



## **ECO-BLOOM™ CERTIFICATION STANDARDS BY CERTIFIED NATURAL, INTERNATIONAL™**

# **THE CERTIFIED NATURAL, INTERNATIONAL™ CERTIFICATION LIST OF ALLOWED AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

### **505.100 Evaluation criteria for allowed and prohibited substances, methods and ingredients**

- a) The following criteria will be utilized in the evaluation of substances or ingredients for natural production and handling: Synthetic and non-synthetic substances considered for inclusion on, or deletion from, the list of allowed or prohibited substances will be evaluated by the Certified Natural, International TM Advisory Board.
- b) In addition, any synthetic substance used as a processing aid or adjuvant will be evaluated against and must meet the following criteria:
  - 1) The substance cannot be produced from a natural source and there are no natural substitutes;
  - 2) The substances manufacture, use and disposal do not have adverse effects on the environment and are done in a manner compatible with natural handling;
  - 3) The nutritional quality of the food is maintained when the substance is used and the substance has no adverse effect on human health;
  - 4) The substances use is not as a preservative or to improve taste, texture or color except where required by law;
  - 5) The substance is essential for the handling or processing of naturally produced agricultural products;
  - 6) The substance does not leave behind measurable residue.
- (c)-(z) Reserved

### **505.101 Substances allowed for use in natural crop production.**

In accordance with restrictions specified in this section, the following substances may be used in certified natural crop production:

- a) As algicide, disinfectants, and sanitizer, including irrigation system cleaning systems:
  - 1) Hydrogen Peroxide
  - 2) Soap-based algicide/demisters
- b) As herbicides, weed barriers, as applicable.
  - 1) Soap-based herbicides
  - 2) Newspaper (without colored ink or glossy pages) mulch
- c) As animal repellants/control

- 1) Soaps
- 2) Sulfur Dioxide – underground smoke bombs only
- d) As insecticides (including acaricides or mite control)
  - 1) Fatty acid potassium salt (soft soap)
  - 2) Lime sulfur (calcium polysulphide)
  - 3) Pheromones (as attractant in traps and dispensers and no contact with soil or plants)
  - 4) Plant oils
- e) As slug or snail bait
  - 1) None
- f) As plant disease control
  - 1) Lime Sulfur
  - 2) Elemental Sulfur
  - 3) Hydrogen Peroxide
  - 4) Lecithin
- g) As soil amendments
  - 1) Dehydrated, freeze-dried, ground, or straight seaweed
  - 2) Fish Meal
  - 3) Compost
  - 4) Vermicompost (dejecta of worms)
  - 5) Guano
  - 6) Sodium Chloride (mined only)
  - 7) Sawdust, wood chips and bark (from non-treated felled trees)
- (h)-(z) Reserved

**505.102 Non-synthetic substances prohibited from use**

The following substances may not be used in natural production:

- a) Ash from manure burning
- b) Arsenic
- c) Lead salts
- d) Sodium fluoaluminate (mined)
- e) Strychnine
- f) Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate)
- g) Potassium chloride
- h) Sodium nitrate
- (i)-(z) Reserved

**505.103 Non-agricultural substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “made with Certified Natural ingredients”**

The following non-agricultural substances may be used as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “made with Certified Natural (specified on label) ingredients”

- a) Acids
  - 1) Citric
  - 2) Lactic
- b) Bentonite
- c) Calcium carbonate
- d) Calcium chloride
- e) Non-synthetic colors
- f) Dairy cultures
- g) Enzymes derived from edible plants or fungi
- h) Non-synthetic flavors
- i) Kaolin
- j) Magnesium sulfate – non-synthetic sources only
- k) Nitrogen – oil free grade only
- l) Oxygen – oil free grade only
- m) Perlite – for use as aid in food processing only
- n) Sodium bicarbonate
- o) Sodium carbonate
- p) Non-synthetic waxes:

- 1) Carnauba
  - 2) Wood resin
- q) Non-synthetic yeast:
- 1) Bakers
  - 2) Brewers
  - 3) Nutritional
  - 4) Smoked (non-synthetic source only)
  - 5) Autolysate

**505.104 Amending the Certified Natural, International TM Certification List**

Any person may petition for a substance to be included in or removed from the Certified Natural, International TM Certification List by requesting a Petition Form from Certified Natural, International TM. Once petition is completed please forward to the following address:

Program Manager  
Certified Natural, International TM  
PO Box 848  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

# CERTIFIED NATURAL, INTERNATIONAL™ ECO-BLOOM™ CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

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# **Certified Natural, International Eco-Bloom Certification Standards**

## **Subpart A - Eco-Bloom™ Applicability**

### **§500.100 What can be certified.**

- a) Any floral operation that adheres to all standards set forth herein.

### **§500.101 Use of the term, "Eco-Bloom Certified™"**

Any floral product that is sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" under the Certified Natural, International™ program must be:

- a) Produced in accordance with the requirements specified herein and
- b) Handled in accordance with the requirements specified herein
- c) Cannot be used in conjunction with any organic label, logo or claim.

### **§500.102 Recordkeeping by certified operations.**

- a) A certified operation must maintain records concerning the production, harvesting, and handling of floral products that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™".
- b) Such records must:
  - 1) Be adapted to the particular business that the certified operation is conducting;
  - 2) Fully disclose all activities and transactions of the certified operation in sufficient detail as to be readily understood and audited;
  - 3) Be maintained for not less than three (3) years beyond their creation; and
  - 4) Be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the regulations in this part.
- c) The certified operation must make such records available for inspection and copying during normal business hours by authorized representatives of Certified Natural, International™ and the certifying agent.

### **§500.103 Allowed and prohibited substances, methods, and ingredients in Eco-Bloom Certified™ production and handling.**

To be sold or labeled as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" the product must be produced and handled without the use of:

- a) Synthetic substances and non-natural ingredients, except as approved by Certified Natural, International and its Advisory Board.
- b) Non-agricultural substances used products, except as otherwise provided herein
- c) Sewage sludge.

### **§§500.104-500.199 [Reserved]**

## **Subpart B – Eco-Bloom Certified™ Production and Handling Requirements**

### **§500.200 General requirements.**

The producer or handler of a production or handling operation intending to sell, label, or represent products as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" must comply with the applicable provisions of this subpart. Production practices implemented in accordance with this subpart must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.

