



# Association Charte Qualité Maïs Classe A

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2017 Version

## QUALITY CHARTER MAIZE CLASS A

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## PREAMBLE

The present Charter applies to harvest 2017.

It demonstrates the intent of its signatories to actively commit to a traceable production and continual improvement in the physical and sanitary quality of maize within its zone of action. The educational role of the Association is to inform and diffuse relevant advice and recommendations.

### **Objectives :**

- ✎ To reduce to a minimum the risk of adventitious contamination by maize derived from GMO seed by employing appropriate methods of control from seeds through to loading of truck, train or boat.
- ✎ To promote and control the physical and phyto sanitary condition of all maize deliveries and especially to limit the development of:
  - fusariums that generate field based mycotoxins (taking into account the multifarious character of risk).
  - plants containing toxic grains (notably Datura).

Each signatory of the Charter guarantees the following conditions (stated below) that are applicable to their part in the supply chain and according to the self-evaluation audit form.

Conventional maize corresponding to the definition of these stated objectives and to the guarantees given below is classified 'Class A'.

## CHAPTER 1 : MAIZE CLASS A - TRACABILITY

### **I – Commitments / Operation guarantees :**

1) Seed Companies, members of UFS (the Union of French maize seed producers, who are Signatories of the Charter), guarantee the following:

- a) To supply maize seed that complies with all EU and French legislation and requirements concerning GMOs, thereby allowing seed distributors to be in conformity with the same regulations.
- b) To incite maize producers on whose land they have experimental or promotional GMO trial plots;
  - to declare these plots to their coop/merchant, member of the Charter, by way of traceability guarantees identifying producer and receiver.
  - to respect the regulations governing co-existence or by default those recommended by the trade.

2) Seed distributors, being signatories of the Charter, undertake to secure seed supplies from Seed Companies that are members of UFS, or to demand from their suppliers at least the equivalent guarantees verifiable by audit.

3) Maize producers undertake to certify in writing to their 'collector' (coop/merchant) the nature (traditional varieties or GMOs) of maize seed planted on their holding, including experimental trial plots and they accept to be audited on such a declaration. Audit will take the form of checking SOC labels, seed invoices etc.

In the case where a producer is unable to provide such documents necessary to justify the seed origin, it is their responsibility to prove that the seed is conventional by means of a PCR analysis.

Only maize harvested from a producer who has given these written guarantees will be accepted as Class A maize

This commitment will be an integral part of the traceability\* guarantees between producer and 'collector'.

*\*This tracability can form the basis of a bridge to other schemes. (eg: sustainable maize according to EU directive 2009/28/CE).*



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4) Suppliers of farm dried maize undertake to allow the receiving merchant / co-operative to verify that all maize transited through their drying facilities, whether they be owned, collective or sub let, conforms to the producer guarantees outlined in point 3.

5) CUMA (Cooperatives of Agricultural Machinery users) Unions and sub contractors, signatories of the Charter undertake to promote the traceability work of the Quality Charter Association by way of communication and information notably with drivers/machine operators; the objective being to respect cleaning procedures for sowing machines, harvesting material and means of transport in order to avoid any cross contamination between class a and non class a maize.

6) Every 'collector' being a signatory of the Charter undertakes:

- a) To take all necessary measures to identify and locate, prior to harvest, any maize production derived from GMO seed varieties.
- b) Prior to harvest, to undertake a representative number of members producer audits (the square root of the number of producers).
- c) To check that all drying and storage contractors, other merchants, other service providers and farmer dryers and/or farm store operators apply the necessary guarantees as stated in the 'quality charter'.
- d) To put in place an auditable system of traceability to assure the isolation of all Class A maize and non Class A maize. This procedure will allow the traceability of Class A and Non Class A maize through stock handling circuits and administration.
- e) To inform transit silo personnel of the nature of all maize deliveries by using appropriate delivery and transfer documentation channels.
- f) To promote the traceability work of the Quality Charter Association by communication (notably with maize producers), internal training and in relations with service companies.

7) The port silos, being signatories of the Charter, undertake :

- a) To ensure that the originating merchant / co-operative is identified as a signatory of the Charter.
- b) To put in place an auditable system of traceability guaranteeing the separate handling of maize declared Class A maize.
- c) To promote the traceability work of the Quality Charter Association by communication, training and in relations with service companies.

The port silos may be forced to take restrictive measures with regards to the reception of maize not conforming to Class A maize.

## **II EU Legislation, Directives, Recommendations and French Legislation (non – exhaustive list) :**

1) The following EU regulations;

- a) dated 22/09/2003 are applicable since 2004:
  - n° 1829/2003 "concerning genetically modified food and feed".
  - n° 1830/2003 "concerning the traceability and labelling of GMOs and the traceability of food and feed products produced from GMOs and amending Directive 2001/18/EC".

