Guideline

QS-Soy^{plus}

Version: 01.01.2026

Contents

1 Fundamentals

The implementation of the requirements of the Guideline QS-Soy^{plus} offers companies in the feed sector the opportunity to continuously improve the responsible procurement of soybeans/-products (hereinafter referred to as soy).

For the purposes of this guideline, the term QS-Soy^{plus} refers to soybeans that have been cultivated and certified according to certain specifications. These include the exclusion of legal and illegal deforestation and conversion as well as other areas worthy of protection, such as grasslands, wetlands, swamps, bogs, savannahs, steep slopes and riparian areas. Other ecological, social and economic criteria are also taken into account. This is ensured through certification of soya bean cultivation in accordance with Annex 4.2.

The prerequisite for the participation of feed companies in the additional module QS-Soy^{plus} is QS certification at the stage feed sector. The audit is carried out on a site-specific basis.

The requirements of this guideline apply independently of the legal requirements of the EU Regulation on deforestation-free supply chains (EUDR).

1.1 Scope

The scope of this guideline includes feed traders starting with the collectors, compound feed producers and feed material producers who trade, process or handle soybeans/-products or feed containing soybean products. The soybeans/-products falling within the scope of this guideline are listed in Annex 4.1. The requirements of this guideline apply to all origins (country of cultivation) of soybeans.

- Feed production
  - Compound feed production (production scope 71)
  - Feed material production (production scope 72)
  - Small scale producer (production scope 73)
- Private Labelling (production scope 74)
- Trade of feed
  - Trade (production scope 76)
  - Trading activities of operators of mobile milling and mixing plants (production scope 75)
  - Trading activities of small-scale feed material producer (production scope 73)

Excluded from the scope are the feed additive and premix production, storage and transshipment as well as the transport of feed. Contract manufacturing or contract drying as a pure service are also excluded, provided that all responsibilities in relation to these guidelines lie with the client.

The primary agricultural production (soybean cultivation) does not fall into the scope of this guideline. To this, the requirements of the recognized standards according to Annex 4.2 of this guideline apply.

1.2 Labelling

Soybeans, feed material (processed products of and from soybeans) and components of soy in compound feed are labelled with *QS-Soy^{plus}* if they meet the requirements of this guideline. Feed may only be labelled with *QS-Soy^{plus}* if 100 % of the soy it contains complies with the requirements of this guideline. In compound feed, only the soy (according to Annex 4.1) used in the product may be labelled *QS-Soy^{plus}*; the certification does not apply to other feed ingredients.

In addition to the claim *QS-Soy^{plus}*, the supply chain model (IP, SEG, MB or B&C) applied must be mentioned on the shipping documents within the feed sector for feed material made from soybeans (Annex 4.1) to enable customers to carry out their own accounting. It should be noted that it is not possible to upgrade the supply chain model (e.g. from MB to SEG products) and that certain specifications must be observed when downgrading.

***Note**: Examples for specifying the supply chain model when mixing goods from different supply chain models ('downgrade') can be found in the FAQs for the Guideline QS-Soy^{plus}.*

In case of delivering feed material directly to livestock farmers, the supply chain model can be omitted, as farmers do not have to carry out any accounting.

***Note**: Traders who purchase products according to Annex 4.2 or 4.3 can label the product with QS-Soy^{plus} or keep the original labeling.*

In the case of compound feed, the claim *QS-Soy*^{plus} must be applied, but not the supply chain model (see Figure 1).

***Note**: Examples for the labelling of QS-Soy*^{plus} *can be found in the Explanation: Labelling of feed as QS -products.*

