



# Friend of the Earth Standard

## FOE - Agriculture Criteria and indicators for sustainable agriculture products certification



**Friend of the Earth**  
Corso Buenos Aires, 45 - 20124 Milano  
Tel: +39.02.87075167,  
info@friendoftheearth.org  
www.friendoftheearth.org

REV	DATE	MOTIVATION	REDACTED BY	APPROVED BY
0	13/03/2014	New emission	Paolo Bray	Paolo Bray
1	18/01/2018	First revision	Paolo Bray	Paolo Bray
2	26/01/2018	Second revision	Paolo Bray	Paolo Bray
3	26/06/2019	Third revision	Pietro Serratore	Paolo Bray



## **CLASSES OF REQUIREMENTS:**

1. SYSTEM OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
2. LEGAL CONFORMITY
3. ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION
4. WILDLIFE AND FLORA PROTECTION
5. USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES
6. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM
7. SOIL RESOURCES
8. WATER RESOURCES
9. EMISSIONS CONTROL
10. WASTE MANAGEMENT
11. POWER MANAGEMENT
12. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



## Description of the organization

This document can be auto filled by a company responsible or his qualified assistant. The form must be compiled in the mother language or in English, only if it is perfectly known.  
In case the organization is a Farmers Cooperative, checks will be carried out every year using a verified homogeneous sample, of not less the total square root of the companies belonging to the Cooperative.

a) NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AUDITED:

b) NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION THAT REQUIRES THE AUDIT:

c) IS THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AUDITED PART OF A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION?

d) ADDRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AUDITED:

e) NAME AND CONTACT OF THE RESPONSIBLE OF THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AUDITED:

f) COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF CULTIVATED SPECIES

Common name	Scientific name

g) SITES INCLUDED IN THE CERTIFICATION INTENT:

Name of the agricultural company	Coordinates	Description



**h) SITES INSPECTED DURING AUDIT:** *(The auditor must list fields and agricultural companies currently checked as sample of the total if different from g)*

Name of the agricultural company	Coordinates	Description

**i) CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES DESCRIPTION**

**l) ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AUDITED:**

- cultivation
- pre - transformation
- final transformation
- import
- export
- distribution
- other (description) \_\_\_\_\_

**m) DESCRIPTION OF THE FINAL PRODUCT** *(ex: fresh, frozen, canned, others):*

**n) TRADEMARKS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS** *(list of trademarks/brands by which the product is sold. Include images of trademarks/brands if available):*

**o) DESCRIPTION AND POSITION OF COLD STORAGE ROOMS AND STORAGES IF ANY** *(for products traceability):*



**p) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:**

**q) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND ATTESTATIONS**

**r) EXTRA INFORMATION/COMMENTS**



- Friend of the Earth** project has been presented (otherwise, the auditor must provide a short description)
- The audited company has been informed that, in case of approval confirmation, it may use the **Friend of the Earth** logo on its certified products.
- The company has a copy of the organigram that identifies the roles of the staff involved in the audit
- Audit duration has been agreed.
- Data of the preliminary information form have been confirmed (in case of different information, specify)

<b>CERTIFICATION BODY:</b>	<b>AUDIT TEAM:</b>	<b>START AND END DATE OF THE AUDIT:</b>  <b>Start:</b>  <b>End:</b>
<b>AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE:</b>	<b>NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE THAT ASSISTS THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:</b>	<b>AUDIT CODE:</b>



## NOTES FOR THE AUDITOR

*The auditor must fill any checklist field;*

*The auditor must read the notes in green squares before filling the fields;*

*The auditor must provide a motivation when qualification requirements are not applicable;*

*The auditor must answer Yes (Y) when the organization conforms to the requirement and No (N) when it isn't;*

*The auditor must provide comments and motivations for positive or negative answers. Yes, No or Not applicable aren't sufficient. Any relevant document must be inserted in the audit final report in a separate and numbered attachment.;*

*Any relevant documentation must be added to the audit final report in a separate and numbered attachment;*

*Photo demonstrations to add to the checklist and/or as an attachment are appreciated.*

As first phase of the audit, the organization must describe any aspect of the production system, such as:

- A map showing every crops production area, uncultivated ones and faunistic habitat; superficial waters, streets and buildings, in addition to fields and uncultivated areas extension.

.....  
.....

- Any crop to be produced during the following year

.....  
.....

