

Summary of Changes Revision 2019

On the way to PlanetProof criteria Plant products Southern Europe

The On the way to PlanetProof criteria are reviewed annually. This year, the revision of the South European scheme has been substantial, following the comprehensive revision that took place in 2017/2018 for the Central Europe scheme.

The reason for the revision was that several Dutch supermarkets decided that in the near future part or the total of their vegetables, fruits and ornamental products had to be On the way to PlanetProof certified. As a consequence of this, the On the way to PlanetProof certification schema obtains a much larger application range than before. The big expansion of the group of growers with the On the way to PlanetProof certificate was an incentive to present a certification scheme with broader possibilities for application, while the current level of ambition is maintained.

The most important changes are explained below:

Harmonization of Southern Europe scheme with Central Europe scheme

At the moment, On the way to PlanetProof Plant products knows a standard for Southern Europe and a standard for Central Europe. To be able to have clear communication on objectives and level of ambition of the certificate, the requirements of both schemes are harmonized. The proposed changes will result in the harmonization of the two schemes in for most of the requirements and also the layout of the two schemes is similar. The Chapters 1 to 9 contain **mandatory measures** and **optional measures** for several themes, and Chapter 10 contains the **General Requirements**. In the standards the requirements are specified for applications in **open field or protected cultivation**, and for **soil based or on substrate cultivation**. For example, the use of energy or lighting is only applicable in protected cultivation, and organic matter management only for soil based cultivation.

The aim is to proceed in further harmonization in the next year and a half: The intention is that on 1 January 2021 there will be one On the way to PlanetProof Certification standard for Europe. Where necessary, special interpretation documents will be established to provide tailor-made solutions for countries or regions.

On the way to PlanetProof only focuses **on environmental sustainability**. Since 2018, requirements concerning food safety and working conditions are no longer part of the standard.

Chapter 1: Record keeping and limitation of greenhouse gas emissions

- On the way to PlanetProof aims at **reducing greenhouse gas emissions**. Crops that are **heated or assimilation lighted** need to keep records of the energy consumption (fuel, electricity and gas). With a calculation module developed for this purpose, these records can be used for the calculation of the **greenhouse gas emission per m²**. In the near future emission limits of greenhouse gas per crop **will be determined**.
- For cultivation of **crops in growth chambers**, it is obligatory to use **100% electricity from renewable sources**.
- For all crops, **optional measures** are introduced to stimulate the reduction of greenhouse gas emission.

Chapter 2: Crop protection

- It is obligatory to follow an **integrated approach to pests and diseases**. The requirement is to make an **IPM-plan per crop**. This plan replaces the plant protection plan in the current On the way to PlanetProof standard for Southern Europe. The mandatory components of the IPM Plan are described in the "IPM Action Plan guideline" (see **Annex 2a** of the scheme).
- Following the IPM strategy, **non-chemical control** of pests is obligatory in a specified number of crops (see requirement 2.8).
- In Order to achieve the best possible use of plant protection products, it is obligatory to apply **monitoring systems and/or Decision Support Systems** (for example Sticky traps or a Digital Advisory Service) (see requirement 2.6).
- There is a new approach for the use of **plant protection products**. The environmental impact of the active substances of plant protection products has been assessed based on the following indicators: human health, the quality of groundwater, soil life and beneficial insects. The substances that show a high risk on one or more indicators are assessed as **risk substances**. Active substances that have been assessed as risk substances are placed on list I or list II.

- **List I: active substances** that are **not permitted in the scheme On the way to PlanetProof**. This list shows the substances that do not fit into a more sustainable cultivation and for which a more environmentally friendly alternative is available (legally permitted) (see List I of Annex 2c).

Note: The substances on this list that are marked **Orange** are still under evaluation to determine whether sufficient alternatives are available. If not available, the active substance will be placed on List II.

→ **If active substances are presented on list I that are indispensable for your crop, we would appreciate if you send us your response with argumentation.**

- **List II: Active substances** with a relatively high risk profile, for which no better alternative is authorized (legally permitted) (see List II of annex 2c). These substances are **allowed**, but for each application a **malus point is obtained**. Malus points have to be **compensated by the implementation of optional measures** that contribute to integrated crop protection. The optional measures provide bonus points and are included in the scheme in the chapters **Crop protection, Biodiversity and Landscape** and **Soil Fertility**.

These lists **replace the current lists** of allowed plant protection products per crop. All **Active Substances** that are not **part of list I**, may be used within On the way To PlanetProof according to **authorization**.

