



# SPECIFICATIONS

*Rules and standards for the inspection  
and certification of ecological products*

## PART IV AIR FRESHENERS

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# VISION & MISSION

## **The vision of Ecogarantie®**

Ecogarantie®, a Belgian trademark, registered at a Community level for ecological products is a management system and a promotional instrument which guarantees the consumer that a given product bearing the label Ecogarantie® meets strict requirements in terms of ecological quality.

Indeed, Social, Economic and Ecological aspects are taken into account, while respecting both life cycle and the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.

## **The mission of Ecogarantie® includes**

1. Helping consumers and companies to identify easily and reliably ecological products. Thereby guaranteeing as much as possible transparency for consumers and companies through clear rules and a complete labelling of the product.
2. Verifying the use of the trademark Ecogarantie® on ecological product. Actually, the ecological quality of a product is more contained in the principle of “*obligatory means*” than in the principle of “*obligatory results*”. The presence of the trademark Ecogarantie® aims at the ecological quality of the product in the field of :
  - Sustainability,
  - Safety,
  - Minimal impact on the environment.
3. Anticipating - in the aim of a continual improvement of the own specifications - the positive evolution of the regulation by defining standards for fields not yet covered by the European regulation.

## **This can be accomplished through**

- The specifications
- A (good) management of the trademark
- The independent system of inspection and certification

## **The products**

Ingredients and methods of preparation are selected according to their ecological properties and origin.

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## A. GENERAL PURPOSE

1. The selection of the ingredients is based on the principles of sustainability and ecological responsibility. The use of agricultural raw materials organically-grown is recommended. Synthetic products will not be used or be used in a very restricted way. The positive list only mentions substances which, because of their specific properties and of their function in the product, cannot be substituted, in the short term, by a better and more ecological alternative because the Belgian law does not allow it when publishing these standards. The use of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) or of GMO techniques in the production chain is strictly forbidden.
2. The processes used in the production and processing may not be polluting and must respect both our health and the environment. This will be done through measures which take into account biodegradability, recycling of packaging, waste products... The commercialisation of this quality air freshener takes into account the well-being of the consumer by setting up clear rules as well as by favouring communication and transparency in the chain.
3. End products may not be tested on animals (see § F)

## B. FIELD OF APPLICATION

The present norms apply to air fresheners that may take different forms:

1. **Potpourri**  
Essential oils applied on vegetable support that is cultivated or collected from wild plants.
2. **Incenses**  
Essential oils applied on a wooden support and tree derived products like barks, pine cones...
3. **Reed diffuser**  
Essential oils dissolved in alcohol and contained in a glass bottle in which wooden sticks are dipped.
4. **Atomizer**  
Essential oils dissolved in water and/or alcohol in a sprayer.

All ingredients and methods of preparation of **air fresheners** must conform to the Regulation (EC) N° 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of December 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures and to the Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of December 18<sup>th</sup> 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) concerning air fresheners products, and meet the additional stipulations of the present specification.

Air fresheners are not covered by EC Regulation 834/2007 concerning organically-grown products and therefore do not need to be certified.

However, the raw materials that are organically-grown in the framework of the Ecogarantie® specifications, must meet the requirements of:

- ◆ EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications and/or
- ◆ The Biogarantie®/Ecogarantie® standards and/or
- ◆ Other international recognized standards (see appendix 1 on cosmetics).

## C. USE OF THE TRADEMARK

The Ecogarantie® logo may be used on the final product if it meets the requirements of the present specifications and have therefore been submitted to the inspection and certification of one of the approved certification bodies.

## D. PREPARATION

### D.1. RAW MATERIALS AND PHYSICAL PORCESSUS USED IN PROCESSING

#### D.1.1 Vegetable products

**Vegetable products are authorised based on following criteria:**

- Organically-grown and/or harvested from wild pants 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).

