

Friend of the Earth Standard

FOE – Honey Criteria and indicators for sustainable apiculture products certification

REQUIREMENTS CATEGORIES

- 1- SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
- 2- LEGAL CONFORMITY
- 3- ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION
- 4- USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES
- 5- PRODUCTION SYSTEM
- 6- RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
- 7- WASTE MANAGEMENT
- 8- POWER MANAGEMENT
- 9- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Friend of the Earth

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REV	DATE	MOTIVATION	REDACTED BY	APPROVED BY
0	02/01/2019	First issue	Pietro Serratore	Paolo Bray
1	18/02/2021	First revision	Pietro Serratore	Paolo Bray

This document is to be completed only by the certifying body and the auditor in charge of the audit. It must be completed in the native language or in English, only if perfectly known.

In case the organization is a Farmers Cooperative, audits will be conducted annually on a homogeneous verified sample, equal to at least the square root of the total number of farms in

the Cooperative.

a) ADDRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION:

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

c) THE ORGANIZATION'S HIVES ARE LOCATED ON LAND OWNED BY THE ORGANIZATION OR OWNED BY OTHERS - IF OWNED BY OTHERS, PLEASE DESCRIBE AND INCLUDE RELEVANT CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW:

d) COMPANIES AND PROCESSING PLANTS:

Name	Coordinates/Address	Description

e) COMPANIES AND PLANTS INSPECTED ON SITE: *(The auditor must list the fields and farms actually inspected as a sample of the total)*

Name	Coordinates/Address	Description

f) HIVES DESCRIPTION/ADDRESS:

(e.g., number of hives, size of hives, coordinates, etc. The map should be included with the documents)

g) FORAGE & ZONE / SURVEILLANCE ADDRESS:

(e.g., coordinates, dimensions, etc. The map should be included with the documents)

h) COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF BRED BEES:

Common name	Scientific name

i) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Family	External	Total

j) AVAILABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS:

k) OTHER INFORMATION

Friend of the Earth project has been presented (if not, the auditor must provide a short description)

The audited company has been informed that if approval is confirmed, it will be able to use the Friend of the Earth logo on its certified products

The company has a copy of the organization chart identifying the roles of the staff involved in the audit

Audit duration has been agreed .

CERTIFICATION BODY	AUDIT TEAM	AUDIT START AND END DATE
AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE:	NAME OF THE PERSON APPOINTED BY THE ORGANIZATION ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING AUDIT ACTIVITIES:	AUDIT CODE:

NOTES FOR THE AUDITOR

The auditor must complete all fields on the checklist.
 The auditor should read the notes in the green boxes before completing the fields.
 The auditor must provide a motivation when qualification requirements are not applicable.
 The auditor must answer Yes (S) when the organization is compliant with the requirement and No (N) when it is not.
 The auditor must provide comments and explanations for positive or negative responses. Yes, No, or Not Applicable are not sufficient answers. Any pertinent document must be included in the final audit report in a separate, numbered appendix.

Any pertinent document must be included in the final audit report in a separate, numbered appendix.
 Photographic evidence to be added to the checklist and/or as an attachment is appreciated.
 As the first step in the audit, the organization must describe all aspects of the production system, including:

- A map showing all crop production areas, uncultivated areas, and wildlife habitat; surface waters, roads, and buildings, as well as the extension of fields and uncultivated areas

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- All crops to be produced in the following year

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- Rotation plan and/or perennial crops production plan

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- Practices and recommendations used to maintain healthy soil and ensure crop productivity

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

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

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- Any other activity on the farm that uses crops produced on the farm as inputs (added value) or that provides inputs to the farming system (livestock, aquaculture, or fertilizer)
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REQUIREMENTS LEVEL

Essential requirements

For the essential requirements, a 100% compliance is required for the certification body to recommend the organization for certification. Any deficiency related to these requirements is deemed to be a Major Non-Conformity, and corrective action will be required within a maximum period of three months from the date of discovery of the Non-Conformity. The organization shall provide the certification body with sufficient evidence of corrective actions implemented for all Major Non-Conformities. Only for requirement 2.1, due to the complexity of the information addressed, the period for the Non-Conformity evaluation is extended to 6 months.

