







Differences between the Bioland standards and the EC regulation on organic agriculture with some examples

Areas in concern	 Bioland <small>ÖKOLOGISCHER LANDBAU</small> Bioland Association	 EC Regulation Organic Agriculture
General		
Kind of production	Conversion of the complete farm, exclusively organic production of all business branches is stipulated.	Part conversion permissible, both conventional and organic production in one operation possible.
Fertilisation		
Amount of nitrogen fertilisation	In agriculture, the amount of fertilisation refers to the permissible stock of animals per area. Annually permissible are max. 1,4 manure units (DE) per each ha, which corresponds to 112 kg N (nitrogen) per ha and year. At vegetable and ornamental plant gardening the total use is limited to 110 kg nitrogen (greenhouse 330 kg), at fruit growing and in nurseries to 90 kg, for hop to 70 kg N. In viticulture the amount of nitrogen is limited to total 150 kg/ha within a 3-years cycle.	The total amount of nitrogen fertilisation is not limited. Only the share of fertiliser from animal husbandry (farm-produced fertiliser) is limited to annually 170 kg N per ha. There are no special regulations for horticulture and special crops.
Purchase of nitrogen fertilisers	For agricultural business the purchase is limited to max. 40 kg N per ha and year.	The purchase is not limited.
Purchase of manure from conventional farms	The use of conventional manure is strongly limited with regard to quantity, besides only permissible in the form of manure from cattle, sheep, goat and horses. The use of slurry, urine and poultry manure from conventional animal husbandry as fertiliser is forbidden.	Using fertiliser from slurry, urine and poultry manure from conventional animal husbandry is allowed.
Organic fertiliser	Critical organic fertilisers like dried blood, meat and bone meal are forbidden.	Dried blood, meat and bone meal are allowed.
Fermentation residues from biogas plants	Fermentation residues from biogas plants in which only conventional substrates are fermented, may not be used as fertiliser at Bioland.	No regulations.



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Animal husbandry		
Max. number of animals per ha	Permissible number of animals is lower for poultry and pigs: 140 laying hens, 280 chicken or 10 fattening pigs per ha.	Permissible number of animals is higher for poultry and pigs: 230 hens, 580 chicken, 14 fattening pigs per ha.
Cattle trainers	The use of a 'cattle trainer' is prohibited (a metal holder or wire which is fixed slightly above the back of tethered dairy cattle which gives an electric shock to the cow if it bends the back – appropriate to the species – during urinating or defecating. The electric shock forces the cow to take a step backwards and to urinate or defecate in the manure trench instead on the own laying bed).	No regulations.
Rearing of young hens	There are special regulations for the rearing of young hens.	Actually no special regulations.
Feedstuff		
Farm-own feedingstuff, purchase of feedingstuff	More than 50% of the fodder shall originate from the farm itself or from a regional cooperation of organic farms.	Only for ruminants and horses at least 50 % of the fodder has to come from the own business. Feedstuff for pigs and poultry can be purchased completely.
Permissible conventional feed components	Generally 100% organic feedstuff. Following exceptions are possible only if organic components are not available and there is danger of nutrient deficiency: Conventional feedingstuff can be used: max. 5 % for pigs (but only for suckling sows, piglets and during fore-fattening period, not during final fattening), max. 10 % (from 1.1.2010 only 5 %) for poultry. Permissible components are only the protein feedstuffs potato protein or gluten of maize.	Generally 100% organic feedingstuff. If organic components are not available, conventional components may be fed, namely: For pigs (also during final fattening) and poultry until end of year 2009 max. 10 %, afterwards max. 5 %. Permissible components are itemised in a large list with approx. 80 products, for example conventional soya, rape-seed or marc from citrus fruits are allowed.

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	Fish meal is not permissible as feedstuff component.	Fish meal is permissible as feedstuff component for example for poultry.
Silage feeding of ruminants	Exclusive feeding with silage throughout the year is forbidden. In summer, mainly green fodder.	No regulations.
Crop Production		
Risk factors	When selecting the location for growing, the burden through pollutants from environment and the former agricultural use shall be considered.	No special regulations.
Plant protection	The use of copper for plant protection is limited to max. 3 kg (hop 4 kg) per ha and year. Chemical-synthetic pyrethrines may not be used.	The permissible quantity of copper is limited to 6 kg per ha and year and this value can be exceeded in individual years under certain conditions. Chemical-synthetic pyrethrines may be used in case of pest at fruit crops in the Mediterranean region.
Use of peat	In case of growing young plants max. 80 % peat may be used in the substrate, for pot cultures max. 50 % peat.	No limits for use of peat at horticulture.
Greenhouse heating in vegetable gardening	In winter, greenhouses shall only be saved from frost (except for the growing of young plants and potted herbs).	No limits for greenhouse heating.
Mushroom production	All components of agricultural origin in the mushroom substrate have to come from organic production.	The substrate may contain conventional manure of up to 25 volume %, if no organic manure is available.
Processing		
Labelling	„Organic“ may be used if 100% of the ingredients are of organic origin. In case non-availability of organic quality can be proven, the	„Organic“ may be used if 95% of the ingredients are of organic origin and the remaining max. 5%

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	association can grant a derogation for conventional ingredients with a share of up to max. 5% if listed in Annex IX of the EC organic regulation 889/2008.	conventional ingredients are listed in Annex IX of the EC regulation 889/2008.
Additives	22 additives are allowed	47 additives are allowed
Sodium nitrite	The use of sodium nitrite is not permissible at Bioland.	Sodium nitrite is permissible for meat produces until 31.12.2010 for the time being.
Enzymes/starter cultures	Enzymes and starter cultures are only allowed for special products.	Enzymes and starter cultures are generally allowed if free from GMO.
Processing	The processing is clearly stipulated for the product groups with regard to allowed ingredients, additives and processing aids, procedures, packaging, hygiene and quality assurance.	The processing of products is only stipulated with regard to allowed additives and processing aids.
Procedures	Critical procedures are forbidden (negative list).	No regulations, except: The use of ionising radiation is forbidden.
Packaging	Requirements for the use of packaging (positive list).	No requirements in the EC regulation, use of packaging according to general food law.