

PRODUCTS SELECTION CRITERIA BIOCOOP

Version 01/17

I. QUALITY OF PRODUCTS

The food products selected and distributed by Biocoop comply with the organic production method pursuant to European Regulation 834/2007 and its implementing regulation 889/2008, complemented by approved national requirements. They have been certified by an approved certification body.

In addition to this selection base, Biocoop is continuously looking for relevant qualitative improvements which are reflected in the criteria set out below. For animal products, non-food products and food supplements, annexes setting out specific quality requirements are available.

1. Composition

The mandatory quality criteria of products referenced by Biocoop are as follows:

- Absence of by-products of non-organic maize, canola, rice, soya, cotton or papaya.
- Absence of ingredients from Raw Materials with GMO risk from the American Continent or China: Alfalfa, Beetroot, Cotton, Squash, Courgette, Maize, Canola, Flax, Papaya, Pepper, Rice (except for by-products of rice), Soya (except for soya sauces), Tomato, Pollen
- Absence of supplements in the form of synthetic vitamins and minerals (except for formula milk and baby food products in which it is required by law).

Biocoop does not accept fruit juices from concentrate, except for food supplements (in this particular case, the use of a concentrate may strengthen the presence of active agents in the product). In cases of mono-fruit juices, Biocoop will not reference nectars unless they are essential due to the nature of the fruit to obtain a juice texture which is sufficiently liquid. Products which use concentrates as an ingredient are not concerned.

Biocoop gives preference to products which do not contain flavours. However, if it is present, Biocoop shall only accept natural organic flavours. Biocoop shall give preference to products which do not contain the following ingredients:

- Citric Acid;
- Non-organic gelatin;
- Non-organic sunflower lecithin;
- **Yeasts are considered as an agricultural ingredient as from 1 January 2014. Biocoop encourages the use of organic yeast.**

- In general, any non-organic product, even if it is authorised in Annex IX of implementing regulation 889/2008.

Biocoop requires a guarantee of No-Deforestation for palm-based ingredients.

2. GMO risk control

Biocoop requires the following guarantees from its suppliers:

- Non-GMO guarantee on strains of yeasts, starters, ferment
- Non-GMO guarantee on enzymes
- Non-GMO guarantee on Pollen
- Non-GMO guarantee on Cotton, Maize, Canola, Flax, Mustard, Papaya, Rice, Soya or ingredients obtained from these Raw Materials.

Biocoop requires its suppliers to undertake to carry out a test of the risks of GMO presence or contamination for their activities and to take the necessary precautions if required, in accordance with the general rules and the organic rules (risks analysis = identification of all possible GMO contamination entry points, and, where necessary, laboratory testing).

As a result, at the request of Biocoop, the supplier must be able to provide its **GMO testing plan** and those of its different service providers:

1. guarantees as to the absence of GMO in seeds

- threshold for search in laboratory: 0.01%
- preference to systematic testing over sample testing

2. precautions taken to prevent the risks of contamination (storage and transport)

3. guarantees as to the absence of GMO in processed products

- threshold for search in laboratory: 0.1%

Biocoop will be particularly vigilant about suppliers working with products or derived products likely to be contaminated, such as: Cotton, Maize, Canola, Flax, Mustard, Papaya, Rice, Soya, Pollen.

3. Pesticide pollution risks control

Biocoop requires its suppliers to carry out a pesticide detection test for all raw materials (even those holding an organic farming certificate) from Asia (China, India, Pakistan, Cambodia, etc.) and to do so for each new batch. Biocoop reserves the right to request a copy of these tests.

4. Origin of ingredients

Biocoop's selection criteria include the geographical origin and the name of suppliers of ingredients used. The supplier must be able to geographically locate the places of production of the raw materials.

Biocoop shall give priority to supplies which are geographically close to places of processing and/or marketing. **Any product transported by air shall not be referenced.** If air transport were to be used after referencing, Biocoop would suspend the concerned product.

Biocoop shall give priority to products whose ingredients are of French origin or from countries adjacent to France. Considering the environmental consequences of the development of the cultivation of quinoa on the Andean altiplano, Biocoop does not wish to reference new products containing this ingredient with that geographical origin. Similarly, Biocoop does not wish to develop seed-based products from other continents (e.g.: Abyssinian lovegrass, fonio, amaranth, etc.). Biocoop would like to develop as a priority the range of products of suppliers resulting from their know-how. Similarly, Biocoop preferably chooses products for which the ingredients are supplied by manufacturers or producers.

