

Fertilizers, soil conditioners, crop management tools, biostimulants; Plant strengtheners

Supplemental admission criteria for the Italian Input List

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I. Introduction

The Italian Input List – a private standard

The Italian Input List is a public register of inputs that may legally be used by certified organic farmers in Italy. It is generated in a co-operation between [FiBL](#) and [FederBio](#). The Italian Input List is a result of thorough evaluation of commercial products against relevant legislation and requirements. The Italian Input List is part of a series of national input lists, which are united under the umbrella of the '[European Input List](#)'.

The Italian Input List, like the European Input List, is a private standard. It is based not only on the applicable legislation but also on additional requirements defined by FederBio in the name of the Italian organic sector.

The basic admission criteria for the European Input List

For all national lists under the umbrella of the European Input List, the '[basic admission criteria](#)' of the European Input List apply. The basic admission criteria are based on the relevant EU legislation (in particular Reg. 2021/1165), as well as additional requirements and interpretations which were established by FiBL, in order to ensure the compliance with the objectives and principles of organic production. The basic admission criteria are applied to all national lists, thus ensuring that all lists comply with the general principles.

The supplemental admission criteria for the Italian Input List

In addition to the basic criteria, there are also *supplemental* admission criteria that apply only for one country. The supplemental criteria ensure that each national list complies with national rules and regulations, as well as the views of the national organic sector. This document contains the supplemental criteria which apply for the inclusion of fertilizers, soil conditioners and crop management tools into the Italian Input List. These criteria are applied in addition to the basic admission criteria for the European Input List. This document will be updated upon necessity; please refer always to the most recent version. In case of discrepancies between versions in different languages, the English version is considered as the document of reference.

2. Supplemental criteria rooted in Italian legislation

The Italian Input List only includes products that comply with the relevant EU and applicable Italian national legislation as described below. The manufacturers and/or distributors are responsible to make sure that these requirements are met. However, the evaluation team may deny or postpone inclusion of a product, if it suspects that such requirements are not met.

2.1 Decreto Legislativo DL 75/10

In Italy, the marketing of all fertilizers and soil conditioners is subject to the legislative decree «Decreto Legislativo 29 aprile 2010, n.75, "Riordino e revisione della disciplina in materia di fertilizzanti, a norma dell'articolo 13 della legge 7 luglio 2009, n. 88"» (hereafter referred to as 'legislative decree DL 75/10'). Here, a brief overview is given. For complete information, however, please consult the original decree.

2.1.1 Compositional requirements

Products for application in organic farming in Italy may only contain materials listed in Annex 13 of the legislative decree DL 75/10.

2.1.2 Categorization, labelling and marketing requirements

Products must comply with the product categorization according to table one of Annex 13 of the legislative decree DL 75/10 (overview outlined in Annex I of this document).

Fertilizers and soil conditioners may not be placed on the market as plant protection products, nor be used for plant protection purposes.

In line with the requirements set out in article 9 of the Italian consumer code (legislative decree D.Lgs 6 september 2005 no. 206) product labels and other materials used for marketing and distribution purposes must be in Italian.

2.1.3 Products with specific action ('prodotti ad azione specifica')

Products with specific action (*prodotti ad azione specifica*) are substances that, if applied to another fertilizer, to the soil or plant, can promote or regulate the absorption of nutrients or correct certain plant-physiological anomalies. Decree 75/10 distinguishes between products with specific action on *soil*, on *plants* and on *fertilizers*. Products with specific action on plants are also called biostimulants. Products may only be composed of materials listed in Table 1 of Annex 13 to the legislative decree 75/10. A summary is given in Annex II of this document.

2.1.4 SIAN Fertilizer Register (Sistema Informativo Agricolo Nazionale)

Products under the scope of decree DL 75/10 may only be marketed in Italy, if they have a valid entry in the SIAN Fertilizer Register ('REGISTRO FERTILIZZANTI DDG n. 0001371 del 14 gennaio 2019').

