AB-ES".

4 Period of validity and timeframe

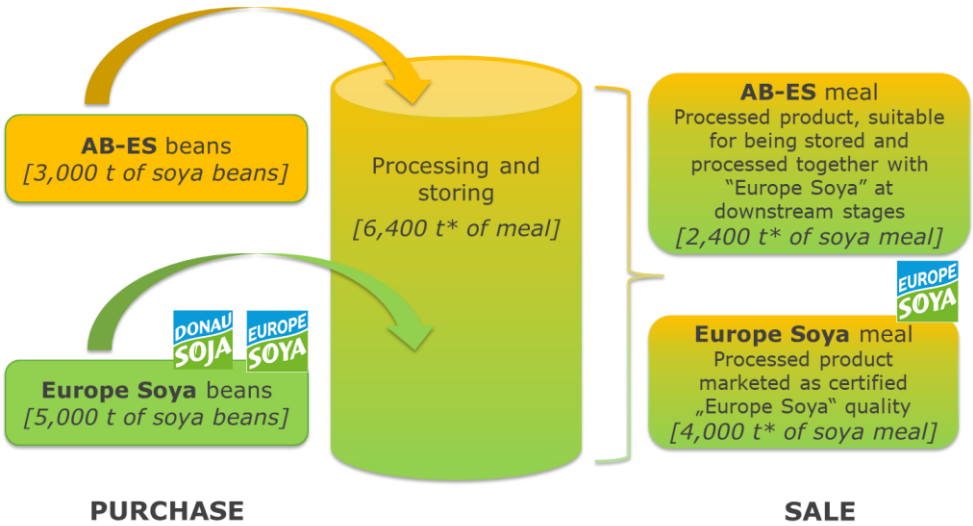
4.1 The cumulative period for calculating the required quantity equivalence shall be 6 months (from January to June as well as from July to December).

5 Miscellaneous

5.1 Donau Soja soya beans automatically meet the criteria applicable to Europe Soya soya beans. The possibilities of processing Donau Soja soya beans together with AB-ES soya beans are applicable to the production of "Europe Soya" as well as of products produced with or from Europe Soya or products labelled as "Fed with Europe Soya".

6 Example: Soya bean primary processor

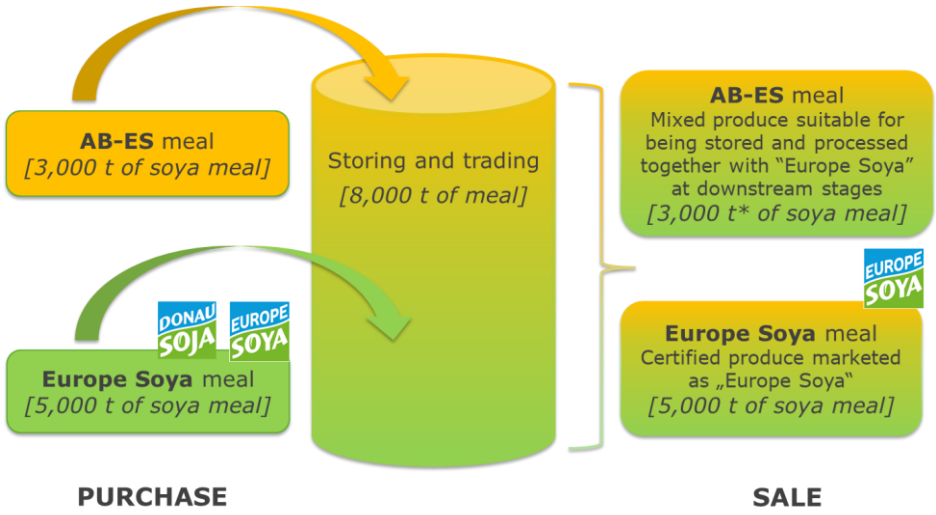
When e.g. processing 5,000 tonnes of Europe Soya/Donau Soja soya beans and 3,000 tonnes of AB-ES soya beans, this may result in 6,400 tonnes of soya bean meal (assuming a processing factor, from soya beans to soya bean meal, of 0.8). However, only the proportional Europe Soya soya bean meal of 4,000 tonnes may be marketed under the designation and/or logo of "Europe Soya".



