ECOGARANTIE®
SPECIFICATIONS

PART II
cosmetics

Rules and standards for the inspection and certification of ecological products

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VISION & MISSION

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 ustainability 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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PART II. COSMETICS

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A. General purpose

1. The selection of the ingredients is based on the principles of sustainability and ecological responsibility. Agricultural raw materials are organically-grown unless it can be proved that they are not available. These cases are mentioned in the present specifications. Synthetic products, colouring agents and preservatives will not be used or be used in a very restricted way. The positive list only mentions substances which, because of their specific properties and of their function in the product, cannot be substituted, in the short term, by a better and more ecological alternative.
   The use of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) is strictly forbidden.

2. The processes used in the production and processing may not be polluting and must respect both our health and the environment. This will be done through measures which take into account biodegradability, recycling of packaging, waste products, … The commercialisation of these quality cosmetics takes into account the wellbeing of the consumer by setting up clear rules as well as by favouring communication and transparency in the chain.

3. End products may not be tested on animals (see D.4). Alternative methods will be used.

4. The products meet the requirements of the present specifications. Because it aims at a harmonisation of the rules at a European level, Bioforum npo defined its standards as a synthesis of the norms developed by the professional associations on natural and/or organic cosmetics or control bodies in France(Ecocert France and Cosmebio), Germany (BDIH) and United Kingdom (Soil Association). For this reason, Bioforum npo recognises the above mentioned foreign specifications as well.

B. Field of application

All ingredients must conform to the European Directive 2003/15/EC of the 27th of February 2003 amending the European Directive 76/768/EEC and to the Royal Decree of October 15th, 1997 concerning cosmetics, as well as to its modifications, and meet the additional stipulations of the present specifications.
Cosmetics are not covered by EEC Regulation 2092/91 concerning organically-grown products and therefore do not need to be certified.
However, the raw materials which would be organically-grown in the framework of the Ecogarantie® specifications, must meet the requirements of EEC Regulation 2092/91 and/or the Biogarantie® standards.

The name "cosmetics" is defined (see the European Directive 76/768/EEC) as:

These are any substance or preparation other than pharmaceutical specialties and medicinal products intended for contact with the various external parts of the human body particularly epidermis, hair system, nails, lips and external genital organs or with the teeth and the mucous membranes of the oral cavity with a view exclusively or principally to cleaning them, perfuming them or protecting them in order to keep them in good condition, change their appearance or correct body odors (cf. Article L.5131-1 as the indicative list by category of products, mentioned by Article R 5263 (c) and laid down by the Order of 30 June 2000, published in the O.J. of 12/07/00).

C. Use of the trademark

The label may carry the Ecogarantie® logo if the final product meets the requirements of the present specifications and has therefore been submitted to the control of one of the certified inspection bodies.

A complete ingredient declaration with the INCI appellation must be mentioned on the label, regardless of the quantity involved (see EC directive).
If the product contains perfumes, this must be mentioned on the packaging.

Reference to organic agriculture may be made for agricultural raw materials and semi-manufactured products that conform 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
- the Ecogarantie® specifications, namely for the conditions regarding the physical and chemical/ microbiological processes

The indications referring to organic production methods make it clear that they relate to a method of agricultural production and are accompanied by a reference to the ingredients of agricultural origin concerned, unless such reference is clearly given in the list of ingredients.

If percentages of organic ingredients are mentioned on the packaging, the operator will communicate the method used for the calculation to the attention of the control body and mention it on the packaging. E.g. the operator will mention if the percentage refers to the total of ingredients or only to the vegetable ingredients.

The labelling refers to the name of the inspection body to which the operator is subject.

D. Preparation

D.1. RAW MATERIALS AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES USED IN PROCESSING

D.1.1. Vegetable products

Vegetable products are authorised based on the following criteria:

- Organically-grown and/or harvested from wild plants according to EC Regulation 2092/91 and its modifications,
- Not being part of the European and international list of protected species (see the Washington Convention or the Bern Convention).

D.1.2. Animal products

Animal products are not forbidden but there seems to be no need for their use. Therefore there is no positive list either.[1]

1.3. Animal secretions

Authorised animal secretions are recorded in a positive list, based on the following criteria:

- Not being part of the European and international list of protected species (see the Washington Convention or the Bern Convention),
- From organic husbandry, if available,
- The exploitation of which has no detrimental effect on the ecological balance.

