

## **Defined quality: The BioFach Admission Criteria**

The organic market with its strong worldwide expansion needs clear, comprehensible criteria to ensure further healthy development. These criteria should define the differences between organic and non-organic products. The credibility and consumer acceptance depend on the transparency of these product attributes. For the protection of exhibitors and buyers, the organizers in co-operation with research institutes and experts therefore developed their own list of requirements for exhibited products for BioFach in 1997. These requirements must be fulfilled by the products exhibited by every company. The information provided by companies in the written application is checked and compliance with the criteria is checked by stand inspectors during the exhibition.

All exhibitors agree to comply with this set of BioFach rules. It consists of general criteria that apply to all products and specific product criteria, e.g. criteria for natural personal care products. Every product must fulfil the minimum criteria. If other criteria are fulfilled in addition, this is indicated by a "plus" on the stand. Once the majority of the suppliers fulfil a bonus criterion, this becomes a minimum criterion. In general, all exhibited products must be registered and must fulfil the minimum criteria.

### **Guide system for visitors**

The markings on the stand fascias help you as visitor to find your way around. They provide rough information about the raw materials used and compliance with the admission criteria.

#### **What do the marks on the stand sign mean?**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Labelled "M"</b> | This exhibitor fulfils all the minimum criteria.   |
| <b>Labelled "+"</b> | indicates that this exhibitor fulfils more than just the minimum criteria, i.e. the exhibitor fulfils at least one of the required bonus criteria and/or is a member of a growers association with much more stringent standards.  |
| <b>Labelled "S"</b> | stands for special admission, where a product does not fulfil one of the minimum criteria. Admission for this year is still granted – provided the product has only narrowly failed to meet the standards and the criterion can be fulfilled by the next year or fulfilment of the standards for the type of product concerned is still difficult at present. This special admission applies for one year only in each case. |
| <b>Labelled "Z"</b> | indicates that the certifier of at least one product on the stand is not yet accredited to EN 45011 or ISO Guide 65. The EU, however, requires the importer to verify that the certifier possesses this accreditation. These products cannot be imported into Europe until the certifier is accredited. This is not a trading barrier outside the European Union, e.g. in South America or China.                            |

There is an additional guide system for **organic food**

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|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Labelled "&lt;95"</b> | means that the exhibitor offers products in which less than 95 % of the contents originate from certified organic cultivation. Food products with less than 70 % ingredients from certified organic cultivation are no longer admitted to BioFach.   |
| <b>Labelled "W"</b>      | indicates that goods on the stand are certified as gathered from the wild. If the products are not certified, an additional "S" is marked on the stand sign to indicate special admission. Products at BioFach must be certified as gathered from sustainable wild sources, e.g. for gathering mushrooms or herbs. |
| <b>Labelled "U"</b>      | means that goods are also offered from firms currently undergoing conversion to certified organic production and in at least the second year of conversion.  |

## Admission criteria for BioFach 2005

- There are specific admission criteria for the following product sectors: organic food, food supplements, agricultural supplies and equipment, natural personal care, essential oils, natural textiles, covering materials, filling materials, textile toys, leather goods (also for shoes, furniture and clothing), paper goods, office supplies, detergents and cleaning agents, furniture, wooden articles and for the general admission conditions. The relevant sectors (wood, textiles, paper) apply for toys.
- Certifying bodies, service providers, initiatives and publishers are admitted if they have developed specific products for the ecological market and therefore promote ecological and social action.
- **All minimum criteria must be fulfilled for admission to BioFach.**

### 1. General criteria for all product sectors

#### Minimum criteria for all sectors

The exhibitor declares:

- that all his products are produced and manufactured in an environment-friendly way according to the latest technical standards without the use of genetically modified organisms or substances throughout the entire manufacturing process and without radioactive radiation; that they do not contain any substances that are damaging to health or the environment and that no ecologically unsafe materials (halogen compounds, formaldehyde, Bakelite, PVC) have been used in either the product or its packaging;
- that suppliers of food, food supplements and vitamins are certified organic, unless the raw material is not yet available from organic cultivation.

#### Bonus criteria for all sectors

(additional desirable criteria, but not essential for admission)

- Membership of an organic association
- The ecological production of the company is certified by an independent certifying organization
- Packaging is produced solely from renewable raw material, recycled material or is part of a reusable/returnable system.