### **§500.201 Eco-Bloom Certified™ production and handling system plan.**

- a) The producer or handler of a production or handling operation intending to sell, label, or represent agricultural products as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" must develop a Natural production or handling system plan that is agreed to by the producer or handler and the certifying agent. A Natural system plan must meet the requirements set forth in this section for Eco-Bloom Certified™ production or handling. An Eco-Bloom Certified™ production or handling system plan must include:
  - 1) A description of practices and procedures to be performed and maintained, including the frequency with which they will be performed;
  - 2) A list of each substance to be used as a production or handling input, indicating its composition, source, location(s) where it will be used, and documentation of commercial availability, as applicable;

- 3) A description of the monitoring practices and procedures to be performed and maintained, including the frequency with which they will be performed, to verify that the plan is effectively implemented;
- 4) A description of the recordkeeping system implemented
- 5) A description of the management practices and physical barriers established to prevent commingling of naturally produced and non-naturally produced products on a split operation and to prevent contact of natural production and handling operations and products with prohibited substances; and
- 6) Additional information deemed necessary by the certifying agent to evaluate compliance with the requirements herein.

**§500.202 Land requirements.**

Any field or farm parcel from which harvested plants are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" must:

- a) Have been managed in accordance with the provisions herein
- b) Have had no prohibited substances applied to it for a period of 3 years immediately preceding harvest of the plant; and
- c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the plant or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under natural management.

**§500.203 Soil fertility and plant nutrient management practice standard. (Wild plants exempted – see §500.207)**

- a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.
- b) The producer must manage plant nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover plants, and the application of plant and animal materials.
- c) The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of plants, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances. Animal and plant materials include:
  - 1) Raw animal manure, which must be composted unless it is:
    - i) Applied to land used for a plant not intended for human consumption;
    - ii) Incorporated into the soil not less than 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with the soil surface or soil particles; or
    - iii) Incorporated into the soil not less than 90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact with the soil surface or soil particles;
  - 2) Composted plant and animal materials produced through a process that
    - i) established an initial C:N ratio of between 25:1 and 40:1; and
    - ii) maintained a temperature of between 131° F and 170° F for 3 days using an in-vessel or static aerated pile system; or
    - iii) maintained a temperature of between 131° F and 170° F for 15 days using a windrow composting system, during which period, the materials must be turned a minimum of five times.
  - 3) Uncomposted plant materials.
- d) A producer may manage plant nutrients and soil fertility to maintain or improve soil matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of plants, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances by applying:
  - 1) A plant nutrient or soil amendment included on the Eco-Bloom Certified™ List of substances allowed for use in natural plant production;
  - 2) A mined substance of low solubility;
  - 3) Ash obtained from the burning of a plant or animal material, except as prohibited in 505.102 provided that the material burned has not been treated or combined with a prohibited substance or the ash is not included on the Eco-Bloom Certified™ List of non-synthetic substances prohibited for use in natural plant production; and
  - 5) A plant or animal material that has been chemically altered by a manufacturing process.
- e) The producer must not use:
  - 1) Any fertilizer or composted plant and animal material that contains a synthetic substance not approved by Certified Natural, International and its Advisory Board;

- 2) Sewage sludge
- 3) Burning as a means of disposal for plant residues produced on the operation: except that burning may be used to suppress the spread of disease or to stimulate seed germination.

**§500.204 Seeds and planting stock practice standard.**

- a) The producer must use naturally grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock except that:
  - 1) Untreated seeds and planting stock may be used to produce a natural plant when an equivalent naturally produced variety is not commercially available;
  - 2) Non-certified produced seeds and planting stock that have been treated with a substance included on the Certified Natural, International list of substances allowed for use in natural plant production may be used to produce a natural plant when an equivalent naturally produced or untreated variety is not commercially available;
  - 3) Non-certified produced annual seedlings may be used to produce a natural plant when a temporary variance has been granted by the Certifying Agent.
  - 4) Non-certified produced planting stock to be used to produce a perennial plant may be sold, labeled, or represented as naturally produced only after the planting stock has been maintained under a system of natural management for a period of no less than 1 year; and
  - 5) Seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock treated with prohibited substances may be used to produce a natural plant when the application of the materials is a requirement of Federal or State phytosanitary regulations. (Foreign Federal authorities and other properly recognized bodies as appropriate with the written approval of the certifying agent.)

**§500.205 Plant crop rotation practice standard.**

The producer must implement a plant crop rotation program including but not limited to sod, cover plants, green manure plants, and catch plants that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:

- a) Maintain or improve soil natural matter content;
- b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial plants;
- c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and
- d) Provide erosion control.

**§500.206 Plant pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.**

- a) The producer must use management practices to prevent plant pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to:
  - 1) Plant rotation and soil and plant nutrient management practices as provided herein
  - 2) Sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds, and habitat for pest organisms; and
  - 3) Cultural practices that enhance plant health, including selection of plant species and varieties with regard to suitability to site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent pests, weeds, and diseases.
  - 4) As approved by the Certifying Agent.
- b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods including but not limited to:
  - 1) Augmentation or introduction of predators or parasites of the pest species;
  - 2) Development of habitat for natural enemies of pests;
  - 3) Non-synthetic controls such as lures, traps, and repellents.
  - 4) As approved by the Certifying Agent.
- c) Weed problems may be controlled through:
  - 1) Mulching with fully biodegradable materials;
  - 2) Mowing;
  - 3) Livestock grazing;
  - 4) Hand weeding and mechanical cultivation;
  - 5) Flame, heat, or electrical means
- d) Disease problems may be controlled through:
  - 1) Management practices which suppress the spread of disease organisms; or
  - 2) Application of non-synthetic biological, botanical, or mineral inputs.
- e) When the practices provided for in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section are insufficient to prevent or control plant pests, weeds, and diseases, a biological or botanical substance or a substance included on the Certified Natural, International List of Substances allowed for use in natural plant production may be applied to prevent, suppress, or control pests, weeds, or diseases provided that the



conditions for using the substance are documented in the Certified Natural, International™ system plan and be approved by the certifying agent. All use must be shown by dates, times and areas on a map.

f) The producer must not use lumber treated with arsenate or other prohibited materials for new installations or replacement purposes in contact with soil.

**§500.207 Wild-plant harvesting practice standard.**

a) A wild plant that is intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as Eco-Bloom Certified™ must be harvested from a designated area that has had no prohibited substance as set forth herein, applied to it for a period of 3 years immediately preceding the harvest of the wild plant.

b) A wild plant must be harvested in a manner that ensures that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild plant.

