

	Environmental record-keeping
	The MPS-ABC Certification Standard with usage recording in the MPS record-keeping tool applies.
	GAP
G1.1	The grower must ensure that outsourced activities (such as contract workers) comply with the criteria of this standard that are relevant to the services provided.
G1.2	The grower must conduct at least one annual self-assessment/internal audit in accordance with the standard. The self-assessment must be documented.
G1.3	Nonconformities following the self-assessment must be addressed with effective corrective measures.
G1.4	The person making decisions about crop protection agent and fertiliser applications (type, quantities, timing etc.) must be able to demonstrate their competence and must have up-to-date knowledge (access to technical literature, specific training, valid relevant spraying license etc.). An external advisor must demonstrate competence in this field by means of official qualifications or certificates of participation in specific training courses.
G2.1	All products must be traceable to and from the location where they are produced, processed and (if applicable) purchased.
G3.1	Records of crop protection agents used by the suppliers of starting material (which crop protection agents/how much/when) can be requested. This can be in the form of: - Supplier agreement - The supplier's GAP or equivalent certification Not applicable to perennials.



G3.2	<p>Products purchased without GAP certification must be grown by the grower for at least three months before they can be sold as certified production. (In case of a shorter growth cycle: if the growth cycle is shorter than three months, the crops must be grown by the grower for at least two-thirds of the growth cycle. The growing period begins with sowing seeds, planting cuttings or placing propagation material in water.) The following applies specifically to flower bulbs: Flower bulbs that are purchased and sold as bulbs must be certified. Flower bulbs purchased for propagation (to produce more bulbs) do not need to be certified. Flower bulbs purchased for the production of cut flowers or flowering bulbs (potted plants) must be grown by the grower during the transition period (three months or two-thirds of the growth cycle). This period also includes preparation of the bulbs, such as in warm and cold areas, and production in greenhouses.</p>
G4.1	<p>The producer must look after the soil using techniques that improve or maintain the soil structure and avoid soil compaction and erosion.</p>
G4.2	<p>Where chemical soil decontamination products are used, there must be documented justification for this.</p>
G4.3	<p>Substrate may not originate from nature reserves. Evidence must be available in the form of a supplier's declaration, or the substrate must be certified by RHP as an environmentally sound source.</p>
G4.4	<p>Where substrate is used in production, at least 10% of the volume must be a peat alternative.</p>
G4.5	<p>When applying fertilisers, the needs of the crop must be taken into account to minimise nutrient loss.</p>
G4.6	<p>Fertilisers and biostimulants must be stored in a covered, clean and dry area, in such a way as to prevent cross-contamination and reduce the risk of environmental pollution.</p>
G5.1	<p>For water use, valid permits/licenses must be in place where legally required.</p>
G5.2	<p>The restrictions in water permits/licenses must be complied with.</p>
	<p>Not applicable if not specified.</p>

G6.1	<p>There must be a documented integrated pest management (IPM) plan describing the measures used at the grower level to control the relevant pests, diseases and weeds affecting the registered crop(s).</p> <p>The grower must use the results of the IPM plan to learn and to improve the plan whenever changes are made to it.</p> <p>The IPM plan must include images for each pest showing how to recognise the pest, symptoms on an affected plant, a description of the life cycle and the ideal conditions for reproduction of the pest.</p> <p>The plan must include possible preventive measures and measures to prevent the build-up of resistance to crop protection agents (e.g. rotating the modes of action of crop protection agents).</p> <p>The IPM plan must include the economic damage threshold for each pest. The business must keep records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> '- The preventive measures taken '- The pest control methods used and the inspections performed. <p>Chemical and non-chemical interventions must be logged. The justification of the interventions must be logged and must be in line with the established damage thresholds. The strategy followed must prevent the build-up of resistance to crop protection agents. Implementation of the IPM plan will be verified.</p>
G6.2	<p>Anti-resistance recommendations must be followed to maintain the effectiveness of the available crop protection agents.</p>
G7.1	<p>Crop protection agents and other treatments must be applied correctly and as recommended on the product label.</p>
G7.2	<p>The grower must take measures to prevent the spread of crop protection agents to neighbouring plots.</p>
G7.3	<p>Surplus application mixtures or tank rinse water must be disposed of responsibly.</p> <p>Applying surplus spray and tank rinse water to the crop is the first method of disposal, provided that the total label dose is not exceeded. Disposal must not endanger the safety of workers and the environment. Chemically contaminated wastewater must not be allowed to enter the open environment, such as in soil or surface water.</p>
G7.4	<p>Crop protection agents, biocontrol agents and other treatment products, as well as crop protection and fertilisation equipment, must be stored in a covered, clean and dry area, in such a way as to prevent cross-contamination and reduce the risk of environmental pollution. There must also be provisions for containing and managing spilled material.</p>
G7.5	<p>An accident procedure must be posted near the crop protection agent/chemical store.</p>