Important requirements

For the important requirements, a 100% compliance is required for the certification body to recommend the organization for certification. Any deficiency related to these requirements is deemed to be a Minor Non-Conformity, and it will be necessary to propose corrective actions (statement of intent and action plan), which will be submitted to the assessing body within a maximum of four months from the date of discovery of the Non-Conformity. In the proposal produced, the organization must include a timeline for the implementation of each corrective action. The maximum timeframe for the complete implementation of each corrective action is one year.

Recommendations

Compliance with recommendations is not a strict requirement for obtaining the certification. However, as part of the assessment, all aspects of these requirements will be checked, and any deficiencies will be indicated in the audit report as a recommendation. The organization must evaluate any possible corrective action and, by the following inspection, must inform the certification body about the decisions taken and corrective actions implemented.

Whether a requirement is not applicable to the organization under verification, the requirement will be marked "N.A."

Level indicators:

E = Essential

I = Important

R = Recommendation

1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
1.1	The organization has a social and environmental management system that includes the necessary policies, programs, procedures, and records that demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this standard.	E		
1.2	The Organization has identified a person responsible to verify the conformity to the social and environmental management system.	E		
1.3	All documentation related to the social and environmental management system has been compiled and archived for at least three years.	I		
1.4	The organization has conducted a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) study on its own production system.	R		
The auditor must be able to review the documentary evidence supporting the above requirements.				
1.5	Emergency procedures The company has emergency procedures. Report at least the following: map or address of the farm, contact person(s), list of emergency telephone numbers, location of the nearest telephone, location of fire extinguishers, spots with central electricity switches and taps to shut off water and gas.	E		
1.6	Record keeping The producer shall maintain records of the following: 1. Map of forage area, surveillance area, and flowering times of the different crops in those areas for all bee areas 2. Written statement verifying 3-year land management history for certified forage areas 3. Identification system for hives and beehives 4. Records of all health interventions and products used 5. Estimated yields of all bee products per hive 6. A monitoring system of hives and introduced or bred queens, tracking throughout the season 7. A list of all inputs used and input labels 8. Collection dates for bee products 9. Sales records of bee products	E		

2. LEGAL CONFORMITY

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
2.1	The organization provides evidence of compliance of agricultural production and operations with all applicable local, federal, state, and international environmental laws and regulations.	E		
2.2	Health Authorization. The organization has its own identification number.	E		

The auditor shall review documentary evidence provided by authorities to support Requirement 2.1, at least for a sample of current environmental laws and regulations.

3. ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
3.1	Site selection			
3.1.1	No natural ecosystem was destroyed or significantly altered to create the production site; the establishment of the production site did not destroy vegetation, damage wildlife habitat, or significantly disrupt the natural processes of the existing ecosystem and its natural attributes.	E		
3.1.2	From the date of application for certification onward, the organization shall not destroy any natural ecosystem.	E		
3.1.3	If the organization places its hives on land not owned by the organization, it shall submit appropriate information to the land manager as often as necessary. This information includes (but is not limited to) the impending arrival and departure of an apiary and the use of hazardous substances.	E		
3.2	Site cleanup If applicable, the producer shall complete the site cleanup with attention to not creating a nuisance to the local environment while providing a suitable site for the placement of an apiary. The organization rakes up or removes all loose surface litter on the site prior to placing the hives, does not damage or remove significant sized trees or other plants that provide a significant ecosystem function, and takes special care not to damage or destroy protected flora and fauna.	E		