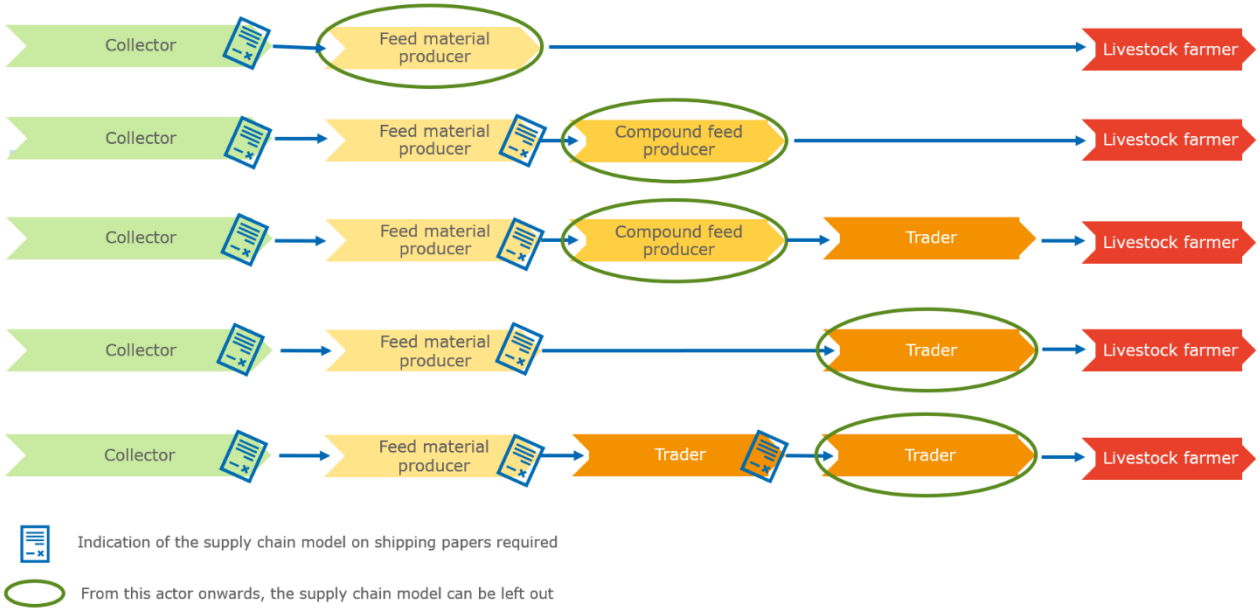

Figure 1: Indication of the supply chain model

2 Requirements QS-Soy^{plus}

2.1 General requirements

The basis for a transparent and comprehensible way of working in the company is the integration of the requirements of this guideline into the company's existing quality management system. The following principles should be applied:

- Clear articulation of the tasks to be fulfilled
- Definition of responsibilities, competences, and interfaces
- Provision of necessary resources
- Monitoring the implementation of processes and evaluating their success

2.1.1 Responsibilities and human resources

A responsible person or department in the company must be appointed for the handling of QS-Soy^{plus}. The tasks include the

- supervision of all topics and processes for the fulfilment of the requirements named in this guideline.
- information of the management on the conformity of processes and products with this guideline and on any nonconformities.
- augmentation of awareness among company employees about the handling of QS-Soy^{plus}-products.

The responsible person or department must have knowledge of the handling of QS-Soy^{plus} and the requirements of this guideline. The responsible person or department must be documented.

2.1.2 Trainings

Staff involved in implementing the requirements of this guideline must be capable of doing so based on appropriate education, training and competencies. External staff (e.g., temporary workers) must also be taken into account. The company shall provide regular training to staff to raise awareness of any adjustments. Records of training must be kept. Training requirements are reviewed at least every 12 months and the outcome documented.

2.1.3 [K.O.] Documentation

To enable systematic and consistent control of the relevant processes, the company must ensure adequate documentation and keep it up to date. The company must store all documents relevant to the implementation of the requirements of this guideline. These are, for example, audit reports, purchase and sales documents, records of staff trainings, quantities produced, and quantity balances associated with QS-Soy^{plus}. The retention period shall be at least 3 years unless longer retention periods are specified by law.

For this purpose,

- designations must be comprehensible
- appropriate formats and media are being used
- the suitability of the documentation is checked, and the documents are approved by the responsible team/department.

2.1.4 Commissioning of third parties

Where necessary, when engaging service providers, for example for storage or transport, the company must demonstrably ensure that the requirements of this guideline for the products are being taken into account. This applies especially for requirements regarding the separation of products for IP- und SEG-products.

⇒ 2.8.1 Separation of products/Identity preservation

⇒ 2.9.1 Separation of products/ Segregation

2.1.5 Supplier evaluation

The company must take into account the standard (according to Annex 4.2 and 4.3) and, if applicable, the supply chain model in its supplier evaluation system.

There shall be a documented procedure for dealing with violations of the contractual agreements regarding the supply of QS-Soy^{plus} (or products according to Annex 4.2 or 4.3). There shall be a scheme for blocking and releasing suppliers.

