



Notification: 2103
Date: 8th of November 2021
Category: Update to the Australia Organic Standard (ACOS) 2021v1
Title: EU Annex Updates

Background

The European Commission published **11** secondary regulations with another 12 planned before the end of 2021.

The updates to the annexes formalise recommendations made by the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) to the European Union.

The government-to-government equivalence arrangement that exists between Australia and the EU relevant to plant products is unaffected by this change. Similarly, the third country control body approval for ACO Certification Limited (which includes scopes of wine and livestock products) which is based upon the ACOS remains unchanged.

Notwithstanding the above, given that the Australian Certified Organic Standard 2021 (ACOS) includes references directly to existing annexes in Regulation 2018/848 which have now been updated, the references to these annexes must also be updated.

These changes will only affect operators certified to the ACOS for exporting organic produce to the EU.

Add: Please note: Operators who wish to have access to EU markets are required to comply within the below clauses, EU amendments and their subsequent amendments.

Add Definition: Catastrophic circumstances: natural disasters such as destructive flooding, fire and prolonged and extreme drought or similar events listed in Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

Point 18:

Stocking density can be adapted in catastrophic circumstances:

Delete: In cases of catastrophic circumstances, the CB may authorise the renewal or reconstitution of groups of livestock, including bees, from non-organic sources, where organic are not available. Documentary evidence of such approvals must be kept

Replace with: In cases of catastrophic circumstances, the CB may authorise the renewal or reconstitution of groups of livestock, including bees, from non-organic sources, where organic are not available. Documentary evidence of such approvals must be kept. During such circumstances, formal application to the CB for a derogation to adapt the stocking density can be made.



Point 22:

Roughage and feed requirement derogations during natural catastrophes:

Delete: For ruminants, at least 60% of the feed ration for must come from roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage. This may be reduced, following approval from the CB, to 50% for dairy cattle for a maximum period of three months during early lactation.

Replace with: For ruminants, at least 60% of the feed ration for must come from roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage. This may be reduced, following approval from the CB, to 50% for dairy cattle for a maximum period of three months during early lactation. A formal application to the CB for a derogation to further reduce this ration for ruminants is allowed in catastrophic circumstances. Following derogation approval, producers must ensure nutritional requirements at various stages of ruminant development are still met.

Point 23:

Grazing requirements and feed origin can be adapted in catastrophic circumstances:

Delete: In catastrophic circumstances, including natural disasters such as destructive flooding, fire and prolonged and extreme drought, where animal welfare issues may be at stake, the CB may allow specific derogations to feed requirements. Such derogations shall follow formal application to the CB and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Replace with: In catastrophic circumstances, where animal welfare issues may be at stake, the CB may allow specific derogations to feed and grazing requirements. Such derogations shall follow formal application to the CB and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Point 46:

Bee feeding can be adapted during catastrophic circumstances to prevent collapse:

Delete: For the purpose of cleaning and disinfection of frames, hives and combs, sodium hydroxide may be used.

Replace with: For the purpose of cleaning and disinfection of frames, hives and combs, sodium hydroxide may be used. During catastrophic circumstances, bees can be fed with organic honey or organic sugar, where the survival of the colony is endangered.

Point 47:

Update to allowed inputs and processes in winemaking:

Delete: Winemaking practices and additives must comply with Regulation (EC) 606/2009 and (EC) 203/2012.



Replace with: Winemaking additives must comply with Part D of Annex V to Regulation (EU) 1165/2021 for the production and conservation of organic grapevine products. Wine making practices must comply with Regulations outlined in 2018/848.

Point 53:

Higher amount of sulphur dioxide allowed in organic wine production during unfavourable conditions:

Delete: Sulphur dioxide shall not exceed the provisions in Table VI3, except in instances of exceptional climatic conditions that deteriorate the sanitary status of organic grapes in a specific geographical area because of severe bacterial or fungal attacks, which obliges the winemaker to use more sulphur dioxide than in previous years in order to obtain a comparable final product. In such exceptional instances, prior approval from the CB is required, and the level of sulphur dioxide shall not exceed the EU conventional allowances for the relevant wine.

Replace with: Sulphur dioxide shall not exceed the provisions in Table VI3, except in instances of exceptional climatic conditions that deteriorate the sanitary status of organic grapes in a specific geographical area because of severe bacterial or fungal attacks. In this case, the winemaker may use more sulphur dioxide in order to obtain a comparable final product. In such exceptional instances, prior approval from the CB is required, and the level of sulphur dioxide shall not exceed the EU conventional allowances for the relevant wine outlined in Part B of Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934.

Point 58:

When organic seed and planting materials are not available:

Delete: When organic seed and planting materials are not available in sufficient quantity or quality for the required variety or equivalent varieties, in-conversion materials may be used. When none of these are available, conventional materials may be used provided that they have not been treated with post-harvest pesticides not otherwise permitted by this Standard. Approval for such use of non-organic seeds or planting materials is required as per 4.2.11.

Replace with: When organic seed and planting materials are not available in sufficient quantity or quality for the required variety or equivalent varieties, in-conversion materials may be used. When none of these are available, conventional materials may be used provided that they have not been treated with post-harvest pesticides not otherwise permitted by this Standard. Authorisation for use of non-organic seeds must be sought prior to planting but once granted is permitted for a year. In cases of seed fodder organic varieties being unavailable, non-organic mixtures percentages (up to 30%) can be used. Approval from CB prior to use of all non-organic seeds or planting material is required.

END