

ECOGARANTIE[®] SPECIFICATIONS



PART VI sales outlets

*Rules and standards for the inspection
and certification of ecological products*

FEBRUARY 2008



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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Identification of ecological products in the sales outlet

1. Sales outlets for recognised ecological products

This section applies to sales outlets that sell to the consumer ecological products certified by the Ecogarantie® specifications, and that identify these products as ecological using the Ecogarantie® logo. Operators who also sell products which are not from their own production are subject to the present regulations.

2. Identification of the sales outlet

The sales outlet will inform the consumer of the verification it undergoes by using a plate (in accordance to appendix 3).

3. Identification of the products

Each certified product will be shown on shelves, in crates and on counters, and will be clearly separated from non-certified products. It will have a standardised price card (with the Ecogarantie® logo) in accordance to appendix 4.

The use of a price card can be substituted by a price tag (with the Ecogarantie® logo) placed on each product separately.

It is strictly forbidden to use the logo on products that are not certified by the Ecogarantie® specifications.

4. Purchasing certified foreign products

Only certified ecological products, as defined in Part I, chapter A, article 7, may carry the Ecogarantie® logo. In bulk ecological products may only be purchased if the distributor or processor is certified for the use of the Ecogarantie® trademark.

5. Exclusively ecological product groups

As a result of the increasing availability of ecological products, Bioforum npo can forbid the sales of certain non-ecological products or ranges of non-ecological products. See appendix 2 for a list of these products.

Moreover, the sales outlet can sell some product groups only under their ecological form and advertise this in the outlet, after having introduced a written request to the verification organisation and having received its agreement.

6. Prepackaged products

If some products are available, at the same time, under a non-certified and a certified form, the latter will have to be prepackaged or marked piece by piece when it is purchased by the sales outlet. This certified version of the product will have to be put for sale without changes to its packaging or labelling.

7. Repackaging

Whenever the shopkeeper repacks the products (in a package that has the Ecogarantie® trademark), he or she must write down in a separate register the origin, the purchased quantities, the date of the purchase and the quantity he or she repackaged for each product.

8. Use of the trademark

Each package, labelling or advertisement referring to the Ecogarantie® trademark will have to meet the requirements of appendix 5 of the present specifications, and to be approved by the certification organisation before being printed or introduced on the market. If the products are not only sold in the sales outlet, one must be affiliated as a processor.

9. Verification

A sales outlet can only be certified after having been verified on the spot by a certification organisation approved by the Ecogarantie® specifications. Each sales outlet will be checked at least once a year.

This visit can occur at any time of the year and will be unannounced.

Verification on the spot will consist in:

- * verifying the conformity with the required standards of all products showing the Ecogarantie® logo or trademark on their price tag. In order to do this, the inspector may ask to see the repackaging register, the purchase invoices, the delivery slips, the crater cards, etc.

- * verifying that there is no possible confusion between conventional products and ecological products, and more specifically that no non-ecological products from article 5 are present in the sales outlet, or that non-prepackaged products are not present, at the same time, in an ecological version and in a conventional version. In order for these verifications to be possible, the sales outlet has to give its full cooperation. The rooms will be accessible for inspection, and the needed documents will be made available on request. The cost of the verification is assumed by the operator according to a rate list that has been agreed upon with Bioforum npo. Price lists are available from the verification organisations.

10. Promotion

Standardised folders, packages, posters, packaging material and a labelling system are available to affiliated sales outlets at the office of Bioforum npo.

The sales outlet has to clearly identify certified ecological products from non-certified products on its own advertisements and billboards.

Non-certified products may not carry the Ecogarantie® logo, even if the word ecological or a similar word is printed on the package.

Any breach of the regulation will be followed by a removal of the promotional matter at first request from the verification organisation. It is advisable to submit any new advertising project to the certification organisation.