

Bioland

Bioland e.V.
Verband für organisch-
biologischen Landbau

Amendments to the Standard Pest Control

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Pest control

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1 Basics

The BIOLAND standards for pest control are based on:

- the General Processing Standards of BIOLAND e.V. (Chapter 7 of the BIOLAND Standards for Crop Production, Animal Husbandry and Processing);
- the BIOLAND Standards for the exclusion of genetic engineering (Chapter 2 of the BIOLAND Standards for Crop Production, Animal Husbandry and Processing);
- regulations (EU) 2018/848 and 2021/1165 (in particular Annex V) on organic farming and the corresponding labelling of agricultural products and foodstuffs and their amending regulations;
- all statutory provisions applicable to pest control in storage and operating premises, in particular the German Food, Commodities and Feed Code (LFGB), the German Food Hygiene Ordinance (LMHV), the German Act on the Protection of Cultivated Plants (Plant Protection Act) in conjunction with the descriptive list of authorised plant protection products published by the Federal Biological Research Centre (Plant Protection Products List Part 5 Stock Protection) pursuant to Section 33 (4) sentence 1 no. 1 of said ordinance, the Hazardous Substances Ordinance (in particular Section 16 (2)), the Animal Welfare Act and the corresponding supplementary ordinances and implementing provisions.

2 Scope

The scope of application of these standards extends to all operating sites or facilities, including facilities or containers for storage and transport, in which BIOLAND processors, producers with on-farm processing and contract processors store, transport, produce, handle or put BIOLAND foodstuffs into circulation.

3 General requirements

According to the LMHV, BIOLAND foodstuffs must be sustainably protected against adverse effects of animal pests, herbicides and pesticides. This requires the establishment of a pest management system and compliance with the rules of good manufacturing practice, which include careful and comprehensive cleaning and hygiene measures in the business. Chemical treatment, with the exception of the measures listed in Section 5.4, or irradiation is not permitted.

Pest management in BIOLAND contract farms is carried out according to holistic aspects and in accordance with the principles of HACCP. This includes the following steps:

- A hazard analysis must be carried out to determine which pests can become a hazard and what dangers these pests pose.
- The early detection (prophylaxis) of an impending pest infestation and its possible causes has top priority as a preventive measure before any type of control. This must be ensured by setting up and regularly inspecting an area-wide monitoring system for the early detection of any new infestations that may occur and for monitoring the control points.
- The weak points in the operation from a structural, hygienic and organisational point of view must be carefully analysed and rectified.
- If infestations occur, countermeasures must always be taken.
- Any detected pest infestation must be properly controlled in accordance with state of the art technology. When applying control measures, primarily mechanical-physical and biotechnical measures of pest control are to be used. The measures permitted in BIOLAND contract operations are listed below in Section 5.
- The pest control measures carried out must be fully documented by the user in accordance with the requirements in Section 6.
- The persons responsible for pest management in the company and the staff must be regularly informed and trained by experts in pest prevention and control.
- Pest control management should be integrated into operational quality management wherever possible and appropriate.
- As soon as changes occur in the company (new buildings, products or production facilities), the prevention and monitoring measures must be adapted accordingly.

The essential requirements for pest control in BIOLAND contract operations are described in more detail below:

4 Prophylaxis

4.1 | Setting up monitoring systems

We recommend installing a monitoring system on the farm that is tailored to the individual conditions of the farm in order to recognise a pest infestation as early as possible, to continuously monitor all control points on the farm and to be able to initiate immediate corrective measures.

Monitoring systems against insect and rodent pests (e.g. grain probes, pheromone traps) provide information on the level and type of infestation – in addition to simple observation – and serve to constantly monitor the premises. Adjoining rooms such as kitchens, canteens, changing rooms and living areas are places of origin and reproduction for harmful organisms and must therefore also be monitored. Monitoring systems against rodents must be set up outside the premises.

The following measures can be helpful to prevent pest infestation or to facilitate and speed up control measures:

4.2 | Analysing and eliminating weak points in the operation

The weak points in the operation that favour pests when migrating and/or multiplying in operational and storage areas must be analysed from a structural, hygienic and organisational point of view and eliminated if possible:

Recommendations for structural measures:

- Equip all openable windows with fly screens (mesh size < 2 mm) or gate entrances with strip curtains;
- Fit floor drains with grilles (mesh size < 10 mm);
- Seal joints, gaps and cavities of all kinds;
- Seal wall and ceiling openings (pipes and electrical cables);
- Seal joints between stainless steel panelling and masonry;
- Avoid wall panelling and suspended ceilings wherever possible; if this is not possible, an appropriate number of inspection hatches with the appropriate diameter should be installed;
- Seal doors and gates that do not close tightly (especially external doors);
- Make inaccessible areas (e.g. behind cold storage cells) accessible or avoid their formation in the planning phase;
- Avoid wooden components (e.g. chipboard) or replace them with metal.

Continuation 4.2: Recommendations for hygiene measures:

- Regular cleaning, even of areas that are difficult to access, such as under, behind and in machines, shelves, refrigerators, switch cabinets (once a month is recommended);
- Creation of fixed cleaning schedules;
- Consistent disposal of items that are no longer needed;
- Waste disposal intervals should be as short as possible; waste disposal containers must be tightly shut;
- Special care must be taken when selecting packaging materials.

