ST2E

Environmental Footprint Technical Platform

Certification protocol

Version 1 – October 2026

Aim

Only a production site certified according to OQUALIM's Animal Nutrition Certification Reference (RCNA), or to a reference standard recognised as equivalent by OQUALIM, may request an audit extension for the purpose of validating that it complies with the Environmental footprint technical platform (ST2E). The issuance of the certificate stating that the company's site meets the requirements of the Environmental footprint technical platform (ST2E) is subject to obtaining the RCNA certificate or the certificate according to the reference standard recognised as equivalent by OQUALIM.

This text concerns the three parties involved in the certification process:

- The certification bodies.
- The companies requesting the certification of their plants.
- The OQUALIM association.

Document history

Version	Content	Reasons for revising the standard	Date modified
Version 1	Entire document	Creating a single program applicable to all animal feed production	18/12/2025
Version 1	Appendix 1 et 2	Adding the audit completion date field	12/10/2026
Version 1	Section IV.3 b	Adding the rules for allocating discrepancies, prevention of double punishment accompanied by an example	12/10/2026

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I. Preamble

I.1. Scope of application

Certification of compliance with the requirements of the ST2E can be requested by any feed manufacturer or group of companies under RCNA.

« The Environmental Footprint Technical Platform" covers the impact category "climate change" or "CO_2" present in the PEF.

I.2. Principe général de la certification ST2E

Certification of compliance with the requirements of the ST2E is subject to obtaining OQUALIM certification according to the RCNA or certification recognised as equivalent by OQUALIM, certification scope identical to RCNA scope.

The certification guarantees compliance of the production sites with the ST2E requirements. In accordance with the regulations, it is clarified that the company remains responsible for the marketing of its products.

Diagram 1 below summarises the relationship between the 3 parties as part of the RCNA framework that also applies to the ST2E.

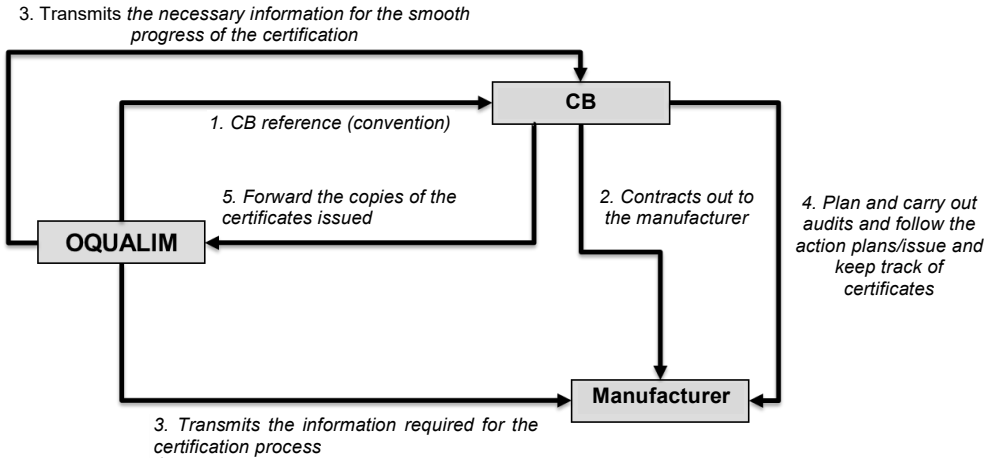


Diagram 1: tripartite relationship

I.3. Commitment by the parties

a) The company's commitment

The company signs a contract with a certification body (CB) referenced by OQUALIM in accordance with chapter III.1 (see section IV.1 on the company's commitments as part of the contract with the CB).

Prior to the audit, the manufacturer or the group of companies indicates to the CB that it provides compound feed (as defined by regulations) and that it wishes to be audited in accordance with ST2E requirements.

b) The CB's commitment

The certification body signs an agreement with OQUALIM in which it undertakes to:

- exclusively appoint competent auditors trained in ST2E requirements (see chap III.3);
- sign a contract with its candidate customer indicating the ST2E certification;
- guarantee the completion of the ST2E audits in compliance with this protocol and the indicated requirements.
- Transmit the name of the companies contracting with the CB for the ST2E certification to OQUALIM

c) OQUALIM's commitment

OQUALIM undertakes to:

- provide the referenced CBs and candidate companies for certification with all documents required for conducting the ST2E audits;
- inform the CBs and manufacturers of any amendments to the system at least 3 months before they enter into application;
- for each CB, keep an updated list of their RCNA reference contact and qualified auditors for auditing the ST2E;
- regularly offer qualifying training sessions for auditors, and training sessions for companies;
- guarantee the confidentiality of the transmitted audit reports.