#### D.1.2 Nature of the physical processes used

**The hereby authorised raw materials may only be processed through very specific physical processes which are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:**

- Processes which give good biodegradable molecules
- Processes which respect the naturally active substances
- Processes which allow a good management of the waste and of the energy consumption

**Positive list:**

absorption (on an inert support <sup>1</sup> )
bleaching, deodorisation (on an inert support <sup>1</sup> )
grinding
centrifuging (separating solid substance from liquids)
settling and decanting
desiccation, drying (by means of (non) gradual evaporation or sun radiation)
freezing/individually quick frozen
deterpenation (if fractioned steam distillation)
distillation or extraction (steam)
squeezing, crushing
extraction by means of following solvents: with any form of water or with a third solvent of plant origin
water
ethyl alcohol
vegetable glycerine
honey
sugar
vinegar
carbon dioxide
vegetable oils

<sup>1</sup> Inert support: substance that has no chemical reaction with the original substance.

filtration and purification (ultra-filtration, dialysis, crystallisation)
lyophilisation
blending
percolation
cold pressure
warm pressure (to extract according to the fluidity of the fatty acids)
sterilisation by means of heat treatment (according to the temperatures respecting the active substances) and UV (only for water)
sifting
maceration
solar extraction (Eg. flower remedies)
cold extraction
vacuum
decoction (hot or cold)
infusion (hot or cold)
post extraction filtration, micro filter, depth filter (with non-bleached filtering papers) blending different batches of extracted herbs to achieve a specified level of markers/actives concentration by evaporation, vacuum distillation, spray drying clarifying/precipitating agents (permitted additives or processing aids: see appendix VIII of EC Regulation 889/2008)

**Examples of forbidden processes:**

irradiation (X-rays)
ionising treatments (gamma rays)
extraction by means of following solvents: benzene butylene glycol hexane toluene mineral oils petroleum-derived solvents propylene glycol
extraction with ultrasound <sup>2</sup>
post extraction electron beaming irradiation post packaging sterilisation E.g. UV rectification

<sup>2</sup> Precautionary principle: is forbidden as long as no study has proved the method to be innocuous.

## D.2. SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OBTAINED THROUGH CHEMICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL PROCESSES

### D.2<sup>1</sup>: Nature of the chemical processes used

In order to produce a semi-manufactured product that conforms to the present specifications, the hereby authorised raw materials may only be treated by means of specific chemical processes which are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:

- Processes which give good biodegradable molecules
- Processes which respect the naturally active substances
- Processes which allow a good management of the waste and of the energy consumption

#### Positive list:

Alkylation
Amidation
Calcination of vegetable residue
Carbonisation (resins, fatty vegetable oils)
Condensation / addition
Esterification and trans-esterification
Etherification
Filtration and purification (crystallisation, electrolysis, ion exchange)
Hydration
Hydrogenation
Hydrolysis
Neutralisation through bases <sup>4</sup>
Neutralisation through acids <sup>4</sup>
Oxidation/reduction
Production processes for amphoteric (amidification)
Saponification
Sulfatation
Roasting

#### Examples of forbidden processes:

Quaternisation except in the case of amphoteric
Bleaching, deodorisation (on a support of animal origin)
Deterpenation (if not by means of steam)
Ethoxylation (PEG, ...)
Sulfonation (in main reaction)
Treatments with ethylene oxide (disinfection...)
Treatments with mercury (production of sodium and potassium hydroxide)
Propoxylation
Chlorine chemistry (chloric gasses, chlorine derivatives), with the exception of tap water

<sup>4</sup> Unable to mention here all the different modalities (catalysts, solvents,...) necessary for the accomplishment of certain processes, we wish to remind you that these must however comply with the criteria mentioned above.

## D.2<sup>2</sup> Nature of the microbiological/biotechnological processes used

Microbiological/biotechnological processes are allowed based on the following criteria:

- From vegetable raw materials

Examples of authorised processes:

- In vitro cultivation, wild or controlled fermentation by means of micro-organisms.

### Negative list:

Cloning, cell culture, methods based on genetically modified organisms (GMO): organism the genetic material of which has been modified in a way or with results that cannot be naturally achieved through reproduction, traditional forms of crossing, cross breeding, hybridation and/or recombination.

## D.3. SILVICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The wooden or tree derived support (like sticks, barks, pine cones...) is not chemically treated and conforms to the FSC standard (<http://www.fsc.org>).

## D.4. CHEMICALLY SYNTHESISED INGREDIENTS

Definition: ingredients produced by chemical synthesis

**General rule:** (petro)-chemical synthesis is ruled out of the manufacturing process

**Examples of forbidden chemically synthesised ingredients:**

- Synthetic colouring agents
- Synthetic perfumes
- Synthetic antioxidants
- Synthetic alcohols
- Synthetic essential oils

Exception: denaturation of alcohol: the only exceptions tolerated in these standards are those imposed by the Belgian authorities (see below the positive list, any other request has to be evaluated by Probila-Unitrab for approval).