Lastly, Biocoop requires its suppliers to comply with the European requirements on the traceability (EC Regulation 178/2002 of 28/01/2002 and EC Regulation 834/2007) of food products and to specify on the packagings, the origin of the main ingredients.

5. Solidarity with those involved in production

Biocoop's objective is to develop the organic farming sector at the local, regional and national levels. For this purpose, Biocoop gives priority to partnerships with operators or sectors, by supporting their development and the development of organic farming based on planning and the conclusion of contracts.

Biocoop shall therefore always give preference to enterprises that have established contractual links with production, primarily with producer organisations, enterprises which source their raw materials from Biocoop's partner groups.

For exotic products, Biocoop gives priority to suppliers which source from fair trade channels whose procedure is defined by recognised specifications. Biocoop wishes to reference and distribute solely products obtained from fair trade in the following cases:

- Banana
- Sugar cane
- Coffee
- Tea (except for Japanese teas, cultivated in Japan).

Since 1 January 2014, all chocolate bars distributed by Biocoop shall exclusively be composed of fair cacao and shall display on the packaging, the fair trade label certifying this procedure. For processed products, Biocoop shall give priority to the referencing of products in respect of which the above ingredients are sourced from fair trade. It is the supplier's responsibility to pay the fee applicable for this certification where it is a paid label.

6. Packagings

a. Type of packagings

Packaging must be restricted to the health and legal protection of the products, and to provide information to consumers.

- It is strongly advised to avoid over-packaging. The type and weight of the packagings shall be chosen on the basis of minimum possible environmental impact.
- The use of mono-materials or of separable multi-layered materials must be preferred.
- It is desirable to have a specification encouraging the recycling of materials.
- Biocoop shall not reference products packaged in packagings containing PVC (except in the special case of glass container lids).
- Pursuant to the French regulation applicable since 01/01/2015, Biocoop shall not accept any packaging containing BPA or **Polycarbonate (PC)**.
- Biocoop requires its supplier to inform it of the presence of regulated phthalates in the packagings of the referenced products and the products contained in these packagings. The supplier shall provide an analysis of the packaging **and where necessary** of the product contained in order to determine presence, if any, of the chemical components mentioned above (detection threshold at 0.1mg/kg of packaged products). Biocoop wishes to move towards the elimination of these compounds in the packagings of products it distributes.
- Printing inks used must be plant based as far as possible.
- Fully or partly recycled materials are to be preferred where the type of packaging so allows.

Biocoop refuses the aluminium pod for coffee machines because of the amount of waste generated.

For all its new products, the supplier shall fill in the technical-environmental sheet provided by Biocoop.

b. Tax on packagings

Biocoop requests its suppliers to become member of a packaging tax collecting organisation, to pay the related tax on the packaging of the products sold and to mention it on the labels. Foreign suppliers shall provide to their buyer the weights and materials of the products bought by Biocoop.

7. Labelling

Biocoop requests its suppliers to comply with the EU's INCO Regulation (regulation on information to consumers) applicable as from 13 December 2014. In order to guarantee the best possible information to the consumer, Biocoop requests its supplier to comply with the following principles:

- clearly display the products' sales description
- display a bar code on each Consumer Sales Units of packaged product
- refer on the products' packagings to producers and/or the last processor each time that this is possible
- mention as soon as possible the geographical origin of the ingredients (mandatory for meat), as well as the place of manufacture of the product;
- mention each ingredient in detail on the label and specify the type of ingredient used (see table at the end of the document), emphasise in bold print the allergens and list them;
- specify the physical condition of the material used (e.g. thawed)
- for fair trade products, precisely mention the name of the procedure with reference to a specifications document and not just a mention such as "product of fair trade origin";
- specify the directions for use, in particular for raw materials to be used for cooking (e.g. cornflour, polenta, flour, etc.).

- For beer and alcohol in general, specify the alcoholic strength by volume.

Moreover, Biocoop shall not reference products whose packagings mention the use of micro-wave as the main sales argument.

