

Friend of the Earth Standard

FOE-Farming Criteria and indicators for sustainable farming products certification



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REV	DATE	MOTIVATION	REDACTED BY	APPROVED BY
0	13/03/2014	Nuova emissione	Paolo Bray	Paolo Bray
1	18/01/2018	Prima revisione	Paolo Bray	Paolo Bray
2	26/01/2018	Seconda revisione	Paolo Bray	Paolo Bray
4	02/07/2019	Quarta Revisione	Pietro Serratore	Paolo Bray

REQUIREMENTS CATEGORIES

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

Name of the Organization	
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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) ADDRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION:

b) IS THE ORGANIZATION TO CERTIFY PART OF A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION?

c) AGRICULTURAL COMPANY AND FIELDS:

Name of the agricultural company	Coordinates

d) FIELDS AND AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES CERTIFIED ON THE SPOT: (The Auditor has to list fields and agricultural companies currently certified as total sample)

Name of the agricultural company	Coordinates

e) AREA/ADDRESS OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMPANY:

(es: coordinates, extension, etc. Include a map, when available)	
f) COMMON NAME AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF FARMED AND CULTIVATED SPECIES:	
Common name	Scier
g) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	
Family members	External
h) AVAILABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATIONS:	
i) EXTRA INFORMATION:	

FARM COMPOSITION		
BREED	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS	
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Purchased feed:	Supplier	Indicative average quantity per animal (Kg)	

Farm production feed:	Indicative average quantity per animal (Kg)	

Friend of the Earth project has been presented
(Otherwise, the Auditor has to provide a short description)

The audited Company has been informed that, in case of approval confirmation, it may use Friend of the Earth logo on its certified products.

The Company has a copy of the organigram that identifies 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 informations, specify)

CERTIFICATION BODY:	AUDIT TEAM:	START AND END DATE OF THE AUDIT:
AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE:	NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE THAT ASSISTS THE AUDITOR :	AUDIT CODE:

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 is è conforme 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.;

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

**A map showing every crop production areas, 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 fertiliser)*

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 evidences 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 informations treated at 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 recomend 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 has to 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.

Recomendations: Conformity to recomendations 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 recomendation. The organization has to evaluate any possible corrective measure and, within the following inspection, it will have to inform the Certification Body about decisions and corrective measures taken.

Whether a requirement isn't applicable to the organization under verification, the requirement has to be marked with N.A.

1 – SYSTEM OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
1.1	The Organization has a social and environmental management system that involves necessary politics, programmes, procedures and registers showing the conformity to this normative requirements	E		
1.2	The Organization has identified a person responsible for verify the conformity to the social and environmental management system.	E		
1.3	Any documentation related to the system of social and environmental management has been compiled for at least three years.	I		
1.4	The Organization has made a Life Cycle Assessment(LCA) study on its own productive system.	R		
The Auditor has to examine documentary proofs supporting requirements above				
1.5	Staff management			
1.5.1	The Organization has defined practices that prevent the access to working facilities to unauthorised people	I		
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.	I		
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.	I		
1.6.2	There are procedures to implement relevant corrective measures in case of environmental accidents (ex. Leakage of fertilisers)	I		
1.7	They are maintained so as to prevent that breakages and anomalies can pollute the surrounding environment.	I		

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		

2.2	Medical authorisation: the Organization disposes of its own identification number. (Register Veterinary Public Service identification number)	E		
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The Auditor has to examine documentary proof provided by the authorities supporting requirement 2.1

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 st 1950 forward, no natural ecosystem shall have been destroyed by agricultural company management activities.	E		
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 st 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 st 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 st 1950, the Organization must have implemented this mitigation plan activities.	E		

The Auditor has to collect and attach documentary proof that from January 1st 1950 forward no natural ecosystem have been destroyed

3.3	Any natural ecosystem, both aquatic and terrestrial, that are in the Organization site have to be identified, protected and restored using a protection programme, that includes also the reforestation of areas not intended for agricultural in the agricultural company.	E		
3.4	Production areas must not be in places that can affect negatively national parks, faunistic shelters, biotope networks, forest reserves, buffer zones or other public or private areas for biological resources protection.	E		
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	I		

	vegetation on roadsides and along water courses or river banks, trees, living hedges and barriers.			
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		
3.6.2	The Organization must not modify natural water courses to create new irrigation or drainage channels.	E		
3.6.3	Water channels that were previously transformed must keep their natural vegetal coverture, or, in case of its absence, it will be necessary to restore this coverture.	E		
3.7	Development and recovery of company sites that aren't intended for agricultural production (buildings, sheds, barns, etc) includes evaluation of the landscaping impact, as well as impacts at points 3.1 and 3.2	I		

