

BIO SUISSE



Vereinigung Schweizer Biolandbau-Organisationen
Association suisse des organisations d'agriculture biologique
Associazione svizzera delle organizzazioni per l'agricoltura biologica
Associazium svizra da las organisaziuns d'agricultura biologica
Association of the Swiss Organic Agriculture Organisations

Standards for the production, processing and marketing of pro- duce from organic farming

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**ENGLISH TRANSLATION (RELIABLE IS THE
ORIGINAL GERMAN VERSION)**



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INTRODUCTION

Swiss farmers played a leading part in the development of organic farming. Indeed, shortly after the founding of the biodynamic agriculture by Dr. Rudolf Steiner (1924), operations were started in Switzerland which utilised his methods, adapted to the climate and structural conditions of Switzerland. In the 1940s, Dr. Hans Müller developed the organic biological method, taught farmers about the importance of fertile soil, and firmly established the concept of sustainable organic agriculture with closed cycles in crop production. Back in 1974, far-sighted representatives using both these farming methods formed the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, which sought to establish a scientific justification for the observations of the pioneers of Organic Agriculture. Modern times for Organic Agriculture began in 1981 with the founding of the Association of the Swiss Organic Agriculture Organisations (BIO SUISSE). Under its aegis, there are today members of more than 30 farmers organisations, as well as the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture.

The first common standards on organic farming methods were passed in 1981, and, at the same time, the common logo, the BUD-label, was created. Today the BUD-label is much sought after in modern marketing in which consumers have developed a high level of confidence.

The revised and up-dated edition of BIO SUISSE standards presented here govern the inspection and declaration of this sector according to the requirements of the European Union's decree on ecological agriculture and the Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance, but, regarding production techniques (crop production and animal husbandry) and processing, it goes considerably further in a number of respects.

BIO SUISSE

Ernst Frischknecht
President

Reader's guide:

The additional regulations and documents marked with → in the BIO SUISSE standards are available at BIO SUISSE; moreover, most of them may be loaded down from the BIO SUISSE website (www.bio-suisse.ch) as PDF-files.

The documents marked with * are only available in German, French and/or Italian.

PREAMBLE

PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE[#]

Farming while conserving the land

In the knowledge that healthy soil, pure air and pure water, and a multitude of large and small plants and animals are irreplaceable, organic agriculture strives constantly for a relationship with nature and the environment that conserves both as far as possible.

Taking on responsibility

Organic farmers are aware of their responsibility with respect to the natural fundamentals of life, and try to bring their work into harmony with the cycles of nature. Being a human activity, farming is always an intrusion into nature.

Conserving diversity

Organic farming has to be integrated into a diverse, self-regulating ecosystem. Hedges, dry swards, edges of fields, mature trees and other bio-topes not only enrich the appearance of the landscape, but also help towards maintaining the diversity of species, and thus also increasing beneficials.

Active soil

In the long term, only an active soil will bear fruits. Therefore the maintenance and increase of natural soil fertility by appropriate cultivation practices is of central significance. Everything that works against this goal is to be abandoned. Most especially, synthetic chemical fertilisers are forbidden.

Prophylactic crop protection

The health of crop plants is to be governed by the choice of resistant crops and varieties suited to the climate, appropriate fertilisation, and suitable methods of cultivation and care. The use of synthetic crop protection products is prohibited.

Rearing of farm animals by methods appropriate for each

The specific needs of each type of animal must be taken into account. In doing this, ethical and ecological viewpoints must be considered. One should strive for a good life-time performance by the animals, not for maximum output. Embryo transfer is not permitted.

No use of genetic engineering

Organic agriculture (production and processing) renounces on interventions of genetic engineering and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) and their follow up products.

[#] The terms "Organic Agriculture", "Biological Agriculture" and "Ecological Agriculture" are used with the same meaning in Switzerland

Producing quality

Production of quantity may not be achieved at the expense of intrinsic quality.

Maintaining quality

Maintenance of quality, and especially of valuable constituents, should also be considered during further processing of the produce from organic farming.

In the interest of the consumers

Organic agriculture offers foodstuffs that contribute greatly to health, along with the greatest possible preservation of the environment, and so is wholly concerned with consumers' interests and their health.

Consideration of value

In turn, it is expected that the consumers appreciate the value to their health and are prepared to pay an acceptable premium for these products.

Agriculture with a future

Only in harmony with nature has agriculture a future. Organic agriculture must, however, be compatible not only with the environment, but also with human needs. Farms are only capable of survival in the long term if they provide adequate living conditions and appropriate wages.

Under the BUD-label

Products raised according to the standards of BIO SUISSE (Association of the Swiss Organic Agriculture Organisations) are identified by the BUD-label, the trademark for well inspected organic products. They offer the consumer a guarantee of foodstuffs produced by healthy methods that respect the environment.

1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1.1 RANGE OF APPLICATION

BUD-products

1.1.1 The standards of BIO SUISSE (Association of the Swiss Organic Agriculture Organisations) apply:

- for the production of plant and animal products which are to be marketed under the BUD-label, the trademark of BIO SUISSE or which are indicated as being produced under the standards of BIO SUISSE;
- for the processing and marketing of foodstuffs which are partly or wholly composed of raw materials which were produced following the standards of BIO SUISSE and which are marked by the BUD-label;
- for auxiliary substances which are declared under the BUD-label or which are indicated as being produced under the standards of BIO SUISSE.

1.1.2 The General Assembly of BIO SUISSE is responsible for the issue and amendment of the standards. The following appendices are integral parts of these standards:

- permitted aids for fertilisation and soil conditioning
- permitted materials for treatment of plants
- permitted measures and agents for pest control in storage and processing
- minimum quality criteria for organic fruit
- list of additional regulations and documents

Alteration of these appendices and the issuing of instructions according to Article 1.1.3 of these standards come under the competence of the label-commissions «Production» (LCP), «Processing/Marketing» (LCPM) and «Import» (LCI). Member organisations of BIO SUISSE have the right of appeal. If appeals have not been received by the Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE from at least three member organisations within 30 days, then the decision comes into force. In the case of an appeal, the Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE comes to a decision on the basis of reports received from the relevant expert commission of BIO SUISSE. An action against the decision of the Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE can be brought before the General Assembly within 30 days.

Individual agricultural organisations are free to make additional impositions on their members in some areas.

Interpretation of the standards

1.1.3 Any interpretation of these standards must be based on an understanding of the concept of nature involved in organic agriculture as defined in the rules for production.

How the standards are to be interpreted is incorporated into the instructions where necessary.

Relation of the standards to the law

1.1.4 Should legal regulations on processing, storage or specifications of foodstuffs conflict with these standards, there can be no entitlement to the use of the BUD-label.

1.2 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Inspection and certification contract

1.2.1 Producers (farmers; producers of agricultural products) as well as processing and trading companies have to sign a contract on the inspection and certification with an inspection- and/or certification body designed by BIO SUISSE. BIO SUISSE has a list of these bodies.

→ *to Art. 1.2.1: List of the organisations that are entitled to inspect or certify farms and produce according to BIO SUISSE standards (in Switzerland)**

Contract between producers and BIO SUISSE (producer's contract)

1.2.2 The producers are entitled by a producers contract to use the protected BUD trademark and obliged to pay the federation- and marketing contributions.

The contract also rules the labelling of products in sale and trade. If producers achieve a substantial turnover from the trade of purchased BUD-products, they too are obliged to take out a licensing contract. The Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE lays down the terms for this.

Contract between processing and trading companies and BIO SUISSE (licensing contract)

1.2.3 BIO SUISSE is the holder of the BUD-label. The right of third parties to use the trademark can only be obtained by signing a contract. The closing of a licensing contract and the paying of the licence fees determines who may use the BUD-label.

→ *to Art. 1.2.3: LCPM-directive «General requirements» (valid for licensees)*

Fees

1.2.4 The fees for the producer's contract (according to Art. 1.2.2) will be set by the General Assembly of BIO SUISSE.

The fees for the licensing contract (according to Art. 1.2.3) will be set every year by the Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE in a separate regulation.

→ *to Art. 1.2.4: Regulations on fees**

2 CROP PRODUCTION

2.1 BASIC PRINCIPLES

Soil fertility and Soil management

- 2.1.1 A healthy soil is a prerequisite for healthy plants, healthy animals and healthy food. In biological farming, the care of a living soil and consequently the maintenance and improvement of natural fertility are at the centre of all measures adopted. A varied vegetation and a soil which is covered as long as possible with plants are the best prerequisites for this.

Maintenance of humus

- 2.1.2 In organic agriculture, the objective is to achieve a careful conservation of humus. The supply and natural build-up of organic material should at least replace all that is broken down. This objective is served by the development of ley grass farming, the growing of suitable green manure crops, limits on the root crops grown in rotation and the working of organic matter.

Soil cultivation

- 2.1.3 Cultivation of the soil is to be carried out with care and consideration. Tolerance of life in the soil and the soil structure is to be taken into account in all operations. Deep ploughing should be avoided, and also any cultivation of the soil when it is wet. Nutrient loss due to intensive cultivation and all unnecessary expenditure of energy are to be avoided.

Fertilisation

- 2.1.4 Fertilisation should promote life in the soil. Nitrogen is given exclusively in the form of organic fertilisers. Mineral supplements are given on the basis of local needs, soil analyses, observations on the farm and the nutrient balance of the whole farm, and they should be kept to a minimum.
The use of synthetic chemical nitrogen fertilisers, easily soluble phosphates and also concentrated fertilisers containing chloride or pure potassium is forbidden in organic farming. Fertilisers are listed in Appendix 1 and also in the annually updated list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture).
- 2.1.5 Organic inputs, compost and earth brought in from outside must not contain any ingredients that are not allowed under the general standards. Particular attention should be paid to anything which could result in contamination by harmful substances (heavy metals, antibiotics, residues of chemical pesticides etc.). If there are doubts, the necessary analyses must be carried out or requested.
- 2.1.6 Exact records are to be kept of the nutrient inputs brought in (source, amount and use). In case of doubt, analyses must be performed and assessed by certification body.
- 2.1.7 The intensity of fertilisation, especially with nitrogen, must not adversely affect the quality of the yield (constituents of value, taste, smell, storage life, wholesomeness).

- 2.1.8 Moreover, the amount of fertiliser given must be adjusted according to the site and climatic conditions. The quantities of all nutrients employed per hectare should, under optimum conditions, not exceed the amount in the droppings from 2.5 large animal equivalents (LAE)¹ per hectare in lowland areas (plaines). This is to be adjusted according to altitude and growing conditions using the following model:

Altitude <i>(m above sea level)</i>	Use as fodder <i>(no. of times)</i>	Max. no. of LAE/ha under	
		<i>good conditions</i>	<i>poor conditions</i>
400-600	4 to 5	2.5	2.0
600-900	3 to 4	2.0	1.5
over 900	1 to 2	1.5	1.0

To calculate the average stocking rate of a farm, the average stocking rate (intensity) of the various areas need to be taken into account.