2.1.6 [K.O.] Traceability

Products that are traded, processed, or handled as QS-Soy^{plus} within the scope of this guideline must be traceable, including the applied supply chain model.

2.1.7 Incident management

A responsible contact person for critical incidents related to QS-Soy^{plus} must be named in the QS database (“Crisis manager Sustainability”).

In the case of critical incidents such as

- nonconformities in the sourcing, production, or marketing of QS-Soy^{plus}in the company and in the supply chain (sustainable fraud),
- media research, critical media reports or public protests/NGO campaigns on issues of sustainable primary production or processing of soy; or
- occurrences related to QS-Soy^{plus} that may result in reputational damage to the company, the product, or QS,

the company must inform QS immediately. For this purpose, the incident, probable causes as well as planned and implemented measures must be described in a paper of incident. The company must draw up a communication plan for the event, which must always be kept up to date and verified at least every 12 months.

2.2 Evaluations and improvement

2.2.1 Complaint management

The company has a documented process for dealing with complaints about QS-Soy^{plus}. A responsible person in the company must be named to deal with complaints. This must be documented and made transparent to stakeholders.

Corrective actions resulting from complaint management must be implemented and evaluated in order to prevent further complaints of this kind.

Complaints are documented and processed, anonymously if necessary, and are included in the annual management review.

2.2.2 Internal audits

The internal audits resp. self-inspections must verify the implementation of the requirements in this guideline as well as possible corrective actions of previous audits. Possible findings from complaint management must be taken into account. The audit criteria, scope and methods must be defined taking into account previous audit results.

2.2.3 [K.O.] Management review

The top management shall integrate the implementation of the requirements described in this guideline into the management review. At a minimum, this evaluation must include results and findings from supplier evaluation, complaint management and internal audits.

***Note**: Small scale feed materials producers and mobile feed milling and mixing plants are not obliged to prepare a management review.*

2.3 Certification status of suppliers

2.3.1 [K.O.] QS-Soy^{plus} eligibility of delivery of suppliers

At the time of delivery of soy, suppliers must be able to provide evidence of a *QS-Soy^{plus}* eligibility of delivery. This also applies for contract manufacturers if they are (jointly) responsible for the procurement of raw materials.

Exceptions to the QS-Soy^{plus} eligibility of delivery only apply to gate-keeping (see Guideline Feed Sector Annex 9.2), when purchasing directly from farmers (soybean cultivation) and when purchasing packaged products via traders.

***Note:** All QS-Soy^{plus} eligible companies are published in the scheme participant search at www.qs-plattform.de. Farmers from whom soybeans are purchased are not published in the scheme participant search. Proof of certification in accordance with Annex 4.2 is sufficient.*

⇒ 2.4.1 Purchase of unprocessed soybeans

2.4 Purchase of QS-Soy^{plus} compliant Soy (IP, SEG, MB, B&C)

For the certification of this guideline, the purchase of QS-Soy^{plus} compliant products is required. Depending on the degree of processing of the products, different constellations arise as to which requirements apply to the purchase of products (see chapters 2.4.1 to 2.4.3). As an alternative to purchasing QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products a company can also purchase products that are not certified in accordance with annex 4.2 and offset these by purchasing certificates (Book&Claim). Further information on this can be found in chapter 2.5.

2.4.1 Purchase of unprocessed soybeans

If the company sources soybeans, these must be certified to a QS-recognised standard for soybean production (primary production) in accordance with Annex 4.2.

Contractual agreements on this must be made with the suppliers.

2.4.2 Procurement of processed products from soybeans (feed material)

If the company purchases feed materials (processed products from soybeans according to Annex 4.1), these must be certified against *QS-Soy^{plus}* or certified against a recognized standard according to Annex 4.2.

Contractual agreements on this must be made with the suppliers.

⇒ Supply chain model-specific requirements are explained in chapters 2.8 to 2.11.

2.4.3 Purchase of compound feed

If the company purchases compound feed, the soybean products contained must be QS-Soy^{plus} certified or certified according to a recognized standard according to Annex 4.2. Contractual agreements must be made with the suppliers in this regard.

⇒ Supply chain model-specific requirements are explained in chapters 2.8 to 2.11.