- Rotation plan and/or perennial crops production plan

.....  
.....

- Practices and suggestions used to maintain the ground healthy and to guarantee cultivations productivity

.....  
.....

- Practices and suggestions used to prevent and control parasites, weeds and crops diseases

.....  
.....

- Seeds, seedlings and other vegetal materials variety used to propagate crops

.....  
.....

- Any other activity in the agricultural company that uses produced crops as an input in the company (i.e. Added value) or that provides inputs to the cultivation system (for ex. Animals, aquaculture and fertilizer)

.....  
.....



## **REQUIREMENTS LEVEL**

### **Essential requirements**

Regarding essential requirements a 100% conformity is needed so that the Auditor can certify the organization. Any lack of these requirements is considered a Major Non-Conformity and it will be necessary to use corrective measures that have to be taken within a maximum period of three months from the discovery of Non-Conformity. The organization must provide sufficient evidence of the corrective measures taken for every Major Non-Conformity to the Certification Body. Only regarding the requirement 2.1, considering the complexity of the information treated in it, the given period for the Non-Conformity evaluation is extended to 6 months.

### **Important requirements**

Regarding important requirements a 100% conformity is needed, so that the Certification Body can recommend the organization for the certification. Any lack of these requirements is considered a Minor Non-Conformity and it will be necessary to propose corrective measures (declaration of intent and action plan), that will be submitted to the Investigation Body within a maximum of 4 months from the discovery of the Non-Conformity. In the proposal produced, the organization must include a timetable for the making of each corrective action. The maximum time for the complete implementation of each corrective measure is equal to one year.

### **Recommendations**

Conformity to recommendations is not a rigorous requirement in order to obtain the certification. But, in the assessment, every aspect related to these requirements will be checked and any lack will be indicated in the Audit report in form of recommendation. The organization must evaluate any possible corrective measure, and, within the following inspection, it will have to inform the Certification Body about decisions and corrective measures taken.

Even if a requirement is not applicable to the organization under verification, the requirement must be marked with N.A.

#### **Level Caption:**

**E = Essential**

**I = Important**

**R = Recommendation**





## **1 – SYSTEM OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.1	The Organization has a social and environmental management system that involves necessary politics, programs, procedures and registers showing the conformity to these normative requirements	<b>E</b>		
<b>Conformity to 1.1 requirement can be confirmed in the light of the existence of documents like: orchard register, accident register, truck repairs, etc.</b>				
1.2	The Organization has identified a person responsible to verify the conformity to the social and environmental management system.	<b>E</b>		
1.3	Any documentation about social and environmental management system has been compiled and archived for three years at least.	<b>I</b>		
1.4	The Organization has made a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) study on its own productive system.	<b>R</b>		
<b>The auditor must be able to examine documentary evidences supporting the requirements above.</b>				
<b>1.5</b>	<b>Staff management</b>			
1.5.1	The Organization has defined practices that prevent the access to working facilities to unauthorized people	<b>I</b>		
1.5.2	It is conducted the formation of internal and external staff (when necessary). Register performed formation activities. Indicate if there have been planned themes related to environmental aspects protection or to prevent practices that are dangerous on this front.	<b>I</b>		
<b>Conformity at point 1.5.2 can be verified through the evidence of external training of law (for ex. weeding licence, first aid, tractor licence, etc.)</b>				
1.6	Emergency procedures			
1.6.1	There are emergency procedures in the company. Report the following elements at least: agricultural company address or map, contact person/s, list of emergency telephone numbers, position of the nearest phone, fire extinguishers position, spots with centralized electric switches and valves that close water and gas.	<b>I</b>		
1.6.2	There are procedures to implement relevant corrective measures in case of environmental accidents (ex. Leakage of fertilizers)	<b>I</b>		
1.7	Maintenance of agricultural equipment			
1.7.1	They are maintained to prevent breakages and anomalies that can pollute the surrounding environment.	<b>I</b>		

## **2- LEGAL CONFORMITY**



N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
2.1	The Organization provides evidences related to the conformity of production and agricultural operations to every environmental law and normative at local, federal, statal and international levels.	E		
<b>The auditor must examine the documentary evidence provided by the authorities in support of requirement 2.1, at least for a sample of applicable environmental laws and regulations. The QoC can be evidence of compliance.</b>				
2.2	Medical authorisation The Organization disposes of its own identification number.	E		