- 2.1.9 In the case of legally recognised co-operatives situated within limited areas (e.g. cheese-making co-operatives, producers associations and other forms of co-operation between farms) which have common sales of BUD-products, the exchange of manure and fodder is permitted.

→ *to Art. 2.1.4 – 2.1.9 (fertilisation):*

- *Directive «Farm manure purchase and selling»**
- *List of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Permitted fertilizers and trade substrates»**

Fodder production

- 2.1.10 The intensity of use of natural meadows and permanent pasture land must match the natural conditions of the location in terms of the amount of manure applied and the frequency of cutting for hay, and be graded to correspond with the possibilities of fodder utilisation within the farming operation.

Rotations

- 2.1.11 Any crop rotation should be worked out to be varied and balanced so that it will maintain long-term soil fertility and guarantee healthy plants. The rotation must, in particular, minimise the leaching of nutrients into groundwater and their passage into surface water.

Choice of crops and varieties

- 2.1.12 The crops and varieties grown must be those best suited to local and regional conditions, the least susceptible to disease and of a good nutritional and physiological quality.

Pollution control

- 2.1.13 Farm operations and/or fields that are exposed to heavy pollution by non-permitted auxiliary inputs or harmful substances can be excluded from the BUD-marketing, respectively the LCP can impose measures to prevent contamination.

¹ 1 LAE corresponds to the annual manure output of one adulte milk cow (105kg N, 35kg P₂O₅, 180kg K₂O, 12kg Mg). For all other domestic animals, there are existing conversion factors (e.g. 1 sheep (not milked) = 0.17 LAE, 1 breeding pig = 0.45 LAE, 1 fattening pig = 0.17 LAE, 100 layers = 1 LAE, 100 fryers = 0.4 LAE, 100 turkeys = 1.5 LAE)

2.2 SEED, PLANTING MATERIAL AND VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION MATERIAL

Requirements on the use

- 2.2.1 The use of genetically modified/engineered seed and transgenic plants is forbidden in organic farming.
- 2.2.2 Swiss seed, planting material and vegetative propagation material must derive from BUD-farming. Imported seed and planting material must at least comply with the requirements of IFOAM. Preferably BIO SUISSE approved seed, planting material and vegetative propagation material should be used.
Planting material in vegetable and herb cultures as well as vegetative propagation material in fruit-and berry-cultures must derive from cultivations that comply with the BUD-requirements.
- 2.2.3 Seed, planting material and vegetative propagation material treated with not allowed substances (subsequently called «treated») must not be used. The use of peat for the cultivation of planting material has to be restricted as much as possible.
- 2.2.4 When seeds and vegetative propagation material as defined in Art. 2.2.2 can be proved to be unobtainable in quality and quantity usual in the trade, untreated seed respectively vegetative propagation material produced by non-organic methods may be used during a transition period until 31.12.2003. The use of treated seeds is only allowed in exceptional cases. The LCP will set new rules on the requirements for proof and for exceptions for each crop every year during the transition period.
- 2.2.5 The LCP decides, in accordance with the valid legislation in this matter, on special regulations concerning the use of non-organic seed, planting material and vegetative propagation material after 31.12.2003.

Requirements for the production

- 2.2.6 BUD-labelled seed and vegetative propagation material have to meet the following requirements: The parent plants must be cultivated at least for one generation or, in case of perennial cultures, for at least two growth periods, on a BIO SUISSE approved farm. Further requirements on the propagation of single species are set down in folders and instructions.

→ to Chapter 2.2:

- Directives «Rearing of seedlings in organic vegetable and herb cultivation» and «Strawberry-seedlings»*
- LCP-leaflet «Seed, planting material and vegetative propagation material»*

2.3 CROP PROTECTION

- 2.3.1 The proper choice of variety, stimulation of soil fertility, a well-balanced fertilisation, careful sowing and cultivation techniques (e.g rotation, variety, use of mixed cropping, enough space between plants and green manure) hinders the incidence of pests and diseases. Varied micro-environments such as hedges, nesting sites or wetlands provide favourable conditions for the natural enemies of pest and disease organisms.

- 2.3.2 In order to increase the self-regulatory ability of the crop stand and to improve the resistance of the plants to domination by potential pest organisms (fungi, bacteria, insects and other animals), certain regulators and plant tonics may be applied as specified in Appendix 2 and the annually updated list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture).
- 2.3.3 Permissible for the direct control of pest organisms are mechanical and biotechnical methods, and also the products listed in Appendix 2 and the annually updated list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture), but only if considerable damage is anticipated, based on an assessment of the likely development in the balance between pest and beneficial organisms. The choice and method of the treatment must have specific results, i.e. they must not affect other organisms nearby.
- 2.3.4 The use of crop protection agents produced from synthetic chemicals and genetic engineering is forbidden. There should be no detectable residues of these products, unless they originate from a general contamination of the environment. Fields that are exposed to heavy pollution by chemical-synthetic or genetically engineered crop protection products can be excluded from the marketing with the BUD-label, respectively the LCP can impose measures to prevent contamination. Permitted crop protection products are given in Appendix 2 and the annually updated list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture). Products not specifically mentioned in these lists are not permitted for use.
- 2.3.5 Weed control is carried out by cultivation and mechanical methods. Flame weeding is allowed. Thermic sterilisation of the soil in the outdoor fields is forbidden.
- 2.3.6 All use of herbicides and growth regulators (straw shorteners, chemical hormones for fruit regulation, chemical soil disinfection or stem weakening substances etc.) and other chemical plant hormones (desiccants, e.g.) is forbidden.
- *to Chapter 2.3: List of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Permitted products for crop protection»**

2.4 PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY OF SPECIES

Entitled areas

- 2.4.1 A farm manager has the duty to retain, augment or create ecologically diversified areas (the so called «compensatory ecological habitats») as nearly natural as possible, and to care for them properly. These habitats must constitute at least 7% of the agricultural land. They must be situated in the same parts of the farm which are used for agricultural purposes and be owned or rented by the farmer.
- The following elements may be included:
- unimproved meadows and pasture land;
 - wet meadows, wetland;
 - wildflower strips between fields;
 - fallow land with wild flowers (species rich; for at least 16 months);
 - fallow land in rotation (species rich; for at least 16 months);
 - single high stem fruit trees (counted as 1 are/100 sqm per tree);

- isolated native trees in suitable places (counted as 1 are/100 sqm per tree) and avenues of trees;
- hedges, copses and embankment copses;
- ditches, ponds and pools;
- waste ground, piles and stacks of stones;
- drystone walls;
- unmade natural paths;
- other compensatory ecological habitats.

All elements defined in the National Ordinance on Direct Payments must be handled at least in accordance with the requirements of this directive.

- 2.4.2 In the distribution of the ecologically diversified habitats among various farmers, the various components are to be divided up by the responsible authorities, and the individual farmers are to retain the divided areas.

Farms with several production units

- 2.4.3 Farms which have several production units, which are outside the regular farmed area must identify the «compensatory ecological habitats» for each production unit in proportion to its size. For farming operations with areas in other countries, these «compensatory ecological habitats» must comprise at least 7% of the area used for agriculture in each case.

Minimum proportion of land with unimproved meadows and pastures

- 2.4.4 The proportion of less frequently cut meadows and unimproved meadows, grazed pastures, woodland clearings or wet meadows must comprise at least 5% of the permanent grassland, lays (including unimproved meadows on fallow fields) and wet meadows.

Border areas

- 2.4.5 Alongside paths, grass strips at least a 0.5 m wide area should be left. These strips can only be counted as «compensatory ecological habitats» when they are within the farmed area, fulfil the relevant conditions for unimproved or less intensively used meadows, and are at least 3 m wide. In areas carrying perennial crops, the first 3 m of such border strips lying across the main direction of cultivation are counted as headlands of the cultivated area. They cannot be counted as unimproved or less intensively used meadows.
- 2.4.6 Alongside or around surface water, woodsides, hedges and copses or trees in fields, grass strips of at least 3 m wide must be left. No fertilisers and no crop treatments may be applied. Grazing is permitted as appropriate for the location. The LCP can replace the compulsory requirement for grass strips by an interdiction of treatments with fertilisers or plant treatment products whenever specific technical reasons require this (e.g. the field width between two hedges) or when the hedge does not lie within the farmer's own farm.

SPECIAL CULTURES

→ to Chapters 2.5ff (*Special cultures*): Directive «*Horticulture (cultivation of ornamental plants)*»

2.5 VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Soil and potting earth/substrates

- 2.5.1 Growing of vegetables is permitted only in soil. Growing in earth-less media (e.g. stone wool), hydroponic culture, nutrient-rich plastic films and similar methods and techniques are not allowed. Chicory buds may be grown in water, but without added fertiliser.
- 2.5.2 The addition of peat to enrich the soil with organic matter is not allowed. The same applies to the use of styropore (Styromull) and other synthetic substances in the soil or in growth media.
- 2.5.3 Purchase of organic fertiliser (compost) serves only as a supplementary measure to cultivation methods.

→ to Art. 2.5.1 – 2.5.3: *List of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Permitted fertilizers and trade substrates»**

Seedlings

- 2.5.4 Seedlings must either be from the farm itself or purchased from BIO SUISSE approved operations. When unforeseeable shortages occur, the LCP will decide on the procedure within the bounds of legal prerequisites.
- 2.5.5 When rearing seedlings are cultivated, the amount of peat used is to be kept to a minimum.

Steam treatment of small areas and soil

- 2.5.6 When growing under plastic covers and in the production of seedlings, a superficial steaming for control of competing plants is authorised. This applies to soil and other growth media, but the steam treatment is to be kept to a minimum level.
- 2.5.7 Deep steam treatment to eliminate soil epidemics in case of need requires a special permit.

Growing under glass and plastic

- 2.5.8 In winter (1st December to 28th February) these cropping areas may simply be kept free of frost (about 5 degrees C). An exception is made in the case of seedling production.
- 2.5.9 In selecting a heating system and the fuel to be used, compatibility with the environment must be respected. Care must be taken to have housing with good insulation.
- 2.5.10 The use of plastic and fibre sheet etc. on the soil is to be kept to a minimum. Used sheeting is to be taken away for recycling.

Growing herbs

2.5.11 The rules for growing vegetables are also applicable for the growing of herbs.

→ *to Chapter 2.5:*

- *Directive «Rearing of seedlings in organic vegetable and herb cultivation»*
- *LCP-leaflet «Seed, planting material and vegetative propagation material»**

2.6 FRUIT PRODUCTION

Growing systems

2.6.1 The shape of trees and the planting distance must ensure that sufficient light is available to the fruit during the whole growing period. The fruit species and varieties and the rootstock should be appropriate to the local soil and climatic conditions.