* unprocessed beans multiplied by a factor of 0.8

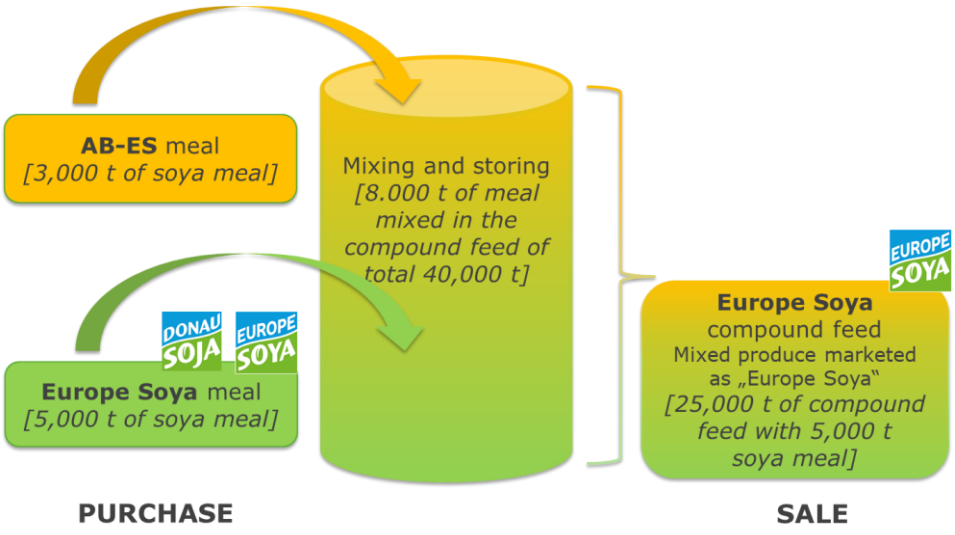
7 Example: Soya product trader also acting as agricultural collector

A trader e.g. buys 5,000 tonnes of Europe Soya soya bean meal (or e.g. toasted full-fat soya beans, soya bean oil, soya bean cake). Additionally, this trader buys a further 3,000 tonnes of AB-ES soya bean meal (from the joint/mixed processing of Europe Soya and AB-ES soya beans). The total quantity of 8,000 tonnes of soya bean meal may be stored together. However, only 5,000 tonnes of this soya bean meal may be sold as Europe Soya soya bean meal. The remaining quantity of 3,000 tonnes may be sold as AB-ES.



8 Example: Compound feed producer

A compound feed producer buys 5,000 tonnes of Europe Soya soya bean meal. Additionally, this compound feed producer buys a further 3,000 tonnes of AB-ES soya bean meal. The total quantity of 8,000 tonnes of soya bean meal is added to the compound feed, resulting in a total of 40,000 tonnes of compound feed (containing 20 % of soya bean meal now). However, only 25,000 tonnes of this compound feed, containing 5,000 tonnes of Europe Soya soya bean meal, may be sold as Europe Soya animal feed.



ANNEX 06, Version 02

Requirements for producing arable crops other than soya under the Europe Soya principles and requirements

Purpose	Specify the requirements for declaring and/or labelling arable crops other than soya that are produced, traded and certified in full compliance with the Europe Soya principles and requirements. The requirements cover the entire value chain from the farmer producing the arable crops to the final product. This Annex can be considered as an additional module to the Europe Soya Guidelines.
Definition	Europe Soya certified arable crops other than soya: unprocessed or processed arable crops other than soya that are produced, traded and certified in full compliance with the Europe Soya principles and requirements; product consisting of or containing such arable crops Europe Soya principles and requirements: all requirements of the Europe Soya Guidelines including Annex 06
Outline	
Status	Version 02: released by the Board on 29 November 2023

1 Requirements

1.1 The Europe Soya Guidelines can be fully applied to arable crops other than soya.[1] Arable crops other than soya may be declared as Europe Soya if they are produced, traded, inspected and certified in accordance with the requirements of the Europe Soya Guidelines, as applicable, including this Annex.