2.5 Purchase of non-QS-Soy^{plus} compliant Soy

Products that are not yet QS-Soja^{plus} compliant can be offset by purchasing certificates (Book & Claim). This is at least possible until 31.12.2026.

Application of Book&Claim is only possible for soy from companies that do not have a QS-Soy^{plus} eligibility of delivery (Gate-Keeping). Companies with a QS-Soy^{plus} eligibility of delivery must deliver QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products. This can only be deviated from if it is agreed in writing between customer and supplier that the customer will compensate the products.

***Note**: QS-certified Livestock farmers must be supplied with QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products.*

2.5.1 [K.O.] Purchase of credits

The company must purchase quantity-related certificates for all soybeans and feed materials (according to Annex 4.1) that are not QS-Soy^{plus} compliant via a standard recognised by QS for Book&Claim (according to Annex 4.2). The requirements of the respective standard for the purchase of certificates must be complied with. The credits must be used to offset an equivalent quantity of non-QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant soy. Further requirements that must be complied with when using Book&Claim are explained in chapter 2.11.

⇒ Chapter 2.11: Book&Claim

If certificates are purchased for products from suppliers eligible to deliver QS-Soy^{plus}, a written agreement must be in place.

2.6 Handling of soy

2.6.1 Verification of shipping papers for incoming products

All soy must be clearly and article-related labelled as *QS-Soy^{plus}* (or in accordance with a recognized standard as per Annex 4.2 or 4.3). In addition, in the case of soybeans and feed material (in accordance with Annex 4.1), the supply chain model must be included and labelled along with the products. The company must check whether the soy delivered complies with these requirements. Soy that is not clearly labelled may not be used for further processing or labelling with *QS-Soy^{plus}*.

This requirement does not apply to companies that compensate purchased soy with credits.

Pure delivery traders must ensure that the soy they purchase is labelled QS-Soy^{plus} compliant on the shipping papers.

2.6.2 Labelling of outgoing products

All soybeans, feed materials (according to Annex 4.1) and compound feed containing soy according to Annex 4.1 must be clearly and article-related labelled on the shipping papers (e.g., delivery note) according to chapter 1.2.

The soy component in compound feed may only be labelled with *QS-Soy^{plus}*, if 100% of the soy it contains complies with the requirements of this guideline.

Pure delivery traders must ensure that the recipients of QS-products receive correctly labelled shipping papers.

Note: *The definition of a shipping paper can be found in the Guideline Feed Sector. The labelling can therefore also be sent to the recipient of the products before delivery.*

Note: *If the supplier has already carried out labelling in accordance with a recognised standard as per Annex 4.2 or 4.3, a trader does not have to additionally label with QS-Soy^{plus}.*

2.6.3 [K.O.] Material accounting system

The company must systematically collect all incoming products (inputs) and outgoing products (outputs) of QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products as well as soy that the company would like to compensate with credits and be able to plausibly trace them at any time. Quantities of input (volumes or weight) must be entered in the material accounting system with its supply chain model as soon as ownership of the products has passed to the company.

In the Identity Preserved (IP) and Segregation (SEG) supply chain models, outputs must be deducted according to the physical quantity outflow of IP or segregated certified products in the material accounting system.

The company must draw up annual volume summaries for all QS-Soy^{plus}labbeled products. For this purpose, records must be kept up to date continuously in volumes or weight of the quantities with the following contents:

Feed manufacturer

- Quantities of inputs,
- Quantities of processed inputs,

- Quantities of inputs that have not yet been processed (stocks),
- Quantities of outputs delivered containing these raw materials (production),
- Stocks of outputs containing these raw materials

Feed traders (bulk and packed)

- Quantities of incoming products,
- Quantities of outgoing products
- Stocks

Continuous records must also be kept on credits purchased to compensate soy. The material accounting system must show which quantities were compensated by which credits.

Information in the material accounting system must be transparent and accessible to relevant employees.

Note: *Traders of already QS-Soy^{plus} compliant compound feed do not have to carry out a balancing of inputs and outputs for the quantities of soy contained therein. This does not apply to traders who compensate for the soy in the compound feed with credits themselves.*

2.6.4 Conversion factors

All steps that result in a change of the raw material volume or weight of the soy must be identified and documented (e.g., toasting, crushing, drying). Changes in quantity (in volume or weight) of the soy products resulting from treatment or processing must be registered. This must either be calculated using a conversion factor or determined using actual weight measurements. If it is not possible to take a measurement at each processing step, this can also be done for the entire process.

