	INFORMATION NOTE FOR COMPANIES APPLYING FOR THE BIO SUISSE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION		INF_BioSuisse (EN) ed.01 Rev.01
	Edited by RS	Checked by RAQ	Appr. CC of 11/15/2024

PREAMBLE

The marketing of organic products in Switzerland can only take place if the company also has a certificate of conformity to EC Regulation 848/2018 which includes the products concerned.

The marketing in Switzerland of products for which Bio Suisse Organic certification is requested requires the satisfaction of the mandatory conditions listed below.


MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN BIO SUISSE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

1. The prerequisite for applying for Bio Suisse Organic certification is that the products concerned are already covered by certification in accordance with EC Regulation 848/2018
2. The operator must already be in contact with a potential buyer (importer) in Switzerland. For certification at its own expense (without importer) the company must fill out a form on which ICB will prepare an offer for the company.
3. The entire product chain must be certified Bio Suisse Organic, therefore it is necessary to qualify suppliers by requesting Bio Suisse Organic certification. Even the traders, who only issues invoices and does not see the product in transit, must be certified Bio Suisse Organic.
4. Only for Italy, from 2024, the social audit was introduced in the regions of Puglia and Calabria and in 2025, it has been extended to the whole Italian territory. This audit is an integral part of the Bio Suisse control for all companies and, therefore, social certification and external social audits are no longer accepted. The only exception is the Naturland certification.

If the above REQUIREMENTS are met, the company fills out the application (M_77 Biosuisse), sending a signed copy to Bioagricert. Bioagricert then sets up the file and assigns the inspector to carry out the inspection visit at the company.

MAINTENANCE OF BIO SUISSE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

- ❖ If the certificate is accompanied by a letter presenting particular maintenance conditions required by Bio Suisse, the renewal of the certification will only be issued if the conditions are met.
- ❖ After obtaining the Bio Suisse Organic certification, the exporter is required to document the flow of goods up to the production company in the electronic goods flow management system “**BIO SUISSE SUPPLY CHAIN MONITOR**” (SCM).
- ❖ The exporter (last owner of the goods outside Switzerland) after appropriate registration, enters the transaction data into the SCM and uploads the required attachments into the system. After correct entry of all data, he transmits the transaction to the importer for check.
- ❖ After receiving the relevant notification, the importer proceeds with the check, uploading any other necessary documents into the system and forwards the transaction to Bio Suisse for processing. verify.

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- ❖ After the verification, Bio Suisse allows you to download and print the certificate with an electronic stamp.
- ❖ **ANNUAL CHECK** - For the verification of the flow of goods within the annual control, the inspector of the control body must verify 5% of the transactions, by accessing the SCM system, before inspecting the operator.
- ❖ The company will be able to market the products only until the expiry date of the “Certification ICB”.
- ❖ The company must specify on the tax documents, the mention “**Bio Suisse Organic**”. The Bio Suisse Organic certificate does not authorize the marking of the products with the protected trademark “Bud”. **Only the importer of the products with a valid license contract with Bio Suisse is authorized to do so.**
- ❖ The mention or logo “Bio Suisse Organic” must appear on the containers, delivery notes and invoices of the products. **The only indication Bio Suisse is also incorrect.**
- ❖ Marketing of Bio Suisse products with expired certification will lead to the opening of a non-conformity report by the inspector during the inspection visit or by the non-conformity office.

MORE INFORMATION

- a) Bio Suisse certificates are valid for 18 months from the last Bio EU inspection. Bio Suisse requires an inspection every year to be carried out preferably in conjunction with the inspection visit relating to EC Reg. 848/2018 for Bio EU. Therefore, to request **RENEWAL** of the certification, the company must complete and send to Bioagricert the application (M. 77 BioSuisse) by 31/01 of each year in order to plan the inspection visit necessary for the renewal of the Bio Suisse Organic certificate.
- b) If the company is not interested in renewing the Bio Suisse certification, it is asked to send a communication of surrendering, via email, certified mail or post.
- c) For inspection bodies and companies, Part V of the BioSuisse guidelines is particularly important . The summary of the Standard is usually sufficient, which contains the essential points in which the BioSuisse requirements go beyond the guidelines. Organic EU.
- d) BioSuisse examination procedure takes an average of 4 to 6 weeks.
- e) All information can be found on the website: www.icbag.ch To stay up to date on the Bio Suisse Organic certification, you can sign up for the dedicated [Newsletter](#)