If the application can prove that he has made a request to the SIAN Fertilizer Register at least 90 days ago and has not yet received a reply from SIAN, he may apply the product for the Italian Input List. After positive evaluation by FiBL, the inclusion of the respective product into the Italian Input List will be made together with the comment “SIAN listing pending”. The comment will be removed once the SIAN Fertilizer register has been updated and the product is shown in the SIAN Fertilizer Register online.

Entries in the SIAN Fertilizer Register must be prolonged no later than 31 December of each year.

Implementation in the Italian Input List

- Fertilizers, soil conditioners and crop management tools are only included in the Italian Input List,
 - if a valid entry in the SIAN Fertilizer Register* is presented or
 - if the company can demonstrate that a new product was submitted to the SIAN register more than 90 days ago, without reaction from SIAN.
- The listing of such products in the Italian Input List is only prolonged, if a valid entry for the new year in the SIAN Fertilizer Register* is presented to FiBL (deadline: January 15 of the new year).

*The SIAN register is regularly checked for updates, in order to implement this requirement.

2.1.5 Mycorrhiza

According to Annex 13, products containing mycorrhizal fungi may only be applied to the soil. Therefore, the Italian Input List does not include products containing mycorrhiza which are destined for foliar application.

2.2 Ministerial Decree DM 6793/18 MiPAAFT

Fertilizers and soil conditioners for use in Italian organic farming need to comply with the requirements laid down in the legislative decree No. 6793 of 18 July 2018 «Disposizioni per l’attuazione dei regolamenti (CE) n. 2018/848 e n. 2021/1165 e loro successive modifiche e integrazioni, relativi alla produzione biologica e all’etichettatura dei prodotti biologici». This decree, hereafter referred to as ‘decree 6793’, implements the EU organic legislation, Reg. 2018/848 and 2021/1165, at Italian national level.

2.2.1 Animal excrements: definition of factory farming

Annex II of Reg. 2021/1165 allows various types of manure with the limitation ‘factory farming origin forbidden’. Art. 2, 12) of decree 6793 sets out a practical definition of

‘factory farming’ for the Italian context. The following husbandry systems are regarded as ‘factory farming’:

- Animal husbandry systems that do not provide animals access to a bedding area equipped with vegetable matter during the whole breeding period.
- Animal husbandry systems where animals are kept in the absence of natural light, neither they must be kept under artificial lightning conditions during the whole breeding period.
- Animal husbandry systems where animals are kept in permanent tethering as well as on slatted floors/ grid floors exclusively.

Implementation in the Italian Input List

For products containing animal excrements, the applicant must provide detailed information on the animal husbandry system. Furthermore, he must hand in a declaration on the categorization of the animal husbandry system that has been issued by the supplier of the animal excrements.

2.3 Special conditions for plant strengtheners (‘corroboranti’)

Applicants are reminded that plant strengtheners are a separate legal category in Italy, which is distinct from fertilizers or other inputs.

The Ministerial Decree DM 6793, taking into account the provisions outlined in the presidential decree DPR No. 55 of 28 february 2012, defines plant strengtheners (‘corroboranti’) as technical means of natural origin that improve and increase the natural resistance of plants against harmful organisms and abiotic stress and damage, or stimulate the secondary metabolism of the plant in order to resist attacks by pathogens and parasites or act by physical isolation (‘sistema fisico isolante’). The requirements specified by decree 6793 are briefly summarized below.

Requirements regarding the composition of plant strengtheners

- In general, the raw materials must be of natural origin; the production process compatible with the principles of organic agriculture (i.e. no chemical synthesis); the materials must not derive from GMOs.
- More specifically, plant strengtheners may only be composed of the materials given in Annex II of decree 6793 (see also Annex III of this document).
- The use of co-formulants should be avoided. In case of a demonstrated need co-formulants may be used given the fact that they are from natural origin, authorized for use as a food ingredient, do not derive from GMOs and are only used in the minimum quantities needed to guarantee their efficacy.