### **3 – ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION**

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
3.1	From the date of the certification request forward, the Organization must not destroy any natural ecosystem. Also, from January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1950 forward, no natural ecosystem shall have been destroyed by agricultural company management activities.	E		
<b>To achieve the conformity at point 3.1 it is sufficient documentary evidence of the agricultural company activity and effects on the site (ex. Company's hystorical map).</b>				
3.2	Mitigation measures			
3.2.1	If a natural ecosystem has been destroyed by relevant management activities done by the agricultural company since January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1950, the Organization must have documented the destruction extent and ecological impact.	E		
3.2.2	If a natural ecosystem has been destroyed by relevant management activities done by the agricultural company since January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1950, the Organization must have developed, helped by an expert, a mitigation plan in compliance with the current legislation and that compensates for the negative impact. The plan includes CO2 compensations purchase.	E		
3.2.3	If a natural ecosystem has been destroyed by relevant management activities done by the agricultural company since January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1950, the Organization must have implemented this mitigation plan activities.	E		
3.3	The Organization has done reclamation and/or maintenance works in areas not intended for cultivation, and terrestrial and aquatic environments existing in the site, including the reforestation of areas unsuited to cultivation in the agricultural company.	E		
3.4	Production area must not affect negatively national parks, faunistic shelters, biotope networks, forest reserves, buffer zones or other public or private areas of biological resources protection.	E		

**The auditor must identify and list national parks, faunistic shelters, biotope networks, buffer zones and protection areas of biological resources that are in the production area, including possible risks coming from agricultural activities.**

3.5	The organization has to perform a plan to keep or to restore natural ecosystems interconnection in his borders, considering habitat interconnection in landscape terms: for example, using elements such as native vegetation on roadsides and along water courses or river banks, trees, living hedges and barriers, presence of specific areas for biodiversity conservation and preservation.	E		
3.6	Aquatic ecosystems protection			
3.6.1	In accordance with the used crop, the Organization protects aquatic ecosystems from erosion and displacement and agrochemicals runoff, for example by creating protected areas on rivers banks, perennial or temporary water courses, bays, sources, lakes, swamps and other natural water courses.	E		

**The Organization can be deemed to conform to point 3.6.1 on the basis of compliance with the conditionality standard that already provides for the prohibition of fertilization and weed control near main water courses.**

#### **4 - WILDLIFE AND FLORA PRESERVATION**

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
4.1	The Organization has made, and it keeps an inventory of wildlife and fauna identified in the agricultural company every year.	R		
<b>The Organization will be deemed to conform to point 4.1 on the basis of predisposition of Check lists of species with a flag on the observed ones.</b>				
4.2	The organization takes special measures to protect species considered vulnerable or at a higher risk in the IUCN Red List in the agricultural company <a href="http://www.iucnredlist.org/">http://www.iucnredlist.org/</a>	I		
4.3	The organization protects and restores ecosystems that provide habitat for fauna and flora in the Organization site, including the ones that provides habitats for fauna that cross the agricultural company during migration.	I		
<b>Habitat means all environments (as codified by UE) and environmental conditions that allow species to live and to reproduce-</b> <b>To verify the requirement 4.3 it is necessary to attach a short description of protection and preservation systems.</b>				
4.4	<b>Regulation of hunting, capture, extraction or wild animals trade activities in the organization:</b>			
4.4.1	Hunting, capture, extraction or wild animals trade activities must be prohibited in the agricultural company, unless there are special and documentable authorizations.	E		
4.4.2	When there is the authorization for hunting, capture, extraction or wild animals trade activities in the organization, activities must not involve endangered species.	E		



4.4.3	When there is the authorization for hunting, capture, extraction or wildlife trade in the organization, activities must not have a negative impact on ecological functions or processes that are important to local and agricultural ecosystem sustainability.	E		
<b>The Organization is exempted from fulfilling points at points 4.4.1-3 whether hunting activity in the nation is already regulated differently from indications at points 4.4.1-3. In case of national normative absence, the auditor must examine documentary proofs supporting the requirements above and to provide a list of hunted or captured species.</b>				
4.5	The Organization does not carry out deforestation practices to extend cultivation areas.	E		

## **5 – USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
5.1	Chemical products, fuels, oils and other possibly hazardous for people and environment substances are treated in order to avoid food or environmental pollution, or to endangering human health.	E		
5.2	Acquisition, deposit, transportation, use and disposal of these products must follow the instructions dictated by the current legislation, so as not to create problems for workers and environmental pollution.	E		
<b>The auditor must be able to examine documentary evidences to support requirements above.</b>				