Pruning

2.6.2 To obtain good quality fruit, pruning promotes an open tree crown with slow-growing but strongly developed fruit-bearing wood. It must be adapted to the condition of the trees, and also their shape, vigour and age.

Soil management

2.6.3 Orchards must have ground cover present all the year round. It should be maintained so that it keeps a diverse flora and fauna. Cover by a monoculture should be avoided.

2.6.4 The rows of trees may, particularly in young orchards, be kept cultivated mechanically or covered with material of organic origin (e.g. bark compost, rape straw) or by long-life plastic sheeting.

Fertilisation and mulching

2.6.5 Amended organic material may be brought in and used as mulch, or it may also be worked under.

2.6.6 Fertilisation and mulching must be carried out sparingly and at appropriate times, so as not to distort the physiological balance of the trees and the quality of the fruit.

Pest and disease management

2.6.7 All tree cultivation measures, such as the choice of shape, distance between trees, variety and general care, also serve to increase the resistance of fruit trees.

2.6.8 When new plantings are made, disease-resistant fruit varieties should be given preference.

2.6.9 Products permitted for the treatment of fruit trees are listed in Appendix 2 and the annually updated list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture).

Bearing and growth regulation

- 2.6.10 Accurate thinning by hand at the right time serves to improve fruit quality and prevent alternate bearing.

Berries and miscellaneous fruit

- 2.6.11 These standards are valid wherever relevant also for bush fruits and any other fruit crops.

Quality and grading

- 2.6.12 Quality and grading criteria are shown in the BIO SUISSE minimum rules (see Appendix 3).

2.7 VINE PRODUCTION

Soil Management

- 2.7.1 Productive vineyards should bear a complete vegetation cover all year round. The cover may, from time to time, be replaced by a compost mulch or by a sown cover crop. The soil of newly planted vineyards may be shallowly cultivated. The vegetation cover must comprise a diversity of species and be sustained so that a rich flora and fauna is encouraged (by pruning severely in alternate years and appropriate manuring).

Fertilisation

- 2.7.2 The soil-conditioning and manuring materials that are permitted are listed in Appendix 1 and the annually updated list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture).
- 2.7.3 Any compost brought in is to be worked superficially into the soil or used as a covering mulch. Breaking of hardened surface soil should be carried out not by turning the soil, but by means of deep-rooted plants. When new vines are planted, deep (ripper) ploughing is allowed.

Crop protection and care

- 2.7.4 All cultivation measures such as rearing young vines, stock preparation, pruning, trellising, inter-row width and general care serve to increase the resilience of the vines.
- 2.7.5 As far as possible, disease-resistant vines should be grown.
- 2.7.6 Crop protection products approved for treatment of vines are listed in Appendix 2 and the annually updated list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture).

Improvement of quality

- 2.7.7 The natural sugar content should be optimised by proper cultivation such as pruning, canopy manipulation and control of the potential yield. The median production from the landholding to be aimed at, as a minimum, is the local average for the variety concerned.

2.8 MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Starting material

- 2.8.1 For organically produced mushrooms, only organic and/or mineral starting materials which are acceptable according to BIO SUISSE standards and the Swiss Sub-Ordinance on Organic Farming, Appendix 2, clause 4 may be used.
- 2.8.2 The substrate and any additional materials must derive 80% from organic production (based on dry matter content).

Hygienic measures

- 2.8.3 The growth medium and covering soil may only be sterilised by heat. In particular, it is forbidden to apply any synthetic chemical pesticides to the growth medium, soil, water or ambient air.
- 2.8.4 The growing areas can only be disinfected by heating or with products approved by BIO SUISSE.

→ *to Chapter 2.8: Directive «Production of edible mushrooms»*

3 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

3.1 BASIC PRINCIPLES

Breeding

- 3.1.1 The health and performance of animals is to be promoted by appropriate rearing, the choice of suitable races and the breeding methods adopted. Animals should be bred which fit in well with the ecological limits of the various requirements and conditions to be found on a organic farm. The target is a high longevity performance by the animals. Genetic manipulation, embryo transfer and synchronisation of oestrus cycles are forbidden. Artificial insemination is allowed, but all other forms of artificial or otherways influenced reproduction (eg. embryo transfers, spermasexing) are forbidden. The LCP can authorize exceptions in accordance with the Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture, in order to preserve endangered genetic resources. The respective animals and their products must not be marketed under the terms of organic farming.

Embryo transfer

No animals deriving from embryo transfer must be kept on the farm. Bulls resulting directly from embryo transfer (ET) and their sperm are not to be used. As an interim measure, a maximum of 50% of the male breeding stock or their semen may derive directly from ET up to 31.12.2001.

- 3.1.2 On organic farms, natural reproduction techniques shall be preferred whenever possible. In selecting animals, particular attention should be paid to the longevityperformance of their forbears.

Housing and welfare

- 3.1.3 The specific ethological needs of all species of domestic animals must be taken into account with the provision of appropriate housing and the opportunity for movement and activity. The National Animal Protection Law must be observed in entirety.
- The condition for marketing under the BUD-label and/or direct sales from the farm is that the Swiss «Program for regular free-range of livestock» is kept. For animal products not marketed under the BUD trademark, there is a transition period until 31.12.2001. Until this date, ruminants must be guaranteed at least 90 days per year of grazing in meadows or free range area, at least once a week.
- Calves being reared and fattened are to be kept in free groups, on litter or in «igloos», with access to the outdoor area, from their third week on to four months of age.
- Keeping the animals in herds is to be preferred to keeping them separated. A journal must be kept on the grazing and free range periods of all animals.

Tethering

It is principally not allowed to tether animals. Exceptions of this principle:

- cattle on small farm operations, the size of which is defined by the authorities;
- individual animals for safety- respectively protection reasons, for a limited time;
- cattle kept in buildings existing before 1.1.2001, until 31.12.2010.

- 3.1.4 The number of animals must be appropriate for the farmed area, the site and the climatic conditions. In lowland (plaines), the stocking rate may not exceed 2.5 large animal equivalents (LAE; see Art. 2.1.8) per hectare of agricultural area. In mountain areas under poor conditions, the stocking rate is to be reduced, as shown in Art. 2.1.8.

Stables

- 3.1.5 Stable floors with fissures or holes are forbidden. The bedding areas for all animals must be covered with straw or be dry and well insulated. Daylight must be provided.
- 3.1.6 Materials and paints in stables must be innocuous (non-toxic). As far as possible, the cleansing agents and disinfectants being used must be innocuous and biodegradable. BIO SUISSE has a list of all recommended agents.

→ *to Art. 3.1.6: List of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Parts «Permitted agents to control stable flies»*, «Recommended detergents and disinfection agents»* and «Recommended cleaning and sterilization agents for organic dairy operations»**

Feed

- 3.1.7 Animals are to be fed correctly according to species (according to their natural feeding behaviour). The feeding of animals should not be in direct competition with the growing of food for humans.
- 3.1.8 Animals are to be fed with fodder from the farm itself. Conversion-fodder produced on the farm may be used in a proportion of max. 50% of the fodder surface (conversion-farms: up to 100%). Purchased fodder serves only as supplement to this home-produced feed and fodder and should be organically produced as far as possible.

The following fodder may be purchased:

- BUD-fodder;
- BUD-fodder produced under the terms of conversion to organic farming; the proportion of conversion-fodder must not exceed 30% of the ration of each specific livestock category;
- fodder certified with the «BUD for auxiliary inputs»;
- non-organic fodder and fodder components according to the positive list of fodder. The conformity of this fodder with BIO SUISSE standards must be unambiguously proven as for non-organic components as well (eg. labels on containers or delivery note in case of loose deliveries and so on).

Non-organic fodder

The proportion of non-organic fodder contained in the total fodder ration must not exceed the following percentages:

- Ruminants: 10% of the total dry matter consumption
- Non-ruminants: 20% of the total dry matter consumption per animal category

Non-organic fodder proportions of the daily ration must not exceed 25% of dry matter.

In case of losses of fodder yield, in particular because of extraordinary weather conditions, the certification body can authorize, in agreement with the Federal Office of Agriculture, a higher percentage of non-organic fodder for directly affected livestock keepers, in a specific area and for a limited time.

Transitional regulations

If the animal-derived products are neither marketed directly from the farm nor under the BUD-label, the following percentages are permitted for the non-organic fodder-part (in proportion of the total dry matter required) until 31.12.2001:

- 10% of the total fodder-consumption of all ruminants
- 20% of the total fodder-consumption of all live stock in the farm

Besides, the requirements as defined in Art. 3.1.9 and in the positive list of fodder must be met for all used fodder.

Specific feeding regulations

Young mammals must be fed on the basis of natural milk, preferably mother's milk. All mammals must be fed with natural milk during a minimum period, that is defined according to each specific animal species. For cattle (including water buffalos and bisons) and horses it amounts to three months, for goats and sheep to 35 days and for pigs to 40 days. Ruminants must receive at least 60% of dry fodder matter as fresh, dried or ensilaged roughage.

As for poultry, the fodder administered during the fattening period must consist of at least 65% grains and grain legumes (their products and by-products) and oil seeds (their products and by-products).

Forbidden fodder

3.1.9 The fodder components must be of natural condition, and the processing methods must be as natural and as energy-saving as possible. Fodder must not contain any traces of genetically modified organisms or of their by-products exceeding the quotas defined in the directive «Feeding without the use of genetic engineering».

In addition are forbidden:

- chemical-synthetic additives (urea, antimicrobial fattening promoters, enzymes, synthetic amino-acids etc.);
- therapeutic chemical medication used prophylactically (sulphonamides and others), antibiotics, hormones, coccidiostatic preparations etc. Excepted are worming cures in areas of high risk (alpine meadows, permanent meadows);
- Fattening methods with forced feeding and the keeping and housing of animals in conditions that could lead to anemia.

The addition of animal proteins, animal fats, patented preparations of fats and proteins, propylene glycol, propionic acid and any similar substances and additives that do not suit the digestion of ruminants to their fodder is forbidden. Mixtures of mineral substances or trace elements as well as vitamine preparations are allowed to meet the demand. Natural products are recommended.

→ to Art. 3.1.7 – 3.1.9:

- *Directives «Feeding without the use of genetic engineering» and «Animal fodder»*
- *Positive list of fodder**
- *List of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Permitted silage additives»**

Provenance of animals

3.1.10 The livestock, except for horses not-used for food production and except for male breeding animals, must principally come from approved organic farm operations. To support this aim, the LCP can impose a steering tax on non-organic animals (see Art. 7.2.6).