Positive list :

Authorised animal secretions
Butyris Lac
Butyrum
Caprae Lac (goat milk)
Cera alba
Cera flava
Lac (milk)
Lanolin
Lanolin cera
Mel
Ovum
Propolis Cera
Royal Jelly
Shellac

D.1.4. Minerals

Minerals are authorised based on the following criteria:

- Must be used for their intrinsic properties
- Their exploitation causes no pollution or damage to the landscape
- According to the purity criteria (see appendix A)
- Whole and unmodified
- No disinfection through gamma rays

It is the producer's duty to show the inspection body that he examined these elements while selecting his raw materials.

Examples of authorised products:

- alumina
- montmorillonite clay (bentonite)
- kaolin clay
- chalks
- sand
- talc

[1] For questions on this subject, please contact the Ecogarantie® Technical Committee.

- drinkable water: spring water, reverse-osmosis water, unmineralised water,…
- …

Negative list:

- petrochemical products

D.1.5. Maritime products

Maritime products are authorised based on the following criteria:

For the vegetable maritime products: see criteria under point D.1.1
For the animal maritime products: see criteria under point D.1.2.
For the mineral maritime products: see criteria under point D.1.3.

D.1.6. Gas

Authorised gasses are recorded in a positive list.

Positive list:

Authorised gasses
carbon dioxide
oxygen
nitrogen

D.1.7. Nature of the physical processes used

Natural raw materials may only be processed through very specific physical processes which are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:

- processes which give good biodegradable molecules
- processes which respect the naturally active substances
- processes which allow a good management of the waste and of the energy consumption

Positive list:

absorption (on an inert support[2])
bleaching, deodorisation (on an inert support[2])
grinding
centrifuging (separating solid substance from liquids)
settling and decanting
desiccation, drying (by means of (non) gradual evaporation or sun radiation)
freezing/individually quick frozen
deterpenation (if fractioned steam distillation)
distillation or extraction (steam)
squeezing, crushing
extraction by means of following solvents: with any form of water or with a third solvent of plant origin water ethylalcohol vegetable glycerine honey sugar vinegar carbon dioxide vegetable oils
filtration and purification (ultra-filtration, dialysis, crystallisation)
lyophilisation
blending
percolation
cold pressure
hot pressure (to extract according to the fluidity of the fatty acids)
sterilisation by means of heat treatment (according to the temperatures respecting the active substances) and UV (only for water)

[2] Inert support: substance that has no chemical reaction with the original substance.

Sifting
maceration
solar extraction (Eg. flower remedies)
cold extraction
vacuum
decoction (hot or cold)
infusion (hot or cold)
post extraction filtration, micro filter, depth filter (with non-bleached filtering papers) blending different batches of extracted herbs to achieve a specified level of markers/actives concentration by evaporation, vacuum distillation, spray drying clarifying/precipitating agents (permitted additives or processing aids: see appendix VI of EC reg. 2092/91) nitrogen flushing pasteurisation

Examples of forbidden processes:

irradiation (X-rays)
ionising treatments (gamma rays)
extraction by means of following solvents: benzene butylene glycol hexane toluene mineral oils petroleum-derived solvents propylene glycol
extraction with ultrasound[3]
post extraction electron beaming irradiation post packaging sterilisation E.g. UV rectification

[3] Precautionary principle: is forbidden as long as no study has proved the method to be innocuous.

D.2. SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OBTAINED THROUGH CHEMICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL PROCESSES

D.2.1. Nature of the chemical processes used

In order to produce a natural semi-manufactured product, the natural raw materials may only be treated by means of specific chemical processes which are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:

- processes which give good biodegradable molecules
- processes which respect the naturally active substances
- processes which allow a good management of the waste and of the energy consumption

Positive list:

Alkylation
Amidation
Calcination of vegetable residue
Carbonisation (resins, fatty vegetable oils)
Condensation / addition
Esterification and trans-esterification
Etherification
Filtration and purification (crystallisation, electrolysis, ion exchange)
Hydration
Hydrogenation
Hydrolysis
Neutralisation through bases [3]
Neutralisation through acids[3]
Oxidation/reduction
Production processes for amphoterics (amidification and quaternisation)
Saponification
Sulfatation
Roasting

Examples of forbidden processes:

Quaternisation
Bleaching, deodorisation (on a support of animal origin)
Deterpenation (if not by means of steam)
Ethoxylation (PEG,…)
Sulfonation (in main reaction)
Treatments with ethylene oxide (disinfection…)
Treatments with mercury (production of sodium and potassium hydroxide)
Propoxylation
Chlorine chemistry (chloric gasses, chlorine derivatives), with the exception of tap water

D.2.2. Nature of the microbiological/biotechnological processes used

Microbiological/biotechnological processes are allowed based on the following criteria:

- from vegetable or animal raw materials

Examples of authorised processes:

in vitro cultivation, wild or controlled fermentation by means of micro-organisms.

