

ECOGARANTIE® SPECIFICATIONS



PART I Introduction & appendices

*R*ules and standards for the certification
and verification of ecological products

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The vision of Ecogarantie®

Ecogarantie® is the Belgian trademark for ecological products. It serves as an instrument for the promotion and management of this kind of products.

Ecogarantie® verifies and guarantees the ecological quality of a given product. To develop its standards, Ecogarantie® takes into account social, ecological and economic aspects, while respecting both life cycle and sustainability throughout several generations.

The mission of Ecogarantie® includes

- 1. helping consumers and companies to identify ecological products easily and reliably. Thereby guaranteeing as much as possible transparency for consumers and companies by manner of clear rules and complete labelling of the product.*
- 2. verifying the use of the trademark Ecogarantie® on the ecological product. The ecological quality of the product is contained in the principle of obligatory means more so than in obligatory results. The presence of the mark aims at the ecological quality of the product in the field of durability, safety and minimal impact on the environment, low aquatic toxicity and good biodegradability and in the field of restriction of harmful minerals.*
- 3. anticipating –in a strive towards continual amelioration of the own specifications- the positive evolution of the legislation by defining standards for areas not yet covered by the European legislation.*

This can be accomplished through

- The specifications*
- A (good) management of the trademark*
- The independent system of certification and verification*

The products

Ingredients and methods of preparation are selected according to their ecological properties and origin.

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GLOSSARY

Animal secretions

Products, such as lanoline or milk, which are secreted by animals.

Animal products

Products from the animal itself or requiring the slaughtering of the animal (examples are: fat, fresh cells, ox gall, collagen, ...)

Fossils

Stemming from fossilized organisms, such as lignite, pit coal or petroleum.

Ingredients

As well raw materials as semi-manufactured products

Mineral

Inorganic mineral, component of the earth's crust, that has been extracted rather than manufactured.

Organic products (coming from organic farming) or wild vegetable products:

Products meeting

- EU regulation 2092/91 and its subsequent modifications
- Royal Decree of April 17th, 1992 and its subsequent modifications
- Ministerial Decree of October 30th, 1998 and its subsequent modifications

Raw materials

Vegetable, animal or mineral products, coming from agriculture or obtained by extraction, unprocessed or gained through physical processes, so that the original characteristics have been kept almost intact.

Recyclable

That still has useful physical or chemical properties after serving its original purpose and can, therefore, be reused or remanufactured into additional products. Plastic, paper, glass, used oil, tin and aluminium cans as well as household and industrial waste, after sorting out, are examples of recyclable materials.

Renewable

Can be replaced or replenished, either by spontaneous processes over a short time scale or by human action. Air, water, sun, agricultural products and forests are often considered to be examples of renewable resources. Minerals and fossil fuels are examples of non-renewable resources.

Semimanufactured products

A product which is obtained through the manufacturing of raw materials, according to physico-chemical or microbiological/biotechnological processes that may sometimes deeply modify the original characteristics, and which is meant to be further processed into a final product.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND DEFINITIONS

The text and all the elements included in the present specifications are binding. An independent organisation will be in charge of verifying if the Ecogarantie® standards are correctly applied. It might be exceptionnaly that some not compulsory matters are mentioned as “recommended”. These matters are not subjected to inspection in the framework of the present standards.

1. Sustainable methods of preparation and ingredients

Socially:

Recommended: The production may not go against basic human rights or be linked to social injustice. Every producer who employs more than 10 people must have a social justice policy. He will guarantee equal rights and equal treatment to all his employees, without discriminating them on the basis of age, sex, race, philosophical convictions or sexual inclination.

Economically:

Recommended: a company has to be profitable. Fair prices must therefore be paid to suppliers, and consumers must be offered fair prices as well.

Ecologically:

raw materials and packaging materials will be maximally renewable	see Part II D, Part III D and Part I D
Origin of ingredients subject to criteria	see Part II D and Part III D, see summary in the framework * below
organically-grown if available	see Part II D and Part III D
no halogen chemistry	see Part II D and Part III D
no GMO or GMO techniques in the production chain	see Part II D and Part III D
no animal test on the final product	see Part II D and Part III D
minimal waste while sourcing the raw materials	recommended
no amount or limited amount of VOC (Volatile Organic Components)	recommended
low input of energy	recommended
high level of recycling	recommended
low emissions	recommended
reasonable transport	recommended

2. High product safety

Recommended: no additional requirements in the present standards, the product must comply with the effective European and Belgian legislation.