Conversion-periods

In order to be regarded as organic animals, livestock not coming from organic farm operations that are purchased after the beginning of the conversion to organic farming must be kept in accordance with the rules of these standards for at least:

- 12 months as for cattle and horses (including water buffalos and bison-species) used for meat production; in any case at least during three quarters of their life;
- 6 months as for small ruminants and pigs;
- 6 months as for milk producing animals;
- 56 days as for poultry for meat production, which have been put in the chicken-coop before reaching the age of three days;
- 6 weeks as for poultry for egg production.

Purchase of non-organic animals

In order to develop a stock, calves and small ruminants for the production of meat may be marketed as animals from organic farming, if they are kept in accordance with the rules of these standards during the following periods before they are slaughtered:

- calves for at least 6 months
- small ruminants for at least 2 months.

If the quantity of animals available to supplement the natural increase or renewal of the stock, the livestock owner may, in agreement with the certification body, put in stable yearly nullipare female young cattle or horses (animals that have not yet thrown), including water buffalos or bisons from non-organic farm operations, in a quantity coming up to 10% of the grown up cattle and horses, as well as up to 20% of the stock of grown up pigs, sheep or goats. For organic farms with less than 10 cattle or horses or with less than five pigs, sheep or goats, the renewal is limited to one animal per year.

Exceptions

On request and in agreement with the Federal Office of Agriculture, the LCP is entitled to authorize individual farm operations to stable animals from non-organic farms in proportion of 40% of the stock, if animals from organic farms are not available in sufficient quantity. This may occur for the following reasons:

- considerable increase of animal husbandry;
- conversion to other races;
- development of a new branch of animal production;
- necessity of a substitute calf for a mother- or nurse-cow.

In case of increased mortality because of epidemics or other catastrophies, the LCP authorizes, in agreement with the Federal Office of Agriculture, the renewal or reconstruction of the livestock with animals from non-organic farm operations, if there are not enough animals available from organic farms.

Male breeding animals from non-organic farm operations may be purchased any time.

Transitional regulation

If the animal products are not to be sold with the BUD-label, the buying of animals is free from regulation until 31.12.2001.

For animal products to be marketed under the BUD-label and direct sales on the farm, the following rules apply (only with exceptional permission of the Federal Office of Agriculture):

- Until 31.12.2001, animals may basically be freely purchased even for selling under the BUD-label. Before it is sold, however, an animal must have spent at least one year on a organic farm, and, for short-living creatures, at least two-thirds of its life span.
- To sell milk under the BUD-label, in the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2001 at least 80% of the animals must derive from certified organic farms, which means that they must have spent at least the previous twelve months on a organic farm. Purchase of animals should be from certified organic farms whenever possible.

Until 31.12.2003, the following animals may be purchased from non-organic farm operations for the development of a new livestock, if there are not enough animals available from organic farms:

- laying hens up to an age of 18 weeks;
- broilers must be put into the chicken-coop on the 3rd day at the latest;
- buffalo- and bison-calves from the moment of their weaning, but at the latest at the age of 6 months;
- calves until the age of 6 months;
- horses from the moment of their weaning until the age of 45 days;
- piglets from the moment of their weaning; they must not be heavier than 25 kg.

Until 31.12.2003, the minimal period during which newly purchased animals must be kept on the farm in order to be regarded as animals from organic production, is as follows:

- for pigs: 4 months
- for milk producing animals: 3 months

Animal health

- 3.1.11 Injured or sick animals must be treated. Natural remedies and healing methods have first priority, if experience shows that they have a therapeutical effect on the respective animal species or the disease that is to be treated. Chemical-synthetic allopathic treatments may be carried out on the veterinarian's prescription, if the disease or injury cannot be efficiently treated with alternative methods. The treatment must be resorded indelibly in the stable book.

Withdrawal periods

The withdrawal period between the last administering of a chemical-synthetic allopathic veterinary medicine and the marketing of foodstuff from such an animal amounts principally to the double of the legally stipulated time indicated on the package. Excepted are drugs for the draining of cows with udder problems. Before the use of draining agents, a bacteriological analysis of the milk must be carried out.

Prophylatic treatment

Prophylactic treatments with chemical-synthetic allopathic medicines, antibiotics and hormones are forbidden. The use of coczidiostatics, prophylactic iron-injections on pigs as well as the use of hormones or similar substances to control the reproduction (eg. induction or synchronization of the heat) or for other aims are not permitted. Hormones may yet be administered to an individual animal in case of a therapeutic treatment by a veterinarian. Synthetic chemicals as worming agents and vaccinations are allowed on prescription by a veterinarian.

Treated animals must be identifiable any time and unmistakably as such.
For disinfection of the teats, drugs from the list of the Swiss Dairy Research Institute (FAM) are allowed.

Number of treatments

If an animal is treated more than three times within a calendar year with chemical-synthetic allopathic veterinarian medicines or antibiotics (or more than once, if the product life-cycle is of less than a year), the respective animals or products of these animals must not be sold as organic; and the animals must undergo once more the conversion-periods defined in Art. 3.1.10. Excepted are vaccinations, the treatment of parasites and treatments under the terms of state-run programs against animal epidemics.

→ *to Art. 3.1.11: List of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Recommended agents to control ecto-parasites»**

Zootechnical measures

3.1.12 Zootechnical measures must be kept to a minimum. De-horning of young animals should only be carried out as a precaution for the safety of people and other animals and under local stunning. Permitted zootechnical measures must be carried out by qualified personnel. Castration is permitted. It may only be performed under anaesthetic and by a vet. Castration without anaesthetic of up to 14 days old piglets, lambs, goat kids and calves is tolerated.

Forbidden measures

The de-horning of adult animals and the use of nose-rings for pigs are forbidden. The LCP can yet authorize, in justified cases and in agreement with the Federal Office of Agriculture, exceptions as for the de-horning and the fastening of nose-rings on pigs in alpine pasture areas.

Particularly forbidden without a vet's prescription are:

- tail-docking, except in the case of sheep when diarrhoea caused by their feed leaves no alternative and shearing does not help;
- blunting of teeth;
- clipping of beaks and claws in poultry;
- trimming of wing-bones;
- castration by means of elastic rings later than the third week of life for sheep and goats and the fifth week for calves;
- caponising of roosters.

BUD-label for animal products (species specific requirements)

3.1.13 The conditions laid down in Art. 3.2.1 to 3.11.6 are valid until 31.12.2001 only for the marketing of animal products under the BUD-label and direct sales from the farm. From 1.1.2002, these conditions must be observed by all BIO SUISSE approved operations.

→ *to Art. 3.1.13: Directive «Change to superior classification in animal husbandry»*

→ *to Chapter 3.1: Directive «Animal husbandry on alpine pastures (marketing with the BUD-label)»**

SPECIES SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- to Chapters 3.2 ff (species specific requirements):
- Directive «Beekeeping on BUD-farms»* (no BUD-labelling is possible) and list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Permitted agents to control bee diseases»*
 - LCP-leaflet «Quail husbandry»* (BUD-labelling is possible)

3.2 CATTLE

Rearing

- 3.2.1 Electric cattle prods are forbidden with effect from 1.1.2002. The Swiss «Program for regular free-range of livestock» must be observed, as stated in Art. 3.1.3 above.

Feeding

- 3.2.2 Cattle are primarily to be fed with roughage. Concentrates may only be used as a supplement. The amount of fodder that may be bought in is given in Art. 3.1.8.
- 3.2.3 Calves shall not be taken off milk before they are 3 months old. Powdered milk substitute or powdered milk shall not be given.

3.3 SHEEP

Rearing

- 3.3.1 Sheep must be kept in flocks on pasture land, or in a free stable where they can move around freely and have access to the open air. Keeping them individually in boxes is only allowed for a maximum of seven days at lambing time and if they fall ill. Rams can be kept individually.
- During the season of vegetative growth, sheep must be put into the pasture land every day. In bad weather, it is sufficient to let them out in an outdoor run every day. In winter, all animals must have exercise area outside at least 13 times a month.
- 3.3.2 Castration of males is allowed up to the age of 2 months, but the use of rubber rings only up to 14 days.
- 3.3.3 Sheep from transhumance systems (migratory herding) may not be marketed under the BUD-label. Farms that practise transhumance and stall rearing in the winter months may sell their home-reared animals under the BUD-label, on condition that the animals from the transhumanceflocks are not brought back on to the farm.

Feeding

- 3.3.4 Sheep should be primarily fed with roughage. The rules on the buying in of non-organically grown fodder are given in Art. 3.1.8.
- Lambs are basically to be reared and fattened on mother's milk. The use of milk powder is forbidden.

Veterinary medicine

- 3.3.5 The keeping of sheep should be optimised so that worming with synthetic chemical medicaments is needed as little as possible. These medicaments are permitted by order of a vet. Preference should be given to individual treatment for claw diseases (cutting, disinfection). In bathing the feet, copper salts and formalin are to be used with discretion.

→ *to Chapter 3.3: Directive «Sheep-keeping»**

3.4 GOATS

Rearing

- 3.4.1 Goats must be taken to graze every day. The Swiss «Program for regular free-range of livestock» applies.
During the birth period, mother animals must be able to move about freely for at least a day. Keeping goats individually in boxes is only permitted for a maximum of seven days after the lambs are born and in cases of illness.
Billy-goats (male goats) may be kept individually.
Hormonal synchronisation of oestrus is forbidden.

Feeding

- 3.4.2 Goats are to be fed primarily with roughage produced on the farm. The proportion of concentrates (non-organically or organically grown) may only comprise 10% of the total consumption. Rules on the buying in of non-organic grown fodder are given in Art. 3.1.8.

Veterinary medicine

- 3.4.3 The rearing of goats should be optimised so that worming with synthetic chemical medicaments is needed as little as possible. These medicaments are permitted by order of a vet. The use of persistent antibiotics to dry of lactation is forbidden.

→ *to Chapter 3.4: Directive «Goat-keeping»**

3.5 PIGS

Rearing

- 3.5.1 All pigs must have daily access to an outdoor-run from the 24th day of life. Farrowing sows are excepted from this in the first 24 days after farrowing. Non-lactating sows may only be shut in during feeding; otherwise they must be kept in groups, as a rule in pastures or rooting areas. Mother sows may be held individually in farrowing pens for the week before farrowing and during the suckling period. Tying up the mother sows is not allowed. The piglets may not be weaned before the age of six weeks.
The pigs must have tall-growing roughage or straw available to keep them occupied.

Feeding

- 3.5.2 As an addition to Art. 3.1.8, milk whey from non-organic production may comprise up to 35% of the dry matter in the pigs diet.
In the rearing of pigs on alpine meadows, the whey from cheese-making may be fed to pigs without restriction.
- 3.5.3 The copper content may not exceed 10 mg per kg of the feed (on drymatter basis). Roughage must be offered every day to breeding sows and pigs being fattened.