II. COMMUNICATION TO THE BUYER

Each supplier has as prime contact person in Biocoop a buyer at the Filières et Produits Department (address at the end of this document).

1. Internal functioning

The supplier undertakes to inform the buyer of any change to the functioning of its business.

- Articles of Association, SIRET No., composition of the share capital,
- procurement of raw materials,
- organisation of the distribution. This information shall be provided to the shops where applicable.

Biocoop undertakes to inform suppliers which so request of any change in the network organisation:

- Articles of Association,
- composition of the share capital,
- composition of the Board of Directors.

If a supplier were to use GMO or have a shareholder engaged in GMO production or itself become shareholder of a company engaged in GMO production, Biocoop reserves the right to delist the concerned supplier.

2. Holidays

The supplier undertakes to inform the buyer of the dates of its summer holidays before the end of March, and of its end of year holidays before the end of October. For other holidays or closure of the factory, the supplier shall inform its buyer 60 days in advance. In all cases, it shall specify its desired change of dates for the orders.

3. Direct selling

The referencing of the supplier in the Biocoop platform is not aimed at cutting contacts between the supplier and Biocoop shops. Any direct communication regarding the products is likely to stimulate sales. It is however important to inform the buyer of the content of the communication, the shops concerned and the method used (visits, mails, etc.).

In special cases where the supplier has to directly invoice shops of the Biocoop network for products referenced in the Biocoop catalogue, it undertakes to inform its buyer accordingly.

It also undertakes not to promote to shops of the network, products rejected by the committees on account of non-compliance with our Product Selection Criteria.

Signed* in two copies, of which one sent to:



PREMIER RÉSEAU DE MAGASINS BIO EN FRANCE

*Biocoop
Direction Filiales et Produits
Espace Performance
Immeuble Hermès
4, rue de la chambre aux deniers
49000 Angers*

The Supplier
Name of company:
Legal representative: _____
Signature and stamp of the company

() Signature preceded by the handwritten words "Read and Approved"*

Example of information requested on the ingredients of a referenced product

Type of ingredients	Presentation of the ingredients to be adopted on the products
Details of the ingredients to be displayed on labels	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chocolate or chocolate chips 	Specify the detailed composition of the chocolate: E.g.: "cocoa butter*, milk*, soya lecithin*"...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Margarine 	Specify the detailed composition of the margarine E.g.: "margarine (water, natural organic lemon flavour, palm fat...)"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caramel 	Specify the detailed composition of the caramel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vinaigrette 	Specify the detailed composition of the vinaigrette
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Billet and other preparations containing several cereals 	Specify the composition of the billets and mention all cereals contained
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maltodextrin 	Specify the type of maltodextrin concerned E.g. "corn maltodextrin"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Starch 	Specify the type of starch used E.g. "corn starch"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lecithin 	Specify the type of lecithin (e.g. soya, sunflower,...)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stock 	Specify the type of stock (vegetables, chicken, beef) and place of manufacture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flour 	If flour is the main ingredient : Specify the cereal and the type of flour used E.g.: "Small spelt semi-wholemeal flour" or "T70 wholemeal flour"...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunflower oil 	State if it is deodorised, oleic or linoleic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Couscous, semolina, bulgur, pasta,... 	If it's about a main ingredient: Specify the origin of the cereal at the base of the couscous, semolina, and bulgur, and whether it is white, semi-whole, whole. E.g.: Semi-whole wheat couscous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rice 	Specify the type of rice used (Thai,...) and whether white, half-brown or brown rice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sugar cane 	Specify, if applicable, whether it is brown or whole sugar E.g.: "brown sugar cane" or "whole sugar cane"...
Details on ingredient requested by Biocoop for the purposes of traceability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bread crumbs 	Specify the geographical origin of the main cereal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coconut milk 	Specify the origin of the coconut used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tofu, Tamari, Shoyu 	Specify the geographical origin of the soya
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curry 	Specify the geographical origin of the main ingredient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Herbes de Provence</i> 	Specify the geographical origin of the mixed herbs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concentrate, purée, powder, fruit juice 	Specify the geographical origin of the fruit used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Milk 	Specify the type of milk (ewe, goat,...) and whether full cream, skimmed, semi-skimmed, concentrate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish 	Specify the port of entry of the fish and the fishing zone (this is the geographical origin)