



SPECIFICATIONS

Rules and standards for the inspection and certification of sustainable products

PART III DETERGENTS

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JANUARY 2017

VISION, MISSION & MEANS

Ecogarantie® VISION:

Ecogarantie® is a Belgium based trademark for the labelling of sustainable commodities, registered at European Community level.

Ecogarantie® see the Sustainable Development Principles as developed from 1987 onwards by the World Commission on Environment and Development, aka the Brundtland Commission, as guiding principles for the future development of society worldwide.

These Principles take in account Ecological, Economical and Social aspects to meet the needs of actual generations, while assuring that future generation will be able to meet their own needs.

Several other ethical principles are also taken in consideration such as:

- *Human Rights* as initiated by the UN in 1948,
- *The Health Definition* of the World Health Organisation,
- *Biodiversity Conservation* as guided by the UN,
- *Life Cycle Approaches*,
- *The Precautionary Principle*,
- *Accountability and Transparency Principles*,
- *Stakeholder Management*

Together they will allow human society to grow into a societal habitus that is in accordance with the essential values of the human being as well as global nature, today and in the foreseeable future.

Ecogarantie® MISSION:

The Mission of Ecogarantie® is to create, develop and maintain a high quality standard based on criteria as defined in their Vision. Ecogarantie® grant a quality label to such commodities that have proven through neutral checks to respond to these sustainable criteria. Under the protection of the Ecogarantie® label, they can guarantee the consumers of such commodities that the labelled products respond to a high level of expectations. Ecogarantie® also aims to act as a go-between with all stakeholders of their Label to convey elementary information.

Ecogarantie® MEANS:

Through independent, systematic audits by external, qualified auditors and at random checks, Ecogarantie® defines if products respond and continue to respond to the criteria of their Standard. Ecogarantie® operates a management system and promotional instruments to act along these ideas, as well as spread them and their practical realization in the labelled products.

Ecogarantie® takes care of the further development of the Standard to be at par with scientific developments, innovative raw materials and improved transformation processes through a permanent exchange with the producers of certified products, the producers of ingredients, and through the involvement of independent external experts.

Ecogarantie® organises exchange opportunities between stakeholders, such as:

- Represent Sustainable Commodities with the authorities;
- Develop training sessions for resellers and information campaigns for consumers;
- Facilitate dialogue with competent bodies and between certified producers.

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INTRODUCTION

GENERAL PURPOSE

This dedicated section of the Ecogarantie® standard deals with the specific requirements for products which are classified as “Detergent”. These requirements come on top of the criteria of the general part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, which are fully maintained.

For the sake of completeness and to avoid misunderstandings some of the general requirements will be repeated here or references to the General Ecogarantie® Standard will be mentioned.

REGULATION

It is the responsibility of each applicant to conform to the regulations of the European Parliament and to local or national laws in its sector of activity.

Products classified as “Detergent” must conform to:

- The Regulation (EC) N° 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of March 31st 2004 on detergents;
 - The Regulation (EC) N° 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of December 16th 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures;
 - The Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of December 18th 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH);
 - Local or national laws concerning Detergent products where appropriate
- And meet the additional stipulations of the present specification.

Detergents are not covered by EC Regulation 834/2007 concerning organically-grown products and therefore do not need to be certified with the EU.

However, the raw materials which would be organically-grown in the framework of the Ecogarantie® specifications, must meet the requirements of:

- EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications and/or
- The Ecogarantie® specification.

FIELD OF APPLICATION

The name “Detergent” is defined following the European Regulation N° 648/2004 as:

“Any substance or preparation containing soaps and/or other surfactants intended for washing and cleaning processes. Detergents may be in any form (liquid, powder, paste, bar, cake, moulded piece, shape, etc.) and marketed for or used in household, or institutional or industrial purposes.”

Detergents are cleaners in the broadest sense, aiming at taking away dirt from surfaces and objects.

They come in a series of classes with quite distinctive characteristics and requirements:

- Hard surface cleaners
- Dishwashing agents
- Laundry products
- Lime scale removers
- Speciality products

- Hard surface cleaners covers :
 1. All-purpose cleaners: comprising detergent products intended for the routine cleaning of floors, walls, ceilings, windows and other hard surfaces, and which are dissolved or diluted in water prior to use. All-purpose cleaners in general have a water content $\leq 90\%$ (w/w).
 2. Hand dish wash: comprising “all detergents intended to be used to wash by hand dishes, crockery, cutlery, pots, pans, kitchen utensils and so on”.
 3. Cream cleaners: comprising all detergents in a liquid or viscous form for cleaning with a scouring effect of hard surfaces
 4. Window cleaners: comprising specific all-purpose cleaners for the routine cleaning of windows, mirrors and sensitive surfaces and which are either diluted in water prior to use or used without dilution. Window cleaners in general have a water content $\leq 95\%$ (w/w).
 5. Sanitary products: comprising detergent products intended for the routine removal, including by scouring, of dirt and/or deposits in sanitary facilities, such as laundry rooms, bathrooms, showers, toilets and kitchens. Cleaners for sanitary facilities in general have a water content $\leq 90\%$ (w/w). : The subgroup specified in point (c) shall also include the following:
 - a) Products which are automatically used when a toilet is flushed, such as ‘self-dosing-products’, including toilet blocks;
 - b) Products for use in a toilet cistern;
 - c) Products, which have no cleaning effects other than the removal of calcium carbonate (lime scale);
 - d) Disinfectants.

Remark: Disinfectants can only be offered under that name, and claims on disinfecting properties can only be made when such products are registered as disinfectants with the authorities. The registration of a disinfectant and claims on the disinfecting properties of that product require the passing of an EU recontamination test by an external lab. In some countries such as Germany, Austria and the UK, the legislation is somewhat different, they know the term of “sanitizing”, which does not require a registration. However, in the latter case the product may not be named 'disinfectant' and claims on disinfecting properties of the product are not allowed.
 6. Cleaners/laundry products for nurseries and kindergarten
 7. Cleaners for vegetables and fruits

Remark: For the latter two categories (Cleaners/laundry products for nurseries and kindergarten & Cleaners for vegetables and fruits) specific national regulations may be of application; the producer and/or distributor has to ascertain that these are known and respected for each product in each country. Claims on the characteristics and properties of the products may also be subject to certain restrictions.
- Dishwashing agents: comprising all detergents intended for use exclusively in automatic dishwashers:
 1. Tabs, powder, capsules or pouches
 2. Rinse aid
 3. Machine maintenance

- Laundry products: comprising all detergents in any form, for the washing and/or further treatment of textiles, such as:
 1. Liquid laundry
 2. Powdered laundry
 3. Non-chlorine bleach
 4. Fabric softener
 5. Stain removers

- Lime scale removers: comprising specific cleaners intended for the intermittent removal of lime scale on mainly kitchen and sanitary supports. Lime scale removers in general have a water content of 80 to 90 % (w/w).