→ *to Chapter 3.5: Directive «Pig-keeping»**

3.6 LAYING HENS

Rearing

- 3.6.1 If the outdoor-run is restricted, each bird must have at least 5 sqm available. The run must be covered with vegetation and have structures providing shade and protection from enemies. In addition, a completely or partially roofed area (poor weather area) with a sandbath must be available, during the whole activity period of the hens.
- 3.6.2 The maximum flock size is 250 birds. If the system incorporates special buildings (such as those defined by the Swiss Federal Ministry for Veterinary Affairs) - e.g. volieres or roosts with free access - the flock size can number up to 500 birds. Several such flocks per farm are possible. It is recommended that about 3 cocks per 100 hens are kept.
- 3.6.3 In the stables, there shall be no more than five birds per square metre of accessible floor space. Of the total ground area, 33% must be straw-covered scratching area. With systems that have an enclosed area like a conservatory (winter garden), the conservatory area must comprise 50% of the straw-covered scratching area if it is reckoned in as part of the total ground space. The hens must have sufficient nest boxes available, containing straw or soft pile matting.
The birds must have sufficient raised perches. The manure heap must be separated off and the henhouse well and naturally lit. The light period must not exceed 16 hours (other than by natural daylight in the summer). Fluorescent lighting is not allowed other than high frequency lighting. Moulting should not be artificially induced.

Feeding

- 3.6.4 The rules on the buying in of non-organic grown fodder are given in Art. 3.1.8. In addition, laying hens in the straw-covered areas must be given a suitable grain mixture. Care must be taken to ensure that all birds can feed at the same time (as a precaution against cannibalism).
- 3.6.5 Drinking water systems must be constructed so that birds can drink from an open water surface. Valved spigot systems which were installed before this guideline came into force will be acceptable until 31.12.2001.

→ *to Chapter 3.6: Directive «Rearing of pullets and laying hens»**

3.7 BREEDING PULLETS

Rearing

- 3.7.1 The young birds should be reared so that they learn to behave naturally, which they can then continue once they are in the laying hen-houses. As part of their rearing, they should develop a natural immunisation. Basically the same standards apply as for laying hens. The flock size should not exceed 1000 selected pullets per farm unit. The birds must have unlimited access to an enclosed conservatory (winter garden) area with a dustbath up to at least the seventh week.

Feeding

- 3.7.2 Composition of feed must meet the requirements of young birds of their age. Pullets must be supplied with a suitable grain mixture in the straw from the 10th week at the latest. Buying in of feed is regulated in Art. 3.1.8. Administration of prophylactic doses of antibiotics and coccidostatic medicaments is forbidden from the first day (Art. 3.1.9). Otherwise the standards on feeding laying hens (Art. 3.6.4, 3.6.5) should be applied within reasonable limits.

→ to Chapter 3.7: Directive «Rearing of pullets and laying hens»*

3.8 FATTENING CHICKENS

Rearing

- 3.8.1 Only birds from extensively to semi-intensively reared flocks should be kept. These must be allowed to conduct their basic behavioural needs, i.e. seeking the resting area and using the raised perches provided. Birds should have no physical defects caused by breeding and no skeletal deformities.
- 3.8.2 Every bird should have at least 2 sqm of outdoor-run covered with vegetation. This run must contain structures providing the hens with shade and protection from enemies. After each batch of pullets, the position of the outdoor-run must be changed to avoid a build-up of parasite populations. The outdoor-run for poultry may be used twice a year. A minimum break of 12 weeks must be observed between the usage of the same outdoor-run. A completely or partially roofed court with a sandbath (bad weather free range) must be available during the whole activity period of the hens. The maximum flock number is 500 chicken in the endphase of the fattening; and several separate flocks per farm are allowed. Fattening chicks up to 21 days may be kept in separate pens with a maximum of 1000 chicks per flock. 4 flocks per pen unit are allowed. From their 4th week on, access to the outdoor-run and a pasture must be permanently available (see Art. 3.1.3). In the stables, the population density should be kept to a maximum of 20 kg live weight/sqm. The scratching area and lighting is analogous to that required by laying hens.

Feeding

- 3.8.3 Art. 3.6.4 and 3.6.5 apply equally to laying hens and pullets being fattened.

3.9 TURKEYS

3.9.1 For the rearing and feeding of turkeys, the same rules (Art. 3.6.1 to 3.6.5 plus 3.8.1) apply as for laying hens and fattened chickens.

3.9.2 The following deviations should be noted:

- From the 7th week on, every bird must have 10 sqm of run available. This comes down to 9.6 sqm for flocks larger than 125 birds, and to 9 sqm when more than 150 birds are being reared. In the run, birds must be able to peck around. They must have a shaded area of at least 1 sqm for every three birds.
- When penned for fattening, the population density must be no more than three birds (half males, half females) per sqm of accessible floor space, corresponding to a maximum of 36.5 kg live weight/sqm. In the rearing phase (1-6 weeks old) this should be reduced to 30 kg live weight/sqm. The ground and flooring must have enough straw to keep it dry.
- The turkey must be able to peck around in the pens as well. The buildings must be adequately lit by natural daylight. During the night, one or more dim lights must be kept on (maximum 25 Watt, red light).

3.9.3 If there are more than 50 birds, an inventory control card must be kept.

3.9.4 So that they can be marketed under the BUD-label, the birds must have been on an organic farm at least since their eighth week of life.

3.10 RABBITS

3.10.1 For husbandry and feeding of rabbits, the regulations for other animals apply.

3.10.2 In deviation from other animal species, for which Swiss «Program for regular free-range of livestock» is to be met, rabbits have to be kept in compliance with the Swiss «Program for particularly animal-friendly housing-systems».

3.10.3 In order to market rabbits under the BUD-label, young stock must come from breeding groups that are kept according to these regulations.

→ *to Chapter 3.10: Directive «Rabbit-keeping»**

3.11 EDIBLE FISH

Basic principles

3.11.1 The general principles of animal production (Chapter 3.1) apply in analogy to the production of edible fish. Special attention is drawn to 3.1.7 - 3.1.9 (feeding); 3.1.10 (origin of the animals) and 3.1.11 (animal health).

3.11.2 In fish production it is required that the ecologic balance is not being disturbed, that natural populations are not endangered and that the basic principles of sustainability are observed.

The specific needs of fish have to be taken into consideration (pond/installation, structure of the habitat, stock density, water quality etc.).

- 3.11.3 The fish must not be exposed to unnecessary strains or stress during keeping, transport or slaughter.

Origin

- 3.11.4 In principle only local fish species that are adapted to the local conditions are to be raised. Exceptions require authorization and are subject to regulations.
The use of genetically modified or triploid fish is forbidden.
Parents and young stock must not be or have been fed with antibiotics, growth promoters or hormones.

Feeding

- 3.11.5 For salmonides and other carnivorous fish species, the addition of fish meal and fish oil is allowed. It has to be produced either from residues of edible fish processing or come from provably sustainable fishing.

Fish farms

- 3.11.6 Fish farms are allowed to purchase the total food requirements in deviation from 3.1.8, but all the other feeding-requirements must be observed.
The entire fish farm has to produce organic fish. The parallel production of organic and non-organic fish is not allowed.
The Chapters 4 and 7 of these standards regarding conversion resp. inspection and certification must be observed.

→ *to Chapter 3.11:*

- *Directive «Production of edible fish»*
- *List of auxiliary inputs for fishfarms**

4 CONVERSION TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

4.1 GENERAL

- 4.1.1 Conversion to organic agriculture basically concerns the whole farm operation and the entire land surface. The standards of BIO SUISSE should be implemented in entirety during the conversion process.
- 4.1.2 Farms wishing to convert to organic agriculture shall submit full details of their previous farming methods and soil analyses (nutrient reserves) to the inspection/certification bodies.
- 4.1.3 Newly converted farm operations are duty bound to complete a course of introduction and instruction lasting at least two days on the background and methods of organic agriculture. The days taken over the course will be recorded by a certificate.

→ to Art. 4.1.1-4.1.3: Directives «Definition of farm operations for BUD-farms», «Newly cultivated land» and «Cooperations of animal husbandry and farm operations»

Timespan

- 4.1.4 The time needed for conversion is at least two full calendar years. At the beginning, conversion carries the written obligation of the farmer to adhere closely to BIO SUISSE standards. Full certification as a BUD-operation will follow from the third year after the conversion started, beginning with the summer feeding period in the case of animal products.
- 4.1.5 In the first year of conversion, after certification (1st of May at the earliest), all crop-products of cultures sowed after the 1st of January may be marketed under the BUD IN CONVERSION-label.
Cultures sowed before the 1st of January may be marketed under the BUD IN CONVERSION-label, if the producer has registered for organic farming before the sowing date and has confirmed in writing that the culture in question has been cultivated from the date of sowing according to the standards of organic farming. The certification authority sets the terms for proof.
- 4.1.6 Fodder harvested in the first year of conversion (forage cereals, lucerne etc.) that is fed to the producer's own stock may be counted as organic fodder, independently of the standards in Art. 4.1.5, paragraph 2. Fodder from the own farm harvested in the year before the conversion is considered to be non-organic fodder, except for roughage after the 1st of May of the conversion year.
- 4.1.7 Crop-products from perennial crops may be marketed under the BUD IN CONVERSION-label after certification (1st of May) of the first conversion year.

4.2 STEP BY STEP CONVERSION¹

- 4.2.1 If an immediate conversion of the whole operation would impose totally unacceptable risks, farm operations producing wine, fruit or ornamental plants may carry out a step by step conversion to organic production, on condition that the whole farm is converted to fulfill BIO SUISSE standards within five years. The detailed rules may be found in the directive «step by step conversion».
- 4.2.2 The criteria for step by step conversion are:
- a) A binding conversion plan with full written details of the conversion steps, with a timetable.
 - b) Evidence of the inspectability regarding production techniques, avoidance of drift and separate flows of produce.
 - c) The production procedures and flows of produce on the whole farm should be documented and will be examined. The conversion plan shall also include the farming procedures in the non-organically run areas. The rule is: as quickly as possible and as organic as possible.
 - d) Total separation of the differently farmed areas and the yields from them, from field to sale. The overlap at the borders between organically and non-organically farmed areas is to be kept as small as possible.
 - e) Any interim regression to non-organic methods on the organically farmed areas is out of the question.
 - f) Permission of the Federal Office of Agriculture.
- 4.2.3 With the exception of vine growing, the only products that can be sold bearing the BUD IN CONVERSION-label are those which are in appearance clearly and easily distinguishable from those being non-organically grown at the same time. In the case of vine growing, the products produced from one and the same variety can be certified and marketed separately, provided that a complete record is kept of the flow of the produce (e.g. of the quantity produced, within the framework of the official administrative controls over the grape harvest).
- 4.2.4 Organically grown produce can be sold with the BUD-label after a conversion period of two years, as long as all other production branches are in the process of being converted.

