

SDNA

“Sustainable soy for animal nutrition” module



**Certification standard for the manufacture and trade of
animal feeds meeting sustainable soy specifications**

**Version 3 – 15 October 2025
Applicable from 1st January 2026**

Document history

Version	Content	Reasons for revising the standard	Date modified
Version 1	Entire document	Creating a sustainable soy module for animal feed	05/10/2023
Version 1	Appendix 3	Updating the list of recognised systems	01/02/2024
Version 2	Introduction and section 3.3	Clarification of the certification goal, adding the regulatory reference and documentary versions of FEFAC guidelines to be taken into account in 2025	07/10/2024
Version 2	Section 5.4	Adding an information note and reorganisation of the paragraph to distinguish the requirements from the note.	07/10/2024
Version 3	Section 2.2	Addition of definition of distributor and merchant from the RCNA	15/10/2025
Version 3	Section 3.3	Addition of the reference in Appendix 3 to include the soybean production/trading scope included in the scope meeting the requirement.	15/10/2025
Version 3	Annex 4	Addition of the appendix to specify the requirements applicable to distributors and traders	15/10/2025

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1 Introduction

The conditions for producing soy used in farm animal feed represent a major focus of attention for the animal nutrition sector. Individual and collective initiatives, in addition to regulatory requirements, are contributing to improving the sustainability of soy for animal nutrition. This optional module, whose requirements go beyond EU Regulation No. 2023/1115 should enable players to demonstrate compliance of these actions with the sustainability requirements recognised at the European level, the FEFAC¹'s "responsible soy" guidelines (2021 version including criterion 34 and subsequent versions).

2 General information

2.1 Scope

This document contains requirements to provide guarantees on the sustainability of the soy used in animal nutrition (**soybeans and other soy-based products listed in annex 1**).

A prerequisite to this module is certification according to the RCNA or RCNA international standard for health quality and safety aspects. The implementation of the requirements of this "sustainable soy" module is supplementary and optional for RCNA-certified operators.

The soy production certification schemes/standards accepted in this module are those recognised as compatible with the FEFAC's "responsible soy" guidelines, listed in annex 2.

2.2 Terms and definitions

Sustainable soy: soy produced in conditions that comply with the criteria in the FEFAC's "responsible soy" guidelines covering legislative compliance, responsible working conditions, environmental responsibility, good agricultural practices, respect for the legal use of land and land rights, protection of relations with the population and local authorities. Non-deforestation and non-conversion of natural ecosystems are part of sustainability criteria for soy.

Credits (Book&Claim): supply chain model in which operators buy or sell products without sustainability guarantees, but offset them by purchasing credits (1 credit = 1 tonne of product), which contribute to supporting manufacturers engaged in sustainable production.

Supplier mass balance: supply chain model in which the supplier monitors that the quantity of "sustainable" products delivered to customers does not exceed the quantity of "sustainable" raw materials available. This model is based on a physical underlying with exchanges of "sustainable" raw materials, but these do not necessarily need to be physically separated from inputs without sustainability guarantees.

Feed manufacturer mass balance: recording of flows of sustainable products entering and leaving the animal nutrition plant. The sustainable products received by the plant are not necessarily physically separated from products without sustainability guarantees.

Segregation: supply chain model in which "sustainable" products are physically separated from the products without sustainability guarantees throughout the supply chain.

Identity preserved: supply chain model that guarantees the traceability of the "sustainable" product, batch by batch. These products must always be physically separated from other product batches, even if they have the same sustainability guarantees.

¹ FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines

Distributor: Physical holder of feed (excluding retail) performing the following process steps to the exclusion of any other: procurement, reception, storage - transfer, loading and delivery.

For the purpose of this standard, the terms "feed" will be used for all products falling within its scope (premises and all types of food).

Merchant: an economic operator exclusively carrying out purchases and resale actions in the form of incoming materials or compound feed (without physical possession of feed).

3 Requirements of the SDNA module

3.1 Definition of responsibilities

The company must appoint a person or department that is responsible for implementing the requirements of this “sustainable soy” module. This appointment must be documented within the company.

This person or department must ensure that the human and/or financial resources made available are sufficient to ensure compliance with the module’s requirements.

3.2 Documentation

The company must draw up a documentary management procedure to record information on the quantities and guarantees associated with the “sustainable soy” delivered to the plant, and all uses within the plant or ‘as is’ sales of this sustainable soy.