The calculation methodology for conversion factors must be specified. For the determination of a conversion factor, all calculations that determine the percentage distribution / conversion must be documented in a transparent and comprehensible manner.

The company can calculate and determine the conversion factor itself. The calculation must be based on the company's experience and available data.

The conversion factor must be reviewed at least annually and recalculated in the event of relevant changes affecting the production processes.

2.7 Centrally organized purchasing for companies with several sites

2.7.1 Requirements for centrally organized purchasing

If a company has several trade or production sites, these sites can also organize the purchase of soy via the main location. The main location and the trade or production sites must have been audited against this guideline and must have an eligibility of delivery.

Quantity increases and decreases must be traceable and verifiable for each site (see chapter 2.6.3).

For the supply chain models Mass Balance (MB) and Book&Claim (B&C), one material accounting system (see chapter 2.10.2 and 2.11.2) can be commonly used for all sites. Volumes in the material accounting system must be balanced for all sites.

2.7.2 Description of responsibilities

If a company organizes purchasing centrally, it must be clearly regulated and documented between the main location and the trade or production sites for which process steps the main location itself is responsible and for which the trade/production sites are responsible. All activities concerning purchasing and the flow of products must be taken into account.

2.7.3 Information flow in case of changes regarding the QS-Soy^{plus} eligibility of delivery

It must be ensured that the parties (main location and other sites) inform each other immediately in case of changes regarding the QS-Soy^{plus} eligibility of delivery.

2.8 Identity Preserved (IP)

The supply chain model Identity Preserved (IP) requires the physical separation of QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant soy from other soy in each batch. This batch-specific separation of products takes place along the entire supply chain and is linked to the physical presence of QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products in the company. Individual batches must be separated from others so that traceability back to the producer(s) is possible.

2.8.1 Separation of products/Identity preservation

Companies that want to market their soy as IP-products must ensure the physical separation of IP-certified soy and non-IP-certified soy. Each batch of IP-certified soy must be accompanied by information on the farm of production. This must be complied with for all processes for which the company is responsible.

2.8.2 Storage management

IP-certified soy must be stored in clearly defined storage silos or storage facilities so that a mix-up with non-IP-certified soy is prevented at all times. To avoid mixing in silos and storage facilities, a procedure to ensure that the silo is empty must be established before a product change.

2.9 Segregation (SEG)

The supply chain model Segregation (SEG) basically requires a physical separation of SEG-certified soy from other soy. This separation of products takes place along the entire supply chain and is linked to the physical presence of the corresponding products in the company. Batch of segregated certified products can be mixed. IP-certified products can be mixed with segregated products while abandoning batch traceability and are then to be considered as segregated.

2.9.1 Separation of products/ Segregation

Companies that want to market their soy as SEG-products must ensure the physical separation of segregated-certified soy and non-segregated-certified soy. This must be complied with for all processes for which the company is responsible.

2.9.2 Storage management

Segregated certified soy must be stored in clearly defined storage silos or storage facilities so that a mix-up with non-segregated certified soy is prevented at all times. To avoid mixing in silos and storage facilities, a procedure to ensure that the silo is empty must be established before a product change.

2.10 Mass Balance (MB)

The supply chain model Mass Balance (MB) is an administrative quantity control of QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products. It can only be used within one company location or for companies with centrally organized purchasing for several sites. Within the supply chain model Mass Balance, the mixing of QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products and other products is possible. There are no requirements for the physical separation of products. In the material accounting system, a balance must be created between the amount of soy inputs and outputs. IP- and segregated-certified products can be mixed with mass-balanced products while abandoning the physical separation of products and are then to be considered as mass-balanced.

***Note**: Mass balancing is recognized until at least 31.12.2026.*

2.10.1 Material Accounting

The collection of mass-balanced soy quantities in the material accounting system must be carried out either via a continuous balancing system or for a fixed inventory period.

