

FAQs Delinat Guidelines 2012

Checklist	Question	Answer, interpretation
1.1. Cover crops for vineyards		
1.1.1	Where plots of land are too narrow to foresee the maximum permissible number of aisles without a cover crop, can the cover crop requirement be waived?	In such a case, the aisles in all too narrow plots of land are added together. The aisles to be put under a cover crop are then arranged in such a way thus the maximum number of aisles without a cover crop is reached on average, i.e. in some narrow plots there are aisles with cover crops, in others none.
1.1.2	Seeded or spontaneous vegetation covering the whole area under cultivation from 1 October - 31 March.	Deep loosening of the soil during this period is permitted only in so far as the cover crop is not destroyed.
1.1.3	Aisles may be seeded between 1 October and 31 March only with new seed.	Should the seeded or spontaneous vegetation be insufficient during this period, improvement measures should be agreed with the Delinat advisors
1.1.4	May the areas under the vines be already worked in spring before 31 March?	A 60 cm strip under the vines may be worked from 15 February onwards (max. 30 cm out from the bottom of the vines in the row)
1.1.5	Does this flower strip have to be sown, or is spontaneous vegetation permitted?	Where the spontaneous vegetation contains few flowering plants, then a mixture including flowering plants needs to be sown in this aisle.
1.3. Fertilisers		
1.3.1	Can compost enriched with bones, skin, feathers, etc. be used? EU Regulation 889/2008 on organic production states in Annex 1, item 1.3 that this is allowed. Does this apply to DELINAT?	Though not explicitly forbidden, we do not recommend it.
1.3.2	Are bone and meat meal allowed as additives in organic fertilisers?	Though not explicitly forbidden, we do not recommend it.
1.3.3	What is the difference between fertilisers and soil conditioners?	Organic, mineral and synthetic substances are designated as fertilisers when they permeate into the soil and are able to be absorbed by plants as nutrients. Soil conditioners on the other hand are not directly nutrients, acting instead to upgrade the physical structure of the soil (water retention capability, aeration) or stimulate organic soil life (mycorrhiza, bacteria, worms), or changing the chemical properties of the soil (pH value, electrical conductivity). Soil conditioners facilitate a balanced plant diet and increase plants' resistance to disease.
1.3.4	Is compost a soil improver or fertilizer?	Compost with an NH ₄ content of under 100 mg / kg TM counts as a soil improver
1.3.5	Is fresh or dried cattle dung counted as fertilizer or soil improver?	Non-composted cattle dung counts as fertilizer.

1.4 Amounts of fertiliser		
1.4.1	Is it possible to apply the maximum amount of potassium (K) and magnesium (Mg) fertilisers in biologically bound form and to receive an additional CE (Certificate of Exemption) for K- and Mg-fertiliser in mineral form?	No. The maximum 225 kg potassium and 75 kg magnesium per hectare over 3 years must not be exceeded.
1.4.2	Are the nutrient contents of soil improvers counted in the fertilizer amounts?	The nutrients contained in soil improvers (such as compost with an NH ₄ content < 100 mg/kg TM) serve primarily to increase the humus and are correspondingly stored in the soil. For this reason the nutrient contents of soil improvers are not included in the amounts of fertilizer that growers are required to declare.
2.1. Ecological compensatory areas		
2.1.1	What happens when compensatory areas are not directly adjacent to vineyards?	A certificate of exemption may be issued, insofar as a realistic plan for fulfilling the requirements within the next three years is presented. Vineyards managed in accordance with the Charter for Biodiversity are considered to be compensatory areas.
2.1.2	Is wooded land regarded as an ecological compensatory area?	Yes
2.1.3	What sort of areas can be cultivated pursuant to the Charter for Biodiversity?	Areas coming under the Charter for Biodiversity are such ones in which at least 8 Charter criteria are fully fulfilled. Such areas has an ecological quality of the same high level as average compensatory areas and are therefore recognised in the Delinat guidelines as being ecological compensatory area. Regulations of individual countries governing total amount of ecological compensatory areas must be taken into account.
2.1.4	May tractor-turning areas in a vineyard be counted as an ecological compensation area?	Only when they are wider then 2.5 metres and permanently covered with a wide range of plants.
2.1.5	May hotspots be mown?	Though hotspots need care, wild growth must be kept. A hotspot may be mown just once a year, from August onwards. Isolated areas with bare ground are desired.
2.1.6	The maximum distance between a vine and the next tree is 500 metres. May such a tree stand on land not used as a vineyard?	Yes
2.1.7	May hotspots also be located on the edge of the vineyards?	Yes, hotspots may be located on the edge of the vineyard. The hotspot may not, however, be more than 10 m from the vineyard
2.1.8	Which bushes may be included in the minimum number of bushes at row ends or among the vines?	The bushes need to grow between the vines or at a maximum distance of 10m from the vines. Bushes included in hotspots may be counted in, as can woody bushes like lavender, thyme, rosemary, when at least 50 cm high. The minimum number of bushes must be fulfilled for each separate hectare. Bushes at the edge of a plot count only for the adjacent hectare and may not serve to compensate missing bushes inside a large plot of over one hectare.

3.1. Pesticides		
3.1.1	Are amounts of sulphur and copper calculated per plot, per species or as an average of the total vineyard area?	The amounts of sulphur and copper to be recorded refer to the average applied to the whole vineyard.
3.1.2	Does copper used as a leaf fertiliser count in the calculation of the total amount of copper used as pesticides?	Yes
3.1.3	What are plant activators?	Plant activators are substances used exclusively for increasing plant resistance to pests. They must have no direct effect on the pests, as otherwise they would be classified as pesticides and thereby be subject to much stricter regulations.
4.1. Vinification		
4.1.1	At what level of sugar content does a wine become a sweet wine?	This is subject to country regulations. Delinat is no regulations itself on wine classification.
5. Social standards and legislation		
5.1	Which documents need to be presented with respect to items 5.1 and 5.2?	On an inspection, winegrowers must confirm compliance
7. General terms and conditions		
7.1	Can grapes from other suppliers be used in vinification that are only registered and certified after vinification?	No Wines made using grapes from uncertified suppliers are downgraded and cannot be awarded the Delinat certificate. Wine producers must submit the list of all their suppliers to Delinat in due time. All suppliers must be certified. If a new supplier is to be listed, a Delinat certification must be applied for (at Delinat itself or bioinspecta).
7.2	Can vineyards produce grapes of different Delinat quality grades (1,2 or 3 snails)?	One part of the vineyard may be certified at the 3rd level (3 snails) if the following conditions are fulfilled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a supplementary „B-Declaration“ was made beside the main declaration of the farm - retraceability is guaranteed - it exists for the surfaces with 3d-level declaration a business journal including the journal of plant protection and fertilization - the total surface with 3d-level declaration is at least 3 ha
7.3	What is the deadline for submitting a full company declaration?	It has to be presented during the inspection by the control organisme.
7.4	Can a wine produced during the conversion period from conventional to organic cultivation methods be classified as a Delinat wine?	No.