3. Minimal environmental impact while in use

low VOC percentage	recommended
low measurement of dose	recommended
low water and energy consumption	recommended
declaration of ingredients	see Part III E.3.
packaging	see Part I D
prescriptions for measurement of dose	recommended
refill	recommended

4. Low level of toxicity for water life (ingredient and product)

See Part III D.4.4.: under construction: not compulsory until further notice

5. Good biodegradability both anaerobic and aerobic without stable metabolites (ingredient and product)

See Part III D.4.1. and D.4.2.: under construction: not compulsory until further notice

6. Limited amount of harmful minerals

See Part II D.1.4. and Part III D.1.4.

Framework * Origine of the ingredients: summary

See Part II D and Part III D

Raw materials

Any vegetable, animal or mineral product, coming in straight line from agriculture, harvesting or exploitation, either unprocessed or processed only by means of the physical processes allowed in the present specifications and keeping almost intact its original properties. These raw materials must meet the criteria of the present specifications.

Authorised kinds of raw materials:

- * vegetable products
- * animal products
- * animal secretions
- * minerals
- * sea products
- * gasses

Forbidden raw materials:

- * petroleum and its derivatives

Semi-manufactured product

Any raw material processed according to the physico-chemical or microbiological/biotechnological processes authorised in the present specifications, which may sometimes deeply change the original properties. These semi-manufactured products must meet the requirements of the present specifications.

Authorised semi-manufactured products:

- * Semi-manufactured products of vegetable origin
- * Semi-manufactured products of animal origin
- * Semi-manufactured products of mineral origin
- * Semi-manufactured products of maritime origin
- * Semi-manufactured products obtained through micro-organisms

Strictly restricted semi-manufactured products:

Semi-manufactured products obtained through chemical synthesis are excluded. The only ones to be authorised are those which cannot be substituted, in the short term, by renewable alternatives and which are necessary for the good working of the end product.

THE ECOGARANTIE® SYSTEM

1. Objective

The Ecogarantie® trademark guarantees that the products have been manufactured in an ecological way and controlled as such. The present specifications and their appendixes establish the regulations and norms that need to be followed by the operators who would like to use the Ecogarantie® trademark.

2. The Ecogarantie® trademark

The Ecogarantie® trademark has been registered.

3. Management of the trademark

The use of the Ecogarantie® trademark is under the management of professional organisations of farmers, processors and distributors, who own it.

Managing the trademark means for instance:

- o setting the regulations and standards (of the present specifications)
- o approving certification organisations for the use of the trademark
- o approving foreign certification organisations
- o dealing with the call of operators
- o protecting the trademark
- o promoting the trademark

4. Certification and verification

Biogarantie® vzw approves Belgian organisations which take care of the certification as well as the verification for the trademark Ecogarantie®.

As certification organisations, they are entitled to grant the operators the right to use the Ecogarantie® trademark, and to debar them from further use. As verification organisations, they verify the production units on the spot. In the present specifications, these organisations will be called certification organisations. Based on the control report, a certification commission of the certification organisation will decide on each case of non-conformity with the present specifications.

The certification organisations must have been approved as verification organisations by the ministry of Agriculture. At present, Ecocert Belgium bvba and Integra bvba are the two organisations approved by Biogarantie® vzw.