3.3	Prevention of the spreading of soil pathogens and weeds.			
3.3.1	The producer minimizes passing when soil is wet and sticky.	E		
3.3.2	The producer ensures that all vehicles travel on designated roads.	E		
3.4	Species selection and breeding			
3.4.1	The producer breeds a bee species suited to the climate and natural ecosystem of the apiary site.	E		
3.4.2	The producer breeds native bee species.	R		
3.4.3	The selected species is not invasive and does not cause disproportionate damage to the natural ecosystem.	I		
3.4.4	The producer does not practice artificial insemination.	E		
3.4.5	The producer does not breed GMO species.	E		
3.5	Mitigation measures			
3.5.1	Where a natural ecosystem has been destroyed by or because of any significant farm management activities since January 1, 1950, the Organization must have documented the extent and ecological impact of the destruction.	E		
3.5.2	Where a natural ecosystem has been destroyed by or because of any significant farm management activities since January 1, 1950, the Organization shall have developed, with the assistance of a competent expert in the field, a mitigation plan that complies with applicable law and compensates for the negative impact. The plan shall include the purchase of CO2 offsets.	E		
3.5.3	Where a natural ecosystem has been destroyed by or because of any significant farm management activities since January 1, 1950, the Organization must have implemented the activities of this mitigation plan.	E		
3.6	Biodiversity Action Plan The organization has implemented and maintains a biodiversity action plan that actively promotes biodiversity on the farm property.	I		
3.6.1	The plan provides for the replanting of flower species in degraded areas and other suitable sites that are reliable producers of nectar and pollen. For this purpose, the producer may engage in the following activities: 1. Engage in a tree planting program on its property, selecting species suitable	I		

	<p>for the long-term prospects of providing a resource for honeybees and other nectar feeders.</p> <p>2. Participate in local revegetation projects.</p> <p>3. When the opportunity arises, share or transmit information to stakeholders about the value of various floral species as a resource for nectar and pollen.</p>			
3.6.2	<p>If the organization breeds a non-native bee species, the organization shall engage in specific measures to promote native bee species in the region. For this purpose, the producer may engage in the following activities:</p> <p>1. Establish nesting sites and provide nesting materials and pollen/nectar sources in a location where non-native bee species (those raised) will not compete for materials (e.g., a nearby farm).</p> <p>2. Share information about the value of native bees to ecosystem functions with stakeholders.</p>	R		
The auditor must gather and attach documentary evidence that no natural ecosystems have been destroyed since January 1950.				
3.7	<p>Apiaries are not located where they may cause adverse effects on national parks, wildlife refuges, biological corridors, forest reserves, buffer zones or other public or private biological conservation areas.</p>	I		

4. USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
4.1	Hazardous substances are handled according to a documented procedure that prevents any negative impact on worker health and safety and complies with all applicable laws and regulations.	E		
4.2	Hazardous substances are handled in a manner that prevents contamination of food products and the environment.	E		
4.3	Chemicals, fuels, oils and other substances that are potentially hazardous to humans and the environment are handled in such a way as to avoid contaminating food or the environment or posing a danger to human health.	I		
4.4	The purchase, storage, transport, use and disposal of these products should follow the instructions dictated by the applicable	E		

	regulations, in order not to create problems for employees and pollution to the environment.			
4.5	Pesticide use (where applicable - for feed/agricultural production, not bees)			
4.5.1	The organization rationally utilizes biological, chemical, biotechnical, and agronomic means of defense.	E		
4.5.2	The organization has established a plan to identify monitoring strategies for the prevalence of pests, weeds, and diseases, including biological control practices and limiting the use of chemicals.	E		
4.5.3	The organization monitors the number and population of beneficial species for biological control, and also implements strategies to improve their habitat and introduce new beneficial species.	E		
4.5.4	Where the use of pesticides is necessary, the organization shall: Use products with low environmental impact, low persistence, and limited residual action, according to current regulations.	E		
4.5.6	The organization does not use inputs deemed "highly toxic" by current regulations for the control of weeds, pests or diseases.	E		

5. PRODUCTION SYSTEM

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
5.1	At least one bi-monthly inspection is conducted and documented to verify good agricultural practices.	E		
5.2	The producer maintains and implements a beekeeping plan which contains the following: A map of the apiary showing the location of the hives, the forage area, and the surveillance area, including the location of all non-organic areas and human housing. Forage area: a description of all crops grown, the amount of forage to be provided per colony, including the type(s) of forage, approximate flowering period, forage density, density of competing species, bee colony density, colony health, colony strength, topography, and climatic conditions; and any sources of	E		