These regulations have made the following points obligatory in EU countries;  
traceability;

Labelling of authorised GMOs and feed and food containing authorised GMOs above the adventitious threshold of 0.9%.

- b) dated 28/06/2007 and in force since 1st January 2009:



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- n°834/2007 “concerning organic production”.

2) EU Directive 2001/18 dated 12th March 2001, “on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs”, was transposed into French legislature by the law dated 25 June 2008. The Ministerial decrees resulting from this law, notably relating to conditions of sowing have not yet been published.

Directive (EU) 2015/412 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their territory Text with EEA relevance (transposition in French law n° 2015-1567 dated 02/12/2015: title IV)

3) An EU Commission Recommendation published on 23rd July 2003 gives “guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the coexistence of GM crops with conventional and organic farming”.

4) The Parliamentary Act governing GMOs dated 25/06/08 consisting notably of the following chapters:  
Chapter 1: The Advisory Committee on Biotechnologies.  
Chapter 2: Responsibility and co-existence between different crops.  
Chapter 3: Transparency.

5) The decree 2011-841 dated 13/07/2011 relative to the declaration of GMO cultivation (register).

6) The decree 2012-28 dated 30/01/2012 relative to the labelling of foodstuffs from ‘gmo free’ sources, applicable since 01/07/2012.

7) Departmental order dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014 prohibiting the marketing, usage, consumption and growing of genetically modified maize varieties MON 810.

8) The Parliamentary Act n° 2014-567 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 prohibiting the growing of genetically modified maize varieties.

Any statutory details not specifically mentioned in this Charter, notably the decrees and departmental orders stipulating methods of application of the law governing GMOs, will automatically apply to all maize grown on French territory.

All the legislation referred to above can be consulted on the Association website <http://www.maisclasse-a.com> .

## **III - Guarantees and Recommendations concerning the growing of authorised GMO varieties:**

In order to reinforce the traceability of Class A maize, which, since harvest 1999 has become a recognised International market reference for maize, members are subject to:

### 1) Guarantees

a) Prior to sowing, any distributors of GMO seed will organise meetings to inform and exchange information for all farmers wishing to plant GMOs. A seed company representative will be available to explain:

- all necessary legislation;
- commitments of the present charter;
- rules governing coexistence.

b) ANY production of GMO maize be it for commercial or experimental purposes or on farm consumption must be subject to a contract between seed supplier (varieties authorised in the EU and France) and farmer grower.

c) Sub contract agreements between maize collectors so that those not equipped with individualised, dedicated drying and storage points for GMO maize are able to sign protocol agreements with other collectors or companies who can offer such a service.

### 2) Recommendations



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- a) Unless new French legislation is adopted which would automatically apply, in addition to respecting the legislation governing coexistence as mentioned above, farmers should respect the minimum distances imposed by guidelines concerning special maize production (maize for seed, sweet corn, organic maize, waxy maize).
- b) Maize producers should inform any potential planting, harvesting, drying, and storage contractors of the traceability requirements of the present charter (cleaning of planting material, combine harvesters, transport, installations....).

These guarantees and recommendations have been integrated into the self evaluation guide and the audit document.

## CHAPTER 2 : PHYSICAL AND PHYTO SANITARY QUALITY

### I – Guarantees :

1) Agro-chemical suppliers who are members of the Charter should recommend to farmers the use of approved plant protection products at recommended doses and within rules of good practice (notably to limit the presence of Datura).

2) Collector signatories of the Charter undertake

a) not to harvest maize on a Sunday in order not to prejudice the condition of the maize, except in the case of 'force majeure' due to climatic conditions, and only then after a collective agreement validated by the President of the Association.

b) to have at their disposal the equipment necessary to measure the physical quality of the grain (admix, broken, foreign grains notably Datura), and;

For wet maize - as a minimum requirement, apply a weight allowance on deliveries identified as containing over the maximum tolerance of 3% broken grains and foreign matter.

For dry maize – in the absence of specific contractual terms, as a minimum requirement, the addendum N°5 for the sale of maize is to be applied.

c) to promote the traceability work of the Quality Charter Association by communication, training and in relations with service companies and farmer dryers and/or farmer store operators.

With the objective of attaining a clean grain with a minimum amount of broken and split grains and a minimum of foreign grains, notably Datura, they undertake to:

-put in place systems of communication with farmer members to make them aware of the importance of the quality of the grain ex-combine harvester.

-to distribute or make available to sub contractors, CUMA unions, or farmers owning their own combines, the document "Maize grain quality ex combine harvester", a document written in partnership with ARVALIS and GERM SERVICES.

d) to make available for farmer dryers and farm storage operators, the basic rules governing good practice for drying, storage and conservation of maize.

3) CUMA unions and sub contractors, signatories of the Charter, undertake to contribute to improving the physical and sanitary quality of the maize ex-combine harvester by way of transmitting information to CUMAs and subcontractors at all levels, by training drivers and by organising farm demonstrations highlighting the importance of the right setting on combine harvesters, in order to obtain a clean maize with a minimum of broken and split grains and a minimum of foreign grains, notably Datura.