**§§500.208 - 500.269 [Reserved]**

**§500.270 Eco-Bloom Certified™ handling requirements.**

a) Mechanical or biological methods, including but not limited to drying, mixing, grinding, separating, distilling, extracting, cutting, preserving, dehydrating, freezing, chilling, or otherwise manufacturing, and the packaging, or otherwise enclosing of plant in a container may be used to process a naturally produced product for the purpose of retarding spoilage or otherwise preparing the plant product for market.

b) Non-agricultural substances allowed herein and non-certified produced plant products allowed under herein may be used:

1) In or on a processed plant product intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" if not commercially available in natural form with approval of the certifying agent and the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board.

c) The handler of a natural handling operation must not use in or on plant products intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™":

1) Practices prohibited under §500.103

2) A volatile synthetic solvent or other synthetic processing aid

**§500.271 Facility pest management practice standard.**

a) The producer or handler of a natural facility must use management practices to prevent pests, including but not limited to:

1) Removal of pest habitat, food sources, and breeding areas;

2) Prevention of access to handling facilities; and

3) Management of environmental factors, such as temperature, light, humidity, atmosphere, and air circulation, to prevent pest reproduction.

b) Pests may be controlled through:

1) Mechanical or physical controls including but not limited to traps, light, or sound; or

2) Lures and repellents using non-synthetic substances.

c) If the practices provided for in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section are not effective to prevent or control pests, a synthetic substance approved by the certifying agent may be applied.

d) If the practices provided for in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section are not effective to prevent or control facility pests, a synthetic substance may be applied, *provided that* the handler and certifying agent agree on the substance, method of application, and measures to be taken to prevent contact of the naturally produced products or ingredients with the substance used.

e) The handler of a natural handling operation who applies a non-synthetic or synthetic substance to prevent or control pests must update the operation's handling plan to reflect the use of such substances and methods of application. The updated plan must include a list of all measures taken to prevent contact of the naturally produced products or ingredients with the substance used.

f) Notwithstanding the practices provided for in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section, a handler may otherwise use substances to prevent or control pests as required by Federal, State, or local laws and regulations provided that measures are taken to prevent contact of the naturally produced products or ingredients with the substance used.

**§500.272 Commingling and contact with prohibited substance prevention practice standard.**

a) The handler of a natural handling operation must implement measures necessary to prevent the commingling of naturally produced products and protect natural products from contact with prohibited substances.

b) The following are prohibited for use in the handling of any naturally produced agricultural product or ingredient labeled in accordance with subpart C of this part:

- 1) Packaging materials, and storage containers, or bins that contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative, or fumigant;
- 2) The use or reuse of any bag or container that has been in contact with any substance in such a manner as to compromise the natural integrity of any naturally produced product or ingredient placed in those containers, unless such reusable bag or container has been thoroughly cleaned and poses no risk of contact of the naturally produced product or ingredient with the substance used.

c) All containers and packaging must comply with the requirements of packaging CFR's.

#### **§§500.273 - 500.289 [Reserved]**

#### **§500.290 Temporary variances.**

a) Temporary variances from the requirements in §§500.203 through 500.207 and 500.270 through 500.272 may be established for the following reasons:

- 1) Declared natural disasters;
- 2) Damage caused by drought, wind, flood, excessive moisture, hail, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other business interruption; and
- 3) Practices used for the purpose of conducting research or trials of techniques, varieties, or ingredients used in Eco-Bloom Certified™ production or handling.

c) The certifying agent must notify each production or handling operation it certifies to which the temporary variance applies.

d) Temporary variances will not be granted for any practice, material, or procedure prohibited under §500.104.

#### **§§500.291-500.299 [Reserved]**

### **Subpart C – Eco-Bloom Certified™ Labels, Labeling, and Market Information**

#### **§500.300 Use of the term "Eco-Bloom Certified™"**

a) The term, "Eco-Bloom Certified™" may only be used on labels and in labeling of plant products, that have been produced and handled in accordance with the regulations in this part. The term, "Eco-Bloom Certified™" may not be used in a product name to modify a non-naturally produced ingredient in the product.

b) Products for export, produced and certified to foreign national natural standards or foreign contract buyer requirements, may be labeled in accordance with the labeling requirements of the receiving country or contract buyer

c) Approved for specific application by letter form the Certifying Agent.

#### **§500.301 Product composition.**

a) Products sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™". A plant product sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" must contain 100 percent Certified Naturally produced ingredients.

b) Retail bouquets, mixed plants or other mix of product sold, labeled, or represented as including Eco-Bloom Certified products must contain a minimum of 70% certified product.

1) Percentages are based on a per stem/plant basis and must be determined by the handler who affixes the label to the product.

c) All products labeled as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" in the statement of any product must not:

- 1) Be produced using excluded methods, pursuant to § 500.104;
- 2) Be produced using sewage sludge, pursuant to § 500.104;
- 3) Be processed using processing aids not approved by Eco-Bloom Certified™

#### **§500.302 Packaged products labeled "Eco-Bloom Certified™"**

a) Products in packages described in §500.301(a) may display, on the principal display panel, information panel, and any other panel of the package and on any labeling or market information concerning the product, the following:

- 1) The term, "Eco-Bloom Certified™" to modify the name of the product;
- 2) The term, "Eco-Bloom Certified™ (name of variety of flower or plant)" to identify the natural products in multi-product;
- 3) The seal, logo, or other identifying mark of Certified Natural, International™ which certified the production or handling operation producing the finished product: provided that the handler

producing the finished product maintain records, pursuant to this part, verifying Eco-Bloom Certified™ by Certified Natural, International certification of the operations producing such products, and:

- b) Products in packages described in §500.301(a) must:
  - 1) On the information panel, below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the product and preceded by the statement, "ingredients Eco-Bloom Certified™ by Certified Natural, International ™," or similar phrase identifying the name of the certifying company that certified the handler of the finished product and the business address, Internet address, or telephone number of Certified Natural, International ™ included in such label.

**§500.303 Packaged products labeled "made with Eco-Bloom Certified™ (specified flower variety or plant)."**

- a) Products in packages described in §500.301(b) may display on the principal display panel, information panel, and any other panel and on any labeling or marketing information concerning the product:
  - 1) The statement:
    - i) That all naturally produced ingredients in the product are listed; and
    - ii) Which appears in letters that do not exceed one-half the size of the largest type size on the panel and which appears in its entirety in the same type size, style, and color without highlighting.
  - 2) The percentage of Eco-Bloom Certified™ product. The size of the percentage statement must not exceed one-half the size of the largest type size on the panel on which the statement is displayed and must appear in its entirety in the same type size, style, and color without highlighting.
  - 3) The seal, logo, or other identifying mark of Certified Natural, International ™.