- Speciality products
 1. Oven cleaners
 2. Floor strippers
 3. Drain cleaners
 4. Solvent based cleaners (i.e. based on citrus terpenes)

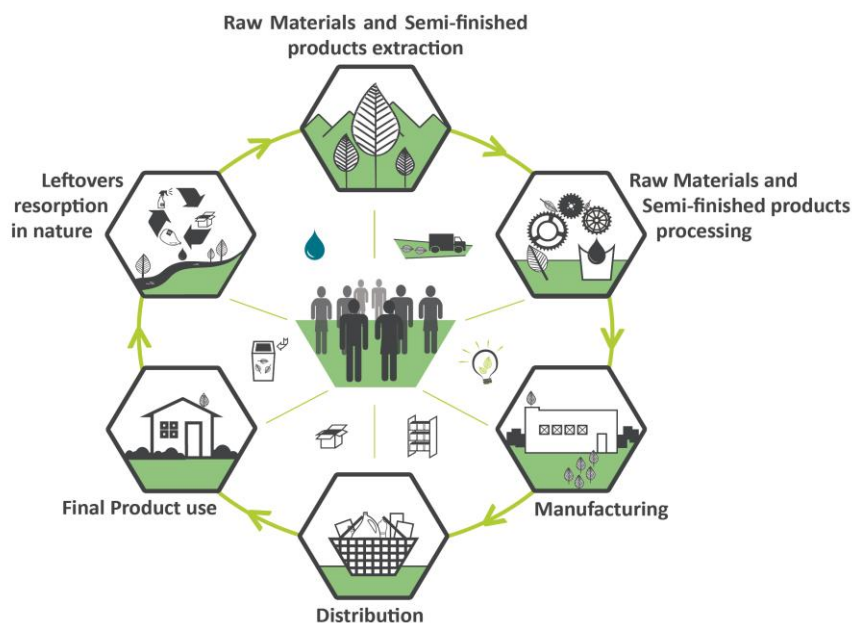
The criteria of the Ecogarantie® Standard take in account the specific requirements of these groups.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Ecogarantie® trademark promotes sustainable non-food goods, amongst them detergents, which are produced from sustainable vegetable, animal, microbial or mineral sources, while excluding fossil sources or only assign time-limited derogations to them when for the time being no other solution is available.

An overview of the underlying principles, including the **Life Cycle Approach (see illustration hereunder)**, is to be found in the **General part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 17**.

The text and all the elements included in the present specifications are binding.



1. RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS EXTRACTION

1.1. Origin of the raw materials and semi-finished products

Definitions of the terms used hereafter are given in the **General part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 18-19**.

Any semi-finished products used in any finished product certified Ecogarantie® has to be featured in the positive list, or profit from a temporary derogation.

Positive list is a closed list; it means that only ingredients mentioned in these lists are allowed and no other ones. To establish the positive lists, Ecogarantie® based its decision on different criteria (origin, processes used, health profile, environmental profile ...).

Should a semi-finished product be missing in the positive list, but in the opinion of the applicant be inherently acceptable, the applicant can submit a documented request for uptake of that molecule in the positive list. Ecogarantie® will then send a questionnaire to the supplier to check if all the conditions of the Standard are met. However, similar molecules from different producers might be generated with different (e.g. unacceptable) processes or have acquired unwanted characteristics. For that reason each position in the list is related to one single type of processing of that molecule.

1.1.1. PLANT, ANIMAL AND MICROBIAL SOURCES

Ecogarantie® aims to have all raw materials and semi-finished products which are carbon-based from the following origins exclusively:

1. Certified Organic agriculture;
2. Wild-harvested in an officially protected zone;
3. Certified Fair Trade agriculture.

The above order is the order requested by Ecogarantie®.

For wild-harvested raw materials and/or semi-finished products; the applicant has to submit to Ecogarantie® an agreement with a recognised organisation that is responsible for and/or manages the officially protected zone.

This document stipulates:

- Over which time period the agreement is valid,
- The physical boundaries of the protected zone, which materials may be collected in that zone,
- The maximum amount thereof which may be harvested,
- The time period in which the harvesting is allowed/not allowed,
- Further possible obligations, restrictions or limitations.

This agreement has to be renewed by the applicant on his own initiative such as to be covered at any time.

For raw materials and/or semi-finished products certified Fair Trade sources, the applicant has to submit to Ecogarantie® the Fair Trade certification document(s) of his supplier(s), which have to be issued by a recognised Fair Trade certificatory from a Fair Trade Standards recognised by Ecogarantie®, which document has to be valid for the time period in which the raw materials and/or semi-finished products have been harvested.

An overview of Fair Trade Standards recognised by Ecogarantie is to find in the **General part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 31.**

More information regarding the basic principles for the use sources and their possible contamination are given in the **General part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 19-20.**

a. PLANT SOURCED MATERIALS

1. **Vegetable products** are authorised based on the following criteria:

- Organically-grown and/or harvested from wild plants according to EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications,
- Not being part of the European and international list of protected species (**see the Washington Convention or the Bern Convention**).
- Certified Fair Trade sources following Fair Trade standards recognised by Ecogarantie®, If available

2. Semi-finished products of plant origin authorised

Positive list : semi-finished products of plant origin			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Acetic acid	Vinegar	acid	
Anthocyanins		colourants	
Citric acid		acid	
Ethanol	Alcohol	solvent	When the finished product contains fragrances, denaturation is allowed with isopropyl alcohol (IPA) only, otherwise with an addition of denatonium benzoate and/or methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), depending on what the national regulations allow. Whenever possible, MEK should be avoided for health reasons.
Fatty acid esters		esterified distillate of plant oils	Semi-finished product for a.o. the production of surfactants
Formic acid		acid	
Glycerin		moisturizing agent	
Lactic acid		acid	
Tocopherol	Vitamin E	vitamin	

b. ANIMAL SOURCED MATERIALS

1. **Animal secretions** are authorised based on the following general criteria:

- From organic husbandry according to EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications,
- Not being part of the European and international list of protected species (***see the Washington Convention or the Bern Convention***)
- Certified Fair Trade sources following Fair Trade standards recognised by Ecogarantie®, if available
- The exploitation of which has to respond to the general principles of the Ecogarantie® Standard.

