

Information Sheet on the new Annex 08 of the DS/ES Guideline "Recognition of Soybeans from Alternative Systems"

What is it about?

Donau Soja Organisation aims to increase the production of sustainable and GMO-free soybeans in Europe. From January 2026, soybeans from alternative certification systems (e.g. RED-compatible systems or other sustainability standards) can be accepted and marketed as Donau Soja / Europe Soya, if certain conditions are met. This prevents double certification and reduces administrative burden.

What is an alternative system?

Any system/standard/certification that has been successfully benchmarked against the Donau Soja/Europe Soya standards and guidelines and is recognized by Donau Soja because it sufficiently meets all requirements. Note: To fully cover all requirements, it may be necessary to combine two or more alternative systems or certifications, or to fulfill additional conditions. More information can be found in the acceptance letter via the download section of the [Donau Soja Website](#).

Who is eligible for this new option?

- DS/ES Primary collectors, storage facilities (DS/ES Requirements R 02)
- DS/ES Primary processors, oil mills (DS/ES Requirements R 04)
- DS/ES Traders (DS/ES Requirements R 03) - in exceptional cases

When can such beans be used?

- The alternative system must be **officially recognized** by Donau Soja.
- The beans must originate from countries with **DS/ES risk levels 0–2** (see Annex 04).
- Only **raw soybeans** are permitted.
- Only **Donau Soja/Europe Soya-certified businesses** may transfer soybeans from alternative systems into the DS/ES system.

After acceptance from alternative system, the soybeans are considered **entirely Donau Soja or Europe Soya** and may be mixed with DS/ES soybeans without further differentiation in the labeling (DS/ES labeling alone is sufficient).

What needs to be done before accepting the beans?

- The DS/ES business must submit a **written request** to Donau Soja to use soybeans from an alternative system.
- It must be verified that both
 - the **supplier** and
 - the **beans themselves**

possess a valid certificate from the respective system (where applicable). This evidence/certificates must be available and documented.

- The seller of the soybeans must be approved/certified under the respective alternative system, but does not require DS/ES certification.
- All additional conditions are detailed in the **acceptance letter**, which is published on the Donau Soja website.

Traceability – What Must Be Reported

When using soybeans from alternative systems, the DS/ES certified business that wants to have alternative Soybeans recognised, must submit **complete information** to Donau Soja, including:

- Name and contact details of the reporting DS/ES business
- Soybean suppliers and their contact details
- Alternative systems used
- Quantity per system
- Harvest year
- Country/region of origin
- Delivery date

Quantity declarations are submitted either **annually** together with the harvest report (primary collector) or **monthly**, by the **10th calendar** day (primary processor).

Notes for Primary Collectors/Storage Facilities (R 02)

- A **list of all farmers** supplying soybeans from alternative systems must be maintained.
- A **separate quantity declaration form** must be submitted to Donau Soja.

Notes for Traders (R 03)

- Trading is only permitted if authorised in the **acceptance letter** for the alternative system.

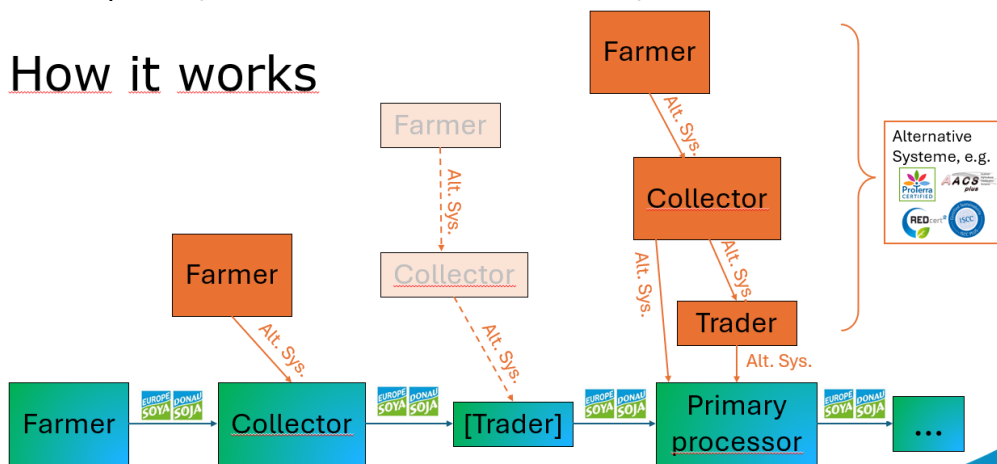
Instructions for Primary Processors/Oil Mills (R 04)

- Traceability data must also be reported **monthly by the 10th**.
- The Donau Soja/Europe Soya requirements apply in full, with the exception of the declarations of self-commitment.
- A **license fee** is payable as usual for all products that are marketed as DS or ES, irrespective of whether the soybeans have been sourced from alternative systems or from the DS/ES system.

Difference between the recognition of soybeans from alternative systems (Annex 08) and the Donau Soja / Europe Soya Quantity Equivalence System (Annex 05) – relevant for primary processors (R 04) and compound feed producers (R 05)

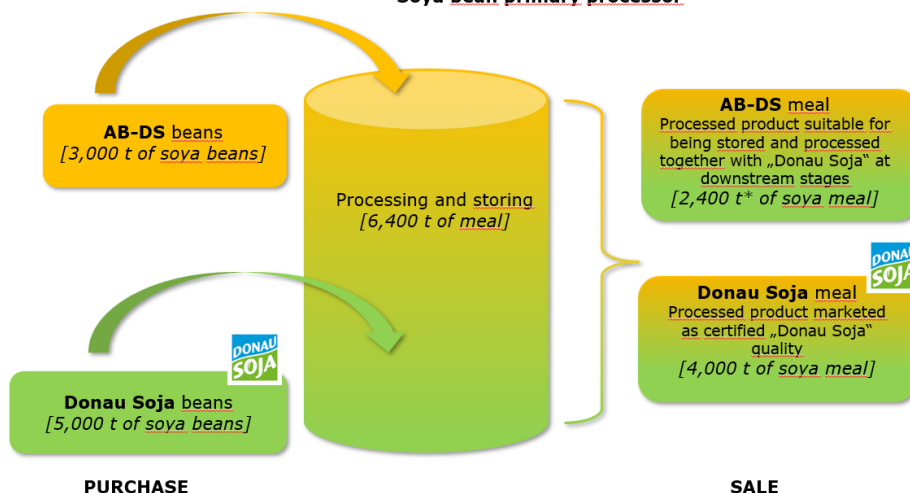
- **Annex 08 – Beans from alternative systems:** all soybeans from recognized alternative systems/certifications are considered DS/ES from the moment of acceptance at the business.

How it works



- **Appendix 5 - Quantity Equivalence System:** only the equivalent quantity of DS/ES bought can also be sold as DS/ES. For this to apply, the mixed goods (AB-DS/AB-ES) do not need to be certified or originate from a recognized system, but only need to meet certain criteria (**see Appendix 5**). Example PP:

Soya bean primary processor



* unprocessed beans multiplied by a factor of 0.8