Recommendations for organisational measures:

Operating procedures should be organised in such a way that they also serve to prevent pest infestation, particularly in the following areas:

Incoming goods inspection:

- Check the goods to be stored (harvested crops, raw materials, merchandise, ingredients, operating resources, etc.) for possible pest infestation, especially in the case of defective packaging material
- If possible, keep a room free for new goods to be stored for initial inspection to check for the presence of insects.

Storage

- Store raw goods, semi-finished goods and finished goods in separate areas if possible;
- Clean the rooms, silos, containers and machines thoroughly (e.g. with brooms, hoovers);
- Clearly organise the storage areas, avoid dark and hard-to-clean corners;
- Store goods in such a way that they are accessible from all sides;
- If possible, store goods on the company's own pallets so that the goods can also be checked for pest infestation from below and cleaning measures can be taken;
- Remove external outer packaging (e.g. shrink wrap, cardboard packaging) as far as possible before storage.

5 Control measures

5.1 | Basic principles

If the preventive measures cannot prevent a pest infestation, pest control measures must be taken. When implementing these measures, all necessary precautions must be taken to prevent contamination of BIOLAND foodstuffs and stored goods with harmful substances, to protect the employees and users from health hazards and to guarantee the environmental compatibility of the agents.

Preferably, mechanical-physical and biotechnical measures for pest control as well as measures with natural-based agents should be used. The treatment of empty rooms or containers has priority over the treatment of products. It must be ensured that BIOLAND foodstuffs do not come into direct contact with unauthorised chemical agents.

The choice and implementation of suitable control methods should only be carried out by competent persons with appropriate experience and only after prior inspection of the farm.

5.2 | Mechanical-physical and biotechnical measures

The use of the following mechanical-physical and biotechnical control measures is permitted:

- Search for and elimination of sources and infestation hotbeds;
- Thermal measures (cooling, freezing, hot air disinfestation using hot or circulating air methods with subsequent cleaning);
- Light traps (UV traps, fruit fly traps, etc.);
- Sticky traps with species-specific attractants (food imitation, aggregation and sex hormones);
- Use of inert natural gases (displacement of oxygen by carbon dioxide or nitrogen, also under pressure);
- Impacting (e.g. centrifuges), sieving;
- Use of amorphous silicate dust (in compliance with the manufacturer's safety instructions and with subsequent thorough cleaning);
- Live or snap traps for rodents.

The use of sticky boards against rats and mice is not permitted.

5.3 | Measures with natural-based agents

The use of the following control measures with agents or components on a natural basis as repellents against insects or natural insecticides is permitted (use in stock protection requires authorisation in accordance with the Plant Protection Act):

- Plant oils, essential oils (e.g. lavender oil), herbs and herbal extracts;
- Quassia wood, neem extract;
- Other insecticides on a natural basis (their specification must be submitted to BIOLAND e.V. for authorisation before use).

5.4 | Chemical measures

The use of the following chemical control measures is permitted (use in stock protection requires authorisation in accordance with the Plant Protection Act):

- Natural pyrethrum preparations without synthetic chemical synergists in various formulations (dust powder, microencapsulated emulsion, concentrate, fogging) depending on the type of pest, infestation level and structural situation;
- Use of rodent baits with anticoagulants (coumarin derivatives) in spill-proof formulations (pastes, blocks) for rodent control, provided the baits are placed in safe and stable bait boxes (depots); we recommend using non-toxic blocks for monitoring;
- Bait gels for controlling cockroaches and ants (in the direct vicinity of food, the gels may only be applied in suitable bait boxes).

6 Implementation and documentation

Pest control in BIOLAND contract farms should only be carried out by specialised companies whose employees have a certificate of competence issued by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce. We recommend that BIOLAND contract operations do not carry out their own pest control with preparations freely available on the market.

An agreement with the contracted pest control company must be concluded in which the company guarantees the customer that it will only carry out measures in accordance with the BIOLAND standards for pest control and that the measures carried out will be fully documented in a treatment protocol.

If insecticides are used, the treatment protocol must at least include the following:

Name of the user, place and date of the measure, areas of application, target organism, use of the agent (product name, manufacturer if applicable, active ingredient with indication in % or the like of the concentrate or ready-to-use agent, application concentration, classification according to the Hazardous Substances Ordinance), application method, protective measures and signature of the user and the customer or room user. Safety data sheets in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 must be attached to the protocol.

The contracted operation is obliged to present the treatment protocol to the inspection office for inspection during the BIOLAND inspection. It is also obliged to make the BIOLAND standards for pest control and all amendments or supplements available to the pest controller without being asked to do so, in particular in the case of the first contract.

Control proposals of the authorised specialist company or measures ordered by the authorities which do not correspond to the BIOLAND standards for pest control must be submitted to the BIOLAND Association for assessment and approval.

7 Entry into force and implementation

These standards come into force upon resolution of the BIOLAND Delegates' Meeting. All processors are obliged to ensure compliance with the standards within a transitional period of 6 months after publication. In justified individual cases this period may be extended on request.