- Continuous balancing system:
  - The company must collect the mass-balanced soy physically received (input) by the company and delivered (output) (volumes or weight) in real time. Pure delivery traders must collect this in their accounting system only.
  - The physically present mass-balanced soy quantities (volumes or weight) at the company shall at least equal the quantities collected as mass-balanced soy in the accounting system (not applicable for pure delivery traders).
  - The accounting system must not be negative. Only mass-balanced soy quantities included in the accounting system may be allocated to the company's mass-balanced *QS-Soy^{plus}* outputs.
  - The mass-balanced soy quantities registered in the balancing system are available as mass-balanced soy quantities for a maximum of 24 months after being registered as input. If the company is unable to convert these registered mass-balanced soy quantities into outputs within that time frame, they expire as certified quantities and must be deleted from the accounting system.
- Fixed inventory period:
  - A fixed inventory period corresponds to a maximum period of 12 months. During this period, mass-balanced soybean raw material inputs and outputs can be balanced.

- Overdrawing the mass-balanced soy quantities in the balancing system is only possible if there is proof that a mass-balanced soy input will be contractually secured in the period of the inventory period to compensate for the overdrawn outputs marked as mass-balanced *QS-Soy^{plus}*.
- Mass-balanced outputs that have not been sold in the inventory period can be carried over to the next period. These carried-over quantities must be used within 24 months for mass-balanced *QS-Soy^{plus}* outputs. If this is not done, they expire and must be deleted from the accounting system.
- At the end of the inventory period, the balance sheet must not be negative. Only mass-balanced soy collected in the inventory period or by carry-over from the previous period may be allocated to outputs in that inventory period.

Note: *In case of centrally organized purchasing with several locations, the balancing of inputs and outputs can be carried out by the main location for all locations. Balancing of volumes in the material accounting system must be ensured across all sites (see chapter 2.7.1).*

2.11 Book & Claim (B&C)

The supply chain model Book&Claim is an administrative control of soy,which does not meet the requirements of this guideline and has been compensated with credits or is compensated by the company. With Book&Claim, it is not crucial that QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products soy is sourced. The total amount of soy that has already been compensated from the supplier by credits must be collected and registered in the material accounting system. The same applies to the amount of non-QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant soy as well as to the credits that the company buys to compensate for these amounts of soy. In the material accounting system purchased and sold amounts of soy that have been compensated with the purchase of credits need to be registered and balanced out. There are no requirements for physical separation of the soy. If credits have been allocated to outputs already (e.g., by the supplier), this allocation cannot be undone.

Note*: The compensation of products through the purchase of certificates is recognized until at least 31.12.2026.*

2.11.1 Material Accounting

The collection of Book&Claim soy quantities as well as credits purchased by the company itself in the balancing system must be carried out either via a continuous balancing system or for a fixed inventory period.

- Continuous balancing system:
  - The company must collect the physical Book&Claim soy received (inputs) and delivered (outputs) (volumes or weight) in real time. Pure delivery traders must collect this in their accounting system only.
  - The quantity of Book&Claim soy collected in the accounting system must also be physically present in the company (not applicable for pure delivery traders). The company can also process and sell soy, which does not originate from certified origin according to Annex 4.2 or 4.3 (= not-QS Soy^{plus}-compliant).
  - The company must collect the amount of credits purchased to compensate non-QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant soy in real time.
  - Purchased credits shall be registered in the accounting system according to the specifications of the QS-recognised standards for Book&Claim (in accordance with Annex 4.2) and allocated to non-QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant soy. A credit shall be allocated in the scheme to the corresponding quantity equivalent of outputs labelled as Book&Claim soy.
  - The accounting system must not be overdrawn. Only Book&Claim soy quantities included in the accounting system and credits purchased by the company for non-QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant soy may be allocated to the company's output.
  - If by-products are produced, this must also be applied proportionately to Book&Claim Soy in accordance with the conversion factors of the physical products.
  - The quantities of Book&Claim soy compensated with credits registered in the accounting system can be allocated to physical products retroactively for a maximum of 24 months from the time of input registration. If it is not possible for the company to allocate these registered Book&Claim soy quantities to physical products within that time frame, they expire as certified quantities and must be deleted from the balancing system.
- Fixed inventory period:
  - A fixed inventory period corresponds to a maximum period of 12 months. During this period, Book&Claim soy inputs and outputs can be balanced. By acquiring credits, the company can balance non-QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant inputs within these 12 months and allocate QS-Soy^{plus} Book&Claim quantities to outputs.