4 - WILDLIFE AND FLORA PRESERVATION

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
4.1	It is necessary to create and to keep an inventory of fauna and flora found in the agricultural company every year	R		
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	E		
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.	E		
To verify the requirement 4.3 it is necessary to attach a short description of protection and preservation systems.				
4.4	Regulation of hunting, capture, extraction or wild animals trade activities in the organization:			
4.4.1	Hunting, capture, extraction or wild animals trade activities must be prohibited in the agricultural company, unless there are special and documentable authorisations.	E		
4.4.2	When there is the authorisation 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 authorisation for hunting, capture, extraction or wildlife trade in the organization, activities must not have a	E		

	negative impact on ecological functions or processes that are important to local and agricultural ecosystem sustainability.			
The Auditor has to examine documentary proof supporting requirements aboved				

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		
The auditor must be able to examine documentary evidences to support requirements above				

6 – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
6.1	Annual rotation plan includes at least 2 different crop species, and the presence of at least 25% of perennial plants in striped or in rows culture systems, or similar.	E		
6.2	The Organization calculates agricultural productivity per input unit (fertility, water or energy, where applicable), and it implements strategies to keep or improve efficiency list.	I		
6.3	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 has to: Use slightly persistent products with low environmental impact and limited residual action, according to current legislation.	E		

6.4.5	The Organization doesn't use inputs that are considered "highly toxic" by current legislation about weeds, parasites and diseases control.	E		
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7 – FARMING

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
7.1	General informations			
7.1.1	OGM Reared animals can't be OGM.	E		
7.1.2	Animal welfare The Organization hosts and eventually transports reared animals in spaces and conditions compliant with current national and international legislation	E		
7.1.3	Identification system in farming:			
7.1.3.1	There is a list of bovine animals in the farm	E		
7.1.3.2	Any animal has ear marks	E		
7.1.3.3	The systems allows to keep an hystorical archive of identification and traceability data up to birth.	E		
7.2	Alimentation			
7.2.1	Alimentation register: Food rations of each animals group are registered and updated.	I		
7.2.2	Food's origin compliant to Friend of the Earth requirements Any food used for production object of audit, during reared animals life, comes from agricultural activities compliant with Friend of the Earth requirements. Some of the origins may be object of the current audit.	R		
7.2.3	Optimization of Conversion Index: the Organization considers, internally to its optimization plan about the ratio of food and produced milk and/or meat.	I		
7.2.4	At every animals food delivery it is taken a sample to keep until delivered batch exhaustion.	R		
7.3	Sanitary aspects			
7.3.1	The organization avails itself of a Veterinarian regular collaboration to treat animals.	E		
7.3.2	Meds, conservation and use:			
7.3.2.1	There are only meds that are official approved by the National Medical Authority	E		
7.3.2.2	There is a space for meds conservation (including refrigeration, if necessary)	E		
7.3.2.3	It is properly managed according to loading and unloading register.	E		
7.3.2.4	Sanitary treatment register is properly compiled.	E		

8 – SOIL RESOURCES

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
8.1	The Organization has registered the current condition of:			
8.1.1	Soil type	E		
8.1.2	Soil erosion	R		
8.1.3	Soil cover	E		
8.1.4	Soil organic substance	E		
8.1.5	Soil biological activity	E		
8.1.6	Soil degradation (different from erosion)	E		
8.1.7	Soil nutrients	E		
8.2	The Organization has defined objectives, management and soil conservation strategies, including evaluation methods to achieve these objectives.	E		
8.3	Every year, the Organization evaluates results in terms of objectives and it adapts strategies consequently.	E		
Registrations updoal has to be triennial at least.				