Positive List : Authorised Animal Secretions			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Butyris lac	Buttermilk	milk	
Butyrum	Butter	butter	
Caprae Lac	Goat milk	milk	
Cera alba	White beeswax	wax	White beeswax is only allowed when it has been bleached by means of air and sun bleach methods, the use of hydrogen

Positive List : Authorised Animal Secretions			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
			peroxide, sodium peroxide, or sodium percarbonate, and/or with the addition of activated carbon and/or fullers earth. The bleaching process has to respond to the processing criteria of Ecogarantie®
Cera flava	Yellow beeswax	wax	
Lac	Cow milk	milk	
Lanolin	Woolfat	fat	
Lanolin cera	Wool wax	wax	
Mel	Honey	emollient	
Molluscan glue protein	Snail secretion filtrate	protein	
Ovum	Chicken egg	egg	
Propolis Cera	Bee glue	oleoresin	
Royal Jelly	Royal Jelly	pollen	
Shellac	Shellac	resin	

Positive list : Authorised Animal sourced			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
	Tallow	animal fat	Beef or pork
Ox gall		emulsifier	Secretion from the beef's gall bladder

2. Semi-finished products of animal origin authorised

Positive list : Semi-finished products of animal origin			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Beeswax acid	Fatty acids from beeswax	fatty acid	
Behenyl beeswax		wax	
Behenyl/isostearyl beeswax		wax	
Hydrolised milk protein		hydrolised protein	Can be produced by acid, alkali or enzymatic processing
Lactis proteinum	Whey protein	protein	
Lanolin alcohol		fatty alcohol	

c. MICROBIAL SOURCED MATERIALS

1. Semi-finished products of microbial origin authorised

Positive list : Semi-finished products of microbial origin			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
	Enzymes	Protease, Amylase, Cellulase	Not obtained from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) technology.
Succinoglycan		polymer	
	Xanthan gum	gum	

1.1.2. MINERAL SOURCES

Mineral raw materials can be sourced from widely occurring minerals through underground or opencast mining and subsequent melting, extraction and/or cleaning processes.

In that case it has to be ascertained that a non-depletion policy, landscape integrity, environmental non-pollution and human rights are fully respected.

A large part of the actual mineral compounds are coming from industrial processing. While this allows a better management of the processes and a significant reduction of human and environmental impact, great care has to be taken in the selection of suppliers who can guarantee and document those conditions.

Minerals must be primarily used for their inherent properties and only secondarily as processing aids or fillers. Treatments of minerals and derivatives with gamma rays are not allowed.

It is the producer's duty to show to the certification body that he checked these elements while selecting his raw materials and semi-finished products.

Examples of authorised products (non-exhaustive listing):

- Alumina
- Montmorillonite clay (bentonite or herculite)
- Kaolin clay
- Chalks
- Sand
- Talc
- Potable water: spring water, reverse-osmosis water, demineralised water, distilled or purified tap water

1.1.3. MARINE SOURCES

Marine raw materials can be obtained from algal sources, or from vertebrate as well as non-vertebrate animal marine sources, or from waste recycling or reprocessing of either source.

When harvesting in the wild is the source, great care should be given to non-depletion, marine biotope integrity and biodiversity.

When marine raw materials are harvested from marine farming (mariculture), it has to be ascertained that the maricultural methods are sustainable and that the suppliers can document this fact.

Generally spoken the principles of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) or Friend of the Sea can be taken as guidance.

The processing of the semi-finished products has to respond to the general requirements of the Ecogarantie® Standard and is a criterion for the uptake in the positive list.

1. Semi-finished products of marine origin authorised

Positive list : Semi-finished products of marine origin			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Chitin	Chitosan	chitin	
Chondrus crispus	Carrageen	lichen	
Phylloxantins	Xantophyll	colouring	

1.1.4. GASES

Some gases may be used as extraction solvents, propellants at use or to create a protective atmosphere in the packaging of the finished product.

Positive list : Authorised Gases			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide	gas	Supercritical CO ₂ , which is a form between a gas and a liquid
N	Nitrogen	gas	
O	Oxygen	gas	

1.1.5. MIXED SOURCES

Semi-finished products of mixed origin are basically plant, animal or microbial sourced raw materials which have been processed to make a chemical bond with a mineral and/or metallic substance, which will mostly be a chemical element and thus non-degradable. Their organic (in the sense of “carbon based”) part, but also their processing have to respond to all the requirements of the Ecogarantie® standard.

Positive list : Semi-finished products of <i>mixed vegetable/mineral origin</i>			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Sodium gluconate		chelatant	Salt of gluconic acid
Fatty alcohol sulfates		surfactants	Sulfate salt from fatty alcohol of vegetable origin, a.o. lauryl sulfate belongs to this group

Positive list : Semi-finished products of <i>mixed vegetable/mineral/metallic origin</i>			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
	Magnesium stearate Sodium citrate Sodium lactate Zinc gluconate Zinc lactate Zinc ricinoleate Zinc stearate	salt	
Alkylglucosides: Sucrose Cocoate, Sucrose laurate, Sodium coco glucoside tartrate, sodium coco glucoside citrate		surfactant	
Alkylglutamate		surfactant	
Alkylpolyglucosides: Decyl Glucoside, Lauryl Glucoside, Octyl Glucoside, Caprylyl/Capryl Glucoside		surfactant	
Alkylpolypentoside		surfactant	
Alkylsulphates: Sodium Lauryl Sulphate, Sodium Coco Sulphate, Sodium Octyl Sulphate, Sodium Oleyl Sulphate.		surfactant	
Carboxymethylinuline		crystallisation inhibitor	Derogation period allowed : November 2016-2017
Disodium cocoylglutamate, Sodium cocoylglutamate		surfactant	
Glyceryl stearate citrate		surfactant	
Peracetic acid		acid	
Protein/fatty acid co-condensates		surfactant	
Soap produced from vegetable fatty acids and inorganic bases (sodium and potassium salts): Palmates, Cocoates, Olivates, Oleates ... and their blends.	Soap	surfactant	Prohibited: soaps based on resin acids from coniferous trees because of their high level of aquatic toxicity
Sodium Lauroyl Lipoamines		surfactant	
Sophorolipids		surfactant	
Tetra Sodium Glutamate Di Acetate		chelatant	Derogation period allowed : November 2016-2017

Positive list : Semi-finished products of <i>mixed animal/mineral origin</i>			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Lactoferrin		protein	Protein/iron compound extracted from milk.
Lactoperoxidase		preservative	Preservative agent extracted from milk