- b) Products in packages described in § 500.301(b) must:
  - 1) In the ingredient statement, identify each Eco-Bloom Certified™ with the word, "Eco-Bloom Certified™" or with an asterisk or other reference mark which is defined below the ingredient statement to indicate the ingredient is certified.
  - 2) On the information panel, below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the product and preceded by the statement, "Eco-Bloom Certified™ by Certified Natural, International ™," or similar phrase identifying the name of the certifying company that certified the handler of the finished product and the business address, Internet address, or telephone number of Certified Natural, International ™ included in such label.

**§500.304 Labeling of non-retail containers used for only shipping or storage of products labeled as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" or "contains Eco-Bloom Certified™ (specified flower or plant)."**

- a) Non-retail containers used only to ship or store product labeled as containing certified product may display the following terms or marks:
  - 1) The name and contact information of Eco-Bloom Certified™
  - 2) Identification of the product as certified;
  - 3) Special handling instructions needed to maintain the natural integrity of the product;
  - 4) The seal, logo, or other identifying mark of Eco-Bloom Certified™ or Certified Natural, International ™.
- b) Non-retail containers used to ship or store product labeled as containing certified products must display the production lot number of the product if applicable.
- c) Shipping containers of domestically produced product labeled as Eco-Bloom Certified™ intended for export to international markets may be labeled in accordance with any shipping container labeling requirements of the foreign country of destination or the container labeling specifications of a foreign contract buyer provided that the shipping containers and shipping documents accompanying such Eco-Bloom Certified™ products are clearly marked "For Export Only" and provided that proof of such container marking and export must be maintained by the handler in accordance with recordkeeping requirements.

**§500.305 Products in other than packaged form at the point of retail sale that are sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™"**

- a) Products in other than packaged form may use the term, "Eco-Bloom Certified™" to modify the name of the product in retail display, labeling, and display containers provided that the term "Eco-Bloom Certified™" is used to identify the naturally grown ingredients listed in the ingredient statement.

b) If the product is prepared in a certified facility, the retail display, labeling, and display containers may use:

1) The seal, logo, or other identifying mark of Certified Natural, International™

**§500.306 Products in other than packaged form at the point of retail sale that are sold, labeled, or represented as "contains Eco-Bloom Certified™ (specified flower or plant)."**

a) Products in other than packaged form containing between 70 and 99 percent naturally produced product may use the phrase, "contains Eco-Bloom Certified™ (specified flower or plant)," to modify the name of the product in retail display, labeling, and display containers.

1) In any such display of the product's ingredient statement, the natural ingredients are identified as "Eco-Bloom Certified™"

b) If prepared in a certified facility, such products labeled as "contains Eco-Bloom Certified™ (specified flower or plant)" in retail displays, display containers, and market information may display Eco-Bloom Certified™ or Certified Natural, International™ seal, logo, or other identifying mark.

**§§500.307-500.399 [Reserved]**

**Subpart D – Eco-Bloom™ Certification**

**§500.400 General requirements for certification.**

A person seeking to receive or maintain Eco-Bloom Certified™ certification under the regulations in this part must:

- a) Comply with applicable Eco-Bloom Certified™ production and handling regulations of this part;
- b) Establish, implement, and update annually a production or handling system plan that is submitted to, Eco-Bloom Certified™ as provided for in §500.200;
- c) Permit on-site inspections with complete access to the production or handling operation, including non-certified production and handling areas, structures, and offices by the certifying agent as provided for in §500.403;
- d) Maintain all records applicable to the operation for not less than three (3) years beyond their creation and allow authorized representatives and the certifying agent access to such records during normal business hours for review and copying to determine compliance with the regulations in this part, as provided for in §500.103;
- e) Submit the applicable fees charged by Certified Natural, International™; and
- f) Immediately notify the certifying agent concerning any:
  - 1) Application, including drift, of a prohibited substance to any field, production unit, site, facility, or product that is part of an operation; and
  - 2) Change in a certified operation or any portion of a certified operation that may affect its compliance with the regulations in this part.

**§500.401 Application for Certification.**

A person seeking certification of a production or handling operation under this subpart must submit an application for certification to Certified Natural, International™. The application must include the following information:

- a) A Eco-Bloom Certified™ by Certified Natural production or handling system plan, as required in §500.200;
- b) The name of the person completing the application; the applicant's business name, address, and telephone number; and, when the applicant is a corporation, the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized to act on the applicant's behalf;
- c) The name(s) of any certifying agent(s) to which application has previously been made; the year(s) of application; the outcome of the application(s) submission, including, when available, a copy of any notification of non-compliance or denial of certification issued to the applicant for certification; and a description of the actions taken by the applicant to correct the non-compliances noted in the notification of non-compliance, including evidence of such correction; and
- d) Other information necessary to determine compliance with the regulations in this part.

**§500.402 Review of application.**

- a) Upon acceptance of an application for certification, Certified Natural, International™ must:
  - 1) Review the application to ensure completeness pursuant to §500.401;
  - 2) Determine by a review of the application materials whether the applicant appears to comply or may be able to comply with the applicable requirements of subpart B of this part;

- 3) Verify that an applicant who previously applied to another certifying agent and received a notification of non-compliance or denial of certification, pursuant to §500.405, has submitted documentation to support the correction of any non-compliances identified in the notification of non-compliance or denial of certification, as required in §500.405; and
  - 4) Schedule an on-site inspection of the operation to determine whether the applicant qualifies for certification if the review of application materials reveals that the production or handling operation may be in compliance with the applicable requirements of subpart B of this part.
- b) The certifying agent shall within a reasonable time:
- 1) Review the application materials received and communicate its findings to the applicant;
  - 2) Provide the applicant with a copy of the on-site inspection report, as approved by the certifying agent, for any on-site inspection performed; and
  - 3) Provide the applicant with a copy of the test results for any samples taken by an inspector.
- c) The applicant may withdraw its application at any time. An applicant who withdraws its application shall be liable for all costs of services provided up to the time of withdrawal of its application. An applicant that voluntarily withdrew its application prior to the issuance of a notice of non-compliance will not be issued a notice of non-compliance. Similarly, an applicant that voluntarily withdrew its application prior to the issuance of a notice of certification denial will not be issued a notice of certification denial.