- **Green products, low-risk substances** are presented in **Appendix 2b**. As an **Incentive** for using these products / substances which are an alternative for chemical plant protection products, a **bonus point** is achieved.

→ **Note: If you notice that certain active substances are absent on the list, we would like to receive your suggestions with argumentation.**

- The **limit for the total active substance use**, which is used in On the way to PlanetProof, is maintained. For a number of crops the limit has been adapted (**see annex 1**). For crops in protected cultivation, **the limit applies to the cumulative use for a period of one year**. In case of a cultivation period less than one year, the limit is a **pro rata** for the number of months of cultivation. The use of Green products low-risk substances, may result in many kilograms of active substance. To prevent that **low-risk substances** can not be applied because of exceeding the allowed active substance limit, these substances are **excluded** from the calculation for the active substance limit (**see annex 2b**).
- **Residue analyses** are carried out to check on the active substances used. The number of analyses is initially limited to one per company per year. In the case of shortcomings, the frequency may go up, with good results the frequency goes down.

Chapter 3: Biodiversity and Landscape

The chapter biodiversity and landscape consists entirely of optional measures. Only a limited number of changes have been made in this chapter.

Chapter 4: Soil Fertility

Soil Fertility is getting more attention in the scheme as a separate theme. It is required to strive for a **positive organic matter balance** at company level, both in open field and protected cultivation. To achieve this, companies must **calculate** the amount of organic matter that is being used and the quantity that breaks down each year. A tool for this calculation will be available on the website (under additional documents). A requirement is introduced to control erosion. In addition, the list of **optional measures for soil fertility** has been expanded.

Chapter 5: Fertilization

Besides limits for the supply of **nitrogen (N)**, **also limits for the application of phosphate (P) fertilization** are introduced. These limits are listed in **annex 4 for soil-based open field cultivation** (limit per crop cycle) and in **annex 5 for soil-based protected cultivation** (limit per year/ 12 months); If the crop is grown part of a year, the limit is adjusted pro rata for the number of months cultivation). For crops grown on substrate no limits apply: for these crops drain water with fertilizers has to be collected and reused (see Chapter 6).

Chapter 6: Water

For the protected cultivation of crops on substrate there is an obligation of collection and **useful reuse** of drain water. In case of irrigation in soil-based crops, it is obligatory to use sensors to determine **the need for irrigation**. Decisions on water supply have to be based on these determinations. There are a number of requirements for water reservoirs.

Chapter 7: Light Exposure

Companies that apply assimilation lighting to their crops, must meet requirements to prevent light nuisance to the environment.

Chapter 8: Waste and cleaning

The theme of **waste and cleaning** has been extended with the **obligation** to have a **Waste Reduction Action Plan**. A number of optional measures have been added for **waste reduction** and the **reevaluation** of **residual flows**.

Chapter 9: Packaging Materials

The requirements for **packaging materials** have remained largely unchanged. A **number of optional measures** have also been added to develop more sustainable packaging material.

Chapter 10: General Requirements

- So far, the general requirements were published in a separate document. With the revision, these requirements are divided into two parts: **the certification conditions** (separate document) and the **General Requirements** that have to be met (Chapter 10).
- The **audit frequency** has been reduced to **one audit a year**. In addition, an unannounced inspection takes place at 10% of the certificate holders.
- Certification continues to take place at **crop level for the total production of the crop**. It remains to register **at the level of a farm / business unit or a selection of the farms/ business units** if the cultivation of a product is divided across multiple, separated farms / business units. Also production for industry and the cultivation of propagation material may be excluded from certification.
- The occurrence of calamities already allows the possibility of obtaining an exemption for a requirement of On the way to PlanetProof. For obtaining an exemption, a committee of three independent experts, who may react quickly if necessary, is available. One of them is also a member of the SMK Committee of Experts. An application for an exemption can be requested via the **form on the website**.

Points to be obtained with optional measures

After compensation of the malus points with bonus points from the chapters Crop Protection, Biodiversity and Landscape and Soil Fertility, there are still at least 7 points for the protected cultivation to be obtained with optional measures and at least 10 points for open cultivation. For this, the optional measures from all chapters can be used (see criterion 0.0).

Finally

As there is a **substantial adjustment** of the standard, **in 2019/2020** we will carefully evaluate how the requirements will work out in practice. The **indications** that result from this, will be important information for the **revision of the standard in 2020**.