Positive list : Semi-finished products of <i>mixed marine and mineral origin</i>			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Calcium alginate	Algin Ca	thickening agent	
Potassium alginate	Algin K	thickening agent	
Sodium alginate	Algin Na	thickening agent	

Positive list : Semi-finished products of <i>mixed mineral and metallic origin</i>			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Calcium sulfate		salt	
Ca(OH) ₂	Caustic calcium		
CI 77000 Aluminium		colourant	
CI 77007 Lazurite		colourant	
CI 77163 bismuth oxychloride		colourant	
CI 77220 Calcium carbonate		colourant	
CI 77400 Copper		colourant	
CI 77510	Prussian blue	colourant	
CI 77711 Magnesium oxide		colourant	
CI 77713 Magnesium carbonate		colourant	
CI 77820 Silver		colourant	
CI 77891 Titanium dioxide		colourant	
CI 77947 Zinc oxide		colourant	
Cupric sulfate		salt	
Hydrated silica		salt	
Hydrogen peroxide	Oxygen bleach (acid)	acid bleach	Strong oxidising effect on organic substances
Iron hydroxide		salt	
Iron oxides CI 77480, 77491, 77492, 77499		colourant	
Iron sulfate		colourant	
Manganese sulfate		salt	

Magnesium chloride		salt	
Magnesium sulfate		salt	
Mg(OH) ₂	Caustic manganese		
Potassium carbonate		salt	
Potassium chloride		salt	
Potassium hydroxide	Caustic potassium	salt	For the saponification of liquid soap
Potassium sulfate		salt	
Silicium carbonate		salt	
Silicon dioxide		silicate	
Silver chloride		preservative	
Silver sulfate		salt	
Sodium bicarbonate	Baking soda	salt	
Sodium carbonate	Soda ash	salt	
Sodium chloride	Kitchen salt	salt	
Sodium hydroxide	Caustic soda	salt	For the saponification of solid soap
Sodium percarbonate	Oxygen bleach	alkaline bleach	Strong oxidising effect on organic substances
Sodium silicate		salt	
Sodium sulfate	Glauber salt	salt	
Sodium thiosulfate		chlorine neutraliser	Added to solid soap to block decoloration
Zinc gluconate		salt	
Zinc lactate		salt	
Zinc ricinoleate		odour absorber	
Zinc stearate		lubricant	

1.1.6. FOSSIL SOURCES

The Ecogarantie® Standard principally excludes the use of raw materials from fossil sources (coal, mineral oil, brown coal, peat). Any semi-finished product on this base is prohibited, be it colouring agents, fragrances, antioxidants, emollients, oils and fats, silicones, sun block filters, chelators, complexing agents or any other functional group.

A few exceptions are tolerated in the Ecogarantie® Standard:

- When the substances concerned cannot be replaced in the short run by a better and more ecological alternative because of their specific properties and/or of their function in the product,
- And when this kind of semi-finished product is not a main component

Remark:

Almost all semi-finished products from fossil sources in the positive list are preservatives.

Preservative agents in a semi-finished and/or finished product guarantee sufficient shelf life during the distribution, transport and storage of the product. Inevitably, a preservative will have a biocidal effect and has to be dealt with in minute quantities and with care.

In the actual state of the art (2016) there are hardly any substitutes for preservative agents from fossil sources. The applicant has to carefully check which preservatives are used by his suppliers, and may he only use preservative ingredients authorised by the Ecogarantie® Standard in his products.

Some raw materials or semi-finished products from plant, animal or mixed sources may have a circumstantial preservative effect when added to a formula, without them being recognised and registered with the authorities as preservative agents. Such substances may **not** be declared as “preservative” by the applicant.

Positive list : Authorised semi-finished products from fossil sources			
Official nomenclature	Common name	Type	Remarks
Acetic acid, its salts and esters		acid, salts	
Ascorbic acid, its salts and esters		preservative	
Benzyl alcohol		preservative	
Formic acid and its sodium salt		acid, salts	
Glycolic acid		preservative	
Lactoperoxidase		preservative	
Salicylic acid and its salts		preservative	
Silver chloride		preservative	
Sorbic acid and its salts		preservative	
Tartaric acid and its salts		preservative	

<i>For the sake of clarity: Examples of prohibited fossil sourced ingredients (non-exhaustive listing):</i>
Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) or other alkylphenol derivatives (APD's)
Alkylphenol polyetheneglycoethers (PEG)
Amine ethoxylates
Amphoterics plant sources:
Oleo Ampho Polyglycinate, Alkyl Amido Ampho Polypeptide Carboxylate, Cocamidopropyl betaine
Benzene and derivatives
Cellulose thinner
Cetone
Chlorinated hydrocarbons
EDTA based chelant agents
EO/PO blockpolymers (EO=ethylene oxide, PO=propylene oxide)
Fatty alcohol ethoxylates
Formaldehyde
Glutaraldehyde
Glycol
Iodine derivatives
Isopropanol and other synthetic alcohols
Linear alkylbenzene sulfonate
Nonylphenoethoxylates (NPEO)
Optical brighteners
Polyacrylates
Polycarboxylates
Quats (ester & non-ester quaternary ammonium compounds)
Secondary alkane sulphonates (SAS)
Silicones
Sulphamine acid and amidosulphonic acid
Toluolsulphonate
White spirit

2. RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS PROCESSING

The general part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 22-23 describes in detail the principles on which the processing of raw materials and semi-finished products has to be based.

Raw materials and semi-finished products may only be processed through specific physical and physicochemical or microbiological/biotechnological processes which are recorded in the positive list. **Positive lists are closed lists; it means that only processes mentioned on these lists are allowed and no other ones.**

Physical processing (such as pressing, filtering, dissolving, macerating ...) doesn't change the molecular structure of the raw material.

Chemical or biochemical processing mostly change this structure with as a result a molecule that obtained extended or even different characteristics than those of the raw materials. Chemical processing (i.e. saponification) involves the use of chemically active, mostly mineral substances, whereas biochemical processing (i.e. lactic acid production) requires a microbial interference, such as fermentation.

A general approach for creating and maintaining a positive list for sustainable processing can be taken from the principles of Green Chemistry (aka Sustainable Chemistry), developed within the US EPA and described in the *General part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 22*.