1.2 An organisation or an individual company may apply for the declaration and/or labelling of an arable crop other than soya that is produced under Europe Soya requirements by submitting a written application to Donau Soja Organisation. The written application shall contain at least the following elements:

- a complete list of all types of arable crops (e.g. fava beans, rapeseed) to be declared as Europe Soya;
- a complete list of direct suppliers (company name, position in the value chain);
- name of the responsible Europe Soya approved certification body.

[1] Specific requirements may not be applicable to all crops (e.g. in case of no GM varieties). The determination of the applicability of the Europe Soya requirements and necessary amendments of these requirements resulting from the different conditions for arable crops other than soya shall be specified for each crop in specific technical guidelines.

1.3 All Europe Soya certified arable crops other than soya shall be separated both physically and technically from all other qualities in the areas of incoming/outgoing goods, storage and processing.

1.4 The quantitative flow of Europe Soya certified arable crops other than soya shall be monitored based on actual incoming produce and produce leaving for sale or production use (calculation of the quantitative flow). The certification body shall be entitled to request and inspect individual delivery notes and invoices.

1.5 The certified crop/product shall be declared as "Europe Soya [arable crop/product]" on delivery notes, etc. (e.g. "Europe Soya rapeseed", "Europe Soya rapeseed meal")).

1.6 In addition to the declaration, the produce (packaging) itself may be labelled. The label and labelling requirements shall be agreed between Donau Soja Organisation and the respective company.

1.7 The basis for using the agreed declaration and/or labelling (see paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6) shall be compliance with the requirements of the Europe Soya Guidelines, including the requirements of this Annex.

1.8 The agreed Europe Soya declaration (see paragraph 1.5) shall be indicated on all accompanying shipping documents (invoices and delivery notes).

2 Directly commissioned inspections

2.1 Compliance with the requirements of the Europe Soya Guidelines, as applicable, including the requirements of this Annex, shall be verified as part of the directly commissioned Europe Soya inspections.

2.2 The frequency and type of inspections (e.g. regular inspection, supervisory inspection) shall be determined individually according to the risk assessment for the respective production area of the specific arable crop and the risk assessment for the respective company in the supply chain (chain of custody risk assessment) (see Annex 04).

3 Risk-based approach

3.1 The production area risk level (**F-RL**) shall be identified for each arable crop, taking into account the risk categories according to Annex 04, paragraph 1.

3.2 The chain of custody risk level shall be identified depending on the company type and taking into account the risk categories according to Annex 04, paragraph 2.

ANNEX 07, Version 01

Requirements for laboratories and GMO testing

The minimum requirements for the GM-free production of raw materials and animal feed that must be met by laboratories and in tests

- for the purpose of Europe Soya certification, and
- according to the testing requirements laid down in the Europe Soya Guidelines

are described below.

Test results for companies to be certified will only be recognised if the requirements described here are met by the laboratories. In this respect, the Europe Soya Standard is based on the current specifications laid down by the German Association for Food without Genetic Engineering (Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V., or VLOG for short) in its guide "Guideline for Laboratories and GMO Testing – Binding Requirements"[1] as well as by the Austrian Platform for GMO-Free Food Products (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Gentechnik-frei erzeugte Lebensmittel, or ARGE Gentechnik-frei for short) in its guide "Empfehlungen zu GVO-Analysen gemäß Codex-Richtlinie zur Definition der Gentechnikfreien Produktion" (Recommendations for GMO testing according to the Guideline on the Definition of "GMO-Free Production" in the Austrian Food Codex, 4th edition; not yet available in English)[2].