### Denaturation of alcohol

Positive list:

Authorised denaturants
3% isopropanol (IPA)
2% isopropanol (IPA) + 2% butanone methylethylcetone (MEK)



## E. PACKAGING

### E.1. AUTHORISED KINDS OF PACKAGING

The packaging must be made of:

- Glass and/or
- Porcelain and/or
- Compostable or biodegradable material and/or
- Recyclable material (PET, ...)

### E.2. MENTION ON THE PACKAGING

**Once the operator refers to the ingredients and the organic agriculture, the following rules must be applied:**

#### a) Information about the ingredients

A complete ingredient declaration in common language or with the INCI appellation must be mentioned on the label, regardless of the quantity involved.

If the product contains perfumes, this must be mentioned on the packaging.

#### b) Reference to the organic agriculture

Reference to organic agriculture may be made for agricultural raw materials products that conform to the following texts:

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

The indications referring to organic production methods make it clear that they relate to a method of agricultural production and are accompanied by a reference to the ingredients of agricultural origin concerned, unless such reference is clearly given in the list of ingredients.

#### c) Percentage of organic ingredients

If percentages of organic ingredients are mentioned on the packaging, the operator will communicate the method used for the calculation to the attention of the certification body and mention it on the packaging. E.g. the operator will mention if the percentage refers to the total of ingredients or only to the vegetable ingredients.

The labelling refers to the name of the certification body to which the operator is subject.

*Evaluation and control:* The applicant will submit to his certification body a sample of the packaging of the product.

## F. PRODUCTION OF AIR FRESHENERS

- 1. Potpourri: essential oils applied on vegetable support that is cultivated or collected from wild plants**  
No additional criteria
- 2. Incenses: essential oils applied on a wooden support and tree derived products like barks, pine cones...**  
No glue can be used to adhere to the support essential oils. In the case of products intended to be consumed, a flue gas analysis will be conducted to verify that the amount of benzene released is less than the limit of 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> specified in Directive 2000/69/EC. The labelling takes precautions summarized in the following use: “Keep out of reach of children. Never leave burning unattended and ensure that the ashes fall on a suitable surface (ashtray or incense burner). Do not place near flammable materials. Any combustion (fire, candle, barbecue ...) releases smoke harmful to health. It is therefore advisable to ventilate the room after use, burn incense at a time, do not inhale the smoke, do not use in a confined space, do not burn incense in the presence of a pregnant woman, infant, person suffering from asthma or respiratory disorder”.
- 3. Reed diffuser: essential oils dissolved in alcohol and contained in a glass bottle in which wooden sticks are dipped.**  
No additional criteria
- 4. Essential oils dissolved in water and/or alcohol in an atomizer**  
No additional criteria

End products may not be tested on animals. The tests on the raw material are performed according to the legal rules and with respect of the animal well fair. Claiming “no animal testing” is forbidden.

## G. COMPANY

The company must be able to prove that it busies itself with a system such with HACCP and traceability.

### Control plan

Following procedures must be set up:

- A file per product, containing all the guarantees from the suppliers (analyses and certificates as to the origin of the ingredients and of the production processes)
- A program of the risk analyses in order to supplement and verify the guarantees from the suppliers
- Guarantees concerning the production of raw materials, which may not damage the environment
- A description of the conformity procedures on end products

## H. GLOSSARY

**Air fresheners** may take different forms:

- **Potpourri:** Essential oils applied on vegetable support that is cultivated or collected from wild plants.
- **Incenses:** Essential oils applied on a wooden support and tree derived products like barks, pine cones...
- **Reed diffuser:** Essential oils dissolved in alcohol and contained in a glass bottle in which wooden sticks are dipped.
- **Atomizer:** Essential oils dissolved in water and/or alcohol in a sprayer.

### **Ingredients**

As well raw materials as semi-manufactured products

### **Mineral**

Inorganic salt, component of the earth's crust extracted rather than manufactured.

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

Products meeting the EC regulation 834/2007 and its modifications

### **Raw materials**

Vegetable, animal or mineral products, coming from organic, if available, agriculture or obtained by extraction, unprocessed or gained through physical processes, so that the original characteristics have been kept almost intact.

### **Recyclable**

That still has useful physical or chemical properties after serving its original purpose and can, therefore, be reused or remanufactured 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.

### **Semi-manufactured products**

A product which is obtained through the manufacturing of raw materials, according to physico-chemical and/or microbiological/biotechnological processes and/or chemical synthesis that may sometimes deeply modify the original characteristics, and which is meant to be further processed into a final product.



**ECOGARANTIE®**  
SPECIFICATIONS