2.1. Physical processes

Positive list : Authorised Processing		
Official Nomenclature	Common Name	Remarks
	Absorption	On an inert support ¹
	Bleaching, deodorisation	On an inert support ¹
	Blending	
	Centrifuging	Separating solids from liquids
	Clearance	
	Cold pressure	
	Decoction	
	Desiccation, drying	(Non) gradual evaporation
	Deterpenation	By fractionated distillation
	Distillation or steam extraction	
	Extraction with one or more of the following solvents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon dioxide • Ethyl alcohol • Glycerin • Honey 	The solvents used have to respond to the Ecogarantie® criteria

¹ Inert support: substance that has no chemical reaction with the original substance.

Positive list : Authorised Processing		
Official Nomenclature	Common Name	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sugar • Vegetable oils • Vinegar • Water 	
	Filtration and purification	Also ultra-filtration, dialysis, crystallisation
	Freezing	
	Grinding	
	Infusion (warm or cold)	
	Maceration	
	Percolation	
	Post extraction treatments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blending • Clarifying/precipitating with agents • Concentration by evaporation • Filtration (depth filter) • Microfiltration • Nitrogen flushing • Pasteurisation • Spray drying • Vacuum distillation 	Permitted additives or processing aids: see appendix VIII of EC reg. 889/2008
	Settling and decanting	
	Sieving	
	Solar extraction	i.e. flowers remedies
	Squeezing, crushing	
	Sterilisation by heat	
	Sterilisation by UV	Only allowed for water
	Vacuum extraction	
	Warm pressure	Extraction according to the fluidity of the fatty acids
Lyophilisation	Freeze-drying	

<i>For the sake of clarity: Examples of prohibited processes (non-exhaustive listing)</i>
<p><i>Extraction by means of following agents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benzene • Butylene glycol • Hexane • Toluene • Mineral oil and derivatives • Petroleum derived solvents • Propylene glycol



For the sake of clarity: Examples of prohibited processes (non-exhaustive listing)
<i>Extraction with ultrasound (precautionary principle in the absence of innocuity proof)</i>
<i>Ionising treatments (gamma rays)</i>
<i>Irradiation (X-rays)</i>
<i>Post extraction:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Electron beaming</i> • <i>Irradiation</i> • <i>Post-packaging sterilisation (e.g. UV)</i> • <i>Rectification (except for Essentials Oils when fractionated distillation only is used for their rectification)</i>

2.2. Chemical/microbiological processes

Positive list: Authorised processing	
Nomenclature	Remarks
It is impossible to mention here all the different modalities (catalysts, solvents...) necessary for the accomplishment of certain processes. We nevertheless remind that these must in any case comply with the general criteria and the criteria mentioned higher.	
Alkylation	
Amidation	Only for production processes for amphoteric surfactants plant sourced
Calcination of vegetable residue	
Chlorine chemistry (inorganic part)	
Carbonisation	Resins, plant based oils
Condensation/addition	
Esterification and trans-esterification	
Etherification	
Fermentation	Wild or controlled by means of micro-organism
Filtration and purification	Crystallisation, electrolysis, ion exchange
Hydration	
Hydrogenation	
Hydrolysis	
In vitro cultivation	In vitro cultivation
Neutralisation through bases	
Neutralisation through acids	
Oxidation/reduction	
Saponification	Of vegetable or animal fats and oils by means of sodium or potassium hydroxide
Sulfatation	
Roasting	

<i>For the sake of clarity: Examples of prohibited processes (non-exhaustive listing)</i>
<i>Bleaching, deodorisation (on a support of animal origin). Bleaching is only allowed when it uses air and sun bleach methods, hydrogen peroxide, sodium peroxide, or sodium percarbonate, and/or the addition of activated carbon and/or fullers earth.</i>
<i>Cell culture (except for the production of probes and materials used in-vitro environmental and/or health testing of detergents)</i>
<i>Chlorine chemistry (organic part)</i>
<i>Cloning</i>
<i>Cross breeding</i>
<i>Deterpenation (if not by means of steam)</i>
<i>Ethoxylation (PEG, ...)</i>
<i>Halogen chemistry (with chlorine/fluorine/iodine/bromine or derivatives), with the exception of chlorinated tap water</i>
<i>Hybridation and/or recombination</i>
<i>Methods based on genetically modified organisms (GMO): organism the genetic material of which has been modified in a way or with results cannot be naturally achieved through reproduction</i>
<i>Sulfonation (in main reaction)</i>
<i>Treatments with ethylene oxide (e.g. disinfection)</i>
<i>Treatments with mercury (production of sodium and potassium hydroxide)</i>
<i>Propoxylation</i>
<i>Quaternisation (ester & non-ester)</i>
<i>Sulfonation (in main reaction)</i>
<i>Traditional forms of crossing</i>
<i>Treatments with ethylene oxide (e.g. disinfection)</i>
<i>Treatments with mercury (production of sodium and potassium hydroxide)</i>

3. MANUFACTURING OF DETERGENTS

The final products and their processing have to feature minimal health, environmental and social aspects in a cradle to cradle perspective that is to say a procedure in which hazardous materials are identified and followed as they are produced, treated, transported and disposed off by series of permanent, linkable, descriptive documents. When the manufacturing or parts of it are outsourced or subcontracted, the same rules apply to the supplier.

Are authorised in the processing of ingredients into a detergent product:

- Only the raw materials and semi-manufactured products recorded in the positive lists
(See: **1. Raw materials and semi-finished products extraction, p.7-17**)
- Only the nature of physical and/or chemical processes recorded in the positive lists
(See: **2. Raw Materials and semi-finished products processing, p.18-21**)

3.1. Social management

Ecogarantie® requests manufacturers of sustainable products to have special attention for the social and societal aspects related to the production, commercialisation and use of sustainable non-food products, as detailed in the **General part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 23-24.**

3.2. Environmental management

Ecogarantie® has specific expectations in terms of Environmental management, and more precisely concerning the sustainable management of water, energy and waste flow as detailed in the **General part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 24-27**. At the moment of writing (Summer 2016) these are recommendations, which will however become compulsory in a next revision of the Ecogarantie® Standard, and will be subject to assessment in the future.

In the meantime, the applicants are requested to sign the **Sustainable Development Charter of Ecogarantie®** which is to be found as **Appendix 6 of the said General part**.

3.3. Storage, cleaning and disinfecting

The criteria for the cleaning and disinfection of premises and equipment in detergent' production follow the rules described in the **General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 27**

3.4. Traceability

The applicants and their suppliers must be able to prove that they meet the legal requirements in terms of detergent production (European Regulation No 648/2004), and that it busies itself with a system such as HACCP and traceability.

