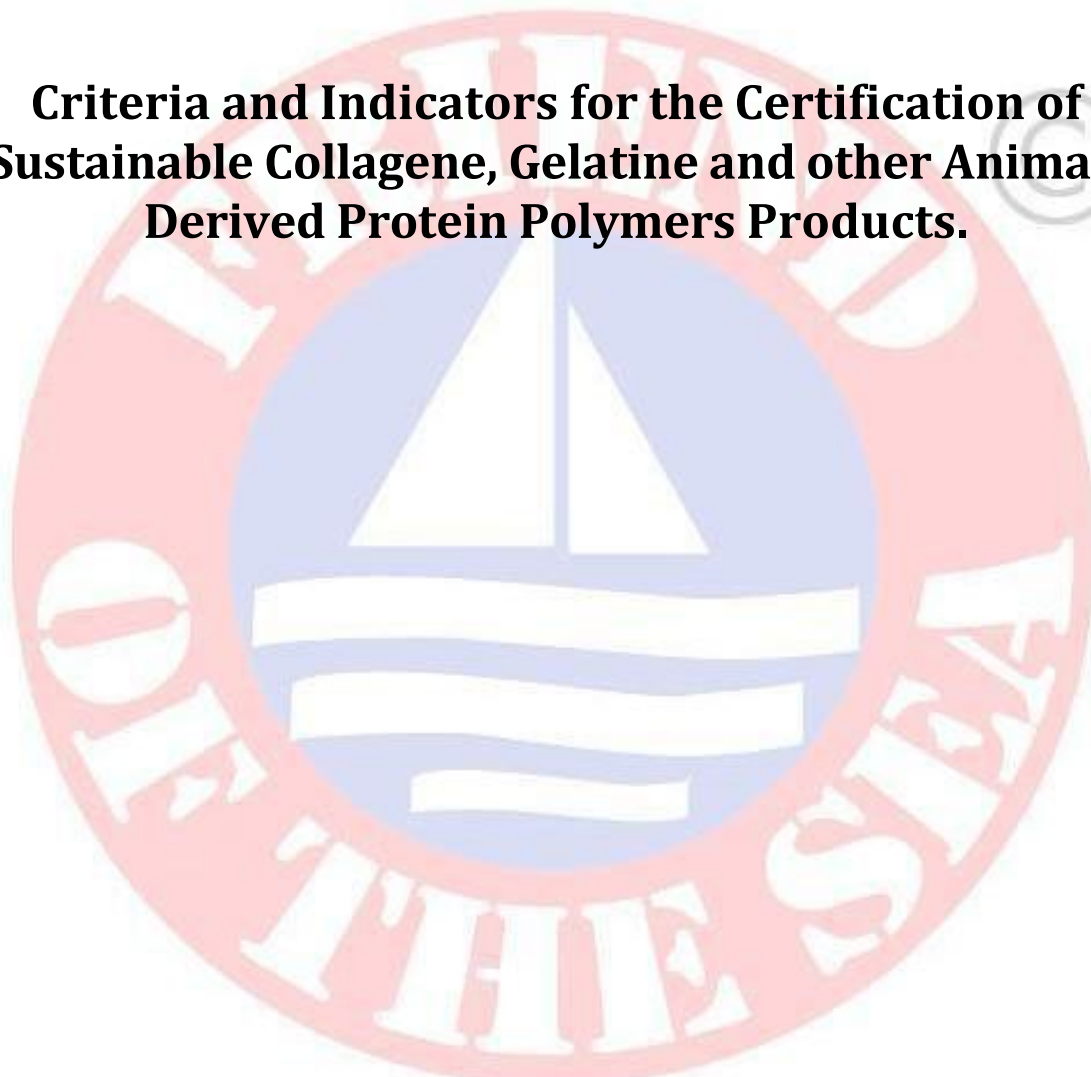


Friend of the Sea Standard

FOS – Collagen, Gelatine, Animal-Derived Products

Criteria and Indicators for the Certification of Sustainable Collagene, Gelatine and other Animal-Derived Protein Polymers Products.

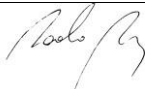


Friend of the Sea

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REV	DATE	REASON	VALIDATION	APPROVAL
1	22/072025	First Issue	Paolo Bray	

Foreword

Friend of the Sea (FOS) is a non-governmental organisation established in 2008, whose aim is to safeguard the marine environment and its resources, incentivising a sustainable market and implementing specific protection and conservation projects.