1 Requirements for commissioning a test

The commissioner of the GMO test shall undertake to

- verify regularly, at least once per calendar year, that the laboratory commissioned is accredited according to the DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

2 Requirements for laboratories

2.1 General requirements

- The laboratory shall be accredited according to the DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard (in its most recent version) for all qualitative and quantitative GMO test parameters. This accreditation can be available either in the form of a flexible accreditation for the entire parameter or separately for all procedures carried out.
- The scope of accreditation must clearly indicate for which GMO detection methods the laboratory is accredited.

The laboratory shall participate annually in the following interlaboratory tests, achieving satisfactory results:

- An interlaboratory test for quantitative GMOs results with a satisfactory z-score (at least 75% of the results are in the ± 2 range of the z-score);
- An interlaboratory test for qualitative GMOs results (100% accurate positive or negative results) for the matrix of feed or plant-based raw materials / plant-based processed products.

2.2 Methodological requirements

EN and ISO standards and protocols of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) shall be used (if available). If methods from other sources are used, the laboratory shall verify that comparable minimum requirements are met.

[1] Guideline for Laboratories and GMO Testing – Binding Requirements: https://www.ohnegentechnik.org/fileadmin/user_upload/03_prueflabore/Guideline_for_VLOG-Recognition_of_Laboratories.pdf

[2] ARGE Gentechnik-frei (2018): Empfehlungen zu GVO-Analysen gemäß Codex-Richtlinie zur Definition der Gentechnikfreien Produktion

2.2.1 Testing process

Milling:
Depending on the sample matrix, the following minimum amount of sample material shall be milled completely in each case:

- feed: at least 400 g and no more than 1 kg;
- raw materials: at least 3000 grains or approx. the sample amount corresponding to this number in each case (soya: at least 700 g).

DNA extraction:
At least 2 DNA extractions from each sample shall be performed following milling/ homogenisation. The minimum weight of the sample shall be 2000 mg for feed, seeds, food and materials with suspected inhomogeneous distribution. In exceptional cases (for otherwise non-extractable materials), the sample weight may be as low as 500 mg.

PCR testing:
Real-time PCR methods with probe technology (45 cycles) are recommended. When using conventional endpoint PCR methods, an additional confirmatory reaction (e.g. real-time PCR with probe technology, restriction test or sequencing) shall be performed in case of positive results.

2.2.2 Analytical quality control

All quality controls according to the relevant EN and ISO standards shall achieve the results required by these standards. The laboratory shall ensure that the test results are not affected by inhibitory effects. If the test results deviate from the control values to such an extent that the tolerance limits set by the laboratory for deviations or quality specifications are exceeded the PCR process shall be repeated.
Procedures for the regular performance and documentation of QA measures shall be established and implemented (e.g. control charts) in order to detect systematic errors, reagent instabilities, etc. in a timely manner and to initiate appropriate measures.

2.2.3 Requirements for test reports

In addition to the information required according to the EN ISO 24276, EN ISO 21569 and EN ISO 21570 standards, a test report shall contain at least the following data:

- the quantity of sample milled and sent,
- the quantity of sample used in DNA extraction,
- a precise description of the sample,
- the limit of detection (LOD in % or as copy number of target),
- the method used,
- the test result,
- the measurement uncertainty of the method used (when quantitative methods are used),
- a warning if the amount of species-specific DNA is not sufficient for quantitative statements with respect to the relevant threshold value (0.1% or 0.9% GMO DNA); it is recommended to indicate the practical limit of quantification (pLOQ),
- a confirmation that the result was obtained in accordance with the requirements of the Europe Soya Standard; alternatively, this confirmation may be provided in a separate letter sent to the commissioner of the GMO test once a year.

2.2.4 Interpretation of test results – test and evaluation criteria

For each sample, a final assessment as to whether or not the sample complies with the requirements of the Europe Soya Standard for the analysed parameters shall be included in the test report. The tested GMO content, after deduction of the expanded error margin, shall be used for evaluation.