### **§500.403 On-site inspections.**

- a) On-site inspections.
- 1) The certifying agent must conduct an initial on-site inspection of each production unit, facility, and site that produces or handles natural products and that is included in an operation for which certification is requested. An on-site inspection shall be conducted annually thereafter for each certified operation that produces or handles natural products for the purpose of determining whether to approve the request for certification or whether the certification of the operation should continue.
- b) Scheduling.
- 1) The initial on-site inspection must be conducted within a reasonable time following a determination that the applicant appears to comply or may be able to comply with the requirements of subpart B of this part except that the initial inspection may be delayed for up to 6 months to comply with the requirement that the inspection be conducted when the land, facilities, and activities that demonstrate compliance or capacity to comply can be observed.
  - 2) All on-site inspections must be conducted when an authorized representative of the operation who is knowledgeable about the operation is present and at a time when land, facilities, and activities that demonstrate the operation's compliance with or capability to comply with the applicable provisions of subpart B of this part can be observed, except that this requirement does not apply to unannounced on-site inspections.
- c) Verification of information. The on-site inspection of an operation must verify:
- 1) The operation's compliance or capability to comply with the regulations in this part;
  - 2) That the information, including the Eco-Bloom Certified™ production or handling system plan, provided in accordance with §500.200, accurately reflects the practices used or to be used by the applicant for certification or by the certified operation;
  - 3) That prohibited substances have not been and are not being applied to the operation through means which, at the discretion of the certifying agent, may include the collection and testing of soil, water, waste, seeds, plant tissue, and plant, animal, and processed products samples. The applicant is not liable for the sampling costs.
- d) Exit interview. The inspector must conduct an exit interview with an authorized representative of the operation who is knowledgeable about the inspected operation to confirm the accuracy and completeness of inspection observations and information gathered during the on-site inspection. The inspector must also address the need for any additional information as well as any issues of concern.
- e) Documents to the inspected operation.
- 1) At the time of the inspection, the inspector shall provide the operation's authorized representative with a receipt for any samples taken by the inspector. There shall be no charge to the inspector for the samples taken.
  - 2) A copy of the on-site inspection report and any test results will be sent to the inspected operation by the certifying agent.

#### **§500.404 Granting certification.**

- a) Within a reasonable time after completion of the initial on-site inspection, the certifying agent must review the on-site inspection report, the results of any analyses for substances conducted, and any additional information requested from or supplied by the applicant. If the certifying agent determines that the system plan and all procedures and activities of the applicant's operation are in compliance with the requirements of this part and that the applicant is able to conduct operations in accordance with the plan, the agent shall grant certification. The certification may include requirements for the correction of minor non-compliances within a specified time period as a condition of continued certification.
- b) The certifying agent must issue a certificate of Eco-Bloom Certified™ operation which specifies the:
  - 1) Name and address of the certified operation;
  - 2) Effective date of certification;
  - 3) Categories of Eco-Bloom Certified™ operation, including plants and flowers, produced by the certified operation; and
  - 4) Name, address, and telephone number of the certifying agent.
  - 5) Provide the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board notice of certification at the following address: Program Manager, Certified Natural, International™, PO Box 848, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.
- c) Once certified, a production or handling operation's Eco-Bloom Certified™ certification continues in effect until surrendered by the Eco-Bloom Certified™ operation or suspended or revoked by the certifying agent.

#### **§500.405 Denial of certification.**

- a) When the certifying agent has reason to believe, based on a review of the information specified in §500.402 or §500.404, that an applicant for certification is not able to comply or is not in compliance with the requirements of this part, the certifying agent must provide a written notification of non-compliance to the applicant. When correction of non-compliance is not possible, a notification of non-compliance and a notification of denial of certification may be combined in one notification. The notification of non-compliance shall provide:
  - 1) A description of each non-compliance;
  - 2) The facts upon which the notification of non-compliance is based; and
  - 3) The date by which the applicant must rebut or correct each non-compliance and submit supporting documentation of each such correction when correction is possible.
- b) Upon receipt of such notification of non-compliance, the applicant may:
  - 1) Correct non-compliance's and submit a description of the corrective actions taken with supporting documentation to the certifying agent;
  - 2) Correct non-compliance's and submit a new application to another certifying agent provided that the applicant must include a complete application, the notification of non-compliance received from the first certifying agent, and a description of the corrective actions taken with supporting documentation; or
  - 3) Submit written information to the issuing certifying agent to rebut the non-compliance described in the notification of non-compliance.
- c) After issuance of a notification of non-compliance, the certifying agent must:
  - 1) Evaluate the applicant's corrective actions taken and supporting documentation submitted or the written rebuttal, conduct an on-site inspection if necessary, and
    - i) When the corrective action or rebuttal is sufficient for the applicant to qualify for certification, issue the applicant an approval of certification pursuant to §500.404; or
    - ii) When the corrective action or rebuttal is not sufficient for the applicant to qualify for certification, issue the applicant a written notice of denial of certification.
  - 2) Issue a written notice of denial of certification to an applicant who fails to respond to the notification of non-compliance.
  - 3) Provide notice of approval or denial to the certification board, pursuant to 500.404.
- d) A notice of denial of certification must state the reason(s) for denial and the applicant's right to:
  - 1) Reapply for certification pursuant to §§500.401 and 500.405;
  - 2) Request mediation pursuant to §500.503
  - 3) File an appeal of the denial of certification pursuant to §500.700
- e) An applicant for certification who has received a written notification of non-compliance or a written notice of denial of certification may apply for certification again at any time.

f) The certifying agent who receives a new application for certification, which includes a notification of non-compliance or a notice of denial of certification, must treat the application as a new application and begin a new application process pursuant to §500.402.

g) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, if the certifying agent has reason to believe that an applicant for certification has willfully made a false statement or otherwise purposefully misrepresented the applicant's operation or its compliance with the certification requirements pursuant to this part, the certifying agent may deny certification pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section without first issuing a notification of non-compliance.

#### **§500.406 Continuation of certification.**

a) To continue certification, a certified operation must annually pay the certification fees and submit the following information, as applicable, to the certifying agent:

1) An updated production or handling system plan which includes:

i) A summary statement, supported by documentation, detailing any deviations from, changes to, modifications to, or other amendments made to the previous year's system plan during the previous year; and

ii) Any additions or deletions to the previous year's system plan, intended to be undertaken in the coming year, detailed pursuant to §500.200;

2) Any additions to or deletions from the information required pursuant to §500.401(b);

3) An update on the correction of minor non-compliances previously identified by the certifying agent as requiring correction for continued certification; and

4) Other information as deemed necessary by the certifying agent to determine compliance with the regulations in this part.

b) Following the receipt of the information specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the certifying agent shall, within a reasonable time, arrange and conduct an on-site inspection of the certified operation pursuant to §500.403 except that when it is impossible for the certifying agent to conduct the annual on-site inspection following receipt of the certified operation's annual update of information, the certifying agent may allow continuation of certification and issue an updated certificate of Eco-Bloom Certified™ operation on the basis of the information submitted and the most recent on-site inspection conducted during the previous 12 months provided that the annual on-site inspection, required pursuant to §500.403, is conducted within the first 6 months following the certified operation's scheduled date of annual update.

c) If the certifying agent has reason to believe, based on the on-site inspection and a review of the information specified in §500.404, that a certified operation is not complying with the requirements of the Act and the regulations in this part, the certifying agent shall provide a written notification of non-compliance to the operation in accordance with §500.405.

d) If the certifying agent determines that the certified operation is complying with these requirements and the regulations in this part and that any of the information specified on the certificate of Eco-Bloom Certified™ operation has changed, the certifying agent must issue an updated certificate of Eco-Bloom Certified™ operation pursuant to §500.404(b).