→ *to Chapter 4.2: Directive «Step by step conversion»*

¹ The terms "Step by step conversion", "gradual conversion" and "conversion in stages" are used with the same meaning

5 PROCESSING AND MARKETING

- to Chapter 5: Directives «On-farm processing and purchasing of organic products»*, «Subcontracted processing»*, «Feeding without the use of genetic engineering», «Gastronomy» and «Animal fodder»

5.1 GENERAL RULES

5.1.1 Insofar as requirements for specific groups of products are not governed by directives, these general rules of processing apply.

- to Chapter 5.1: LCPM-Directives «General and product specific requirements for the processing according to BIO SUISSE standards»

Directives for the processing are available for the following product groups (as of 1.1.2001):

1. Milk and dairy products	4. Cereals and cereal products	7. Eggs and egg products
2. Meat and meat products	5. Alcoholic drinks and vinegar	8. Gastronomy
3. Fruit and vegetables	6. Vegetable oils and fats	9. Animal fodder

5.2 ORIGIN OF INGREDIENTS

General requirements

- 5.2.1 All additional ingredients of agricultural origin must come from recognized organic agriculture. The rules that apply are the BIO SUISSE standards or rules in other countries that are recognized as equivalent by BIO SUISSE.
- 5.2.2 Wild grown raw materials from sites outside controlled farms may be used as ingredients, or, in exceptional cases, as main constituents, as long as they come from surfaces that can be inspected.

Exemptions

- 5.2.3 If the applicant can prove that the ingredients of agricultural origin are not all available in sufficient quantity or adequate quality, BIO SUISSE may allow exemptions from the general requirements under the following conditions:
- Single components must not be of organic and non-organic origin at the same time.
 - At least 95% of the ingredients have to come from organic farming. Allowed non-organic ingredients are listed in list C, appendix 3 of the Swiss Sub-Ordinance on Organic Farming. Additional restrictions of BIO SUISSE are possible. Non-organic ingredients have to be declared as such. Processing of these must also be carried out according to the present standards.
 - If less than 95%, but at least 70% of the ingredients come from organic farming, the respective products can be marked with the BUD DECLARATION-label. The list of allowed non-organic ingredients (list C, appendix 3 of the Swiss Sub-Ordinance on Organic Farming) and of permitted additives (see product specific directives for the processing) also apply to these products.
 - Products from conversion farms can be marketed with the BUD IN CONVERSION-label.

BUD-labelled products must principally not contain any ingredients from farms in conversion or else they must be labelled as BUD IN CONVERSION-products.

5.2.4 The standard for the calculation is the proportional volume at the moment of processing.

→ *to Chapter 5.2 (product specific): LCPM-directives for the processing according to BIO SUISSE standards*

5.3 PROCESSING PROCEDURES AND METHODS

General principles

5.3.1 Products that are intended to bear the BUD trademark may only be processed by careful mechanical and physical leavening and fermentation processes, or combinations of these procedures.

5.3.2 Unnecessary manipulation or processes, or the preparation of products from isolated substances, is not allowed.

5.3.3 Procedures and treatments which use ionising radiation and microwaves are not allowed.

Use of micro-organisms, enzymes and special procedures

5.3.4 Foodstuffs should not contain any genetically modified organisms or products thereof. The permitted enzymes are listed in the product specific directives for the processing.

Chemical processing of food

5.3.5 Chemical processing of foodstuffs or chemical alteration of substances in food is forbidden. Adjustment of the pH level is permitted on proven grounds. The inclusion of additives and processing aids (see Art. 5.4.1 and 5.4.2) is not considered as a change involving a chemical process within the meaning of this ruling.

→ *to Chapter 5.3 (product specific): LCPM-directives for the processing according to BIO SUISSE standards*

5.4 ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS

Definitions

5.4.1 For additives, the definitions in the Swiss Food Ordinance are binding.

5.4.2 Processing aids are substances or materials (excluding implements and technical equipment) that are not normally in themselves regarded as foodstuffs and that are purposely brought into contact with foodstuffs at one stage or another of their processing. Since these processing aids are removed or largely disappear during the process, they are not reckoned as components or only in trace amounts.

General requirements

- 5.4.3 All usage of additives and processing aids is to be avoided as much as possible. As additions, only substances that are made by physical separation processes, leavening and/or fermentation are permissible. Processing aids which are made by hydrolysis, e.g. gelatine, require a special permit from BIO SUISSE.
- 5.4.4 If, by following a hydrolytic method, any other than purely physical conditions are imposed, a permit will only be issued if the applicant can clearly show that the desired properties of the end-product can only be obtained by these means.
- 5.4.5 The authorised additives are listed in the product specific directives for the processing. If the use of any additive is allowed for a particular food product, this does not automatically confer the right to use it for other products.

→ *to Chapter 5.4 (product specific): LCPM-directives for the processing according to BIO SUISSE standards*

5.5 WINE PROCESSING

- 5.5.1 Grape juice and wine must be produced exclusively (100%) from organically grown grapes. Each operation disposing of its own wine processing is subject to an additional cellar inspection.
- 5.5.2 The admitted additives and processing aids, filtration aids and physical proceedings are listed in the product specific directives for the processing.
- 5.5.3 The addition of either dry sugar (saccharose) or concentrated grape must or rectified grape-must-concentrate in order to increase the natural alcohol content is allowed. The natural alcohol content may be increased by 1.25 volume-percent at the most (corresponds to 2.5 kg of saccharose/hl grape must). Exemption: wines from Labrusca-grapes and sparkling wines, whose natural alcohol content may be increased by 2 volume-percent at the most (corresponds to 4 kg/hl).
In justified cases, the LCPM can allow an increase of the natural alcohol content of 2 volume percent at the most for other wines too.
- 5.5.4 As preserving agents, only sulphurous acid may be used, at the following maximum concentrations:
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| In general: | 120 mg/l |
| Exempted: | - dry wines 30 mg/l |
| | - naturally sweet luxury wines 40 mg/l |
| | (according to Swiss Food Ordinance) |

→ *to Chapter 5.5: LCPM-directive «Alcoholic drinks and vinegar»*

5.6 CLEANSING AGENTS

- 5.6.1 The selection and use of cleansing agents must be carried out to as to minimise damage to the environment. BIO SUISSE has a list of permitted cleansing agents and disinfectants.

→ *to Chapter 5.6: List of permitted cleansing agents and disinfectants in processing plants (not yet complied)*

5.7 PEST MANAGEMENT IN STORAGE AND PROCESSING

General principles

- 5.7.1 The occurrence of pests should be avoided by good production practices and hygienic conditions. In addition to that, preventive measures have to be taken. An immediate treatment of the pest organism with agents is only allowed in exceptional cases and only with BIO SUISSE-admitted agents.

Admitted measures

- 5.7.2 The measures and agents (active substances) allowed for prevention are listed in Appendix 2, part B of these standards.
- 5.7.3 The measures and agents (active substances) allowed for direct application on BUD-products are listed in Appendix 2, part B of these standards.

Measures subject to authorization

- 5.7.4 Agents (active substances) requiring an authorization of the certification body are listed in appendix 2, part B of these standards. Each use of these agents has to be registered with the certification body at least 10 days before.
The agents listed in appendix 2, part B must not be brought into direct contact with BUD-products. Appropriate measures have to be taken in order to prevent a contamination of BUD-products.

Forbidden measures

- 5.7.5 All measures and agents for pest management that are not mentioned in Art. 5.7.2, 5.7.3 and 5.7.4 are forbidden, particularly all kinds of fumigation and irradiation of foodstuffs or of their raw materials with ionising radiation and microwaves.

→ *to Chapter 5.7: Directive «Pest control in storage and processing»*

5.8 BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS

- 5.8.1 Wherever products of organic and non-organic origin are being processed in the same building and installations, the individual batches of produce are to be kept strictly separate by means of organisational measures.

Storage

- 5.8.2 Produce from organic farming must be stored so that any mixing or switching by mistake with non-organic products is impossible. Non-organically and organically grown produce should only be stored together when they are packed ready for sale and labelled. Storerooms and boxes for unpackaged produce must be kept separate from each other and specially labelled. The effect of any possible treatments with pesticides before these rooms and boxes are used must be excluded. Lifts, pipes, etc. must be free from the remains of non-organically grown produce.

- 5.8.3 Other than simple storage at the ambient temperature, the following specific storage conditions are permitted:
- cooling;
 - deep-freezing;
 - controlled atmosphere (using only CO₂, O₂ and NO₂).

If there is a strong adverse effect on the quality, raw materials that have to be deep-frozen to make them firm enough to process must be declared on the label.

Transport

- 5.8.4 Organically and non-organically grown products may only be transported together when they are packaged accordingly and separately labelled. The packaging must conform with the packaging rules in these regulations.

5.9 PACKAGING MATERIALS

General requirements

- 5.9.1 The packaging system used should be one that causes the least possible contamination of the environment. Where it is practicable, re-usable systems should be preferred.

Forbidden packaging materials

- 5.9.2 Materials that are forbidden are:
- PVC and other chlorinated plastics;
 - aluminium drink cans;
 - aluminium-plastic laminates (the LCPM may permit exceptions in well-founded cases).

→ *to Chapter 5.9 (product specific): LCPM-directives for the processing according to BIO SUISSE standards*

5.10 IMPORTED BUD-PRODUCTS

Principles

- 5.10.1 Imported organic products (raw materials and processed products) labelled with the BUD, must meet the following requirements:
- The production of the product must keep the present standards. The principle of equivalence applies thereby. To this end the producer (see Art. 5.10.5 and 5.10.6) or the cultivators association (see Art. 5.10.7) must be approved by BIO SUISSE;
 - the import is exclusively reserved to trading companies provided with a valid license contract with BIO SUISSE (see Art. 1.2.3);
 - BIO SUISSE only awards the BUD-label to products imported by land or sea (flight ban). In individual cases, exceptions must be authorized by the LCI;
 - the legal requirements of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming must be met;
 - priority must be given to organic produce from the neighbouring countries.

- 5.10.2 If the requirements of Art. 5.10.1 are met and the flow of the goods can be unambiguously identified back to the BIO SUISSE approved operation, the importing licensee receives a BUD-label product approval for each imported supply, that entitles him to label the products with the BUD. The BIO SUISSE approval of a foreign operation alone does not entitle the importer to label his produce with the BUD.
- 5.10.3 BIO SUISSE restricts the BUD-labelling for foreign produce in case of sufficient supply inside Switzerland or in case of entire processing abroad.

Fresh produce

- 5.10.4 Fresh products (fresh fruit and vegetables) from overseas can principally not be labelled with the BUD, except for produce, which cannot be cultivated in Switzerland or in Europe for climatic reasons. Those products and its provenance are listed.