This information is essential for managing the quantities of sustainable soy within the plant (see point 6.1.).

The company must store the necessary records and data for 2 years.

3.3 Accepted sustainable soy schemes

The sustainable soy guarantees purchased must be provided by plans that are recognised as compatible with the FEFAC’s “responsible soy” guidelines (2021 version), with the criterion no. 34 as mandatory (this criterion provides the non-conversion and non-deforestation guarantee, and goes beyond the producer countries’ legislation) or a later version. The list can be found in annex 2.

The acceptable levels of traceability in the upstream supply chains are:

- > Credits (Book&Claim)²
- > Mass balance (supplier) ¹
- > Segregation
- > Identity preserved

NB: The production and trade of soy and animal feed containing soy is only possible at SDNA-certified sites or equivalent. The list of recognized schemes is provided in Appendix 3.

² The possibility of using these levels of traceability (credits and mass balance at the supplier) will be reviewed by the end of 2026.

3.4 Supplier relationships

The purchase of sustainable soy must be managed by a **written contractual agreement with the supplier(s)**, that explicitly indicates the sustainability scheme(s) used, as well as the traceability system implemented (credits/book&claim, mass balance, segregation, identity preserved).

3.5. Subcontracting

If subcontracting is used in the manufacturing of compound animal feed for which the production is intended for sectors requiring sustainable soy, the company must ensure that the subcontractor itself is certified according to the SDNA module (or equivalent recognised by OQUALIM, cf annex 3).

4. Assessment and improvements

4.1. Internal audit

The company must organise an internal audit at least once a year to ensure compliance with the requirements of this “responsible soy” module, as well as implement any corrective actions following previous audits.

The audit criteria, scope and methods must be defined according to the results of the previous audits.

4.2. Incident and complaints management procedure

The company must integrate the management of incidents and complaints associated with this “sustainable soy” module into its overall non-compliance management procedure and/or complaints.

After investigation, incidents and complaints must be notified by the company to OQUALIM along with information on the causes and measures implemented or planned.

4.3. Management review

At a suitable frequency, management must analyse the results of the internal audits and the declarations of incidents or complaints, in order to assess compliance with the module’s requirements. The documentary supports for this management review must be kept.

5. Supply of sustainable soy

The purchase of “responsible soy” is required for certification by this module.

5.1. Soybeans

The accepted “sustainable soy” certifications are listed in point 3.3.

The company must ensure at reception or prior to reception that the soybeans are identified according to a “sustainable soy” certification with an indication of the level of traceability. Without this identification, they cannot be counted in the mass balance of the animal feed manufacturer plant.

5.2. Soy-based products

The accepted “sustainable soy” certifications are listed in point 3.3.

The company must ensure at reception or prior to reception that the soy-based products are identified according to a “sustainable soy” certification with an indication of the level of traceability. Without this identification, they cannot be counted in the mass balance of the animal feed manufacturer plant.

5.3. Products containing soy

The accepted “sustainable soy” certifications are listed in point 3.3.

The company must ensure at reception or prior to reception that the products containing soy are identified according to a “sustainable soy” certification with an indication of the level of traceability. Without this identification, they cannot be counted in the mass balance of the animal feed manufacturer plant.

5.4. Offsetting purchases of soy without sustainability guarantees

In order to enable supply chains to be set up, it is possible to offset the purchase of soy without sustainability guarantees from suppliers by purchasing “sustainable soy” credits (Book&Claim).

The purchase of soy without sustainability guarantees is only possible from suppliers that do not yet provide sustainable soy with a certification listed in point 3.3 for the quality of soy requested (standard, non-GMO, organic...).

Note: When a company buys credits to offset its purchases of non-guaranteed soy products recognised as compatible with the FEFAC ‘responsible soy’ guidelines, it determines how many credits it allocates to each of the non-guaranteed categories (e.g. 1 tonne of product must be offset by 1 credit).

6. Use of sustainable soy

6.1. Mass balance in the animal nutrition plant

The animal nutrition plant implements a system that allows it to monitor the quantities of sustainable soy delivered to the plant (ownership of soy transferred to the company) or offset through the purchase of credits, and those really incorporated into the formulas of compound feed or sold as such with a “sustainable soy” qualification on a monthly basis according to this module.

