



**DONAU SOJA GMBH**

Zur Förderung der europäischen Sojaproduktion

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## **Agrarmarkt Austria**

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Austria

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Vienna, 30.01.2026

## **Recognition of an Alternative System**

Following a thorough review and benchmarking of the respective system requirements against the Donau Soja / Europe Soya requirements, it has been determined that raw soybeans certified according to

### **AACS / AACSPlus<sup>1</sup>**

can be accepted under the conditions specified below as soybeans from alternative systems as defined in Annex 08 of the Donau Soja / Europe Soya requirements and as equivalent to Donau Soja / Europe Soya soybeans. This recognition applies to the following scopes:

- DS/ES Primary Collector (R 02)
- DS/ES Primary Processor (R 04)

The conditions for recognition are the following:

- AACS soybeans are only recognised in combination with **AACSPlus**.

#### **Origin of the soybeans**

- Origin of the soybeans: **Austria**. This must be contractually agreed with the direct supplier, confirmed, and verifiable.
- Mass balance: Soybeans may only be mixed with Austrian soya or with soybeans from EU countries with F-RL 0-1<sup>2</sup> that have been designated as "**sustainable**"<sup>3</sup>. This must be verifiable.

#### **Freedom from GMO**

- The soybeans must be GMO-free on principle. Therefore, they must not be subject to labelling as GMO under **Directive (EC) 1829/2003** and must be suitable for use in **non-GM systems**<sup>4</sup>. This should be stipulated in the contract, if necessary.

<sup>1</sup> AACSPlus Standard Version 04 of 09.10.2025

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 04 of the Donau Soja / Europe Soya Guidelines

<sup>3</sup> AACSPlus - Leitfaden für Unternehmen - Prozesszertifizierung zur Überwachung der nachhaltigen Erzeugung von Produkten auf landwirtschaftlichen Flächen zur Weiterverwendung im Rahmen der Lebens- und Futtermittelerzeugung, Punkt 4.1

[https://www.ama.at/media/gasf3i2n/aacsplus\\_leitfaden\\_fuer\\_unternehmer\\_v04\\_ab\\_2025\\_10.pdf](https://www.ama.at/media/gasf3i2n/aacsplus_leitfaden_fuer_unternehmer_v04_ab_2025_10.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> E.g. VLOG, ARGE Gentechnikfrei, or another non-GM certification equivalent to these systems

- If the origin of the soybeans cannot be proven to be entirely in Austria:

**Option 1)** Soybeans are only accepted with a valid **GM-free certification**<sup>5</sup> of the goods.

**Option 2)** - AACS soybeans that are intended for use as DS/ES must be received as GM-free. The GM-free status must be verified during the DS/ES or non-GM<sup>5</sup> audit of the business; and

- **GMO tests at delivery:** rapid GMO tests are mandatory per transport unit (e.g. truck) or per 100 tonnes, respectively, for all soybeans that are intended for DS/ES, regardless of risk level. These tests must be conducted and interpreted analogously to Chapter R 02, Point 7.2 or R 04, Point 2, respectively, of the DS/ES Guidelines.

### **Marketability**

- The soybeans must be marketable for the production of food and feed in the EU. This applies particularly with regards to compliance with EU limits for desiccants (glyphosate, diquat) and pesticides.
- **Pesticide and desiccant monitoring:** AACS soybeans originating from countries with F-RL 1-2<sup>6</sup> must be tested for compliance with desiccant (glyphosate, diquat) and pesticide limits at least once per year. EU limits apply on principle.
- During transportation of the soybeans as part of the purchasing process, care must be taken to ensure that the goods are transported using suitable, cleaned conveyances to avoid contamination with GMOs or hazardous substances. The cleaning process must be documented.

The requirements of Annex 08 apply. The use of soybeans from the system mentioned above is only possible upon written request to Donau Soja.

For any questions, please contact us at [quality@donausoja.org](mailto:quality@donausoja.org).

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<sup>5</sup> E.g. VLOG, ARGE Gentechnikfrei, or another non-GM certification equivalent to these systems

<sup>6</sup> See Annex 04 of the Donau Soja / Europe Soya Guidelines