→ *to Art. 5.10.4: Positive list: Fresh products from overseas**

BIO SUISSE approval of individual operations outside of Switzerland

- 5.10.5 The keeping of the standards is monitored in each foreign operation by BIO SUISSE (LCI) or a foreign inspection or certification body that is recognized by BIO SUISSE. The BIO SUISSE approval of individual operations must be renewed yearly.
- 5.10.6 Processing and trade operations have to be inspected and certified in accordance with the BIO SUISSE standards. The LCI is entitled to carry out simplified approval procedures in individual cases.

BIO SUISSE recognition of producers associations

- 5.10.7 BIO SUISSE is also entitled to approve, in addition to individual operations, produce from cultivators associations on the basis of an assessment of their keeping to the BIO SUISSE standards.

Regulations on procedures and sanctions

- 5.10.8 The LCI is entitled to decree regulations on certain procedures in definite areas that are not sufficiently covered by the BIO SUISSE standards (e.g. collection of wild plants, specific topics concerning the cultivation in tropical areas, approval of cultivation projects). In addition, the commission has specific regulations on sanctions imposed in case of offences.

→ *to Art. 5.10.8: Regulations on procedures and reasons for decisions by the BIO SUISSE label-commission «Import»*

Fees

- 5.10.9 For the approval of individual operations outside of Switzerland, BIO SUISSE charges the importing licensee a fee according to the time required for the assessment. The fee is also charged, if the proposed operation is not approved.

6 LABELLING / MARKETING

6.1 LABELLING

General

- 6.1.1 Once a contract with BIO SUISSE has been signed, the BUD trademark may be used according to the following regulations and the directive «Requirements for the labelling of products and advertising material with the BUD». Packages have to comply with the rules and print patterns of this directive and must be submitted to the BIO SUISSE office before being printed.

Swiss organic products

- 6.1.2 For products that comprise at least 90% Swiss-grown raw materials, the BUD-label is used together with the words BIO and SUISSE.



(Partially) imported products

- 6.1.3 For products that comprise less than 90% Swiss-grown raw materials, the BUD-label and the word BIO is used.
Imported organically grown products must fulfil the conditions of Chapter 5.10. in order to be labelled with the BUD-label.



The BUD DECLARATION-label

- 6.1.4 If less than 95% but at least 70% of the ingredients of a product derive from organic farming, the BUD-label (without the words BIO and SUISSE) may be used in the list of ingredients (as the so-called BUD DECLARATION-label). The declaration must, in such cases, clearly relate to the ingredients produced according to the present standards, and it must appear in the same colour with an identical size and style of lettering as the other indications in the list. In the maximally 30% of non-organic ingredients, only the raw materials listed in list C, appendix 3 of the Swiss Sub-Ordinance on Organic Farming can be used.
In the same field of vision as the product description an indication such as «X% of ingredients of agricultural origin were obtained in accordance with the rules laid down for organic farming» must appear. This indication is compulsory as to the wording and has to appear in the same colour with an identical size and style of lettering as the indications in the list of ingredients. Moreover, it shall not be more prominent than the product description.

The BUD IN CONVERSION-label

- 6.1.5 Products that come from farms in conversion may be sold with the BUD IN CONVERSION-label. Moreover, all conversional products have to be marked with the indication «produced under the terms of conversion to organic farming». The sentence is compulsory as to its wording.



For products comprising at least 90% swiss-grown raw material.



For products comprising more than 10% raw material grown abroad

The BUD IN CONVERSION-label must be used as shown, without the word «BIO».

Moreover the following restrictions are applied:

- The reference to conversion (compulsory sentence) and the indications regarding organic farming shall not be more prominent than the product description as to colour, size and style of lettering.
- The words «organic farming» shall not stand out more than the words «produced under the terms of conversion to».
- In the case of products with multiple agricultural ingredients, the BUD IN CONVERSION-label shall not contain any reference to organic farming in the product description. The BUD IN CONVERSION-label has to be used clearly separated from the product description.
- Products with the BUD IN CONVERSION-label must not be marketed as organic products in the EU.

Information on processing and properties of the produce

- 6.1.6 The most important processing methods and the address of the processor or marketing organisation must be given on the labels of organic products. Whenever possible, the country of origin should be given, or at least the indication "Import".
- 6.1.7 The LCPM has the right to ask for a declaration for the deep-freezing of produce with a high water content (see Art. 5.8.3).

Lists of ingredients and additives

- 6.1.8 In addition to the ingredients, all additives must be listed under their product group names and either the E-number (International Numbering System) or their full name. Non-organically grown ingredients of agricultural origin must be shown as such. Evading this by a carry-over effect (e.g. by including ingredients or additives on the list which are themselves composed of more than one component) is not permitted.

Special regulations for herbs and spices

- 6.1.9 When herbs and/or spices comprise less than 2% of the total weight, they may be listed simply under the designation of herbs and/or spices. When inspections are carried out, the full and true mixture must be available.

→ *to Chapter 6.1: Directives « Requirements for the labelling of products and advertising material with the BUD », «Animal fodder», «Animal husbandry on alpine pastures (marketing with the BUD-label)»*, «Gastronomy» and «General and product specific requirements for the processing according to BIO SUISSE standards»*

6.2 MARKETING OF BUD-PRODUCTS

Sales declaration

- 6.2.1 The BUD-label may not be used either in advertisements or in informative literature in sales outlets in a misleading fashion implying that there is connection between it and products not produced according to these standards. BUD-products must be totally separated from all others.

Critical selection of products

- 6.2.2 Products which detract from the BUD-image (in that they do not confer the perception of wholesomeness to consumers, are of suspect essential quality, give the impression of being highly processed products etc.) may have their licensing contracts revoked.

Additional regulations for stallholders and direct sale from the farm

- 6.2.3 On market stalls or when products are directly sold from the farm, the offer of BUD-labelled products together with non-organically grown agricultural products and non-organically processed food stuff is only allowed with the authorization of the LCPM. An authorization can only be given if a deception of the consumers can be excluded.
- 6.2.4 Offering the same product from organic and non-organic production at the same time is forbidden.
- 6.2.5 If a stall or a sales point gives the impression to be the sales point of an organic farm, it has to be marked with the producers certificate that proves that the farm is recognized.

→ to Art. 6.2.3-6.2.5: Directive «Direct marketing»*

7 INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

7.1 OBLIGATION FOR INSPECTION

- 7.1.1 Farms and organisations which have a contract with the BIO SUISSE will regularly be inspected to check that they comply with these regulations.

7.2 INSPECTION OF PRODUCERS

Records

- 7.2.1 Farms must be able to show records of the purchases and use of manure, fodder or anything added to it, and also crop protection products (for pest and disease management). As these regulations make clear, unauthorised inputs should not be present on the farm.
- 7.2.2 The farms are additionally required to keep records of production and to keep a suitably detailed record of purchases and sales.

Inspection

- 7.2.3 The inspection is made at least once a year and include the whole farm operation, including processed products. The inspection has to be carried out by an inspection organisation indicated by BIO SUISSE and accredited by the Swiss Federal Authorities.
- *to Art. 7.2.3: List of the organisations that are entitled to inspect or certify farms and produce according to BIO SUISSE standards (in Switzerland)**
 - *to at. 7.2.1-7.2.3: Directives «Subcontracted processing»* and «On-farm processing and purchasing of organic products»**

Exceptional permits

- 7.2.4 The certification body decides annually on exceptional permits, acting on information from the LCP. Exceptional permits are only issued for a limited time.
- 7.2.5 In the field of crop protection, exceptional permits are only issued in special cases which are not integral parts of a rotation programme, and when the case concerns problems that cannot be solved adequately by the techniques of organic agriculture.
- 7.2.7 **Steering contributions:** The LCP can impose a steering tax limited on maximally 3 years on non-organic means of production as e.g. additives, fodder, young stock in case of insufficient disposal of the organic alternative. The deadline of this steering contribution may be extended for 2 years if the objective of the steering is not reached. The return has to be invested to reduce the costs of the organic alternative and/or to be used for a purpose in the interest of organic farming as a whole.
- If there is no appeal within 30 days of at least 3 member organisations to the Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE, the decision becomes effective. An action against the decision of the Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE can be brought before the General Assembly

of BIO SUISSE within 30 days. The Executive Committee decides upon a possible suspensive effect after hearing the presidents of the member organisations.

The Executive Committee defines the amount of the steering contribution and of the cost reduction, based on the rules of the first paragraph of this article. In case of a modified situation of supply, the amount of the steering contribution as well as the amount of the cost reduction may be modified by the Executive Committee observing an announcement period of 3 months.

→ *to Art. 7.2.6: Directive «Steering taxes on purchasing young animals»*

7.3 INSPECTION OF PROCESSING AND MARKETING

Obligation to keep records, book-keeping

7.3.1 Every license holder has to prove adherence to these standards. Records and book-keeping must be completed and kept at all stages, from the actual growing to transport, storage, silo, the actual processing and packaging by the processor or wholesaler, to the retail stage.

This documentation must include:

- batch (or lot) numbers, dates, quantities, nature of the product at input, processing, storage and delivery;
- all details of suppliers, including a guarantee (certificate) that the product is organically produced;
- processing recipes, including losses during processing and storage;
- flow charts;
- products used and methods of cleaning and controlling pests.

7.3.2 Every batch (or lot) of produce must be identifiable back to its place of origin. Whenever produce from different origin is mixed, in storage or during processing, the origin must be ascertainable from the books kept.

The license holder must retain a sample from every batch of produce and keep it separately for the period of time that the final product is normally on sale. Exceptions may be allowed by the BIO SUISSE. The BIO SUISSE may collect samples of certain products and deposit them with neutral authorities.

Inspection

7.3.3 The inspection will be carried out at least once a year at a suitable time. The inspection has to be carried out by an inspection organisation indicated by BIO SUISSE and accredited by the Swiss Federal Authorities.

Inspections will be made to see that these standards are observed and that the general conditions of the licensing contract are met. All measures taken in connection with the production of organic products and the flow of goods will be checked particularly carefully.

→ *to Art. 7.3.3: List of the organisations that are entitled to inspect or certify farms and produce according to BIO SUISSE standards (in Switzerland)**

→ *to Chapter 7.3: LCPM-directive «General requirements» (valid for licensees) and directives «Subcontracted processing»* and «On-farm processing and purchasing of organic products»**

7.4 CERTIFICATION ACCORDING TO BIO SUISSE STANDARDS

7.4.1 The certification according to BIO SUISSE standards is carried out by a certification body indicated by BIO SUISSE and accredited by the Swiss Federal Authorities. The offer of certified products with the BUD-label or the reference to the BIO SUISSE standards is only admissible after the allocation of the BUD-label by BIO SUISSE.