#### **§§500.407-500.499 [Reserved]**

### **Subpart E - Eco-Bloom™ Compliance**

#### **§500.500 General compliance standards.**

a) The Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board may inspect and review certified production and handling operations and certifying agents for compliance with the regulations in this part.

b) The Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board may initiate suspension or revocation proceedings against a certified operation:

1) When the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board has reason to believe that a certified operation has violated or is not in compliance with the regulations in this part; or

2) When the certifying agent fails to take appropriate action to enforce the requirements in this part.

c) Each notification of non-compliance, rejection of mediation, non-compliance resolution, proposed suspension or revocation, and suspension or revocation issued and each response to such notification must be sent to the recipient's place of business via a delivery service which provides dated return receipts.

**§500.501 Investigation of certified operations.**

a) The certifying agent may investigate complaints of non-compliance with the regulations of this part concerning production and handling operations certified as Eco-Bloom Certified™ by the certifying agent. The certifying agent must notify the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board of all compliance actions taken pursuant to this part.

**§500.502 Non-compliance procedure for certified operations.**

a) Notification. When an inspection, review, or investigation of a certified operation by the certifying agent reveals any non-compliance with the regulations in this part, a written notification of non-compliance shall be sent to the certified operation. Such notification shall provide:

- 1) A description of each non-compliance;
- 2) The facts upon which the notification of non-compliance is based; and
- 3) The date by which the certified operation must rebut or correct each non-compliance and submit supporting documentation of each such correction when correction is possible.

b) Resolution:

1) When a certified operation demonstrates that each non-compliance has been resolved, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of non-compliance resolution.

c) Proposed suspension or revocation:

1) When rebuttal is unsuccessful or correction of the non-compliance is not completed within the prescribed time period, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification of the entire operation or a portion of the operation, as applicable to the non-compliance. When correction of a non-compliance is not possible, the notification of non-compliance and the proposed suspension or revocation of certification may be combined in one notification. The notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification shall state:

- i) The reasons for the proposed suspension or revocation;
  - ii) The proposed effective date of such suspension or revocation;
  - iii) The impact of a suspension or revocation on future eligibility for certification;
- and
- iv) The right to request mediation pursuant to §500.503 or to file an appeal pursuant to §500.700.

d) Willful violations:

1) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, if the certifying agent has reason to believe that a certified operation has willfully violated the regulations in this part, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification of the entire operation or a portion of the operation, as applicable to the non-compliance.

e) Suspension or revocation.

1) If the certified operation fails to correct the non-compliance, to resolve the issue through rebuttal or mediation, or to file an appeal of the proposed suspension or revocation of certification, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of suspension or revocation.

2) The certifying agent must not send a notification of suspension or revocation to a certified operation that has requested mediation pursuant to §500.503 or filed an appeal pursuant to §500.700, while final resolution of either is pending.

f) Eligibility.

1) A certified operation whose certification has been suspended under this section may at any time, unless otherwise stated in the notification of suspension, submit a request to the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board for reinstatement of its certification. The request must be accompanied by evidence demonstrating correction of each non-compliance and corrective actions taken to comply with and remain in compliance with the regulations in this part.

2) A certified operation or a person responsibly connected with an operation whose certification has been revoked will be ineligible to receive certification for a period of 5 years following the date of such revocation, except that the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board may,



when in the best interest of the certification program, reduce or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

g) Violations. In addition to suspension or revocation, any certified operation that:

1) Makes a false statement under the regulations herein to the certifying agent shall be subject to the provisions of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

#### **§500.503 Mediation.**

Any dispute with respect to denial of certification or proposed suspension or revocation of certification under this part may be mediated at the request of the applicant for certification or certified operation and with acceptance by the certifying agent. Mediation shall be requested in writing to the applicable certifying agent. If the certifying agent rejects the request for mediation, the certifying agent shall provide written notification to the applicant for certification or certified operation. The written notification shall advise the applicant for certification or certified operation of the right to request an appeal, pursuant to §500.700, within 30 days of the date of the written notification of rejection of the request for mediation. If mediation is accepted by the certifying agent, such mediation shall be conducted by a qualified mediator mutually agreed upon by the parties to the mediation. The parties to the mediation shall have no more than 30 days to reach an agreement following a mediation session. If mediation is unsuccessful, the applicant for certification or certified operation shall have 30 days from termination of mediation to appeal the certifying agent's decision pursuant to §500.700. Any agreement reached during or as a result of the mediation process shall be in compliance with these regulations. The Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board may review any mediated agreement for conformity to these regulations and may reject any agreement or provision not in conformance with these regulations.

#### **§500.504-500.599 [Reserved]**

### **Subpart F - Eco-Bloom™ Inspection and Testing, Reporting, and Exclusion from Sale**

#### **§500.600 Inspection and testing of agricultural product to be sold or labeled "Eco-Bloom Certified™"**

a) All products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" or "contains Eco-Bloom Certified™ (specified flower or plant)" must be made accessible by certified production or handling operations for examination by the certifying agent.

b) The certifying agent may require pre-harvest or post-harvest testing of any agricultural input used or product to be sold, labeled, or represented as "Eco-Bloom Certified™" or "contains Eco-Bloom Certified™ (specified flower or plant)" when there is reason to believe that the agricultural input or product has come into contact with a prohibited substance or has been produced using excluded methods. Such tests must be conducted by the certifying agent at the certifying agent's own expense.

c) The pre-harvest or post-harvest tissue test sample collection pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section must be performed by an inspector representing the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board or certifying agent. Sample integrity must be maintained throughout the chain of custody, and residue testing must be performed in an accredited laboratory. Chemical analysis must be made in accordance with the methods described in the most current edition of the current applicable validated methodology determining the presence of contaminants in agricultural products.

d) Results of all analyses and tests performed under this section:

1) Will be available for public access, unless the testing is part of an ongoing compliance investigation.

e) If test results indicate a specific agricultural product contains pesticide residues or environmental contaminants that exceed the Food and Drug Administration's or the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory tolerances, the certifying agent must promptly report such data to the Federal health agency whose regulatory tolerance or action level has been exceeded.