### 2. Specific product criteria

#### 1. Organic food, food supplements, agricultural supplies

A product list stating the ingredients must be submitted for food supplements, macrobiotics and agricultural supplies. Raw materials like aloe vera or honey that are already available on the market in certified organic quality must also be used in organic quality in food supplements.

##### 1. Accreditation of certifier

- The exhibitor names the certifier and confirms that the certifier is accredited according to ISO Guide 65 or EN 45011. Otherwise special admission must be requested.

##### 2. Exhibitors from EU-Europe/EU-recognized third countries: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Israel, New Zealand, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Hungary

- The exhibitor confirms that all products and services exhibited at BioFach are certified according to Council Regulation (EC) No. 2092/91 or for livestock products according to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1804/99.

##### 3. Exhibitors from outside the European Union and not named as country under 2.

The exhibitor declares that all products and services (the exhibitor must confirm at least one answer)

- are certified by an EU-recognized certifying body (copy of certificate requested)
- are certified by a certifying body accredited by IFOAM (copy of certificate requested)
- are monitored by a neutral but internationally recognized certifying body (copy of certificate and document of recognition requested)
- are in the process of certification. He declares that all products are unmistakably labelled as products in conversion (copy of certificate requested).

Raw material that is already available on the market in organic quality and aloe vera or black caraway must also be used in organic quality for food supplements. A new regulation for salt, food supplements, vitamins and algae will be issued for BioFach 2004.

## 2. Natural personal care and essential oils

### Minimum criteria

The exhibitor declares that his products meet the following criteria:

#### 1. General

- A full declaration of ingredients must be submitted for each product group (shampoo, creams, etc.)
- Best before date/maximum durability labelling (according to EU Cosmetics Regulation)
- No testing of end products on animals
- Full declaration of ingredients on the products (INCI, CTFA)
- Only cold-pressed or steam-distilled pure essential oils

#### 2. Ingredients

- No synthetic (artificial) fats (except neutral fats), oils, waxes, silicones, no mineral oil products
- No synthetic aromatic amines
- No EDTA complexing agents (except in hard soaps), no formaldehyde or formaldehyde separators
- No synthetic musk agents
- Each product shall not contain more than 3 synthetic preservatives or PEG compounds

### Bonus criteria (additional desirable criteria, but not essential for admission)

- No animal testing for cosmetics (certificate requested)
- Plant pesticide residues contained in the raw materials checked by test institute (certificate requested)
- No synthetic scents, aromas or colouring material
- No PEG or PEG derivatives
- No synthetic preservatives
- No materials extracted from dead animals, except cochineal, silk and chitosan
- Essential oils only from certified organic cultivation
- No synthetic UV filters in sun protection products (blue list)
- No gas propellants

## 3. Natural textiles, covering materials, filling materials, textile toys

### Minimum criteria

The exhibitor declares that his products meet the following criteria:

- No synthetic materials, no viscose. Only natural fibres, no natural synthetic mixed fibres (except up to 3 % lycra)
  - Zip fasteners are made from non-galvanized, chrome- and nickel-free metals/alloys
  - No recycled fibres, except those from natural textiles
  - Organochlorine pesticides are not used
  - AZO dyes (which can separate poisonous amines) and dyes containing heavy metal are not used
  - No use of anti-microbial treatments, ammonia treatments, anti-felting treatments (except for natural materials/processes), anti-inflammable protection, silk weighting, anti-static and synthetic moth protection treatments
- #### 2. Cultivation of plant raw materials
- Defoliant (for cotton) and chlorine salts (as harvesting aids) are not used
- #### 3. Processing
- No discharge print techniques, no printing process containing benzidine
  - Chlorine bleach and optic enhancers not used
- #### 4. End product treatments
- Stain protection/hydrophobic/hydrophilic treatments are not used
  - No formaldehyde contained in the end product (< 20 mg/kg)
  - The total pesticide residues in the end product are < 1 mg/kg; for baby clothes < 0.5 mg/kg

