

GOOD AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION IN AUSTRIA

GAEC WORKSHOP 2011



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INTRODUCTION



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- GAEC requirements are defined at national level
- 13 defined requirements
- 5 (out of 7) optional standards defined (as defined before 1 January 2009)

Minimum requirement I – soil erosion



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Minimum soil cover	compulsory	Green soil cover and cultivation of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• arable land and• areas destined for fruit-growing, wine-growing and hops (in case these areas are not in use for agricultural production)

Minimum requirement II – soil erosion



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Minimum land management reflecting site-specific conditions	compulsory	No machinery use <ul style="list-style-type: none">• on frozen, water-saturated or flooded land• on land close to lakes (10 m) or rivers (5 m)

Minimum requirement III - soil erosion



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Retain terraces	optional	Retaining terraces (except removal upon authorisation or official order)

Minimum requirement IV – soil organic matter



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Arable stubble management	compulsory	No burning of straw (except burning upon authorisation in case of special weather or cultivation conditions or phytosanitary reasons)

Minimum requirement V – soil organic matter



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Standards for crop rotation	optional	max. 85% of arable land can be used for growing cereals and maize (exemption from crop rotation for farms with > 0.5 LU/ha and < 5 ha arable land)

Minimum requirement VI – soil structure



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Appropriate machinery use	optional	No machinery use <ul style="list-style-type: none">• on frozen, water-saturated or flooded land• on land close to lakes (10 m) or rivers (5 m)

Minimum requirement VII – minimum level of maintenance



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Retention of landscape features	compulsory	Retaining protected natural features which do not exceed a minor share of the agricultural parcel

Minimum requirement VIII- minimum level of maintenance



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Minimum livestock stocking rates or/and appropriate regimes	optional	max. 50% of land can be chaffed as minimum cultivation standard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• rest of the land must be harvested or grazed• all Alpine pastures must be grazed

Minimum requirement IX - minimum level of maintenance



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Standard	Compulsory / optional	Requirement
Avoiding the encroachment of unwanted vegetation on agricultural land	compulsory	Prevention of bushes, trees and wasteland on agricultural land through appropriate tending measures

Minimum requirement X - minimum level of maintenance



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Protection of permanent pasture	compulsory	No conversion of permanent pasture into arable land <ul style="list-style-type: none">• on slopes > 15% slope gradient on buffer strips along water courses < 20m to lakes or < 5m to rivers

Minimum requirement XI - minimum level of maintenance



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Maintenance of olive groves and vines in good vegetative condition	optional	Vineyards must be kept in good vegetative condition, esp. through appropriate tending measures, such as pruning

Minimum requirement XII – protection and management of water



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Establishment of buffer strips along water courses	compulsory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Austrian Nitrate Action Programme• restricted use of pesticides• no use of machinery• no conversion from permanent pasture into arable land

Minimum requirement XIII – protection and management of water



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Standard	Compulsory/ optional	Requirement
Use of water for irrigation - compliance with authorisation procedure	compulsory	Authorisation for e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of public waters exceeding common private water consumption when there is a risk of negative effects on water quality or quantity or on the surroundings of waters

CONTROLS



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Control authority for GAEC:

- Paying agency (AMA)

Administrative checks:

- Crop rotation
- Minimum cultivation standard (max. 50% of land can be chaffed)

FINAL



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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**