G7.6	Facilities must be available for dealing with contamination of the person applying the product, such as eye wash facilities, a source of clean water and an appropriately equipped first aid kit near the workplace.
G7.7	Employees applying crop protection agents must have access to health checks to ensure that risks associated with exposure to and toxicity of products are managed.
G7.8	Instructions on labels regarding re-entry times must be followed. If these are not stated on the label, this information must be obtained from the safety data sheet or the manufacturer.
G7.9	Crop protection agents must be mixed and handled in accordance with the labelling.
G7.10	<p>Empty crop protection agent containers must be dealt with as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They must be triple-rinsed with water prior to storage and disposal. The rinse water must be disposed of responsibly to minimise environmental risk. In regions where there is a risk that the packaging will be used to transport drinking water, containers must be punctured before disposal. - Reuse for purposes other than containing and transporting identical products must be avoided. - They must be stored safely until they can be disposed of. - They must be disposed of responsibly to minimise risk to humans and the environment. - All local regulations governing the disposal or destruction of crop protection agent containers must be followed.
G7.11	Obsolete crop protection agents must be stored safely, identified and disposed of through authorised channels.
G7.12	Equipment, tools and devices (scales, application equipment for crop protection agents or fertilisers, thermometers, pH meters etc.) must be fit for purpose, maintained and routinely checked.
G8.1	Waste products and sources of pollution must be identified. Waste must be separated and disposed of properly.
G8.2	Storage areas for diesel and other fuel oil tanks must be environmentally safe.
G8.3	Organic waste must be managed properly to minimise the risk of environmental pollution. It must either be composted and used for soil improvement, using a composting method that minimises the risk of cross-contamination of pests, diseases or weeds, or recycled at another location where the risks of environmental pollution are managed.



G9.1	<p>Biodiversity must be protected, for example by means of one or more of the following practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing measures to limit the potential negative impact of artificial lighting on biodiversity, especially at night (e.g. screens or painted glass that help limit the potential impact on migratory birds or other nocturnal biodiversity) - Implementing measures that help reduce the visual impact of glass/plastic greenhouses as non-natural elements in the landscape (e.g. living fences/hedges with native plants or flowers) - Seasonal set-aside or green manures - Creating shelters for beneficial predators - Leaving habitats open near fields or greenhouses - Creating buffer zones along aquatic ecosystems and between production areas or implementing other water management practices - Promoting soil health and biodiversity in the soil through crop rotation, reduced- or no-till farming, erosion control and/or other soil management practices - Implementing species protection measures. <p>Measures should be proportionate to the size of the business.</p>
G10.1	Accident and emergency procedures must be displayed and understood by the employees.
G10.2	Warning signs must indicate all potential hazards and emergency exits and must be understood by the employees.
G10.3	The grower must know where to find safety advice for substances hazardous to the health and safety of workers.
G10.4	First aid kits must be available at all permanent locations and fields in the vicinity of the work.
G10.5	Employees, visitors and subcontractors must be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) based on identified risks and must use it.
G10.6	Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be properly maintained and stored so that it does not pose a risk of contamination of personal belongings.

	Social (this entire paragraph will not be audited and is not mandatory until further notice)
S1.1	<p>The company must have a signed Self-declaration covering the International Labour Organisation (ILO) fundamental principles regarding workers' rights: Child Labour, Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Forced Labour and Health and Safety of Workers.</p> <p>This Self-declaration must be made available to employees.</p>
S1.2	The grower must inform employees of at least one channel/way of filing complaints about the business.
S1.3	The working conditions of the certificate holder must comply with national labour laws and regulations.
S1.4	No discrimination in staff recruitment.
S1.5	No discrimination in wages and working conditions.
S1.6	Wages and overtime pay must comply with national legislation and/or collective labour agreements, whichever offers employees greater protection.
S1.7	Employment contracts for at least the last 24 months must be available.
S1.8	Employment contracts must be signed by both the employee and the employer.
S1.9	<p>There must be a contract between the grower and the subcontractor (for example an employment agency). This must demonstrate that the working conditions for subcontracted employees are at least in accordance with the sector's collective labour agreement.</p> <p>The contract must be understood by the employee (language).</p>
S1.10	<p>The contract between the grower and employee must include the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name - Nationality - Date of birth - Contract date - Type of contract - General terms of employment - Normal working hours - Pay - Period of employment <p>The grower must keep a copy of the employee's ID document.</p>



S1.11	<p>Payslips must be available and must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working hours (regular and overtime) - Salary - Net amount to be received
S1.12	All employees must be paid directly, in full, on time and regularly.
S1.13	<p>Employees' working hours must be recorded and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time in and out - Confirmation by employees
S1.14	Regular working hours, break times and overtime must comply with the collective labour agreement or national regulations, whichever offers employees greater protection.
S1.15	Annual leave must comply with national legislation or the collective labour agreement, whichever offers employees greater protection.
S1.16	All employees must have access to clean drinking water and clean water for washing hands during the workday.
S1.17	During the workday, employees must have access to toilets at a reasonable distance from the workplace and in hygienic conditions.
S1.18	Accommodation and facilities for employees must be safe, hygienic and clean.
S1.19	Transport offered by the employer must be safe.
S1.20	Employees must have access to clean facilities for taking breaks.
S1.21	All the work at the participating company must be organised in such a way that it does not endanger the health and safety of the employees. This must be based on a health and safety risk assessment.
S1.22	If the grower employs minors, their working hours and duties must comply with local labour laws, be suitable for their age and not interfere with their school obligations.
S1.23	All employees must receive basic health and safety training in accordance with the health and safety risk assessment on starting their employment and thereafter at least every 4 years.
S1.24	Employees handling hazardous substances and operating dangerous or complex equipment must be competent and have the legally required training, and operating instructions must be available.
S1.25	There must be at least one person trained in first aid. There must always be a trained person present or available at the company.