### Bonus criteria (additional desirable criteria, but not essential for admission)

- Accessories are made from natural materials (brass and copper are permissible)
- The re-use of chemical residues in closed systems is guaranteed
- Fibres from certified organic cultivation or fibres from certified organic livestock
- Only natural cotton yarns
- Full declaration of goods

- No softeners are contained in the end product
- Only mechanical treatment of textiles

## 4. Leather goods (also for shoes and clothes)

### Minimum criteria

The exhibitor declares that his products meet the following criteria:

- No dye that could separate noxious amines, or containing benzidine or heavy metals
- Tanning materials only from renewable and environmentally sustainable resources
- No use of chrome-tanned leather
- Durable craftsmanship
- No use of synthetic fats
- No leather from animal species threatened with extinction
- Noxious glues are not used, except for shoes
- Organic halogen compounds are not used, except for shoes
- No use of pentachlorophenol
- Shoes: use of natural raw materials for soles, foot bed and lining

### Bonus criteria (additional desirable criteria, but not essential for admission)

- Use of environment-friendly drainage technology
- Detergents and cleaning agents used comply with the relevant quality criteria
- Control of residues in leather by an approved institute
- Shoes: without the use of noxious glues
- Shoes: without the use of organic halogen compounds

## 5. Paper, office articles

### Minimum criteria

The exhibitor declares that his products meet the following criteria:

- Recycled paper (mostly or 100% from waste paper) or paper of natural materials like hemp, bast, linen, straw
- No use of artificial glues and optic enhancers in paper products
- Use of environment-friendly drainage technology
- Office articles: preferably of renewable raw materials
- No use of chlorine or chlorine compounds
- State-of-the-art energy-saving production methods
- Office articles: use of refill systems
- Office articles: only articles with low percentage of harmful substances

### Bonus criteria (additional desirable criteria, but not essential for admission)

- Production under the following strict environmental criteria (seal, logo, certification)
- No dyeing or bleaching of paper

## 6. Detergents and cleaning agents

### Minimum criteria

The exhibitor declares that his products meet the following criteria:

#### 1. General

- All ingredients and the finished product are easily degradable as proved in OECD tests (submit certificate)
- Full declaration of ingredients

#### 2. Ingredients

- 75 % of organic (in chemical sense) components are of renewable raw materials
- No boron compounds, no polycarboxylates
- No optic enhancers
- No genetically engineered enzymes
- Sodium sulphate <5 %
- No organic chlorine or chlorine separators
- No inorganic mineral acids or formic acid
- No synthetic dyes or aromatics
- Petrochemical component <5 %
- No organic or inorganic phosphates
- No EDTA or NTA complexing agents
- No synthetic musk compounds
- No bulking agent in product (but concentrate)
- No cationic tensides

### Bonus criteria (additional desirable criteria, but not essential for admission)

- No preservatives
- No petrochemical components
- Only modular, refill and re-usable systems

## 7. Wood

### Minimum criteria

The exhibitor declares that his products meet the following criteria:

#### 1. Original materials for furniture and mattresses

- Furniture frames are made only of renewable, untreated raw materials, untreated raw materials from sustainable cultivation, environmentally friendly extraction or recyclable materials
- No parts made of chrome. Metals allowed only for handles, hinges, screws and corner brackets for kitchens and construction elements of tables and chairs
- No use of chip board
- Tropical wood is not used (only applicable for European exhibitors)
- Mattresses are made only from natural upholstery materials (except for natural latex > 90 %)

#### 2. Other materials and filler materials

- Heavy metal colour pigments and stabilizers are not used
- Upholstery material is of renewable raw materials
- Recyclable synthetic materials (pure, no PVC) are used exclusively for small parts

#### 3. Craft manufacturing and surface treatments

- Glues, coatings and paints used must not contain formaldehyde, isocyanate, synthetic solvents, heavy metals or pesticides
- Synthetically derived wood preservatives are not used
- Durable craftsmanship, joints easy to dismantle
- No synthetic coatings/resins
- Pure vegetable oils/waxes are used

#### Bonus criteria (additional desirable criteria, but not essential for admission)

- Formaldehyde content of all materials < 0.025 ppm, after taking into account natural occurrence
- All materials free of biocides
- Plywood or blockboard not used
- Frames, slatted frames and mattresses free of metal
- No composite materials
- No stained surfaces