5. Addresses of the verification organisations

For processors, distributors and sales outlets:

Ecocert Belgium

Schermlaan 85

1150 BRUSSEL

Chemin de la Haute Baudecet 1

1457 Walhain

tel. 081/ 60.03.77

fax 081/ 60.03.13

e-mail : info@ecocert.be

www.ecocert.be

Integra bvba

Statiestraat, 164

2600 BERCHEM

tel. 03/287.37.50

fax 03/287.37.51

e-mail : info@integra-bvba.be

www.integra-bvba.be

A. Rules and procedures

1. Operators

We make a distinction between three different categories of operators (selling ecological products) for whom the rules, standards and prices can differ:

Processors, Repackers

- Processors process ingredients in order to create a new product.
- Repackers buy products and modify the packaging.
- The logo is written on the packaging / final product.
- Any subcontractor who buys his raw material himself must be affiliated as a processor. If he does not buy the raw material himself, he will be considered as a contractor.
- Parts I to V of the present specifications apply to processors and repackers.

Distributors, importers

- These companies buy and sell products without modifying either the products or their packaging.
- The logo may be used on offers.
- Only part I of the present specifications apply to these companies.

Sales outlets

- Selling of products to the consumer in a store or on a market.
- The logo may be used on the price tags.
- Parts I and VI of the present specifications apply to sales outlets.

2. Contract

Operators are only allowed to use the trademark once they have signed a contract for the use of the trademark with the owners of the trademark or their representatives.

3. Fees

Operators pay an annual fee that is made and collected as follows:

For processors and repackers

- a charge for the certification and verification, collected by the certification organisation.
- a fee for the affiliation to Probila, collected by Probila-Unitrab.
- a charge collected by Biogarantie® vzw, for the use of the Ecogarantie® trademark and logo on any product in its final packaging, as it will be sold to the consumers.

For distributors and importers

- a charge for the certification and verification, collected by the certification organisation.
- a fee for the affiliation to Probila, collected by Probila-Unitrab.

For the sales outlets

- a charge for the certification and verification, collected by the certification organisation
- a charge, collected by Biogarantie® vzw, for the use of the Ecogarantie® trademark on the turnover made out of the certified products.

The operator is allowed to use the trademark only if he has paid all his fees and charges.

The verification and certification fee collected by the certification organisation within the framework of Ecogarantie® only applies to activities that may not be verified under EC regulation 2092/91. For activities covered by EC Regulation 2092/91, there will be no verification and certification fee required for the use of Ecogarantie®.

The prices to be paid for the above-mentioned fees are available at the office of Biogarantie® vzw.

4. Certification and verification

The trademark may only be granted if the production units of the operator have been verified on the spot by a certification organisation approved by Biogarantie®. Later on, the units will be verified at least once a year. This verification can happen at any time. New products may only be introduced on the market once the certification organisation has given its written authorisation.

The verification includes the minimal requirements for verification, as well as the precautionary measures adapted to ecological products, as mentioned in appendix III of EC Regulation 2092/91.

Verification activities

Verification may include following activities:

- verification of the accounting practices: verification of the nature and the origin of the products that were purchased, verification of the natural origin of the ingredients, verification of the quantities of

ingredients that were purchased and of the finished products, based on the purchase and sales invoices, on the offers and price lists, among other documents;

- verification of the production method: to establish the composition of the products, to examine the production methods and the materials that were used;
- verification of packages and labels;
- measures taken by the company in order to separate the ecological production from the non-ecological production and to avoid contamination by disinfectants;
- visit of the production units and warehouses, residue analyses on ingredients and finished products.

Access to the company

In order for the certification organisation to conduct its verification procedures, the company must provide full cooperation. The operator will give any information that the certification organisation deems necessary to judge the certification. The departments concerned must be freely accessible, and the needed documents will be made available on request. Verification can be extended to areas in the company that have not switched over to ecological production or to products that are not covered by the Ecogarantie® trademark. The company has to submit samples free of charge to the certification organisation.

Information

If modifications have been made to a product that has already been approved, to its composition for instance or to the packaging, these modifications have to be submitted for approval to the certification organisation before the product can be (re)-introduced on the market.

The operator must inform the certification organisation on how production differs from specifications. Any project that does not meet standards will have to be approved in written form by the certification organisation. If the legislation imposes a procedure or conditions for the composition of a product that are not allowed by the present specifications, the operator has to inform the certification organisation.

5. Confidentiality

The certification organisation promises to respect the confidentiality of the information given in the verification reports (and, more specifically, of all data concerning the composition of the products) or in the reports of the certification teams. Only the certification status can be made public by the certification organisations.