#### **§500.601 Exclusion from Eco-Bloom Certified™ sale.**

When residue testing detects prohibited substances at levels that are greater than the Environmental Protection Agency's tolerance for the specific residue detected or unavoidable residual environmental contamination, the product must not be sold, labeled, or represented as naturally produced. The Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board or the certifying agent may conduct an investigation of the certified operation to determine the cause of the prohibited substance.

#### **§500.602 Emergency pest or disease treatment.**

When a prohibited substance is applied to a certified operation due to a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program and the certified operation otherwise meets the requirements of this part, the certification status of the operation shall not be affected as a result of the application of the prohibited substance provided that:

- a) Any harvested plant or plant part to be harvested that has contact with a prohibited substance applied as the result of a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program cannot be sold, labeled, or represented as Eco-Bloom Certified™.

**§§500.603-500.699 [Reserved]**

**Subpart G - Eco-Bloom™ Adverse Action Appeal Process**

**§500.700 General appeal standards**

- a) Persons subject to the regulations herein who believe they are adversely affected by a non-compliance decision of the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board may appeal such decision to the High Sierra Group Review Board.
- b) Persons subject to the regulations herein who believe that they are adversely affected by a non-compliance decision of the certifying agent may initiate handling of the appeal pursuant to appeal procedures approved by §500.503
- c) Persons subject to the regulations herein who believe that they are adversely affected by a non-compliance decision of the certifying agent may appeal such decision to the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board.
- d) All written communications between parties involved in appeal proceedings must be sent to the recipient's place of business by a delivery service that provides dated return receipts.
- e) All appeals shall be reviewed, heard, and decided by persons not involved with the decision being appealed.

**§500.701 Appeals.**

- a) Certification appeals. An applicant for certification may appeal the certifying agent's notice of denial of certification, and a certified operation may appeal the certifying agent's notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification to the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board.
- b) Filing period. An appeal of a non-compliance decision must be filed within the time period provided in the letter of notification or within 30 days from receipt of the notification, whichever occurs later. The appeal will be considered "filed" on the date received by the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board. A decision to deny, suspend, or revoke certification or accreditation will become final and non-appealable unless the decision is appealed in a timely manner.
- c) Where and what to file.
  - 1) Appeals to the Program Manager must be filed in writing and addressed to Program Administrator, Certified Natural, International™, PO Box 848, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.
  - 2) All appeals must include a copy of the adverse decision and a statement of the appellant's reasons for believing that the decision was not proper or made in accordance with applicable program regulations, policies, or procedures.

**§§500.702-500.799 [Reserved]**

**Subpart H – Eco-Bloom™ Labor Standards**

**500.800 Employee Rights**

- a) All employees have the right to form and join trade unions and bargain collectively
- b) Employees shall not be subject to discrimination and shall not be refused a job or terminated from a job due to:
  - 1) Membership or activity with a trade union
  - 2) Race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, political leanings, or age.
- c) A written contract must be in place between the employer and employee to protect said employee from loss of wages/employment due to illness, disability or accident.
  - 1) All new employees, including temporary, shall be given a company handbook describing all company policies in a language that is appropriate to each employee. A signature record shall be maintained indicating receipt of this book.
- d) Pregnancy and genetic testing of employees or prospective employees is prohibited.
- e) Employees shall be compensated on a regular basis at an agreed upon time and in full by cash, check or direct deposit. Employees must receive at least the legal minimum industry standard rate of pay. Wages must be paid directly to the employee and not through an intermediary.
- f) Employees must receive equal pay for equal work.

- g) Overtime shall be on a voluntary basis and not to exceed 12 hours per week.
- h) Temporary and subcontracted employees are not allowed except during peak times or to provide labor for special projects. These employees shall be employed under the same conditions as the permanent employees.
- i) Permanent employees must have a provident or pension fund available.
- 10. No child labor is allowed. No employee under 15 shall be employed. Employees between the ages of 15 and 17 shall not be allowed to work night hours nor shall they be placed in any type of labor that may be deemed "hazardous" nor shall they be allowed to work during school hours unless it does not interfere with current school schedule and the prospective employee has written permission from the school. Said written permission must be kept in the employees file. Children under 15 shall not be allowed on the property unless a designated area for the care of employee's children is established. Such areas shall be established in an area free from pesticides or drift.
- j) No forced labor, bonded, or prison labor shall be used.
- k) Employee accessible employment records must be updated on a regular basis recording all pay, time off, leaves of absence, accidents as well as pay records, time off, medical records, and any other records pertinent to each employee, both temporary and permanent.
  - 1) Records shall also indicate the following:
    - i) Worker's name
    - ii) National ID #
    - iii) Position
    - iv) Job description
    - v) Salary
    - vi) Weekly hours assigned
    - vii) Job requirements
    - viii) Pay dates
    - ix) Overtime pay rate
    - x) Deductions
    - xi) Each worker's gross and net pay per pay period
    - xii) Each worker's total hours per pay period
- l) No employee shall be required to pay any money on deposit or surrender identity papers as a condition of employment.
- m) Employee uniforms/work clothes and cleaning of work clothes is to be provided by the employer.
- n) Harassment in any form towards any employee for any reason is strictly prohibited.

**500.801 Social Standards**

- a) Employees shall be provided, free of charge, medical care and advice at the place of work during specified periods during working hours. Services shall be provided by a licensed physician.
- b) First aid shall be available at all work sites with rapid emergency response provisions in place. Supplies shall be available along with a First-Aid kit and eye flush station with instructions and directions to treat accidental exposure to toxic chemicals.
- c) Employees shall have at least one 24 hour period off from work every 6 days.
- d) Employees who are full-time shall have the following:
  - 1) Paid sick leave
  - 2) Worker's compensation program in place
  - 3) 3 weeks paid vacation per calendar year
  - 4) Paid national holidays
- e) Pregnant employees will receive no less than 3 months paid maternity leave and will be allowed to return to work to the same position, without loss of seniority.
- f) Employer shall provide transportation for the employees or provide a mileage allowance.