The production of detergents requires a high level of hygiene which should also be reached by sustainable measures. The legislation on production hygiene for detergent as given by the European Regulation 648/2008, and/or other local or national laws must be respected.

With a next upgrade the Ecogarantie® Standard will provide in a specific annex indications and suggestions on sustainable hygiene in production.

Whenever possible the applicants and their suppliers have to commit themselves proactively to expand the traceability of sources, processes, contamination levels, health and environmental data, energy consumption and waste production, and help increase the transparency in the whole of the supply chain, upstream and downstream.

Following procedures must be set up:

- A file per product, containing all the data delivered by the suppliers of the semi-finished products;
- A description on how and by which means the information provided by the suppliers is checked, evaluated and gets a follow-up on its consistency
- Data concerning the production of the raw materials and semi-finished products, to illustrate that they are not a burden to the environment and a risk for human health;
- A description of the conformity procedures on final products

3.5. Tests on animals

Ecogarantie® requires that finished products are not tested on animals at any stage. Further details regarding animal testing to check the health or environmental impact of products are described in the **General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 28**.

3.6. Input

The Ecogarantie® Standards for non-food products go beyond what is usual practice in the labelling of such products. Details on this issue can be taken from the **General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 28.**

3.7. Packaging

It is obvious that the packaging used has to be fit-for-use with the respective products and made such that the product is contained in a safe and sturdy way. When packaging materials are available which are recycled, recyclable or compostable they should be preferred to cut the impact on virgin material on one hand, on waste generation on the other hand and on both sides limit transportations.

The Product-to-Package ratio is the relationship between the functional unit (an average dose of the product), and the weight of the primary packaging in which it is contained (i.e. a bottle or canister), divided by the number of doses in that packaging. The heavier the bottle, the higher the grammage per average dose will be.

To limit the impact *primary* packaging can have on the environment; Ecogarantie® follows the indications given by the EU ecolabel for the acceptable ratio 'packaging weight in g per Functional Unit' per respective product category.

The *primary* packaging of powdered products and the *secondary* and possible *tertiary* packaging of other detergents is for the largest part made from single wall, double wall or corrugated cardboard. As cardboard itself is mainly made from renewable materials, it is easy to include a high percentage of recycled material which can further bring down the need for virgin material to produce the boxes.

Ecogarantie® therefore requests that primary and secondary cardboard packaging should have at least 80% of recycled cardboard on the total packaging weight. The detergent producer has to request written proof from his supplier and submit that to the control organisation.

The use of plastic material for packaging purposes has to be strictly reduced and limited to easily recyclable types such as PE and PP. An active recycling policy has to be practised in the factory.

4. DISTRIBUTION

Ecogarantie® has for the time being no strict requirements as to the distribution of sustainable non-food products, but some recommendations are listed in the **General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 29.**

5. FINISHED PRODUCT USE

The Use Phase is the ultimate destination of any consumer product, but it is altogether the phase which is the least controllable and influenceable. Nobody can assure that the consumer will use the product in an appropriate and correct way. As this can lead to risks for health and environment, it is of the utmost importance to deliver all useful and/or necessary information to the user, beyond what is legally required.

5.1. Labelling

Ecogarantie® has a set of requirements and recommendations on the labelling of sustainable non-food products. A detailed overview is to be found in the **General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 30-34. Below is a summary of the main rules to apply.**

5.1.1. Dosing and dosing aid instructions

The Detergent Regulations (EC) No. 648 of 2004, (EC) No.259 of 2012, (EC) No. 551 of 2009, (EC) No. 907 of 2006 and their respective actual and future amendments cover the manufacture, placing, making available on the market and use of detergent products. Ecogarantie® requires that all applicants have read and understood these regulations, as their application is a basic condition to obtain a certification.

Several compulsory elements of information have to be conveyed with the packaging.

Basically they are the following:

- Name and trade name of the product.
- Name, full address and telephone number of the party responsible for placing the product on the market.
- The address, email address (where available) and telephone number from where an Ingredient Datasheet may be obtained.
- A list of specific constituents (listed in Annex VII of the Detergent Regulation)
- If present in concentrations > 0.2% in the product e.g. phosphates, aliphatic hydrocarbons.
- A weight percentage range must be provided.

The packaging of detergents sold to the general public intended to be used as laundry detergents shall bear the following information:

- The recommended quantities and/or dosage instructions expressed in millilitres or grams appropriate to a standard washing machine load, for soft, medium and hard water hardness levels and making provision for one or two cycle washing processes,
- For heavy-duty detergents, the number of standard washing machine loads of “normally soiled” fabrics, and, for detergents for delicate fabrics, the number of standard washing machine loads of “lightly soiled” fabrics, that can be washed with the contents of the package using water of medium hardness, corresponding to 2,5 millimoles CaCO₃ /l,
- The capacity of any measuring cup, if provided, shall be indicated in millilitres or grams, and markings shall be provided to indicate the dose of detergent appropriate for a standard washing machine load for soft, medium and hard water hardness levels,
- The standard washing machine loads are 4, 5 kg dry fabric for heavy-duty detergents and 2, 5 kg dry fabric for light-duty detergents, in line with the definitions of Commission Decision 1999/476/EC of 10 June 1999 establishing the Ecological Criteria for the award of the Community Eco-label to Laundry Detergents (2). A detergent shall be considered to be a heavy-duty detergent unless the claim of the manufacturer predominantly promotes fabric care, i.e. low temperature wash, delicate fibres and colours.

5.1.2. Full declaration of ingredients

The labelling of all detergent products must comply with the requirements of the Detergent Regulations:

- Names of any enzymes, disinfectants, perfumes, preservatives, optical brighteners if present in the product, irrespective of their concentration.
- Names of any allergenic fragrances (as listed in Annex III of the Cosmetics Directive).
- Website address where the list of ingredients of the detergent product is provided.

The ingredients have to be listed according to following ranges:

- <5%
- 5-15%
- 15-30%
- >30%

Manufacturers shall make available on a website the ingredient data sheet mentioned above except for the following:

- Information on weight percentage ranges is not required
- CAS numbers are not required

The ingredient names shall be given in INCI nomenclature, in common language or where this is not available, the European Pharmacopoeia name, shall be given. If neither name is available, the common chemical name or IUPAC name shall be used instead. For a perfume the word “parfum” shall be used and for a colouring agent, the word “colorant”. A perfume, an essential oil, or a colouring agent shall be considered to be a single ingredient and none of the substances that they contain shall be listed, with the exception of those allergenic fragrance substances that appear on the list of substances in Annex III, Part 1 to Directive 76/768/EEC if the total concentration of the allergenic fragrance substance in the detergent exceeds the limit mentioned in section A.