- Selling more Book&Claim output than available in the material accounting system is only possible if there is proof that a Book&Claim certified inputs will be contractually secured during that inventory period to compensate for the sold outputs or credits for the corresponding quantity are purchased at the end of the inventory period to balance the quantities in the material accounting system.
- Book&Claim soy that has not been sold in the inventory period can be carried over to the next period. These transferred quantities must be used within 24 months for QS-Soy^{plus} Book&Claim outputs. If this is not done within that time frame, they expire and must be deleted from the accounting system.
- Credits acquired by the company can also be carried over into the next period. However, they are valid from the time of collection in the scheme and can be allocated to QS-Soy^{plus} Book&Claim outputs for a maximum period as specified by the respective QS-recognized standard for Book&Claim (as per Annex 4.2). If it is not possible for the company to allocate these registered credits to physical outputs, they expire from the accounting system and must be deleted.
- At the end of the inventory period, the balance sheet in the material accounting system must not be negative. Only Book&Claim soy quantities that were collected in the inventory period or by transfer from the previous period may be allocated to the QS-Soy^{plus} Book&Claim outputs delivered in this inventory period. Alternatively, at the end of the inventory period, the company must compensate for the overrun quantity by purchasing the corresponding quantity of credits.

***Note**: In case of centrally organized purchasing with several locations, the balancing of inputs and outputs can be carried out by the main location for all locations. Balancing of volumes in the material accounting system must be ensured across all sites (see chapter 2.7.1).*

3 Definitions

3.1 Explanation of symbols

⇒ References to other chapters of the guideline

3.2 Terms and definitions

Term	Meaning
Batch	According to EU Regulation 183/2005, a batch means an identifiable quantity of feed which can be shown to have common characteristics, such as origin, variety, type of packaging, packer, consignor or identification mark; in the case of a production process, a batch means a unit of production from a single plant using uniform production parameters or a number of such units, provided that they are produced in continuous sequence and stored together.
Book&Claim (B&C)	Book&Claim is a supply chain model in which actors trade soy, which does not meet the requirements of this guide, but compensate this by buying certificates (credits).
Identity Preserved (IP)	Identity Preserved is a supply chain model that ensures that soy is traceable in batches. IP products must always be physically separated from other products by batch.
Incoming products	The income of products is in this guideline defined as the moment the ownership of the product has passed to the company.
Lot	A lot can be composed of one or several batches.
Mass Balance (MB)	Mass balancing is a supply chain model in which the actors in the supply chain ensure that the quantity of QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant feed in the outgoing

Term	Meaning
	products delivered to customers does not exceed the quantity of QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant (raw) products received. Physical products must be traded, but there must be no physical separation of products.
Material Accounting System	A Material Accounting System is used as an internal system to collect information on deforestation-free feed (inputs, outputs, storage, etc.). This can be managed in a company's own database.
QS-Soy^{plus}	Processed products of and from soybeans (feed materials according to Annex 4.1 as well as compound feed containing them) which comply with the requirements of this Guideline are designated as *QS-Soy^{plus}*.
QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant	QS-Soy^{plus}-compliant products are products that meet the requirements of this guideline or are certified according to a standard in accordance with Annex 4.2 or 4.3.
Soy	In this guideline, soy is designated as • unprocessed soybeans, • feed materials, • compound feed containing feed materials according to Annex 4.1 .
Segregation (SEG)	Segregation is a supply chain model in which segregated-certified soy is physically separated from another soy in the complete supply chain.
Supply chain model	Supply chain models describe how the flow of products in the supply chain is handled and what each individual supply chain actor must observe and control. These requirements include, for example, requirements for (physical) products separation or traceability of raw materials. This guideline distinguishes between the supply chain models Identity Preserved, Segregation, Mass Balance, and Book&Claim.
Stakeholder	Stakeholders are all persons or groups of stakeholders who have an interest, a share, or certain expectations of a company. Internal stakeholders are the company's employees or shareholders. External stakeholders are suppliers, customers, authorities, NGOs, or communities.

4 Annexes

The following annexes are published as an extract.

4.1 Soybeans/products in the scope of QS-Soy^{plus}
4.2 Recognized standards for the soybean production
4.3 Recognized schemes for the Guideline QS-Soy^{plus} for feed trade and production

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Criterion	Changes	Date of change
Document name	**Change:** The document has been renamed "Guideline QS-Soy^{plus}"	01.01.2026

Guideline
QS-Soy^{plus}

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