6. Contractors

Companies are allowed to subcontract part of their activities out to a contractor who will have to submit to the same kind of verification.

7. Approval of foreign products

The following products are allowed to carry the Ecogarantie® logo if they have been certified as ecological by a foreign certification organisation approved by Biogarantie®:

- non-food products (cosmetics, washing and cleaning products)
- non-agricultural products (sea salt, salt from mines and water)

8. Sanctions

Any breach of these specifications will be penalized by the certification organisation according to the level of sanctions as laid down in the Ministerial Decree of October the 30th, 1998 and its modifications. It means for example written warnings, suspension or exclusion of one or more certificates from the operator. Any suspension or exclusion can be made public. These sanctions will be attributed in the framework of the inspection system of the certification bodies.

The operator will have to compensate the owners of the trademark for the damage caused by the breaches. The amount of the fine will be fixed as a lump sum that is identical to the economic profit the operator derived from the breach. The amount of the profit will be established by the certification organisation, which will also receive the compensation on behalf of the owners. Biogarantie vzw is entitled to require a complementary compensation.

No compensation will be due if the certification organisation does not deem it necessary.

9. Appeal

Any time a decision has been made, operators can appeal against it to the certification commission of the certification organisation. If the operator is not happy with the treatment of his appeal, he can bring an appeal to the Appeals Board of Biogarantie vzw, whose decision is final and has to be accepted by all parties.

B. Use of the trademark

1. General points

Products with the Ecogarantie® logo must show the logo in a clear and recognisable way. They must also mention the verification organisation which took care of the verification. The ® symbol will always accompany the logo.

2. Use on cosmetics

The label may carry the Ecogarantie® logo if the final product meets the requirement of the present specifications.

A reference to organic agriculture may be added to the list of ingredients for agricultural raw materials and semi-manufactured produce conforming to the following texts:

- EC Regulation 2092/91 and its modifications
- Royal Decree of April 17th, 1992 and its modifications
- Ministerial Decree of October 30th, 1998 and its modifications
- Ecogarantie® specifications, namely for the conditions regarding the physical and chemical/microbiological processes

Reference is made in the list of ingredients and only in clear connection with the ingredients.

3. Use on washing and cleaning products

The label may carry the Ecogarantie® logo if the final product meets the requirement of the present specifications.

Enzymes are authorised as long as they are not genetically modified or coming from genetically modified micro-organisms.

A reference to organic agriculture may be added to the list of ingredients for agricultural raw materials and semi-manufactured produce conforming to the following texts:

- EC Regulation 2092/91 and its modifications
- Royal Decree of April 17th, 1992 and its modifications
- Ministerial Decree of October 30th, 1998 and its modifications
- Ecogarantie® specifications, namely for the conditions regarding the physical and chemical/microbiological processes

Reference is made in the list of ingredients and only in clear connection with the ingredients.

4. Use on sea salt

The label may carry the Ecogarantie® logo if the final product meets the requirement of the present specifications.

The labelling and advertising of a product that conforms to the EC Regulation 2092/91¹ may refer to organic production methods in the list of ingredients only where:

- at least 95% of the ingredients of agricultural origin are organically-grown and/of
- at least 70% of the ingredients of agricultural origin are organically-grown

The indications referring to organic production methods appear in the list of ingredients and only in clear relation to those ingredients. The statement shall be in the following form in the case of the category ">70% organic": 'X % of the agricultural ingredients were produced in accordance with the rules of organic production'.

No reference to organic production methods will be made in case of produce not covered by the EC Regulation 2092/91.

5. Use on water Under construction

6. Use by sales outlets

Sales outlets are allowed to use the logo on price tags and posters if they respect the rules of part VI of the present specifications.

¹ And to the Royal Decree of April 17th, 1992 as well as the Ministerial Decree of October 30th, 1998 and their modifications

7. Use on price lists

Any company using the Ecogarantie® trademark on its price list must be under contract to Biogarantie® vzw. A sample text (appendix 6) has to be inserted at the beginning of the price list in order to introduce the identification system of ecological products. On the price list, a guarantee column will show the specific code across from each product.