## **6 – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM**

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
6.1	Crop rotation is applied for any annual crop. Annual rotation includes at least 2 different crops. One single crop, considered in the rotation, must cover at least 10% of the usable agricultural area and it has to be not more than 50% of it. Regarding horticultural crops: at least 3 different vegetal species during 5 years. Where it is not possible to use an alternative crop, other equivalent agronomic techniques have to be adopted as possible (for ex. Recourse to the annual reverse on at least 30% of SAU)	E		
6.2	The organization calculates agricultural yield per input unit (fertility, water or energy, where applicable), and it implements strategies to keep or to improve reference parameters used.	I		
<b>The auditor must report objective evidences by using the orchard register and to verify the system adopted by the organization for the achievement of point 6.2</b>				
6.3	Company production			



6.3.1	The OR (Orchard Register or Company Register) is correctly compiled. (indication of sown varieties and of the successive cultivation practices).	E		
6.4	Use of agrochemicals			
6.4.1	The Organization uses biological, chemical, biotechnical and agronomical defence resources rationally.	E		
6.4.2	The Organization has a plan to find monitoring strategies on pest, weeds and diseases prevalence, including biological control practices and reducing the use of chemicals.	I		
6.4.3	The organization tracks number and population of species useful for biological control, and it implements strategies to improve their habitat and to introduce new useful species.	I		
6.4.4	When it is necessary to use pesticides, the organization must: Use slightly persistent products with low environmental impact and limited residual action, according to current legislation.	E		
6.4.5	The Organization does not use inputs that are considered "highly toxic" by current legislation about weeds, parasites and diseases control.	E		

## **7- SOIL RESOURCES**

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
7.1	The organization registers and keeps updated the following parameters:			
7.1.1	Soil type	E		
7.1.2	Soil erosion	R		
7.1.3	Soil cover	E		
7.1.4	Soil organic substance	E		
7.1.5	Soil biological activity	I		
7.1.6	Soil degradation	R		
7.1.7	Soil nutrients	E		
<b>Soil degradation means a change in soil's health that leads to a reduction of the ecosystem's ability to provide goods and services, like decomposition and respiration. Degradation of soil physical, chemical and biological properties can lead to a partial or total loss of its fertility (FAO Soils Portal).</b>				
7.2	The Organization has defined objectives, management and soil conservation strategies, including evaluation methods to achieve these objectives.	E		
7.3	Every year, the Organization evaluates results in terms of objectives, and it adapts strategies consequently.	E		
<b>Registrations update must be triennial at least.</b>				

## **8- WATER RESOURCES**

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
8.1	Superficial and underground waters			



8.1.1	Water used for agricultural purposes is analysed once a year at least.	<b>E</b>		
8.1.2	Wells are closed, in order to avoid contaminations.	<b>I</b>		
<b>The auditor must verify where the water used by the organization (well, aqueduct, etc.) comes from</b>				
8.2	Any superficial or underground water used by the company for agricultural or production purposes must have concessions and permissions from the corresponding legal or environmental authorities.	<b>E</b>		
8.3	The organization must not drain or deposit industrial or domestic waste waters in natural water courses without demonstrating that the drained water complies with relevant legal requirements and that its physical and biochemical characteristics will not deteriorate the receiving water course. These standards must be respected also in case animal grazing is conducted in the organization's fields.	<b>E</b>		
8.4	In case there are not legal requirements, drained waste waters must respect the following minimum criteria:			
8.4.1	Biochemical Oxygen Request (BOD5, 20) or Total Suspended Solids: < 50 mg/L	<b>E</b>		
8.4.2	pH: 6.0 ÷ 9.0	<b>E</b>		
8.4.3	Fat and oils: < 30 mg/L	<b>E</b>		
8.4.4	Fecal coliform: absent	<b>E</b>		
8.5	Rain water			
8.5.1	Rainwater is collected to be used for cleaning operations or other practices.	<b>R</b>		
8.5.2	Tanks are closed to avoid contaminations.	<b>R</b>		
<b>The auditor will evaluate the applicability of points 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 and he will report as objective evidence the photographic documentation of collection tanks. Registrations update must be triennial at least.</b>				