Negative list

Cloning, cell culture, methods based on genetically modified organisms (GMO): organism the genetic material of which has been modified in a way or with results that cannot be naturally achieved through reproduction, traditional forms of crossing, cross breeding, hybridation and/or recombination.

[3] Unable to mention here all the different modalities (catalysts, solvents,…) necessary for the accomplishment of certain processes, we wish to remind you that these must however comply with the criteria mentioned above.

D.2.3. Semi-manufactured product of vegetable origin

Semi-manufactured products of vegetable origin are authorised based on the following criteria:

Only the raw materials and processes abovementioned are authorised. Exception is made for the organic quality of the raw materials: if they are not available in their organic version, raw materials from conventional agriculture may be used to produce the semimanufactured product.

Examples of authorised semi manufactured products

Betaine
Peracetic acid
Produce obtained through fermentation like ethanol, citric acid, formic acid,…
Tocopherol
Salts like sodium citrate, zinc gluconate, zinc lactate, zinc ricinoleate, zinc stearate,…

D.2.4. Semi-manufactured product of animal origin

Authorised semi-manufactured products of animal origin are recorded in a positive list based, among others, on the following criteria:

Only the abovementioned raw materials and processes are authorised. Exception is made for the organic quality of the raw materials: if they are not available in their organic version, conventional raw materials may be used to produce the semi-manufactured product.

Positive list

Authorised semi-manufactured products of animal origin
Beeswax acid
Behenyl Beeswax
Behenyl / isostearyl Beeswax
Hydrolysed milk protein
Lactis Proteinum
Lactoferrin
Lactoperoxydase
Lactose
Lanolin alcohol
Yoghurt

D.2.5. Semi-manufactured product of mineral origin

Authorised semi-manufactured products of mineral origin are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:

- the only raw materials and processes to be authorised are those defined above
- according to the purification criteria (see appendix A)

Positive list

Authorised semi-manufactured products of mineral origin
CI 77000 aluminium
CI 77007 lazzurite
CI 77163 bismuth oxychlorure
CI 77220 calcium carbonate
calcium fluoride
calcium sulfate
CI 77288 and CI 77289 chromium oxides
CI 77400 copper
iron hydroxide
iron oxides CI 77480, 77491, 77492, 77499
iron sulfate
CI 77510 (Prussian blue)
CI 77711 magnesium oxide
CI 77713 magnesium carbonate (magnesite)
CI 77742 ammonium and manganese diphosphate
CI 77745 manganese bis orthophosphate
CI 77891 titanium dioxide
CI 77947 zinc oxide

copper oxide
copper sulfate
cupric sulfate
dicalcium phosphate dihydrate
disodium phosphate
hydrated silica
magnesium chloride
magnesium hydroxide
magnesium sulfate
manganese sulfate
potassium carbonate
potassium carbonate
potassium hydroxide
potassium sulfate
silver chloride
silver Cl 77820
silver sulfate
sodium bicarbonate
sodium borate
sodium carbonate
sodium chloride
sodium fluoride
sodium hydroxide
sodium monofluorophosphate
sodium silicate
sodium sulfate
zinc gluconate
zinc lactate
zinc ricinoleate
zinc stearate
zinc sulfate
aluminium compounds not water soluble: aluminium/magnesium hydroxide stearate aluminium hydroxide aluminium oxide aluminium stearate aluminium sulfate
silicon dioxide
capryllic diglyceride

D.2.6. Semi-manufactured product of maritime origin

Authorised semi-manufactured products of maritime origin are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:

The only raw materials and processes to be authorised are those defined above. Exception is made for the organic quality of the raw materials: if they are not available in their organic version, conventional raw materials may be used to produce the semi-manufactured product.

Positive list :

Authorised semi-manufactured products of maritime origin
Algin
Carraghene
calcium alginate
Chitosan
potassium alginate
Xantophyll

D.2.7. Semi-manufactured products of microbial origin

Authorised semi-manufactured products of microbial origin are recorded in a positive list.