If multiple GM events (same species) are present in an ingredient, the individual values shall

be summed up to a cumulative value. This cumulative value, taking into account the measurement uncertainty, shall be the most important factor for assessing exceedances of the GM content.

3. Requirements for the scope of analysis

Please note that the following minimum requirements for the scope of analysis do not cover all GMOs that are authorised in the EU or tolerated in feed under Commission Regulation (EU) No 619/2011. Likewise, the minimum requirements do not cover GMOs that are not authorised in the EU. In the event of an examination of the marketability and proper labelling of a feed, other GMOs will be taken into account (this includes additional GMOs authorised in the EU, additional GMOs tolerated in feed in the EU under Commission Regulation (EU) No 619/2011 as well as GMOs not authorised in the EU).

3.1 Minimum requirements for raw soya materials / soya-based single-component feed

- Screening for the presence of at least the following GM soya events:
  MON40-3-2 (e.g. 35S or tNOS),
  MON89788 (e.g. CTP2-CP4EPSPS or pFMV),
  A2704-12 (e.g. PAT), and
  MON87701 (event-specific detection).

Additional screening elements may be used to determine the presence of GMOs.

In the event of positive results for the screening elements and/or MON87701, the quantity of these GMOs can be estimated, for example, by using the ΔΔct method or a comparable method. In case of multiple positive findings, the estimated individual values shall be summed up. For estimated values over 0.1%, an identification/quantification shall be carried out.

3.2 Minimum requirements for compound feed containing soya

- Screening for the presence of at least the following GM soya events:
  MON40-3-2 (e.g. 35S or tNOS),
  MON89788 (e.g. CTP2-CP4EPSPS or pFMV),
  A2704-12 (e.g. PAT), and
  MON87701 (event-specific detection).

Additional screening elements may be used to determine the presence of GMOs.

In the event of positive results for the screening elements and/or MON87701, the quantity of these GMOs can be estimated, for example, by using the ΔΔct method or a comparable method. In case of multiple positive findings, the estimated individual values shall be summed up. For estimated GM values over 0.1%, an identification/quantification shall be carried out.

If the analysability of the soya ingredient is limited, the practical limit of detection (LOD) shall be provided.

If positive screening results (with estimated GM levels exceeding 0.1%) cannot be adequately explained by the presence of GM soya events, further testing for the presence of GM maize and/or GM rapeseed shall be performed.

If maize is used as an ingredient:

- In addition to the aforementioned screening, the presence of the following commercialised maize varieties shall be qualitatively assessed: NK603, TC1507, MON810, MON89034.

In the event of positive results, the quantity of these GMOs can be estimated, for example, by using the ΔΔct method or a comparable method that ensures that a sufficient amount of species-specific DNA is present in the sample. Regular quantification of the GMOs detected shall be carried out for values over 0.1%.

If the analysability of the maize ingredient is limited, the practical limit of detection (LOD) shall be provided.

If rapeseed is used as an ingredient:

- In addition to the aforementioned screening, the presence of the following commercialised rapeseed varieties shall be qualitatively assessed: GT73 + MS8 or RF3,

In the event of positive results, the quantity of these GMOs can be estimated, for example, by using the ΔΔct method or a comparable method that ensures that a sufficient amount of species-specific DNA is present in the sample. Regular quantification of the GMOs detected shall be carried out for values over 0.1%.

If the analysability of the rapeseed ingredient is limited, the practical limit of detection (LOD) shall be provided.

3.3 Other products / raw materials

The GMO testing strategies for other raw materials, single-component feed, food and feed ingredients, intermediate products or food shall continue to be agreed upon with the laboratory commissioned, taking into account the composition and origin of these materials and products.

The VLOG and ARGE Gentechnik-frei guides listing the requirements for laboratories and testing, as amended, shall be considered equivalent and may be applied for the purpose of Europe Soya certification.

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More information: www.donausoja.org; Contact: standard@donausoja.org