If the trademark on the price list refers, solely and without possible mistake, to a specific product carrying the Ecogarantie® trademark, but produced by another company, the company commercialising it does not necessarily have to be under contract.

8. Label designing

Companies are allowed to design labels and wrappings if they respect the conditions defined in appendix 5 of the present specifications. They will have to submit their project before printing to the certification organisation for approval.

9. Promotion and sales

Neither the Ecogarantie® logo nor one of its constituent elements may be introduced in the logo of the company, in its letterheads, in its address, in its name or in any other element. Moreover the logo of the company may not be placed next to the Ecogarantie logo.

The names of the products receiving the Ecogarantie trademark must be followed or preceded by the term 'Ecogarantie®' on price lists, catalogues, etc.

On sales invoices and delivery slips, products with the Ecogarantie trademark will be indicated as Ecogarantie®.

The vehicles of an affiliated company may show the Ecogarantie® logo if the turnover of the company is made exclusively from ecological products as defined in the present specifications, and if the rules about where to place the logo, which are enclosed in the present specifications, are being followed.

Any company using the Ecogarantie® trademark in an advertisement must have a contract with Biogarantie® vzw. If the product referred to in the advertisement has the Ecogarantie® trademark and has been produced by another company, the company does not necessarily have to be under contract.

C. Separation from non-ecological products, storage, cleaning and disinfecting

Concerning the separation between ecological and non-ecological products as well as the storage of these products, the measures fixed in EC Regulation 2092/91 of June 24th, 1991 and its modifications will be applied to ecological products.

The requirements concerning the cleaning and the disinfection of the premises, installations, equipments and utensils for the manufacturing of Ecogarantie® products are the following:

(under construction, not compulsory until further notice):

Each product used by the firm will be described in a technical sheet, including the attestation of the supplier as to the composition, conditions for use and security.

In addition, the following products and ingredients are prohibited:

- formaldehyde
- products based on genetically modified organisms
- products based on chlorine or chlorine derived produce
- ethoxylated products with more than 8 mol EO
- ammonium-based products

D. Packaging

1. General points

Any superfluous form of packaging must be avoided. Recyclable or reusable packaging must be used whenever possible.

2. Materials

Wrapping materials must be of good quality, clean and adapted to the required goal.

As a general rule, we recommend environmentally friendly wrapping materials.

- PVC containers and other forms of plastic containing chlorine are forbidden.
- Expanded polystyrene is forbidden.
- It is forbidden to use CFC's in the production.

The creation of environmentally friendly forms of packaging being in constant and fast evolution, Biogarantie® might impose more severe restrictions according to the type of product.

APPENDIX 1 List of foreign certification organisations approved by Biogarantie®

VZW

COSMETICS

Ecocert France

B.P. 47

32600 L'ISLE-JOURDAIN

tel : 05 62 07 34 24

fax : 05 62 07 11 67

e-mail : info@ecocert.fr

www.ecocert.fr

for the verification and certification of the following specifications:

«Ecocert France, Référentiel définissant les produits cosmétiques, écologiques et biologiques » (Cosmebio)

Soil Association

Bristol House

40-56 Victoria Street

Bristol BS1 6BY

United Kingdom

Tel: 0117 914 2407

Fax: 0017 925 2504

e-mail: proc.cert@soilassociation.org

www.soilassociation.org

for the verification and certification of the following specifications:

“Soil Association, Standards for Health and Beautycare Products”

BDIH (Federation of German Industries and Trading Firms for pharmaceuticals, health care goods, dietary supplements and personal hygiene products)

Carl.com GmbH

Residenzstrasse 24

D 80 333 München

Tel: 49 89 21 38 39 82

Fax: 49 89 21 38 39 84

e-mail: welcome@carl-com.de

www.bdi.de

for the verification and certification of the following specifications:

“BDIH, Guidelines for controlled natural cosmetics”

APPENDIX 2 Products and ranges of products which may not be sold in a non-ecological version by an Ecogarantie® sales outlet


Nihil (under construction)

APPENDIX 3 Poster (dimension 25 x 10 cm)

<p>PRODUCTS CARRYING THE ECOGARANTIE® TRADEMARK</p>  <p>ARE CERTIFIED ECOLOGICAL®</p>	<p>(1) (2)</p>
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- (1) Number of the verification organism
- (2) www.biogarantie.be or info line 078 151 152

APPENDIX 4 Price tags

Product	
Trademark	
Price	

APPENDIX 5 Logo book

CHARTER FOR THE USE OF THE ECOGARANTIE® LOGO

The charter for the use of the Ecogarantie® logo intends to improve the impact of the logo on packages, labels, etc., to stress the presence of the Ecogarantie® label with the public, and to heighten the image conveyed by ecological products.