It is allowed to use – immediately next to the INCI or common chemical name – a more comprehensive or popular name of the ingredient, preferably between brackets.

Access to the website shall not be subject to any restriction or condition and the content of the website shall be kept up to date. The website shall include a link to the Commission Pharmacos website or to any other suitable website that provides a table of correspondence between INCI names, European Pharmacopoeia names, and CAS numbers.

This obligation shall not apply to industrial or institutional detergents, or to surfactants for industrial or institutional detergents, for which a technical data sheet or safety data sheet is available.

5.1.3. Reference to “organic” agriculture

Reference to organic agriculture may be made for agricultural raw materials and semi-finished products which conform to the following texts:

- EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications;
- Ecogarantie® specifications, namely for the conditions regarding the physical and chemical/microbiological processes.

Products containing ingredients certified organic must indicate organic ingredients and those made from organic raw materials in the INCI list.

This must be limited to the wording:

- “from organic agriculture” for ingredients processed physically and
- “made using organic ingredients” for ingredients chemically processed or similar expressions using the same text as used for the INCI list.

5.1.4. Trademark use

5.1.4.1. Claims

Many of the terms one might use for marketing and communication purposes have been perverted in the course of the last decades by marketing actions of conventional companies, who wanted to profile themselves as 'green' without really being it. There are a series of statements or claims which are unacceptable for sustainable detergents, and which may resemble to one or more of the following definitions or examples:

- The claim reiterates a legal obligation, i.e. “with biodegradable surfactants” (all surfactants on sale in the market have to be biodegradable for 60% in 28 days, according to one of the OECD Biodegradation Tests 301 A to F)
- The claim states the absence of a substance which is as an average not present in such a product, i.e. “does not contain toxins”, “free of hazardous ingredients”
- The claim is not, or even cannot be substantiated, i.e. “makes your textiles healthier”, “good for the environment”
- The claim puts forward an element which is inherently prohibited by the Ecogarantie® Standard, i.e. “not tested on animals”
- The claim is general and vague and can be interpreted in different ways, i.e. “bio-quality”, “pure”
- The claim is an outright lie, i.e. “100% biodegradable laundry powder” (laundry powder contains as a rule 50-70% of minerals, which by their nature are not degradable at all)

As not each and every imaginable claim can be featured, this list is non-exhaustive. In case of doubt it is preferable to discuss the projected claims with Ecogarantie® before using them in any communication.

In a next revision of the Standard Ecogarantie® will strive to propose a more detailed guideline on the matter.

5.2. Performance tests

A substantial part of the sustainable characteristics of detergents is that they can prove to be fit for their projected use. They do not have to feature the same performance as conventional products; Ecogarantie® will define, in dialogue with the licensee users, which performance level has to be realised for each product category.

These respective performances are documented through performance test results generated by an external lab. Several organisations throughout Europe developed in the course of the years test protocols which are representative and have become a standard in the detergent sector, such as the Organisation on Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Wäschereiforschung Krefeld (WFK), Industrieverband Körperpflege- und Waschmittel (IKW) and others.

Test labs mostly use a selection amongst these test protocols. A performance test must only be performed once in the lifetime of a formula, as long as there are no major changes to its ingredients and/or composition.

Ecogarantie® can assist in finding reliable and affordable test labs.

5.3. Semi-finished products health profile

Ecogarantie® has for the time being no strict requirements as to the health profile of sustainable semi-finished products, but some recommendations are listed in the **General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 34-35.**

Legal obligations and further requirements on low VOC percentage and the Global Harmonisation System (GLP) are detailed in the **General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 35-36.**

6. LEFTOVERS RESORPTION IN NATURE

6.1. Semi-finished and finished products environmental profile

When raw materials and semi-finished products have been selected with care for their health and environmental impacts, they will hardly cause any problem once the finished product has been used and its leftovers go off in nature.

As a rule detergents are rinsed off at the end of the cleaning process and end up in the natural water cycle, over a waste water plant or, still in many cases, directly in rivers and streams.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that **all** ingredients which make up detergents:

- are showing a low aquatic toxicity,
- are readily and fully degradable in aerobic as well as anaerobic conditions,
- don't leave stable metabolites after degradation.

To ascertain these characteristics it is necessary to choose the ingredients in the design phase with the utmost care. Fossil ingredients should be avoided whenever possible, as they cannot provide the above characteristics. Mineral ingredients from widely occurring mineral sources mostly don't generate significant impacts.

Surfactants are the workhorses and mostly main ingredients of detergents. Their environmental impact is decisive for the burden a finished product will have on the environment.

The percentage of ingredients from renewable sources (plant, animal microbial) has to be as high as possible: their environmental impact is generally the lowest on all levels.

It is the responsibility of the producer of sustainable detergents to choose his ingredients very carefully and based on solid evidence to preserve a low environmental impact of his products. This includes technical data sheets; safety data sheets (MSDS) and analysis certificates, both the type analysis and the batch analysis certificate accompanying each delivery.

Analysis certificates are compulsory in the REACH framework for every production exceeding 1.000 kg of raw material or semi-finished product and have to be made available on simple demand. In case the obtention of correct and complete information should be a problem, Ecogarantie® can assist to streamline its collection.

General rules on their environmental impacts can be taken from the ***General Part of the Ecogarantie® Standard, p. 36-38.***

GLOSSARY

Accountability

Accountability is the acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies including the administration, governance, and implementation within the scope of the role or employment position and encompassing the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences

Analysis certificates

The producer/transformer of any raw material or semi-finished product has the obligation, in the frame of a quality management approach, to make physicochemical and/or biochemical analyses of his product, including a.o. levels of contamination with substances alien to the said product, such as biocides or heavy metals. In general, there are type analyses of products which render the common basic specifications and are performed only once, and batch analyses, which purpose is to check if the batch concerned is within the specifications put forward.

Animal products

Products from the animal itself and requiring the slaughtering of the animal (examples are: fat, fresh cells, ox gall, collagen ...)

Animal secretions

Products secreted by animals, such as lanolin, honey, propolis or milk.

Animal testing

Animal testing, also known as *in vivo* testing, is the use of animals in experiments that seek to control the variables that affect the behaviour or biological system under study. Ecogarantie® is opposed to and prohibits animal testing, which is already illegal for cosmetics.

Aquatic toxicity

Aquatic toxicity is the outcome of the effects of manufactured chemicals and other anthropogenic and natural materials and activities on aquatic organisms at various levels of organization, from subcellular through individual organisms to communities and ecosystems.