II. Management of the protocol

II.1. Documentary structure

Management of the approach is based on three key documents:

1. The RCNA or reference standard recognised as equivalent by OQUALIM, describing the requirements applicable to the companies involved in the manufacturing of animal feed and the "Environmental Footprint Technical Platform" (ST2E);
2. The RCNA certification Protocol describing the conditions under which the compliance certification can by issued, along with this document;
3. The audit check list listing the requirements of the RCNA and ST2E to guide the auditor in the compliance assessment

List of applicable documents:

Titles
Animal Nutrition Certification Reference (RCNA) or a reference standard recognised as equivalent
"Environmental Footprint Technical Platform" (ST2E)
RCNA Certification Protocol
ST2E Certification protocol
RCNA and ST2E audit grids

II.2 Diffusion of the documents

All updated documents are available on OQUALIM's internet site: www.oqualim.com .

All companies and CBs committed to ST2E certification have access to these documents online.

II.3 Revisions and updates

A review of the Protocol and the associated documents may be triggered at any time by OQUALIM, for example due to:

- a major change in the regulatory, normative or economic context;
- the conclusions of the analysis of results of an audit campaign (recurrent non compliance...);
- …

When an amendment takes place, the following version highlights the amendments. Each update is subject to a communication send to the companies and CBs by any means.

III. Requirements with regard to certification bodies

III.1. Initial qualification of the auditors

OQUALIM organises the qualification of the auditors.

To be approved, auditors must meet the requirements below:

- be qualified on OQUALIM "RCNA" certification or the certification recognised as equivalent by OQUALIM or follow a preliminary training session lasting 0.5 days, delivered by OQUALIM, on the animal nutrition profession;
- have followed the training course organised by OQUALIM of 1 day remotely (2 x 0,5 d) on the context associated to the environmental footprint, on ST2E requirements and the audit grid.

Each of the requirements above is subject to relevant, stored records in compliance with the provisions stipulated by the CB's procedures.

III.2. Maintaining auditor qualification

To guarantee a satisfactory level of audit relevance, each auditor must comply with the following requirements in order to maintain his/her qualification:

- carry out at least 2 ST2E audits per year;
- take part in all knowledge updating training courses.

IV. The certification process

IV.1. Commitment by the companies

The certification body (CB) must ensure that the following elements, as a minimum, are included as requirements in the contract signed between the company and the CB:

- Full collaboration of the company during the audits;
- Communication to the CB of all significant modifications to the product manufacturing process;
- Explicit commitment to comply at all times with the requirements of the ST2E and to inform the CB if exceptional circumstances prevent compliance with the ST2E;

- When non compliance is noted by the CB, the company undertakes to take the necessary measures within the time period validated by the CB;
- If the ST2E certificate is suspended, removed or cancelled, the company is no longer authorised, in whatever way, to refer to this certificate.
- If the RCNA certificate or the certificate recognised as equivalent is suspended, removed or cancelled, the company is no longer authorised, in whatever way, to refer to these certificates (RCNA or certificate recognised as equivalent and ST2E).

IV.2. Audit dimensioning and planning

a) Audit frequency

By default, and once the certification has been granted, audits take place on an annual basis.

b) Scope of the certification

The scope of the certification and any exclusions (list of formulas concerned) must be communicated to the CB within a reasonable time frame prior to the audit.

c) Duration of audits

Audits may be combined with other types of audits; however sufficient time must be provided by the CB to carry out an in-depth, reliable assessment of compliance with the ST2E requirements.

The additional duration to carry out the ST2E audit is a minimum of 0.25 days per site or group of companies excluding the reporting time.

d) Combining audits

ST2E audit may be combined with an RCNA audit or equivalent.