	<p>potential contamination located within the 3 km forage area.</p> <p>Surveillance area: a description of cultivated crops and high-risk activities such as sanitary landfills, incinerators, wastewater treatment plants, power plants, golf courses, housing for people, towns or cities, land to which prohibited materials are applied, and any other sources of potential contamination located within the 3.4 km surveillance zone beyond the forage area.</p> <p>Description of water sources available in the forage area.</p> <p>Demonstration of the availability of sufficient forage in the forage area throughout the year.</p>			
5.3	The organization provides bees with all the opportunities they should have to survive on their own and adapt to local conditions.	I		
5.3.1	<p>The following manipulations and equipment are used only as buffer measures to get bees to multiply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queen replacement - Systematic splitting - Interruption of artificial brood 	I		
5.4	Provision of food and water			
5.4.1	If natural water sources are insufficient to provide bees with continuous access to a consistent water supply, the producer shall place appropriate artificial water sources within 200 feet of an apiary. The artificial water source provided shall be appropriately covered with netting to prevent access by wildlife and their accidental drowning.	E		
5.4.2	Feed supply			
5.4.2.1	Bees are placed in areas where there is an abundance of nectar and pollen.	E		
5.4.2.2	The organization does not replace natural bee feed (pollen, nectar, or honey) with sugar water or other human-prepared feed substitutes unless it is necessary for the immediate survival or well-being of the bees.	E		
5.4.2.3	If the use of supplemental feed is necessary, the organization uses 100% real pollen or honey.	I		
5.5	Queen bee management			

5.5.1	If determined that the producer must replace the queen, the producer shall remove and not kill the queen.	I		
5.5.2	The producer shall not clip the queen's wings.	I		
5.6	Harvesting practices			
5.6.2	The producer shall use optimal technique and equipment to harvest honey to minimize disturbance, killing, and injury to bees.	E		
5.6.3	The producer does not annually destroy bee colonies as a result of honey flows (hive culling).	E		
5.6.4	The producer does not use synthetic bee repellents to remove bees from their honey.	E		
5.7	The producer establishes and observes preventive health practices, including: - Selection of bee stocks, hive densities, and colony locations appropriate to site-specific conditions and resistant to prevalent diseases and pests. - Maintenance of adequate honey and pollen stocks in the hive, including leaving hives with sufficient honey and pollen reserves for the colony to survive the dormant period. - Use of foundation wax that is not contaminated with disease or parasites. - Destruction of equipment and bees contaminated with disease or pests. - Use of modified management methods or equipment to control pests and diseases. - Use of therapeutic applications of non-synthetic and synthetic materials to control pests and diseases.			
5.8	Smoker use			
5.8.1	The organization shall engage in the responsible use of smokers by reducing disturbance and harm to bees during collection, inspection, division, queen introduction, and other beekeeping activities.	E		
5.8.2	The organization shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the smoker does not cause a fire.	E		
5.9	Hive construction			
5.9.1	If possible, the organization shall use sustainable and/or reused materials to build the hives.	I		
5.9.2	The organization cannot use chemicals or other substances that harm bees in the creation of the hive.	E		

5.10	Winter preparation	E		
5.10.1	The producer shall prepare the hives for winter using appropriate methods to maximize bee winter survival rates.	I		

6. **RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
6.1	Water			
6.1.1	The organization must document its water sources.	E		
6.1.2	All surface water or groundwater used by the farm for agricultural, domestic, or processing purposes have the respective concessions and permits from the corresponding legal or environmental authorities.	I		
6.1.3	For water other than mains water, an analysis shall be conducted at least once a year.	E		
6.1.4	Wells are closed to avoid contamination.	E		
6.1.5	Rainwater is collected for use in relevant agricultural activities (and tanks are closed to avoid contamination).	R		
6.2	Air			
6.2.1	The organization has determined the carbon footprint of its agricultural processes and related activities, including transportation and facility operations.	R		
6.2.2	The organization has identified possible sources of dust and particulate emissions. The organization has defined the reduction targets and strategies to achieve them.	I		
6.2.3	The organization does not use ozone-depleting substances in accordance with international regulations.	E		
6.3	Soil			
6.3.1	The organization shall ensure that all farm-related activities (e.g., transportation, landscaping) do not contribute to soil erosion or degradation and, if so determined, appropriate mitigation measures are implemented.	I		
6.3.2	The organization has defined goals, soil management and conservation strategies, as well as evaluation methods for achieving these goals.	R		
6.3.3	The organization annually evaluates the results in terms of objectives and adjusts its strategies accordingly.	R		