The certification scheme of Friend of the Sea assesses fisheries, fish farms, nutraceutical and collagen producers against sustainability criteria and indicators. To ensure compliance with the sustainability requirements, certification is granted by an independent body following a third-party audit.

The following standards are intended for the certification of all collagen-made products.

Please refer to the fishery and aquaculture standards for the certification of raw materials.

Requirements are classified as Essential, Important or Recommended, according to their level of importance.

Essential Requirements: 100% conformity to essential requirements is mandatory in order for the certification body to certify the organisation's product. Any lack of compliance with these requirements will generate a Major Non-Conformity and the organisation has to undertake effective corrective actions, to be implemented within three months from the issuing of the Non-Conformity. The organisation shall provide satisfactory evidence to the certification body of correction of all major non-conformities.

Important Requirements: 100% conformity to important requirements is mandatory in order for the certification body to certify the organisation's product. Any lack of compliance with these requirements is to be considered as a Minor Non-Conformity and the organisation has to propose effective corrective actions (declaration of intent and implementation plan), to be submitted to the certification body within three weeks from the issuing of the non-conformity. This proposal shall also include a timetable concerning the implementation of each correction measure. Each proposed corrective action shall be fully implemented within the following 12 months.

Recommended Indicators: Compliance with recommendations is not mandatory for the product to be certified. However, compliance with recommendations will be verified during the audit, and any deficiency will be included in the Audit Report as a recommendation. The organisation shall inform the certification body during the following audit regarding any corrective measures implemented.

Requirements which are not applicable to the audited organisation will be marked with 'N.A.'

Description of the Organisation

This document shall only be filled out by personnel of the certification body in charge of the audit. It shall be filled out in English.

a) NAME OF THE ORGANISATION TO BE AUDITED:

b) NAME OF THE ORGANISATION REQUESTING THE AUDIT:

c) IS THE ORGANISATION TO BE AUDITED PART OF A GROUP? IF SO, PLEASE SPECIFY THE NAME OF THE GROUP and ALL THE GROUP MEMBERS:

d) ADDRESS OF THE ORGANISATION TO BE AUDITED:

e) NAME AND CONTACTS OF THE PERSON WITHIN THE ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUDIT AND CONTACTS WITH THE AUDITOR:

f) COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE SPECIES TO BE AUDITED:

Common Name	Scientific Name

g) PRODUCTION SITES (*list name of the site and location*):

h) SITES VISITED BY THE AUDITOR (if different from g):

i) DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCTION:

j) COMPANY'S ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO THE PRODUCTS TO BE AUDITED:
(Please check the appropriate ones.):

- farming, fishing** (*in case the company uses raw material from its own fisheries or aquaculture farms*)
- pre-processor**
- end processor**
- import**
- export**
- distribution**
- other (description):**

k) LIST of FRIEND OF THE SEA CERTIFIED RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS:

l) DESCRIPTION OF THE FINAL PRODUCT (*e.g.* fresh, frozen, canned, other):

m) BRANDS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS (List brands under which the product is sold. If available include images):

n) DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF FREEZERS AND WAREHOUSES, IF ANY (For product traceability purposes):

o) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

p) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS:

q) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Friend of the Sea project was introduced** *(If not, the Auditor shall provide a short description)*
- The organisation was informed of the opportunity, in case of approval, of using the Friend of the Sea logo on the certified products**
- The organisation has been provided with a document outlining the roles and qualifications of the staff carrying out the audit**
- The duration of the audit was agreed upon**
- The information included in the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) has been confirmed** (in case of changes to the PIF, an updated version has to be promptly provided):

CERTIFICATION BODY:	AUDIT TEAM:	AUDIT START AND END DATE:
SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:	NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ORGANISATION AND ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:	AUDIT CODE:

NOTES TO THE AUDITOR

- 1) The auditor shall fill out all fields in the checklist.
- 2) Checklist compilation guidelines are highlighted in the blue boxes.
- 3) The Auditor shall provide an explanation when the requirements are not applicable.
- 4) The Auditor shall write YES when the organisation complies with a requirement and NO when it does not.
- 5) The Auditor shall comment and explain the positive or negative answers. Simple "YES," "NO," or "N.A." are insufficient.
- 6) Each relevant document shall be added to the final Audit Report in a separate and numbered attachment.
- 7) Photographic explanations added to the checklist or attached are appreciated.

