

Appendix I

Criterion I.10: Requirements for a climate protection strategy according to the Organic Mineral Water Standard

The implementation of all calculations and measures described here is carried out fundamentally according to the requirements of the following:

- GHG Protocol – Corporate Standard
- ISO 14064 – Corporate Carbon Footprint
- ISO 14067 – Product Carbon Footprint

or another corresponding standard, as long as the requirements do not oppose any specific stipulations put forth in this standard.

1. Data acquisition and system boundaries

Data acquisition regarding GHG emissions comprise the most extensive possible survey of in-house data (primary data) as well as surveys of current databases for calculating secondary data (Gemis, Probas, Ecoinvent, calculations from service providers such as ClimatePartner or myclimate) and, at the very minimum, includes the following:

Scope 1: Direct emissions from combustion processes of stationary (coal, oil, gas) and mobile plants (logistics), as well as emissions from refrigerants

Scope 2: Indirect emissions from purchased electricity, heating, cooling, steam

Scope 3: The following categories:

- A1 Purchased goods and services, in particular packaging
- A3 Fuel and energy-related emissions not included in scopes 1 or 2
- A4 Transport of purchased goods
- A5 Waste disposal
- A6 Business travel
- A7 Employees who commute
- B9 Transport of products up to the first level of trade, including transport for shipping and pick-up services

The production chain encompasses all GHG emissions starting from the well where the product is extracted up to the first level of trade and contains all greenhouse gas emissions defined as CO₂ equivalents with a significant share (more than 1 %) that are essential for the operation.

At the company's discretion, data collection with regard to greenhouse gas emissions and climate strategy refer either to all of the company's bottling and distribution or only to the product "organic mineral water". Accordingly, the requirements for the reduction and compensation are to be met in terms of tons of GHG emissions for the entire company or per liter of organic mineral water in grams of GHG emissions per liter. It is recommended that data collection and balancing greenhouse gas emissions as well as the measures taken as part of the climate protection strategy be applied to the entire company.

2. Minimum targets for a climate strategy

Organic mineral water must be “climate neutral” within the system boundaries given above. In principle, the requirements for the Organic Mineral Water Guidelines are committed to the 2015 Paris Agreement targets for limiting the global temperature increase to well below 2 °C, preferably 1.5 °C, compared to pre-industrial levels. This corresponds to a reduction in the rate of annual emissions of at least 2.5 %.

From this stated objective, it follows that the minimum targets of the climate strategy must be met at the very latest in the second year after the initial certification for organically produced mineral water:

Organic mineral water must always be produced using green electricity, i.e., electricity generated from 100 % renewable energy sources, and preferably from providers who invest in regenerative electricity generation plants or who produce their own electricity in a regenerative manner.

In addition, the company meets the requirements for the minimum targets of a climate protection strategy if it either joins the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and follows an SBTi-compliant reduction path for GHG emissions, or if it complies with the following criteria:

- A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the company’s sphere of influence (i.e., from the well to the loading dock as defined above within scopes 1 and 2) must, on average, amount to 2.5 % annually. In addition, efforts to continuously reduce the emissions as outlined in scope 3 must also be established.
- The 2.5 % reduction is to be achieved according to a mean value over a ten-year period. If the rate of reduction is less than the target value in a given year, the reasons for this deviation are to be submitted along with an explanation of how the overall goal will be achieved, despite this shortfall, over the ten-year period.
- Starting in 2024, the remaining greenhouse gas emissions encompassed within scopes 1 and 2 are to be compensated through national carbon sink projects, e.g., humus formation, wetland restoration, reforestation, in accordance with recognition of the projects by the *Qualitätsgemeinschaft Bio-Mineralwasser e.V.* Projects under review for approval by the QG should combine activities protecting the soil, water, climate and species diversity and must demonstrably meet these basic criteria:
 - additionality
 - long-term in scope
 - evaluation, monitoring and verification by third parties
 - transparency
 - excluded from being counted more than once

If these measures for binding greenhouse gases also comply with the requirements found in criterion I.2, they may be combined.

- Up to and including the year 2025, compensating for the remaining greenhouse gas emissions can still be done with the so-called international “Gold Standard Measures” (= standard defined as of 06/2023) or with comparable measures.

3. Time frame and verification

The company shall draw up a greenhouse gas balance in accordance with the aforementioned requirements no later than within the first year after the initial organic mineral water certification. The data for the greenhouse gas balance shall be updated annually in the years that follow.

Fulfillment of criterion I.10 must be documented annually through independent verification by external, accredited auditors or certifiers as part of the eco-management system. Confirmation must include the extent to which the company has exhibited compliance with the requirements.

In accordance with the general transparency of the Standard for Organic Mineral Water, the data compiled in the guidelines, must be published as a summary, e.g., in the environmental declaration or the sustainability report. The measures designed to reduce and bind greenhouse gas emissions must also be elucidated., i.e., which emissions are reduced and avoided through the implementation of these measures and which emissions are offset by which projects at which locations.

These requirements for a climate strategy are to be met first in 2024, based upon data collected in 2023, and then submitted for organic mineral water certification in 2024/25.

Criterion VI.4: Requirements regarding the declaration of origin

The trade description must comply with the requirements outlined in article 8.3 of the EC Mineral Water Directive. For any trade description not corresponding directly to the name of the spring or the location of its extraction, the location of extraction or the name of the spring shall be indicated in letters at least 1.5 times the height and width of the largest letters used in the trade description. In case this legal provision does not apply, the declaration of origin must be stated in a transparent and optimal manner according to the following requirements, of which all must be fulfilled:

- The name and location of the water source must be clearly visible on the label in the field of view.
- The information on the label should be easy to read and printed in a color that is clearly different than that of the surrounding design.
- Declarations of a water source that differ from the brand name of the water should appear in a font that is double the size of the minimum x-height of 2.4 mm as specified in Appendix IV of EU regulation no. 1169/2011 (LMIV).
- The corresponding reference should be made to the name of the water source in addition to the brand name of the water on the company's website.