7. WASTE MANAGEMENT

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
7.1	Organic and inorganic waste deposits do not adversely affect the facility or the surrounding environment (e.g., by causing runoff or dispersal).	E		
7.2	Crop residues and non-crop organic wastes that are contaminated from biological or agrochemical sources are not composted, mulched, or otherwise reused.	E		
7.3	There are procedures that are used to separate organic waste from inorganic waste to facilitate its recovery for reuse/recycling/composting (e.g., pallets, wood, logs, paper, cardboard, compost, and food processing waste).	E		
7.4	The organization reuses or recycles all or part of waste from inorganic materials that can be reused or recycled in accordance with local recycling regulations.	E		
7.5	Sludge			
7.5.1	The organization, should it receive sludge or other materials from outside facilities and use them in fertilization practices, has appropriate documentation to demonstrate their non-polluting properties.	E		
7.6	Containers and other disposable materials			
7.6.1	Is there a method for storing materials used in agriculture? If yes, describe it.	I		
7.6.2	Is there a disposal method for materials used in agriculture? If yes, describe it.	I		
7.6.3	Companies that specialize in these activities are involved.	E		
7.6.4	There is evidence of proper disposal (delivery notes, other documents).	E		

It is the auditor's responsibility to gather all necessary documentation to verify how the organization disposes of various wastes and attach a brief description.

8. POWER MANAGEMENT

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
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8.1	Total actual net energy usage from operations is calculated annually to include: direct use of energy acquired from outside (both renewable and non-renewable). the internal production and use of renewable energy. fuels used for transportation and operation of farm equipment. 1. the use and production of gray energy (e.g., inputs, packaging, equipment).	I		
For the purpose of compliance with Section 12.1, there are several calculation systems that are considered valid (ad es.: http://www.cnaenergia.it/Bilancio.aspx)				
8.2	Goals for reducing energy resources are outlined, as well as strategies and evaluation methods for achieving those goals.	I		
8.3	The organization is committed to sourcing the energy it needs through renewable energy systems.	I		

9. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comments
9.1	The organization shall respect human rights by complying with the following requirements:			
9.1.1	Comply with international and ILO guidelines regarding child labor	E		
9.1.2	Pay workers wages that are at least equal to the legal minimum wage	E		
9.1.3	Ensure workers have access to health care	E		
9.1.4	Implement safety measures in accordance with legal requirements	E		
9.2	Human Resources			
9.2.1	For specific areas of the manufacturing facility where unauthorized entry may threaten environmental and/or human safety, the organization has established practices that prevent access by unauthorized persons.	E		
9.2.2	Adequate training of internal staff and external personnel, where required, is provided. There is a record of training activities indicating the inclusion of topics related to environmental protection and the prevention of unsafe practices.	E		
The auditor must verify compliance with requirements through documentary evidence (examples of employment contracts) and on-site observations.				

Additional comments

CONCLUSIONS:

- Agricultural production **COMPLIES** with **Friend of the Earth** requirements.
- Agricultural production **DOES NOT COMPLY** with **Friend of the Earth** requirements.

The Auditor has found the following non-conformities:

MAJOR NON-CONFORMITIES
(to fix within 3 months)

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comment

MINOR NON-CONFORMITIES
(proposal to be submitted within 4 months and compliance to be achieved within 1 year)

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comment

RECOMMENDATIONS
(to fix within the following inspection)

No.	Requirement	Level	Y/N	Comment