For each category of soy or soy-based product, the “sustainable soy” mass balance for the first two months of certification then over 3 rolling months must never be negative at the plant level.

6.2. Positive indication for animal feed

When a company certified according to the SDNA module markets animal feed for which a use of “sustainable soy” (according to this module) has been recorded in the plant’s mass balance, it must inform its customers of this characteristic associated with the product, using the label or on documents accompanying the product (delivery note, invoice) in the case of bulk products.

This positive indication must also comply with the modalities defined in annex 6 of the RCNA “Use of the brand and logo”.

Annex 1 – List of products targeted by the module

N° European Catalogue of feed materials (Regulation (EU) 2022/1104)	Name
2.18.1	Toasted soya (beans)
2.18.2	Soya (bean) expeller
2.18.3	Soya (bean) meal
2.18.4	Soya (bean) meal, dehulled
2.18.5	Soya (bean) hulls
2.18.6	Soya beans, extruded
2.18.7	Soya (bean) protein concentrate
2.18.8	Soya bean pulp [Soya bean paste]
2.18.9	Soya bean molasses
2.18.10	Co-product from soybean preparation
2.18.11	Soya (beans)
2.18.12	Soybean, flakes
2.18.13	Soya (bean) meal feed
2.18.14	Soya (bean) meal feed, dehulled
2.18.15	Fermented soya (bean) protein (concentrate)
2.18.16	Soy flour toasted or steamed
2.20.1	Vegetable oil and fat

Premixes and additives that may contain soy or a soy-derived product are not concerned by the requirements of this module.

This list may be reviewed if necessary.

Annex 2 – List of schemes/standards recognised as compatible with the FEFAC’s “responsible soy”

CSQA Sustainable Cereal and Oilseed	MB SEG
Donau Soja & Europe Soja	MB SEG
ISCC EU & ISCC Plus	MB IP, SEG
ProTerra Europe & ProTerra Foundation	MB IP, SEG
RTRS	MB, B&C SEG
ADM Responsible Soybean Standard	MB, B&C SEG
Amaggi FIELD ORIGINS	MB
Cefetra Certified Responsible Soy Standard	MB, B&C
SFAP – Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme – Non-Conversion	B&C
US SOY Sustainability Assurance Protocol	MB
Bunge Pro-S Certification Program for Sustainable Agricultural Sourcing	MB, B&C
Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) Program for Sustainable Agriculture	MB, B&C
Agricultura Sustentable Certificada + Module on Non-conversion	MB, B&C)
Cargill Triple S Soya Products	MB
PROFARM Production Standard	MB
FEMAS Responsible Sourcing Module 2021	MB

IP : Identity Preserved ; SEG : Segregation MB: Mass balance; B&C: Book&Claim/Credits

This list is liable to change according to the schemes/standards recognised as compatible with the FEFAC’s “responsible soy” guidelines.

Link to the Standards Map / FEFAC: <https://www.standardsmap.org/en/identify?client=FEFAC>

Annex 3 – Recognised systems for the production and trading of soy and animal feed containing soy

- QS Soyplus
- EFISC Purchase of certified sustainable feed material (v.3.0 June 2023)
- GMP+ documents MI 5.1 Production and Trade of RTRS soy, MI 5.2 Responsible pig & poultry feed, MI 5.3 Responsible dairy feed and MI 5.6 Production and Trade of responsible feed

Annex 4 – Requirements applicable to activities on placing on the market of feed materials

I- Goal

This appendix aims to define the minimum applicable requirements and the verification modalities of the requirements of the Sustainable soy for animal nutrition (SDNA) for certifying the activities of:

- distribution of feed
- distribution of feed materials
- trade in animal feed for manufacturers of feed products under the regulatory meaning (feed materials, compound feed).

Distribution activities for feed materials and trade in animal feed under the regulatory meaning are not RCNA certifiable alone.

They must be combined with a manufacturing activity according to the prerequisite below.

Prerequisite: Professionals requesting certification in the regulatory sense for their trade activities must be a compound feed manufacturing company or be part of a group of companies of which at least one entity manufactures animal compound feed for animals and is RCNA certified.

II- SDNA requirements

All requirements in this chapter apply to the distribution and trade of feed materials without manufacturing animal feed :

- 3.1 Definition of responsibilities
- 3.2 Documentation
- 3.3 Accepted sustainable soy schemes
- 3.4 Supplier relationships
- 5. Supply of sustainable soy