→ *to Art. 7.4.1: List of the organisations that are entitled to inspect or certify farms and produce according to BIO SUISSE standards (in Switzerland)**

Appeals

7.4.2 Appeals against the decisions of the certification body have to be addressed to the certification body.

7.5 ALLOCATION OF THE BUD-LABEL

7.5.1 The signature of a producer's- resp. licensing contract with BIO SUISSE is a prerequisite to the labelling of products with the BUD-label. A second prerequisite is the certification according to BIO SUISSE standards. The BIO SUISSE label-commissions (LCP, LCPM, LCI) decide on the allocation of the BUD-label.

Appeals

7.5.2 Appeals against the decisions of the label-commissions are dealt with by the Executive Committee of BIO SUISSE.

7.6 OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS

7.6.1 The sanctions in case of offences against these standards are defined in the reglementation of sanctions of BIO SUISSE. The weakest sanction is a warning allowing for a defined period to eliminate the deficiency. The strongest sanction is the removal of the right to use the BUD-label, resp. the annulment of the producer's- resp. licensing contract, linked with the payment of a penalty and a compensation as well as the publication of the decision.

Appeals

7.6.2 Appeals against the sanctions are to be addressed to the decreeing organism.

→ *to Chapter 7.6: Reglementations of sanctions «Processing and marketing»* and «Production»**

APPENDIX 1

PERMITTED INPUTS FOR FERTILISATION AND SOIL CONDITIONING

For fertilisation and soil conditioning, the following inputs are permitted for use in organic agriculture:

1. Own production of organic fertilisers

- fresh or aerobically rotted animal manure;
- liquid manure, after aerobic preparation (with agitation and aeration if possible);
- organic garbage and crop residues, aerobically composted;
- organic mulch;
- green manure crops;
- straw;
- household waste water is only permitted from the farm itself, and only when mixed with several times its volume of liquid manure from cattle or pigs, and prepared together with these.

2. Organic fertilisers brought in

- brought in manure and organic garbage must be composted;
- brought in liquid manure must be prepared before being applied;
- compost from plant material;
- products and by-products of animal origin, such as horn-, blood- and bonemeal, hair- and feather-wastes (*according to the present regulations of the authorities*);
- algal products;
- organic by-products from food processing factories (with no chemical residues) such as castor bean meal;
- sawdust and bark shreds (without chemical treatment) rotted under aerobic conditions;
- guano-based fertilisers.

3. Purchased mineral fertilisers

- pulverised rock, such as basement rocks, quartz, basalt and powdered clays such as bentonite and others;
- calcified seaweed;
- limestone derived materials with the slowest possible decomposition (dolomite, mountain limestone, but no quicklime or slaked lime);
- raw rock phosphate, natural phosphates and basic slag, both with a low content of heavy metals;
- pulverised silicate rocks which contain potassium (feldspars, micas);
- potash-magnesia (patentkali), potassium sulphate (but only when soil analyses show up a potassium deficiency).

4. Substances for activating composts and soils

In order to aid the composting process and activate soil organisms, only methods and substances shall be used that are based exclusively on organic farming methods. Permitted are:

- plant-based products;
- algal extracts;
- bacterial products;
- bio-dynamic preparations.

5. Inputs for strengthening plants

- plant extracts and products such as infusions and tea;
- algal extracts;
- pulverised rock, bentonite and other clay minerals;
- bio-dynamic products.

→ *to Appendix 1: List of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Permitted fertilizers and trade substrates»**

APPENDIX 2

PART A: PERMITTED PRODUCTS FOR PLANT PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Basically, the only products that may be used are those approved by the Federal Registration Authorities which are included in the list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture). Mechanical control measures are exempted. All instructions such as dosage rates and waiting periods are to be followed.

Permitted for use are:

1. Biological and biotechnical measures

- insects regulation with pheromones, such as the confusion technique;
- repellants derived from plants or animals;
- natural predators, e.g. parasitic wasps, predatory mites, nematodes and gall midges, in the field and in the greenhouse;
- naturally occurring micro-organisms, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis*, granulose viruses and fungi which are insect pathogens;
- mechanical defensive measures, such as protective nets, slug-proof fences, adhesive plastic chromatic traps and limed rings.

2. Products against fungus diseases

- sulphur products, in low doses which help predatory mites to survive, in fruit orchards, vineyards and vegetable growing;

- inorganic copper products, for fruit, vines, vegetables, potatoes and hops (maximum legally permitted rate of 4 kg of pure metallic copper per hectare/annum); maximum permissible rates of pure copper per hectare treated surface per annum are as follows:
 - pome fruits (apples, pears) 1.5 kg;
 - berries 2 kg;
 - potatoes and vegetables 4 kg;
 - stone fruits 4 kg;
 - vines 4 kg (the fourth kilo must be notified to the certification body);
 - hops 4 kg.

3. Products against animal pests

- products based on soft soap;
- plant extracts such as pyrethrum, rotenone, quassia, tobacco;
- plant oils and mineral oils;
- sulphur preparations.

4. Auxiliary substances

White paraffine oils and turpentine (pine resin distillate) as by product to increase activity.

→ *to Appendix 2, Part A: list of auxiliary inputs of the FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture): Part «Permitted products for crop protection»**

PART B: PERMITTED MEASURES AND AGENTS FOR PEST CONTROL IN STORAGE AND PROCESSING

In principle, the only agents that may be used are those approved by the Federal Registration Offices. All conditions such as dosage and waiting periods must be observed. Mechanical and physical agents are exempted.

1. Permitted agents and measures to prevent pest infestation

- physical barriers
- sound
- ultrasound
- light
- UV-light

2. Permitted measures and agents (active substances) for the immediate treatment of pest organisms on BUD-products

- traps (inclusively pheromone traps and stationary bait traps)
- cooling
- deep freezing for dry products
- fumigation with the inert gases CO₂, O₂, N₂, Ar
- silica (silic dioxide)

3. Permitted agents for pest control in closed rooms and premises

The agents must not come into direct contact with BUD-produce.

- natural pyrethrines

4. Measures and agents against pest organisms subject to authorization

The agents listed below are subject to authorization. They must not be brought in direct contact with BUD-products and a contamination of BUD-products must be excluded with appropriate measures. The respective instruction of the label-commission «Processing/Marketing» is to be observed:

- phosphorous hydrogen
- methylen bromide

→ to Appendix 2, Part B: LCPM-directive «Pest control in storage and processing»*

APPENDIX 3

MINIMUM QUALITY CRITERIA FOR ORGANIC FRUITS

1. General

These norms set the quality requirements for organic fruit (including import) which will carry the BUD-label. They determine the requirements which the fruit must fulfil after it has been successfully harvested, stored, prepared and packaged, from the moment it leaves the farm until it arrives with the retailer. Fruit for industrial processing does not fall under these requirements. In the case of fruits or varieties that are not included, the rules of the Swiss Fruit Association (SOV) apply.

2. Pome fruit

2.1 Regarding full development, ripeness and lack of guarantee, the minimum norms of the SOV for class II fruit basically apply. The following criteria should be met:

- picked ripe from the tree by hand, with stem attached;
- typical for its variety in respect of size, shape, skin characteristics and colour;
- fully developed, neither unripe nor over-ripe;
- clean, graded and sorted according to variety;
- without damage or diseases from storage, such as skin bruises and browning of the flesh and outer core;
- storable and transportable as appropriate for the variety;
- without strange flavours or spotting from spray.

2.2 For organic apples and pears, there are the following quality grades:

- «**Organic table fruit**»: the rules demand a high essential quality and attractive appearance. The fruit selected as Organic table fruit corresponds roughly with the SOV classes I and II. The requirements in terms of fruit size and colour are listed in a table. For pears, the size limit set is 2.5 mm less than that set by the SOV norms; the minimum diameter is 50 mm.

- «**Organic household fruit**»: external blemishes greater than those permitted in table fruit are tolerated as long as they do not affect the eating quality or hygienic considerations.
- «**Organic fruit for juice extraction**»: the quality rules of the SOV apply.
- «**Organic fruit for industrial processing**»: the quality rules should be agreed with contractors.

2.3 For organic table fruit, the following deviations from the SOV norms are tolerated:

- scab spots: maximum of 1 sqcm for the total infected area of the skin per fruit, no splits;
- spots caused by surface pitting or sooty mould diseases: maximum of 15% of the surface;
- atypical russeting for the particular variety: patchy russeting up to one third of the surface area; diffuse russeting up to 50% of the skin; completely corked over, without splitting.
- holes caused by insects: not more than 1 sqcm, and only when holes are completely healed over, without significantly affecting the shape of the fruit;
- skin damage from rubbing or sunburn: not more than 1 sqcm of the whole skin area;
- pitting by hail: maximum of 4 or 5 completely healed pits, each not more than 5 mm across and 3 mm deep. From small hailstones, not more than 4 or 5 point-like pits, well healed;
- fruit without stems: maximum 5%.

2.4 In the case of organic fruit for juice extraction, the three categories in this grade, comprising «special apples», «normal apples» and «pears», must all meet the following criteria at delivery to the processing factory (identical to the SOV norms):

- sound, ripe, characteristic;
- no loss of quality due to interim storage;
- no unusual smell or taste;
- clean and free from foreign matter.

3. Stone fruit

3.1 For cherries and damsons/plums, the rules of the SOV essentially apply.

3.2 Because the activity of the crop protection compounds permitted for use in organic production is less than that of synthetic chemical pesticides, the following deviations from the SOV rules apply:

- cherry fly grubs: 6%, as measured by the salt water test;
- plum tortrix grubs (plum moth): up to 4%;
- tortrix grubs in apricots: up to 2%.

4. Berries

For organically grown berries, the following disgressions from the SOV standards are applied:

- collective containers may contain different types or species of fruit, as long as they are visibly different.
- organic industrial produce: the quality requirements are to be agreed with the purchasers.
- raspberries: maximally 3% maggot infestation.

APPENDIX 4

LIST OF ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

The additional regulations and documents marked with → in the BIO SUISSE standards are available at BIO SUISSE; moreover, most of them may be loaded down from the BIO SUISSE website (www.bio-suisse.ch) as PDF-files.

Some of the documents (marked in the standards with *) are only available in german, french and/or italian.

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By name, the following regulations and documents are available:

- **Regulations on sanctions***
- **Regulations on fees***
- **Directives, decisions on procedures and leaflets of the BIO SUISSE label-commissions**
- **List of the organisations that are entitled to inspect or certify farms and produce according to BIO SUISSE standards (in Switzerland)***
- **Positive list: Fresh products from overseas***
- **Positive list of fodder***
- **List of auxiliary inputs – Permitted and recommended products for organic agriculture* (published by the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture FiBL and approved by BIO SUISSE)**
- **List of auxiliary inputs for fish-farms***