Processors, distributors, etc. are contractually forced to conform to the rules of the Ecogarantie® trademark.

The authorisation to use the Ecogarantie® trademark only applies to products for which the operator received the explicit authorisation from the certification organisation.



In order to avoid any possible confusion with their own logos and trademarks, companies that have been granted the Ecogarantie® label have to use the logo in a hexagonal frame, whatever the object:

- price tag
- packaging
- promotional leaflet, etc.

GENERAL RULES

- The Ecogarantie® logo will not be put in direct relation either with the trademark of the product, nor with the logo or name of the company, but with the appellation of the product or with the list of ingredients. Likewise, it may not be linked to other texts, promotional or other, without prior approval from the certification organisation. No other logo will be placed in direct relation with the Ecogarantie® logo. Ecogarantie® is a trademark: it must always be written with a capital B and be followed by a ®.



- The Ecogarantie® logo will be preferably positioned to the left of the document or to the left of the appellation of the product, and be surrounded by an empty space of at least one third of its width. (A 15 mm wide logo will be surrounded by a white space of at least 5 mm).

- The logo must be black or in the darkest colour of the document, on a light background. If necessary, the background of the logo will be white or in a light colour (for instance on a transparent package).

- The hexagonal frame is made of two large and dark stripes separated by a thin white line.



- The size of the logo must be big enough to be clearly and immediately identifiable, the word Ecogarantie® remaining easily legible. Up to a size of 11 mm, the stamp on the background must carry the text ECOGARANTIE®.



- If the size goes down somewhere between 10 and 8 mm, the text ECOGARANTIE® may be placed on top of the stamp. The frame will have a minimal dimension of 8 mm.

- It is strictly forbidden to alter the logo in any way or to change its typography.

- o Only the bromide proof, films or disks given by Biogarantie® vzw are to be used.
- o The cost of the verification is assumed by the operator according to a rate list that has been agreed upon with Biogarantie® vzw. Price lists are available from the verification organisations.

INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL TERMS



o Additional terms, such as CONTROLE BE ECOCERT, CONTROLE BE INTEGRA, will be mentioned preferably in the list of ingredients. If they are placed with the Ecogarantie® logo, the font HELVETICA (or some other assimilated font – Universe, Geneva, etc. sans-serif) will be used.



o The word CONTROLE BE will be justified over the width of the stamp. ECOCERT and INTEGRA will be centred on the second line. Slightly tight spacing is required between the letters.



o The same applies to the mention of BELGIUM.

VERIFICATION & APPROVAL BEFORE USE

- o In order to avoid any further contention, the operators are required to submit for approval to the certification organisation a proof of any new document (price tags, promotional material, labels, ...)

APPENDIX 6 Sample text to be inserted at the beginning of the price list

Operator under ECOGARANTIE ® convention

In order to give you the necessary assurances as to the origin and processing of our ecological products, our company has signed a convention allowing us to use the Ecogarantie® trademark.

The verification is carried out by *(name of the certification organisation)*.

The products meeting the standards of the Ecogarantie® specifications are recognisable from the ECOGARANTIE® trademark.

The following legend is given by way of illustration at the beginning of the catalogue:

- EG - ECOGARANTIE® + Product meeting the requirements of the Ecogarantie® specifications.

BIOGARANTIE ASBL

- Leuvensebaan 368
- B-3040 Sint-Agatha-Rode
- Phone: 016/47.01.98
- Fax: 016/47.01.99

For further information, call **Biogarantie vzw** at the freephone number **078 151.152** or surf to www.biogarantie.be.