

## Quantity Equivalence System using “Approved by Europe Soya” soybeans

Purpose	Define the framework conditions that allow for the joint processing and/or storing of certified Europe Soya soybeans and/or products that comply with the “Approved by Europe Soya” criteria (AB-ES soybeans) (= quantity equivalence system, QES). The quantity equivalence system covers the stages from soybean primary processor to compound feed producer.
Definition	<p><u>Europe Soya (ES) soybeans</u>: Soybeans produced and certified in accordance with the Europe Soya Guidelines</p> <p><u>Approved by Europe Soya (AB-ES) soybeans</u>: Soybeans that comply with the specified criteria and are approved for being processed and/or stored together with Europe Soya soybeans</p> <p><u>Quantity equivalence (QES)</u>: The quantity input of ES equals the quantity output of ES in the specified cumulative period.</p> <p><u>Segregation</u>: ES goods are being kept physically separated (segregated) from non-ES-certified goods throughout the supply chain, which means there is no mixing (as opposed to the QES).</p>
Outline	<p>1 Requirements ..... 1</p> <p>2 Criteria for “Approved by Europe Soya” (AB-ES) soybeans ..... 2</p> <p>3 Labelling ..... 3</p> <p>4 Period of validity and timeframe ..... 3</p> <p>5 Miscellaneous ..... 3</p> <p>6 Example: Soybean primary processor ..... 3</p> <p>7 Example: Soya product trader also acting as agricultural collector ..... 4</p> <p>8 Example: Compound feed producer ..... 4</p>
Status	Version 06: released by the Board on 18.12.2025

### 1 Requirements for primary processors, compound feed producers and traders

- 1.1 Soybean primary processors, wishing to process and store Europe Soya soybeans and AB-ES soybeans 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 soybeans 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 soybeans, oil, meal, cake) as well as products resulting from the joint processing of AB-ES soybeans, 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) soybeans for soybean primary processors

- 2.1 AB-ES soybeans shall comply with the following criteria:
  - **Non-GM:** AB-ES soybeans 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 soybeans 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 soybeans 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<sup>1</sup>.
  - **Deforestation-free and legality:** AB-ES soybeans 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.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.2 AB-ES soybeans must be marketable within the EU, especially with regards to pesticides. EU maximum residue levels for pesticides must not be exceeded.
  - For soybeans from risk level 3 countries (e.g. BLR, MDA, UKR), the business intending to mix the soya with certified ES soya shall ensure that the marketability of the AB-ES soybeans is verified via a 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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. "Soybean Meal Approved by Europe Soya" or "Soybean Meal AB-ES").

### 4 Period of validity and timeframe

- 4.1 The cumulative period for calculating the required quantity equivalence shall be 12 months (from the start of the new harvest season 1 September to 31 August of the following year). At the end of this timespan, the balance of Europe Soya materials purchased must not fall below the equivalent balance of Europe Soya products produced and sold.

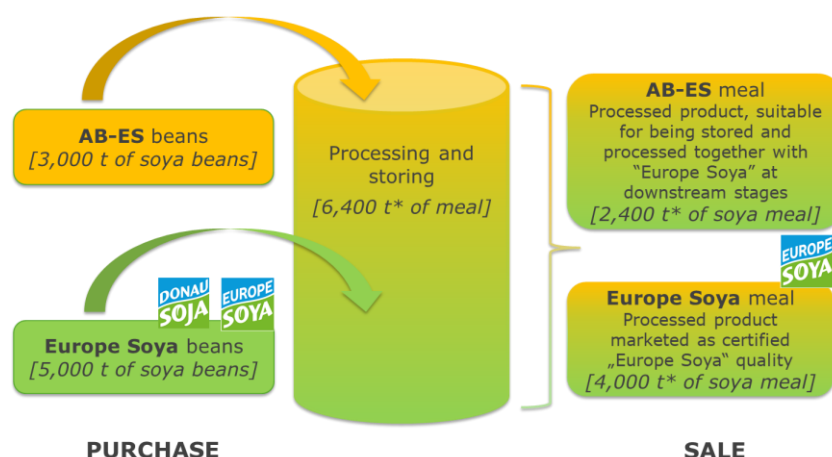
After this 12-month period, any remaining physical ES-certified stock must be notified to the certification body and to Donau Soja ([quality@donausoja.org](mailto:quality@donausoja.org)) for carry-over. These carry-over stock amounts must be consumed by 31 December of the same year. After this date, the remaining stock must be downgraded. In contrast, any non-physical balance of goods ("credits") must be reset to zero on 31 August, in line with the cumulative period.

### 5 Miscellaneous

- 5.1 Donau Soja soybeans automatically meet the criteria applicable to Europe Soya soybeans. The possibilities of processing Donau Soja soybeans together with AB-ES soybeans 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: Soybean primary processor

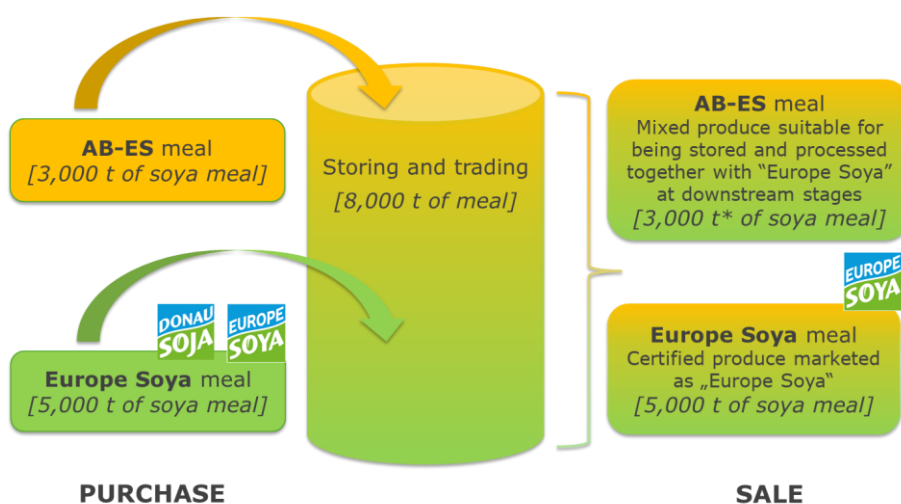
When e.g. processing 5,000 tonnes of Europe Soya/Donau Soja soybeans and 3,000 tonnes of AB-ES soybeans, this may result in 6,400 tonnes of soybean meal (assuming a processing factor, from soybeans to soybean meal, of 0.8). However, only the proportional Europe Soya soybean meal of 4,000 tonnes may be 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 soybean meal (or e.g. toasted full-fat soybeans, soybean oil, soybean cake). Additionally, this trader buys a further 3,000 tonnes of AB-ES soybean meal (from the joint/mixed processing of Europe Soya and AB-ES soybeans). The total quantity of 8,000 tonnes of soybean meal may be stored together. However, only 5,000 tonnes of this soybean meal may be sold as Europe Soya soybean 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 soybean meal. Additionally, this compound feed producer buys a further 3,000 tonnes of AB-ES soybean meal. The total quantity of 8,000 tonnes of soybean meal is added to the compound feed, resulting in a total of 40,000 tonnes of compound feed (containing 20 % of soybean meal now). However, only 25,000 tonnes of this compound feed, containing 5,000 tonnes of Europe Soya soybean meal, may be sold as Europe Soya animal feed.