**500.802-500.899 [Reserved]**

## Subpart I - Eco-Bloom™ WORKPLACE STANDARDS

### 500.900 Facilities

- a) If the employer provides a meal program on site the meals shall be sufficient and balanced nutritionally.
- b) There must be sufficient toilet and washing facilities for all employees.
- c) There must be clean eating areas with sufficient ventilation and heating/cooling that also provides facilities for cooking, eating and food storage.
- d) Clean drinking water must be available at all times employees are present. The water must meet or exceed the standards set by the World Health Organization as follows:

Water Quality	Value
Fecal Coliforms	Prohibited
Chlorine (or other disinfectant)	0.2 to 0.5 mg/L
Nitrates	10 mg/L as nitrates
PH	6.5 - 8.5
Sodium	20 mg/L
Sulphates	250 mg/L
Turbidity	Less than or equal to 5 NTU

A written plan showing testing frequency and monitoring procedures must be in place.

### 500.901 Occupational

- a) All employees must attend periodic (no less than 2 times per year) training courses regarding health and safety practices while on the job. This training must also be provided to all temporary employees prior to commencement of work. These must include, but not be limited to, use of specialized equipment, appropriate use and safety hazards associated with use of chemicals, appropriate use of safety gear, any and all exposure concerns and risks pertinent to the employees position. Written records must be kept showing who lead the training, the dates and names and signatures of all attending employees, topics covered, and training materials used.
- b) Any high risk area of any type must be indicated by readable signage. Potential hazards in these areas must be documented and updated as needed and checked on a daily basis with written and dated records kept.
- c) There shall be a Safety Officer nominated who will keep records and observe safety regulations as well as fairly hear suggestions and complaints.
- d) All chemicals and toxic or flammable substances must be stored in areas designed to contain and prevent spills and risks to the environment and employees as well as demonstrate that storage meets with applicable laws.
- e) All MSDS's and requirements for handling must be clearly displayed for employees use.
- f) Strict re-entry times must be posted at sites of chemical use.
- g) The farm must identify types of potential emergencies and hazards and have written steps to be taken. A formal HACCP plan is encouraged.

### 500.902-500.999 [Reserved]

## Subpart J - Eco-Bloom™ ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

### 501.100 Water

The farm must have a written plan showing its water use and means of conserving or improving its current water usage and implementation timetable including efforts to re-circulate or reuse water.

- a) The Company must employ a water program that curtails and conserves consumption and must keep a written plan showing how this will be accomplished both in greenhouses and in the field. This plan must also show how groundwater and other water sources will be protected.
- b) Use of water, electric or other energy use must be recorded to allow for implementation of practices that my lower such usage.
- c) Rain water shall be collected in sufficiently sized containers or in-ground reservoirs to be used in lieu of ground water or other water sources while such water is available.
- d) Irrigation shall be done with drip applications or application directly to the roots with sufficient measuring methods to control usage. Documentation must be kept to show where these systems are used and measurement by ground monitors to show the efficient use of water.
- e) Other applications may be used only if pre-approved by the certifying agent.

- f) The farm must have a written plan showing how it will treat and test wastewater. This system must meet or exceed all local legal requirements.
- g) Wastewater must not be discharged into natural water bodies without first being treated to all legal requirements. If there are no legal requirements in place, the following standards apply:

Water Quality	Value
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Less than 50 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids	Less than 50 mg/L
PH Levels	Between 6.0-9.0
Grease and oils	Less than 30 mg/L
Fecal Coliforms	Prohibited

Testing of these levels must take place at the discharge location of wastewater. Diluting with uncontaminated water prior to testing or discharging to alter test results is prohibited.

- h) A water monitoring plan must be in place showing testing sites and frequencies. An accredited lab must be used to conduct all analyses. Such results must be kept on farm as part of all records for no less than 3 years.
- i) Septic systems must comply with all legal standards and records must show regular removal of waste. Inspections must be held annually to show that the system is not failing.

#### **501.101 Waste**

The farm must have a written plan for dealing with waste management. It must identify types and estimate amounts and how it will be managed. The plan must also show the company used to dispose of waste and frequency of removal must be sufficient to prevent build up on site.

- Recycling must be practiced throughout the company. Sufficient waste bins must be located throughout the complex for adequate use by all employees. These bins must allow for separation of glass, metals, paper, as well as other recyclable waste. Waste management practices must conform to the law.
- Flower waste, as well all other organic waste, shall be composted and reused on farm.
- Use of empty pesticide containers for any other use is prohibited.
- Waste that cannot be recycled must not be buried or disposed into the soil or waterways.
- All empty chemical containers shall be washed with a liquid soap and rinsed at least three times prior to disposal or return to manufacturer.
- Any waste water shall be treated on-site if there is no municipal wastewater treatment facility. Wastewater shall meet all applicable local, state or federally mandated compliance levels prior to leaving facility.
- Any on site burning must be done in an incinerator. The farm must have relevant permits and operating procedures for such device.

#### **501.102 Ecosystem Management**

- The naturally occurring ecosystems surrounding and within the farm itself must be identified and mapped. A written management plan must be in place showing how these areas shall be maintained or improved if necessary. These areas are not to be altered in any way by the farm or activities on the farm without pre-approval of the certifying agent and legal authorities.
- If the farm wishes to use an area that is currently in its natural state there must be a written plan showing how an area equal to the amount being consumed is being updated to accurately reflect the area consumed. To continue certification this plan must be approved by all local entities and have all legal permits as required by law as well as the approval of the certifying agent to remain certified. There must be a timetable established to show the steps taken and time needed to improve the area set aside.
- Any area that is used for production by the farm must not negatively impact the surrounding environment.
- Areas of natural bodies of water must not be compromised or altered in any way. These bodies must also be identified on a map and included in the written management plan. Buffer composition must be included in the written plan and locations shown on the map.
- Buffer zones must also be established and mapped with composition in writing showing separation of buildings, roadways, public lands and other areas of human activity.

**501.103 Wildlife**

- a) Wildlife habitat must be protected or restored. If habitats have been destroyed or will be destroyed due to approved alteration, written steps and timeline must be in place showing how the farm will restore and area equal in size and growth to protect the wildlife and supply like habitat as that destroyed.

**501.104 General**

The following chemical standards apply:

- a) Any substance that is not legally registered for use in the farms' country may be used.
- b) Any substance that is prohibited by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) may not be used.
- c) Any substance that has been identified as a Persistent Organic Pollutant in the Stockholm Agreement may not be used.
- d) Chemicals included in Annex III of the Rotterdam agreement that are restricted or prohibited may not be used.
- e) Any pesticide named in the Pesticide Action Network "Dirty Dozen" may not be used.

**501.505-501.199 [Reserved]**