9 - WATER RESOURCES

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
9.1	Water			
9.1.1	Water different from the net one is analyzed at least once a year.	I		
9.1.2	Wells are closed, in order to avoid contaminations.	I		
The auditor has to verify where the water used by the organization (well, aqueduct, ect.) comes from				
9.2	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.	E		
9.3	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 won't deteriorate the receiving water course..	E		
9.4	In case there aren't legal requirements, drained waste waters have to respect the following minimum criteria:			
9.4.1	Biochemical Oxigen Request (BOD5, 20) or Total Suspended Solids: < 50 mg/L	E		
9.4.2	pH: 6.0 ÷ 9.0	E		
9.4.3	Fat and oils: < 30 mg/L	E		
9.4.4	Fecal coliform: absent	E		
9.5	Rain water			

9.5.1	Rain water is collected to be used for cleaning operations or other practices.	R		
9.5.2	Tanks are closed to avoid contaminations.	R		
Registrations update has to be triennial at least.				

10 - ATMOSPHERICAL RESOURCES

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
10.1	The organization has identified GHG emissions sources in agricultural phase and it had defined reduction objectives and strategies for their achievement.	E		
10.2	The Organization has identified GHG emissions sources in rearing phase (including the ones that comes from metabolism and vegetal and animal waste) and it had defined reduction objectives and strategies to achieve them. Emissions related to animal food production have also been considered.	E		
10.3	The organizations has identified dusts and microparticulates emissions sources in the agricultural company. The organization has defined reduction objectives and strategies for their achievement.	E		
10.4	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.	I		
10.5	The organization doesn't use ozone-disruptive products/substances	E		
Registrations update has to be at least triennial				

11 - WASTE MANAGEMENT

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
11.1	Organic and inorganic waste deposit doesn't affect the building or the surrounding environment negatively (for ex.: causing dispersion or runoff).	E		
11.2	Crops residues and organic waste that don't come from crops and that are contaminated by biological or agrochemical sources are not composted, mulching or used in other ways.	E		
11.3	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	E		

	waste that come from alimentary transformation).			
11.4	Residues and organic waste that aren't coming from cultures are burned or interred, whether is possible, unless weeds controls are necessary.	E		
11.5	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.	E		
11.6	Manure management			
11.6.1	The farm has proper structures to avoid the pollution of the soil beneath them (percolation) and of surrounding areas.	E		
11.6.2	The material is eliminated at appropriate frequency.	E		
11.6.3	The material is subject to appropriate composting.	E		
11.6.4	The Organization respects an appropriate timing between manure production and their distribution in fields.	E		
11.6.5	Manure is used in soil fertilisation practices (or in companies in the area with which agreements have been made)	E		
11.7	The Organization, whether it would receive muds or other materials from external installations and it uses them in fertilisation practices, disposes of relevant documentations in order to demonstrate their non-polluting properties.	E		
11.8	Containers and other disposable packaging			
11.8.1	There is a conservation method of materials used in agricultural activities. If yes, describe it.	I		
11.8.2	There is a disposal method of materials used in agricultural activities. If yes, describe it.	I		
11.8.3	Specialized companies are involved in these activities.	I		
11.8.4	There are evidences of a proper disposal (delivery notes, other documents). Si ricorda che la combustione di questi materiali è vietata.	I		
11.9	The Organization has a management plan for animals that died in the farm, that includes utilisation of authorised companies or other systems authorised by national legislation	E		
11.10	There are disposal modalities of milk not compliant with alimentary use. If yes, describe it	E		
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.				

12 - POWER MANAGEMENT

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
12.1	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); 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, equipments).	I		
12.2	Objectives for energetic resources reduction have been outlined, along with evaluation strategies and methods to achieve these objectives.	I		
12.3	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.	I		

13 - SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

N°	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
13.1	The organization must respect human rights according to the following requirements:			
13.1.1	Respect international guidelines and ILO regarding child labour	E		
13.1.2	Pay workers with salaries conform to the legal minimum at least	E		
13.1.3	Assure to employees access to healthcare	E		
13.1.4	Apply security measures in accordance with legal requirements	E		
13.1.5	Possibly have SA8000 certification	R		

The Auditor has to verify conformity to requirements using documentary proof (for example employment contracts) and observations on the spot

Extra comments:

CONCLUSIONS:

*It's important that the Auditor fills also the following fields

Agricultural 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 conform within 3 months)

N°	Requirement	Level	YES/N O	Comment

MINOR NON-CONFORMITIES (proposal to send within 4 months and conformity to achieve within 1 year)

N°	Requirement	Level	YES/N O	Comment

RECOMENDATIONS (to communicate before the following inspection)

N°	Requirement	Level	YES/N O	Comment