Positive list :

- xanthan

D.2.8. Surfactants

Surfactants are authorised according to the following criteria:

- based only on the raw materials and processes as defined above
- petrochemical synthesis is ruled out of the manufacturing process”

Examples of authorised surfactants:

Authorised surfactants
Condensates of proteins/fatty acids
Any kind of soap produced from vegetable fatty acids and anorganic bases (sodium and potassium salts): Palmates, Cocoates, Olivates, Oleates,… and their blends. Exception: soaps based on resin acids from coniferous trees because of their high level of toxicity in water
Alkylsuphates of vegetable origin: Sodium Lauryl Sulphate, Sodium Coco Sulphate, Sodium Octyl Sulphate, Sodium Oleyl Sulphate.
Alkylglutamate of vegetable base
Lipoamines of vegetable origin: Sodium Lauroyl Lipoamines
Alkylpolyglucosides of vegetable origin: Decyl Glucoside, Lauryl Glucoside, Octyl Glucoside, Caprylyl/Capryl Glucoside
Alkylglucosides of vegetable origin: Sucrose Cocoate, Sucrose laurate

Examples of forbidden surfactants

Linear alkylbenzene sulfonate
Quats (quaternary ammonium connections)
Alkylphenol polyetheneglycolethers (EPEO) like nonylphenolenylethoxylaten
Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) or other alkylphenol derivatives (APD’s)
Amine ethoxylates
EO/PO polymers in bloc (EO=ethylene oxide, PO=propylene oxide)
Secondary alkane sulphonate (SAS)
Fatty alcohol ethoxylates
Toluolsulphonate
Amphoterics of vegetable base origin: Oleo Ampho Polyglycinate, Alkyl Amido Ampho Polypeptide Carboxylate

D.3. CHEMICALLY SYNTHESISED SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS

Definition: ingredients produced by chemical synthesis

General rule: (petro)chemical synthesis is ruled out of the manufacturing process

Examples of forbidden chemically synthesised semimanufactured products:

- synthetic colouring agents
- synthetic perfumes
- synthetic antioxidants
- synthetic emollients (soothing agents)
- synthetic oils and fats
- synthetic silicones
- synthetic sun tan lotions
- chelatant agents based on EDTA and its salts

Exceptions to the rule: "petrochemical synthesis is ruled out of the manufacturing process" can only be granted according the following criteria:

"A few exceptions are tolerated in these standards (in positive lists: see D.3.1 and D.3.2) when this kind of synthesis does not apply to a main component or when the substances concerned cannot be replaced in the short run by a better and more ecological alternative because of their specific properties and of their function in the product.

D.3.1. Preservatives in the ingredients

Positive list:

Authorised preservatives in the ingredients
acetic acid, its salts and esters
benzoic acid, its salts and esters
benzylic alcohol
dehydroacetic acid
lactoperoxidase
formic acid and its sodium salt
parahydroxybenzoic acid, its salts and esters
phenoxy-2-ethanol,
phenylethyl alcohol
propionic acid and its salts
sorbic acid and its salts
silver chloride

D.3.2. Preservatives in the end product

Positive list

Authorised preservatives in the end product
acetic acid, its salts and esters
benzoic acid, its salts and esters
benzylic alcohol
dehydroacetic acid
lactoperoxidase
formic acid and its sodium salt
propionic acid and its salts
salicylic acid and its salts
sorbic acid and its salts
phenylethyl alcohol

D.4. PRODUCTION OF COSMETICS

Only the physical and/or chemical processes recorded in the positive lists under 1 and 2 are authorised in the processing of ingredients (natural raw materials and semimanufactured products) into a cosmetic product.

End products may not be tested on animals according to European Directive 76/768/EEC and its subsequent modifications.

E. Company

The company must be able to prove that it meets the legal regulations in terms of cosmetic production (European Directive 76/768/EEC, Royal Decree of October 15th, 1997), and that it busies itself with HACCP and traceability.

Control plan

Following procedures must be set up:
- a file per product, containing all the guarantees from the suppliers (analyses and certificates as to the origin of the ingredients and of the production processes)
- a program of the risk analyses in order to supplement and verify the guarantees from the suppliers
- guarantees concerning the production of raw materials, which may not damage the environment
- a description of the conformity procedures on end products

Appendix A Purification criteria for raw materials and ingredients

Basic principle

Raw materials must remain authentic (not chemically processed) and devoid of any kind of contamination. Semi-manufactured products may not be polluted through any form of contamination.

List of possible contaminations

Besides the forbidden substances mentioned in appendix II of Directive 76/768/EEC concerning cosmetic products, cosmetics have to be devoid of:

- mycotoxines
- PCB and PCDD/F
- residues of pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, …)

Establishing the maximal values

The maximal values in terms of contamination are those of the general regulation.
If no maximal value has been established by the general regulation, the detection level will be applied.