Requirements regarding the marketing and labelling of plant strengtheners

- The declared function of the product meets the definition and requirements of a plant strengthener according to decree 6793.
- Like all fertilizers, also plant strengtheners may not be placed on the market as plant protection products, nor be used for plant protection purposes.
- Products falling under the category of plant strengtheners according to decree 6793 may not inhere fantasy names that mislead the users' perception of the product with regards to its characteristics, function or ingredients. The commercial name must reflect the typology of the 'active substance' as indicated in Annex 2 of decree 6793 (for a summary, see Annex III of this document).

3. Supplemental criteria established by FederBio

3.1 Trace element fertilizers containing copper

Copper is a trace element listed in part E.1.3 of Annex I to Reg. 2003/2003 and is therefore authorized for use in organic farming. Because the use of copper is discussed controversially in the European organic sector, some national Input Lists restrict its use. Considering that to date no copper deficiencies have been reported in Italian soils, in order to prevent the improper use of trace elements for fungicide purposes, the Italian Input List sets a maximum limit of 2 % in copper in fertilizers.

3.2 Fertilisers containing Sulphur

Sulphur is an essential nutrient for plant growth and development. Its use as a fertilizer is specified in Annex ID.3 of Reg. 2003/2003. Fertilization with elemental sulphur is authorized in organic production according to Annex I of Reg. 2021/1165. However, elemental sulphur is at the same time also a pesticide which is also authorized in organic production according to Annex II of Reg. 2021/1165.

To prevent abusive use of fertilizers containing elemental sulphur for plant protection purposes, the Italian Input List accepts only products which are intended for soil application, while products intended for foliar application are not accepted in the category of fertilisers.

3.3 Biodegradability of mulching materials

The basic admission criteria of the European Input List for biodegradable products are applied. In addition, FederBio requires a minimum of 50 % bio-based raw materials for mulching materials.

3.4 Limits for phosphonates

The Italian Input List accepts no products which contain phosphonates. Possible contaminations may be accepted case by case, provided that they do not exceed 3 mg/kg in solid products for soil application, or 0.1 mg/kg of phosphonic acid in solid or liquid products for foliar application.

Annex I: Overview on the major fertilizer categories

Overview of the main fertilizer categories recognized in Italy according to table 1, Annex 13 of the legislative decree 75/10.

English terminology (used in this document)	Italian terminology (decree 75/10)
EC Fertilizers	Concimi CE
National Fertilizers	Concimi nazionali
Soil amendments	Ammendanti
Soil conditioners	Correttivi
Organic material intended for the production of organo-mineral fertilizers	Matrici organiche destinate alla produzione di concimi organo minerali
Products with specific action (products with action on soil; products with action on plants – Biostimulants)	Prodotti ad azione specifica (prodotti ad azione su suolo; prodotti ad azione su pianta – Biostimolanti)

Annex II: Compositional requirements for ‘products with specific action’

Summary of the requirements given in decree 75/10, Annex 13.

Products with action on plants (biostimulants) may only contain:

- Protein hydrolysate from Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.)
- Enzymatic hydrolysates from fabaceae
- Hydrolysed animal skin/ hides (solid or fluid); not to be applied to the edible parts of the crop
- Hydrolyzed animal soil amendment; not to be applied to the edible parts of the crop
- Solid and liquid extract of Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.), seaweed and borlande, acid extract of algae from the "Fucales" family,, if obtained by
 - i.) Physical means such as dehydration, freezing and grinding
 - ii.) Aqueous extraction or through alkaline and/or acidic solution
 - iii.) Fermentation
- Seaweed cream filtrate; Solution of seaweed cream filtrate; Liquid nitrogenous extract from *Macrocystis Integrifolia* seaweed, if directly obtained through
 - i.) Physical means, including dehydration, freezing and grinding
 - ii.) Aqueous extraction or through alkaline and/or acidic solution
 - iii.) Fermentation
- Co-formulants, in case of demonstrated need and in the minimum quantities required only and as specified in section 3.3 of this document.
- Any kind of biostimulating effect must not result from any phytohormonal activities.
- The use of ammonium salts is prohibited.