Biocide

A biocide is defined in the European legislation as a chemical substance or microorganism intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, or exert a controlling effect on any harmful organism by chemical or biological means.

(Bio)degradation (aerobic, anaerobic)

Biodegradation is the disintegration of materials by bacteria, fungi, or other biological means. Although often conflated, biodegradable is distinct in meaning from compostable. Aerobic degradation is occurring in the presence of oxygen. Anaerobic degradation is ongoing in the absence of oxygen, i.e. in sludge. Most modern waste water plants operate in anaerobic conditions.

Biodiversity Conservation

Part of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), biodiversity conservation aims at protecting vulnerable biotopes and endangered nature and secure a sufficient balance.

Certification bodies

Certification bodies are entitled to grant the operators the right to use the Ecogarantie® trademark, and to debar them from further use. As auditing bodies, they inspect the production units on the spot.

Cleaning and disinfecting

In a transformation or manufacturing environment great care has to be given to overall hygiene, to avoid contamination of raw materials, semi-finished and finished products as well as the equipment.

Cradle-to-Cradle (C2C)

Cradle to Cradle design (also referred to as Cradle to Cradle, C2C, cradle 2 cradle, or regenerative design) is a biomimetic approach to the design of products and systems. It models human industry on nature's processes viewing materials as nutrients circulating in healthy, safe metabolisms.

Depletion

This is the exhaustion of one or more raw material resources of all kinds, within a region or worldwide.

Derogation

Ecogarantie® can allow derogation from one or other of its criteria when there is a documented need that makes it impossible to fulfil the criterion. Derogations are always limited in time.

Distributor, importer

Company which buy and sell products without modifying the products or the packaging of the products. Ecogarantie® logo may be used on offers.

By distribution activities, we mean products that you distribute without having made them yourselves.

Finished product

A raw material or a blend of raw materials and/or semi-finished products that has taken its final form to be sold to the end user.

Fossil raw materials

Leftover products from fossilized organisms, such as lignite, pit coal or petroleum.

Genetically Manipulated Organisms (GMO)

A genetically modified organism (GMO) is any organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques (i.e., a genetically engineered organism). Ecogarantie® prohibits the use of GMO's.

Green Chemistry

Green chemistry, also called *sustainable chemistry*, is an area of chemistry and chemical engineering focused on the designing of products and processes that minimize the use and generation of hazardous substances.

Health Definition of the World Health Organisation (WHO)

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Human Rights

In 1948 the United Nations published the Universal Human Rights Declaration in Paris representing the first global expression of what many people believe to be the rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled.

Ingredients

As well raw materials as semi-finished products.

Life Cycle

In the actual context the Life Cycle of a finished product is considered, from the extraction of its raw materials down to the resorption of leftovers in nature after use.

Mineral

Inorganic salt, component of the earth's crust, extracted from the mineral reign or manufactured by imitating the natural processes.

Mixture

A blend composed of two or more substances.

Organic farming

Organic farming is an alternative agricultural system which originated early in the 20th Century in reaction to rapidly changing farming practices. It relies on fertilizers of organic origin and places emphasis on techniques such as crop rotation, companion planting. Biological pest control, mixed cropping and the fostering of insect predators are encouraged. Generally, organic standards are designed to allow the use of naturally occurring substances while prohibiting or strictly limiting synthetic substances.

Organic products (coming from organic farming) or wild vegetable products:

Products meeting the EC regulation 834/2007

Positive List

A positive list contains the enumeration of raw materials, semi-finished products or processes which have been evaluated as not causing a threat to human health and/or the environment. Only products or processes figuring in the positive lists may be used in an Ecogarantie® context.

Precautionary Principle

The precautionary principle to risk management states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public, or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus (that the action or policy is not harmful), the burden of proof that it is *not* harmful falls on those taking an action that may or may not be a risk.

Processes

To become a raw material or semi-finished product the substances extracted from living nature or the mineral reign have to be submitted to physical, chemical or biochemical processes to be purified and/or gain the functionality which is desired.

Raw materials

Vegetable, animal or mineral products, coming from certified organic agriculture, harvesting in the wild or Fair Trade sources, if available, obtained by extraction, unprocessed or gained through physical processes, so that the original characteristics have been preserved.

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals)

REACH addresses the production and use of chemical substances, and their potential impacts on both human health and the environment. It took seven years to pass, and it has been described as the most complex legislation in the Union's history and the most important in 20 years.

Recyclable

Matter that still has useful physical or chemical properties after serving its original purpose and can, therefore, be reused or re-manufactured into additional products. Plastic, paper, glass, used oil, tin and aluminium cans as well as household and industrial waste, after sorting out, are examples of recyclable materials.

Renewable

Matter that can be replaced or replenished, either by spontaneous processes over a short time scale or by human action. Air, water, sun, agricultural products and forests are often considered to be examples of renewable resources. Minerals and fossil materials are examples of non-renewable resources.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) (MSDS)

Also called Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) this document has a compulsory legal format imposed by the EU. In its full version this has 8 pages and lists in full detail all physical, chemical, biochemical data, hazard, fire-fighting, health and environmental measures to be taken when handling a given raw material or semi-finished product. The supplier has the obligation to pass on this document in its full extent, even without request by the customer.

Semi-finished products

A product which is obtained through the transformation of raw materials as described above, according to physicochemical and/or microbiological/biotechnological processes and/or chemical synthesis that may deeply modify the original characteristics, and which is meant to be further processed into a final product.

Social management

Ecogarantie requests manufacturers of sustainable products to have special attention for the social and societal aspects related to the production, commercialisation and use of sustainable non-food products.

Stakeholder Management

A stakeholder is any individual, group or organization that can affect, be affected by, or perceive itself to be affected by a programme. Effective Stakeholder Management creates positive relationships with stakeholders through the appropriate management of their expectations and agreed objectives.

Substance

Chemical element and its compounds in the natural state or obtained by any manufacturing process, including any additive necessary to preserve its stability and any impurity deriving from the process used but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition.

Technical Data Sheet (TDS)

Documents with the main physicochemical and/or technical characteristics of a raw material or semi-finished product, also giving information on its application. Not to be confounded with (Material) Safety Data Sheet (M)SDS), which have a more legally binding character and a greater detail.

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)

Nicknamed the Brundtland Commission, it was this UN commission which under the presidency of Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway, created the Sustainable Development approach and published the so-called Brundtland Report in 1987 with the title "Our Common Future".