## **9 – EMISSIONS CONTROL**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments</b>
9.1	The organization has identified GHG emissions sources in agricultural phase and it had defined reduction objectives and strategies for their achievement.	<b>E</b>		
9.2	The organizations have identified dusts and micro particulates emissions sources in the agricultural company. The organization has defined reduction objectives and strategies for their achievement.	<b>E</b>		
9.3	Regarding used pesticides, the organization implements at least two of the following phases to reduce displacement risk: 1. enlarge droplets size; 2. choose formulations that aren't subject to displacement; 3. define vegetal buffers for alluvial or swampy areas.	<b>I</b>		
9.4	The organization does not use ozone-disruptive products/substances	<b>E</b>		



## **10- WASTE MANAGEMENT**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments</b>
10.1	Organic and inorganic waste deposit does not affect the building or the surrounding environment negatively (for ex.: causing dispersion or runoff).	<b>E</b>		
10.2	Crops residues and organic waste that do not come from crops and that are contaminated by biological or agrochemical sources are not composted, mulching or used in other ways.	<b>E</b>		
10.3	There are procedures to separate organic waste from inorganic one in order to simplify their collection for re-use/recycling/composting (for ex: pallet, woods, trunks, paper, cartons, fertiliser and waste that come from alimentary transformation).	<b>E</b>		
10.4	The Organization re-uses or recycles any waste coming from inorganic materials that can be reused or recycled in accordance with local legislation on separate collection.	<b>E</b>		
10.5	<b>Muds</b>			
10.5.1	The Organization, whether it would receive muds or other materials from external installations, and it uses them in fertilization practices, disposes of relevant documentations in order to demonstrate their non-polluting properties.	<b>E</b>		
10.6	<b>Containers and other disposable packaging</b>			
10.6.1	There is a conservation method of materials used in agricultural activities. If yes, describe it.	<b>I</b>		
10.6.2	There is a disposal method of materials used in agricultural activities. If yes, describe it.	<b>I</b>		
10.6.3	Specialized companies are involved in these activities.	<b>I</b>		
10.6.4	There are evidences of a proper disposal (delivery notes, other documents).	<b>I</b>		

**It is an auditor's duty to collect any necessary documentation to verify waste disposal modalities of the organization and to attach a short description.**

## **11- POWER MANAGEMENT**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments</b>
11.1	The effective total of the net energy consumption coming from operations is annually calculated including: 1. the direct consumption of energy externally acquired (both renewable and non-renewable);	<b>I</b>		



	2. internal renewable energy production and consumption; 3. fuels used for transport and agricultural machinery functioning; 4. grey energy use and production (for ex. input, packaging, equipment).			
<b>For the fulfilment of point 12.1, there are different calculation systems considered effective (for ex.: <a href="http://www.cnaenergia.it/Bilancio.aspx">http://www.cnaenergia.it/Bilancio.aspx</a>)</b>				
11.2	Objectives for energetic resources reduction have been outlined, along with evaluation strategies and methods to achieve these objectives.	<b>I</b>		
11.3	The Organization undertakes to obtain the energy it needs using renewable energy systems. Whether not all the needed energy comes from renewable sources, the Organization undertakes to acquire "green credits" on the market.	<b>I</b>		

## **12 - SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
12.1	The organization must respect human rights according to the following requirements:			
12.1.1	Respect international guidelines and ILO regarding child labor	<b>E</b>		
12.1.2	Pay workers with salaries conforming to the legal minimum at least	<b>E</b>		
12.1.3	Assure employees have access to healthcare	<b>E</b>		
12.1.4	Apply security measures in accordance with legal requirements	<b>E</b>		
12.1.5	Obtain SA8000 certification	<b>R</b>		
<b>The auditor must verify the conformity to the requirements using documentary evidences (for ex.: employment contracts) and observations on the spot.</b>				

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Agriculture production **COMPLIES** with **Friend of the Earth** requirements

Agricultural production **DOESN'T COMPLIES** with **Friend of the Earth** requirements

The auditor has found the following non-conformities:

#### **MAJOR NON-CONFORMITIES**

(to which comply within 3 months)

N°	Requirement	Level	YES/NO	Comment

#### **MINOR NON-CONFORMITIES**

(proposal to be sent within 4 months and conformity to achieve within 1 year)

N°	Requirement	Level	YES/NO	Comment






**RECOMENDATIONS**

(to which comply within the following inspection)

N°	Requirement	Level	YES/NO	Comment

**EXTRA COMMENTS**

Empty box for extra comments.