Products with action on soil may contain:

- Inoculi of Mycorrhiza
- Humic extract from waste water derived from olive (oil) production (?)
- Co-formulants, in case of demonstrated need and in the minimum quantities required only and as specified in section 3.3 of this document.

Annex III: Compositional requirements for plant strengtheners ('corroboranti')

Summary of the requirements given in decree 6793, Annex II. Plant strengtheners ('corroboranti') for use in organic farming in Italy may contain the following materials.

Denomination / Typology	Description, composition, formulation	Modalities, precautions for use
1. Propolis	Obtained from bees through collection, processing and modification. The extraction should be effected in aqueous or hydroalcoholic or oily solution (only emulsifiers from this Annex may be used) (+ labelling instructions).	
2. Stone meal, rock meal*	Mechanical grinding of stones or rocks, which have to be specified.	Absence of pollutants
3. Sodium Bicarbonate*	min 99.5% active substance in the product	
4. Silica gel	Obtained from amorphous silicates, quartz sand, Diatomaceous earth or similar raw materials	
5. Biodynamic preparations	Preparations acc. to EU reg. 2018/848, Part I, 1.9.9.	
6. Plant oils* (food grade): peanut, cotton, safflower, sunflower, linseed, corn, mustard, sesame, soy, grape seed, argan, avocado, hemp seeds*, borage, black cumin, primrose ('oenothera'), almond, macadamia, hazelnut, poppy seed, walnut, rice, pumpkin)	Mechanical pressing and filtering, dilution in water and eventual addition of co-formulants (see requirements below). Processes involving chemical synthesis as well as the use of GMO is prohibited. The use of Tween 80 as an emulsifier is allowed. + labelling instructions	*hemp seeds: exclusively from seeds, respecting the requirements set out in EU reg. 1122/2009 and the ministerial letter nr. 15314, 22 May 2009
7. Lecithin*	The commercial product for use in agriculture must have a min. phospholipid content of 95%. The phosphatidylcholine content must not be lower than 15%.	
8. Vinegar*	From wine and fruit	

9. Soft soaps*, curd soap (Sapone di marsiglia)	Only to be used as such (i.e. as pure substance)	
10. Burnt lime (CaO)	Only to be used as such (i.e. as pure substance)	
11. Tannin rich extract from chestnut wood	Physical extraction of chestnut wood with water only. Label needs to mention % of tannins contained.	
12. Aqueous solution of ascorbic acid	Product of enzymatic hydrolysis of vegetable starch and successive fermentation. The production process shall not involve any chemical synthesis. No GMO may be used for fermentation purposes. The product must contain min. 2% of ascorbic acid.	To be applied on fruit and vegetables post-harvest only, in order to reduce and delay the browning that may come from mechanical damages.
13. Edible plant oils (food grade) treated with ozone	Product which has been obtained through insufflation of food grade oils (olive and/or sunflower oils) through ozone.	For treatment of the cultures in the field only.
14. Glycolic extract rich in flavonoids	Product obtained through extraction of chemically untreated timber. Extraction with water and glycerine from natural origin is allowed. The product may contain lecithin of non-GMO origin as an emulsifier to max. 3%.	For treatment of the cultures in the field only.

*for products based on these components, it is recommended to register them as a 'basic substance' or plant protection product (where applicable), and not as a biostimulant.

Further requirements

Further requirements as outlined in Annex 3 of the decree 6793: Only materials of the same typology (with the same number) may be mixed. For example: edible plant oils, derived from different plant species as specified under entry no. 13 in the table above can be mixed, while edible plant oils (entry no. 13) may not be mixed with vinegar (entry no. 8).

Co-formulants should not be used. However, in case the addition of a co-formulant is indispensable to guarantee the appropriate product characteristics, such additives should preferably be admissible in organic farming and in any case must:

- be of natural origin
- be authorized as food additives, food purpose
- not derive from GMO

- only be added to the minimum amount needed to guarantee its efficacy.