

Certification to bio.inspecta AG basic requirements

Prerequisites:

Certification to the *bio.inspecta AG basic requirements* (Basisanforderungen bio.inspecta) can be obtained for products that do not fall under the scope of the Swiss organic regulation (Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming SR 910.18) or the bio.inspecta Organic Standard (EU Equivalent Standard), i.e. cosmetics, raw materials used in the production of cosmetics, essential oils, cleaning products, fish feed, fish and fisheries products (aquaculture products) as well as other agricultural products that do not fall under the scope of bio.inspecta Organic Standard accreditation.

There are no provisions for certification to the *basic requirements* of fertilisers, soil conditioners and similar products. Such products are covered by other rules and regulations.

Product requirements

The *basic requirements* are fundamentally based on the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming, but are under private management and are not included in the scope of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming.

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1. Raw materials of agricultural origin used in processed or prepared products

Preliminary remark: Ingredients of agricultural origin may also include aquaculture products.

Raw materials of agricultural origin must be certified organic in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming or a standard recognised to be equivalent to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming. Evidence of product certification must be provided in the form of a certificate and product labelling and/or in the accompanying papers.

The certification of aquaculture products may also be based on certification to a recognised private standard, such as Bio Suisse, Naturland, Soil Association or Debio. In the case of certification to other standards, bio.inspecta will assess the quality of the certification scheme with a view to its recognition.

A minimum of 95% of the ingredients of agricultural origin must be of certified organic quality. Any individual ingredient may not be used in two different qualities (organic and non-organic). When calculating the percentage of organic ingredients, the total mass of the ingredients of agricultural origin shall be taken to be 100%. Only non-organic ingredients of agricultural origin authorized in accordance with Annex 3, Part C of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.181) may constitute the permitted 5%.

Where other non-organic ingredients of agricultural origin are used or where non-organic ingredients of agricultural origin constitute more than 5% of the product, the product can be certified as a "product containing organic ingredients".

Additives that are considered ingredients of agricultural origin in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming must also be taken into account here.

2. Processing Auxiliaries and additives, flavors, microorganisms and enzymes in processed or prepared food or feed (e.g. fish feed)

For these substances, the corresponding specifications from the Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance apply.

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3. Agricultural production

The production of raw materials of agricultural origin and the keeping of livestock must be compliant with the requirements of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18).

Organic components of feedstuffs must have been produced meeting standards equivalent to the requirements placed on organic production in Switzerland. It must be possible to plausibly justify this equivalence.

Non-organic components of feedstuffs must meet the requirements of the FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) *Input list (for organic production in Switzerland)*

Auxiliary inputs used in crop production must meet the requirements of the FiBL *Input List (for organic production in Switzerland)*.

Where auxiliary inputs of feed additives are used that are not covered by the FiBL *input List* or the FiBL *List of Approved Auxiliary Inputs* respectively, an assessment must be made by bio.inspecta as to the product's principal conformity, or otherwise, with the requirements of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming. bio.inspecta may delegate this assessment to FiBL at the applicant's expense.

Please note: The following Sections 4 and 5 do not apply to foodstuffs and feedstuffs or to agricultural production.

4. Mineral raw materials

The use of natural mineral substances is generally permitted. These substances must not be chemically altered, unless they are altered using the approved processing aids listed under Section 4.

5. Other ingredients and processing aids

5.1. Additives and processing aids

The use of all additives and processing aids approved in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming is permitted. For soap manufacturing or to adjust a product's pH the following acids and bases may be used: Sodium hydroxide solution (sodium hydroxide), potassium hydroxide solution (potassium hydroxide), and hydrochloric acid.

5.2. Microorganisms and enzymes

The use of microorganisms and enzymes approved in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming is also permitted, provided that the preparations neither consist of nor have been manufactured from genetically modified organisms (GMO).

5.3. Flavourings and fragrances

All flavourings and fragrances considered natural aromas may be used.

5.4. Preservatives

Additionally, the following substances may be used as preservatives:

- Benzoic acid and its salts
- Benzyl alcohol
- Dehydroacetic acid and its salts
- Salicylic acid and its salts
- Sorbic acid and its salts

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6. Permitted manufacturing processes

Only manufacturing processes approved in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming are permitted for the manufacture of products in accordance with the *basic requirements*.

7. Labelling

A product certified to the basic requirements may be advertised as 'org' or 'eco' (*organic* or *ecological*; in German-speaking areas: *Bio* or *Öko*). In the list of ingredients of a "product containing organic ingredients", only the organic ingredients may be labelled as organic (*Bio*, *Öko*). Additionally, the certifier must be given as follows: "Organic certification: bio.inspecta AG".

A list of ingredients must be provided, either on the packaging or as part of attached documentation. Ingredients of certified organic origin must be highlighted in the list of ingredients.

All additives (e.g. aromas, minerals, preservatives) must be declared.

The non-organic ingredients of agricultural origin must be named as such in the list of ingredients.

Where non-organic raw materials of agricultural origin are used, the proportion of non-organic ingredients of agricultural origin to the total mass of ingredients of agricultural origin must be clearly and comprehensively declared.

Applicable document: 13_018EN Assignment to the scope of the Swiss Organic Ordinance or the Basic Requirements

Final remark: in case of ambiguities, the German version of this standard is decisive.

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