IV.3. Conducting audits

a) Programming and conducting the audit

The CB plans and schedules and the auditor carries out his audit in accordance with the CB procedures and the requirements from the standards ISO19011, ISO 17065.

In addition to the good practices of auditing for which he has been trained, the CB will ensure that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Make sure that all the ST2E items are audited at every audit including all follow-up audits.
- In any follow-up audits, focus on the items of non-compliance pointed out during the previous audit.
- In the conclusion, the auditor clearly notes all the deviations, minor or major, found during the audit.
- The CB procedures must foresee the documented validation of the audit report by the audited client/company.
- When an audit is carried out after a suspension, particular attention must be paid in priority to the plans of action.

The technical review of the report is performed by a staff member having skills as equivalent as an auditor, but which cannot be the auditor who audited the site.

The audit realization will follow the method described in the ISO 9001 standard and consist to:

- Check the implemented organization to respect the ST2E requirements
- Check the compliance with the methodologies defined for calculating the carbon impacts (primary data, secondary data) of feed materials, transport and manufacturing sites included in the scope,
- Check the conformity of at least one range of formulas.
- Check the compliance with communication procedures

b) Classification of deviations / Vigilance points

Examples of major and minor deviations and vigilance points are provided in the ST2E audit grid.

Major deviation

- non compliance with a regulatory requirement;
- deviation that could have a significant impact on the environmental claims communicated
- failure to take into account a requirement in the reference standard;
- minor deviation that is repeated from one audit to another.

Minor deviation

- deviation without questioning the environmental claims communicated;
- a requirement in the reference standard that is only partially taken into account,
- documentary deviation.

Vigilance points

- deviation without questioning the environmental claims communicated;

Assigning Discrepancies to Requirements and Listing Rules Audit items must be formulated in an objective, precise, factual and verifiable manner.

They must clearly identify the relevant requirement, the nature of the non-conformity observed, the associated evidence, and the potential or actual consequences for the compliance of the audited system.

Where an item may relate to several requirements of the standard, the auditor must analyses the content and purpose of each of the relevant requirements to attribute the non-conformity to the most appropriate requirement.

In order to determine the applicable requirement and the rating level for the deviation, the auditor takes the following factors into account, amongst others:

- the risk posed by the observed situation;
- the potential or actual impact on feed safety regulatory compliance, product quality or process control;
- the level of non-compliance with the relevant requirement;
- the punctual, recurring, or systemic nature of the situation;
- the possible existence of a substantial lack of control.

Prevention of double punishment

The same situation must not lead to an unjustified double penalty. Where an item is linked to more than one requirement, the auditor must ensure that each selected deviation is justified by an objective specific to the requirement in question.

The same justification cannot be used in an identical manner to list several requirements related to the same situation. Each deviation must be justified with regard to the requirement to which it is attached, its specific impact and the available evidence.

When the observed situation justifies the rating of a major or critical deviation, this rating must be assigned to the requirement that best reflects the nature and seriousness of the non-compliance. Other requirements that may be affected can only be listed separately if their non-compliance is demonstrated and if their specific impact justifies it.

A major or critical deviation may be selected when there is evidence of an impact, potential or proven, on feed safety, regulatory compliance, customer requirements, or when a substantial failure in the control system is observed.

Example:

Discrepancy found: Lack of control over the *salmonell*a hazard at the bulk receiving stage.

Evidence: Presence of volatile droppings on the pit before a truck was unloaded

Non-conformity that can be assigned to the following chapters:

- 3.5.6 Risk analysis according to the HACCP methodology – Non-Compliance No. XXX
- 4.5.2 Pest control cf. NC n° XXX
- 5.1.1 Reception of incoming materials cf. NC n° XXX.

Given the nature of the deviation and its impact on feed safety, the deviation must be assigned to requirement 3.5.6, a reference to this deviation may be taken up in requirements 4.5.2 and 5.1.1.

In the checklist, indicate C = compliant and in the comment field systematically mention: "Partially compliant" with reference to NC No. XXX + any other comment deemed useful by the auditor.