4) The port silos, signatories of the Charter, undertake :

a) to put in place all necessary measures and procedures to control the physical quality of the maize at reception (foreign matter, broken grains) leading to the application of contract penalties, and eventual rejection. This allows vessels to be loaded in compliance with conditions specified in Addendum n°5 or



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with alternative contractual specifications accepted by the port silos.

b) Promote the Association's guidelines on phyto-sanitary quality by communication, training and in relations with service companies.

## **II - Recommendations :**

1) Maize producers should:

a) Concerning the sowing/growing period:

- use recommended and appropriate farming methods highlighted by the annual Arvalis/Charter survey in order to identify and minimise the risk of field based mycotoxins :
- avoid late sowing particularly with varieties whose eventual harvest dates are not compatible.
- put in place appropriate measures to combat the proliferation of foreign plants (notably Datura) within EU regulations and according to good practice.
- pay particular attention to the protection against borer insects by adopting good agricultural practice.
- aim for an early harvest as soon as grain maturity is reached, especially for parcels that have suffered insect damage and/or are in a poor phyto sanitary condition; in all cases harvesting after 31 October is to be avoided.
- carry out a shredding and light blending of harvest waste as soon as possible after harvest.

b) Concerning the harvest period:

- take into consideration the physical and phyto sanitary requirements of the present Charter and recommend such conditions on any eventual sub contractors or CUMA, notably by:
- cleaning and setting any combine harvesters to limit the presence of admixture, broken and split grains, and foreign grains (notably Datura).
- cleaning any transport to be used.

2) Maize producers and their sub contractors who also dry and store should use good drying and storage practice to comply with regulations and commercial standards in force. These will be auditable by their principal.

3) The collectors who are signatories of the Charter should

a) Adopt all necessary measures at harvest, drying and storage to limit any degradation in the phyto sanitary condition of the harvested maize. Particular attention should be paid to limiting the time wet maize is held in pre-storage (studies show that the technical and sanitary condition of maize pre stocked for over 48 hours is likely to suffer, in particular the promatest result). As a consequence, collectors may be obliged to take measures such as supplementary silo closures (over and above the Sunday closures) in order to regulate the volume of maize deliveries thereby respecting these objectives.

b) Conform to the rules of Good Trading Practice and hygiene concerning the harvesting, storage, marketing and transport of cereals, oilseeds and pulses. (Manuel jointly written by Coop de France/E.N.A/Synacomex.)

4) The port silos, being signatories of the Charter will take all necessary measures to avoid damaging the physical and sanitary condition of the maize that is transferred. Particular attention should be paid to limiting the time wet maize is held in pre-storage.

## **III - Legislation :**

1) Food Safety

The group of European regulations concerning the sanitary condition of feed and foodstuffs is often referred to



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as "FOOD SAFETY". The principal regulations concerned are:

- n° 178/2002: "laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety". This regulation, often referred to as "Food Law" is applicable since 1st January 2005.
- n° 852/2004: "on the hygiene of foodstuffs" is applicable since 1st January 2006.
- n° 183/2005: "laying down requirements for feed hygiene" which is applicable since 1st January 2006.

These regulations make it obligatory to put in place a form of HACCP style risk analysis.

## 2) Other rules and recommendations concerning contaminants

- Commission regulation n°856/2005: "regarding fusarium toxins".
- Commission regulation n°1881/2006: "setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs".
- Commission regulation n°1126/2007 dated 28th September 2007 amending the regulation (CE) n°1881/2006: "setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs as regards fusarium toxins in maize and maize products".
- Recommendation n°2006/583/CE: "on the prevention and reduction of fusarium toxins in cereals and cereal products".
- Recommendation n°2006/576/CE: "on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T2 and HT2 and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding".
- Departmental order dated 07/11/2006: "relative to maximum pesticide residue levels permissible on and in cereals".
- Following publication in the Official Journal of the French Republic dated 04/09/2007 the use of dichlorvos and malathion are banned since 01/12/2008.
- Commission regulation n°1275/2013 dated 06/12/2013 concerning maximum levels for harmful botanical impurities (Datura 0.1% maximum limit).
- Recommendation n°2015/976/CE regarding "the monitoring of the presence of topane alkaloids in food".

All of these texts can be consulted on the Association's website. <http://www.maisclasse-a.com> .

For any information concerning agrochemicals and authorised commercial products, refer to the following website: [www.e-phy.agriculture.gouv.fr](http://www.e-phy.agriculture.gouv.fr)

## **CHAPTER 3 : SIGNATORIES OF THE CHARTER AND INTERNET SITE**

The list of the signatories of the Charter is available on the Association website: <http://www.maisclasse-a.com> .

The Committee  
Quality Charter validated 26th January 2017.