Environmental And Process Requirements				
No.	Requirement	Parameters and information	Level	Y/N
1.1	Energy Monitoring: Mapping of every energy source used in the extraction process.	Bills, dedicated meters, annual kWh or GJ log.	Important	
Comments				
1.2	Reduction Plan: Formal plan with 3-5 year energy efficiency targets.	Signed strategic document; annual % reduction target.	Important	
Comments				
1.3	Wastewater Management: Constant monitoring of post-extraction wastewater quality and compliance with legislation.	Accredited lab test reports (BOD, COD, Solids). Evidence of compliance with legislation	Essential	
Comments				
1.4	Water Efficiency: Water recycling systems. At least 75% of process water should be reused.	Consumption index (L/kg); recovery projects.	Important	
Comments				
1.5	Substance Management: Controlled storage of acids/enzymes and use of Safety Data Sheets (SDS).	SDS; containment bunds for spills.	Essential	
Comments				

	Chemical Disposal: Full traceability of end-of-life for reagents and zero-tolerance for release.	Waste identification forms; loading/unloading logs.	Essential	
	Circular management of production waste: the company is committed to an annual improvement in the recovery, reuse, and recycling of production waste, with the goal of achieving—at the latest within three years following the first audit—the valorization of at least 95% of incoming raw materials.	Waste identification forms; loading/unloading logs. Other evidence of recovery and reuse	Important	

Raw Material Sourcing				
No.	Requirement	Parameters and information	Level	Y/N
2.1	Marine Certification: Raw material must originate from Friend of the Sea certified sources or equivalent (eg: MSC, ASC, Global GAP, BAP).	Valid certificates	Essential	
Comments				
2.2	IUCN Status: Species must not be listed as VU, EN, or CR on the IUCN Red List.	Scientific name validation via iucnredlist.org .	Essential	
Comments				
2.3	Bovine Certification: Farm must be Friend of the Earth certified or equivalent (eg: Global GAP, Organic, Rainforest Alliance, ROC).	Valid certificates; supplier audit reports.	Essential	
Comments				
2.4	Zero Deforestation: Proof that pastures do not derive from post-2020 forest conversion.	GPS coordinates of farms; satellite analysis; suppliers declaration.	Essential	
Comments				

2.5	By-product Origin: Hides must come exclusively from animals fit for human consumption.	Slaughterhouse veterinary health certificates.	Essential	
Comments				

Social Accountability

No.	Requirement	Parameters and information	Level	Y/N
3.1	Human Rights: Respect for minimum age (ILO 138) and no forced labour or discrimination.	Contracts, ID docs, corporate anti-exploitation policy.	Essential	
Comments				
3.2	Salaries & Health: Payment of legal minimum wages and guaranteed access to healthcare.	Payroll records; accident insurance; emergency plans.	Essential	
Comments				
3.3	Safety at Work: Specific training on chemical/physical risks and tracked PPE distribution.	Safety training logs; tracked PPE distribution.	Essential	
Comments				
3.4	Accident Records: Maintenance of accident or injury records used for preventive measures.	Accident records; cause analysis.	Essenziale	
Comments				

Traceability				
No.	Requirement	Parameters and information	Level	Y/N
4.1	Separation: Traceability system ensuring no possibility of mixing with non-certified products.	Warehouse procedures: distinct labelled batches.	Essential	
Comments				
4.2	Traceability Test: Audits shall include a traceability test (mass balance) on at least one finished batch.	Traceability test completed within 4 hours.	Essential	
Comments				
4.3	Documentation: Records documenting compliance for a period exceeding product shelf-life.	Invoices, bills, and traceability logs.	Important	
Comments				

Traceability Test

Audits shall include a traceability test at the beginning and at the end of a minimum of one batch of the finished product, including suitable mass budgets, bills, invoices and relevant documents to prove the origin of the product and its conformity to the standard.

Please report the traceability test performed, specifying the relevant data collected.

Further comments:

CONCLUSIONS:

The Auditor shall fill out the following fields

- The organisation COMPLIES with Friend of the Sea requirements**

- The organisation DOES NOT COMPLY with Friend of the Sea requirements**

MAJOR NON CONFORMITIES (to be corrected within 3 months)

List major non conformities

MINOR NON CONFORMITIES (corrective plan to be produced within 3 weeks and correction within 1 year)

List minor non conformities

RECOMMENDATIONS (to be communicated within the next inspection)

List recommendations