In the audit grid

In the checklist if a situation is partially compliant with supporting evidence: indicate C = compliant and in the comment field systematically mention: "Partially compliant" with the reference to NC No. XXX + any proof of partial compliance and, if applicable, any other comment deemed useful by the auditor.

c) Issue and processing of the report

In addition to the documentary supports provided by the CB, the audit report must contain the following content:

- The completed ST2E check-list: each item must be subject to a written observation of compliance or non-compliance « C, Min, Maj, NA » and « auditor observation » columns completed). If a non-compliance (major or minor) is issued, the compliance observation is « Min, Maj » and the non-compliance indication is reported into the « observation » column.
- The action plan monitoring support from the audit grid.

The CB will transmit the audit report to OQUALIM.

IV.4. Monitoring of action plans and sanctions

The consequences of the different levels of observations on the audit result are summarised in the table below:

Type of non compliance observed	*Quantities*	*Consequences*
Major	≥ 1	Communication to the CB of the elements that enable the deviation(s) to be removed within 60 days and before the expiry date of the certificate. Any major deviation that has not been removed blocks the issue of the certificate or suspends it. If the CB considers it necessary, an additional audit may be conducted to check the effectiveness of certain actions.
Minor	≥ 1	Communication of an action plan within 60 days, for which the CB validates the relevance. The effectiveness of this action plan will be checked at the next audit, and the deviation removed if this is the case.

The maximum duration of suspension of an operator may not exceed 4 months before the certificate is removed.

Any suspension, removal or cancellation of the RCNA certificate or equivalent will lead to the suspension, removal or cancellation of the ST2E certificate.

IV.5. Management of certificates

Once all non-compliant items have been rectified and the audit report closed, the person responsible for the audit recommends the site for certification. The file is checked and validated in a technical review. The certification body decides the certification.

A certificate is then issued, stating:

- the corporate name of the certified company and its address;
- the scope of the certified activities;
- the concerned site and its address;
- the date of the original certification, which is the date of the first certification decision;
- the expiry date of the certificate;
- the renewal date of the certificate;
- the certificate number.

The CB sends an original certificate to the audited company and provides a copy to OQUALIM.

Certificate templates can be found in Appendix 1.

The CB issues the audited company with a declaration of completion of the monitoring audit and provides a copy to OQUALIM. Declaration templates can be found in Appendix 2.

IV.6. Communication and confidentiality

OQUALIM keeps an updated list of certified companies. This list is published on OQUALIM's internet site for public access: www.oqualim.com.

The following information is published for each company:

- the corporate name of the certified company and the list of sites covered by a multi-site certificate if applicable;
- the address of the certified company or the head office in the event of multi-site certification;
- the expiry date of the certificate.

OQUALIM guarantees the confidential nature of the information obtained from the CB and the company at all levels of its organisation, within the limits of this protocol. Unless otherwise stipulated in this document, no confidential information on an CB or determined company may be communicated to a third party without the written authorisation of the CB or concerned company.

If disclosure of information to a third party becomes mandatory, the CB or company is kept informed about the communicated information.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 : ST2E certificate template
- Appendix 2 : ST2E declaration template

Appendix 1 – ST2E certificate template for feed manufacturer

CERTIFICAT

Free area reserved for the identification and logo of the certification body

Attest that, the control of Technical Base Environmental Footprint (ST2E) on ../.../...

The company or group of companies: Name and location of the company or group of companies

For the production(s) site(s) located at ……..

Meets the requirements of the OQUALIM Technical Base

« Environmental Footprint » (ST2E)

OQUALIM certification standard current version

For the activities of producing and placing on the market of [select : *compound feed,*

This certificate is valid from ../../…. to ../../….

N° of certificate :

(Its validity can be checked on the website www.oqualim.com*)*

Delivered in ……

Name and visa of the person in charge for the CB

Appendix 2 – ST2E declaration template

Free area reserved for the identification and logo of the certification body

Attest that, monitoring audit performed on (include dates).....,

The company or the group of companies

Name and full address of the company or the group of companies

For the production(s) site(s) located in …..

Meets the requirements
Technical Base "Environmental footprint" (ST2E), current version

N° of certificate (issued following the initial decision) :

(Its validity can be checked on the website www.oqualim.com)

Delivered in……
Name and visa of the person in charge for the CB

Free area reserved to CB's contact details and additionnal informations