



Certification scheme GreenCert – GreenScent – Beginner Level

GreenCert – Beginner Level – Farm to Fork

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Contents

1	Scope	3
2	Requirements for competence	3
2.1	Competence Profile	3
2.2	Knowledge and skill requirements	3
2.2.1	Unit 1 (Abbrev. U1)	3
2.2.2	Unit 2 (Abbrev. U2)	4
2.2.3	Unit 3 (Abbrev. U3)	4
2.2.4	Unit 4 (Abbrev. U4)	4
3	Requirements for admission to the examination	4
4	Multiple-Choice Exam	4
5	Evaluation Criteria	4
5.1	Multiple-Choice Exam	4
5.2	Overall assessment and examination repetition	4
6	Issue and validity of certificates	5
7	Recertification	5
7.1	Criteria for renewal of the certificate	5
7.2	Issue of the certificate	5
7.3	Deadlines	5

1 Scope

This certification scheme specifies the procedure of how the competence of persons in the field of GreenCert – Beginner Level, is being certified by ECQA GmbH.

The certification organization ECQA GmbH is an Austrian company, which is 60% owned by the non-profit organization European Certification and Qualification Association (ECQA).

The object of certification is exclusively / solely the competence of natural persons.

The certification is largely based on the principles of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17024:2012-07 Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies certifying persons.

2 Requirements for competence

2.1 Competence Profile

Individuals certified in accordance with this certification scheme are competent to independently plan and deliver GreenCert – Beginner Level as a service, using appropriate technical tools and applications.

2.2 Knowledge and skill requirements

The "From Farm to Fork" strategy within the European Green Deal aims to create a fair, healthy, and environmentally-friendly food system, spanning from agricultural production to the end consumer. This comprehensive approach requires a range of competencies that connect agricultural practices, supply chain management, and consumer behaviour. Key competencies for this strategy include sustainable agricultural practices that reduce environmental impact, such as organic farming, precision agriculture, and integrated pest management. These practices help decrease the use of chemical inputs like pesticides and fertilizers, promoting biodiversity and soil health. Professionals in this field also need skills in supply chain innovation to ensure food safety, reduce food waste, and enhance transparency from production to consumption. Knowledge of nutritional science is crucial to develop food products that are not only sustainable but also contribute to public health. Understanding of policy and regulation is essential to navigate and shape the legislative framework that supports sustainable food systems. This includes knowledge of food labelling standards, trade regulations, and environmental compliance. Attitudes of resilience, responsibility, and advocacy for ethical practices are vital. These foster a commitment to continuous improvement and adaptation in the face of challenges such as climate change and global food security. They also encourage collaboration among farmers, suppliers, policymakers, and consumers to achieve the goals of the Farm to Fork strategy. Overall, the strategy supports the Green Deal's broader goals of reducing the environmental footprint of the food system while ensuring food security, nutrition, and public health, aiming for a holistic transformation of Europe's food system. Individuals performing GreenCert – Beginner Level Farm to Fork must demonstrate competencies as specified in Sections 2.2.1 through 2.2.4.

2.2.1 Unit 1 (Abbrev.U1)

- E1: Understanding natural processes (EQF2)
- E2: Understanding agricultural practices (EQF2)
- E3: Linking economic and social factors (EQF2)
- E4: Valuing food security (EQF2)

2.2.2 Unit 2 (Abbrev.U2)

- E1: Defining food products (EQF2)
- E2: Understanding processes (EQF2)

2.2.3 Unit 3 (Abbrev. U3)

- E1: Geography and culture of food (EQF2)
- E2: Market and health factors (EQF2)
- E3: Understanding society and food (EQF2)

2.2.4 Unit 4 (Abbrev. U4)

- E1: Understanding the role of storage and conservation in food waste processes (EQF2)
- E2: Sustainable disposal and circularity (EQF2)

3 Requirements for admission to the examination

Prerequisite for admission to the examination is

- None (although the completion of a recommended training is suggested)

4 Multiple-Choice Exam

The examination is done in writing as a multiple-choice test online. The exam consists of 11 questions, from a pool of more than 30 questions in total, from the four subject areas as per section 2.2.1 to 2.2.4.

The maximum duration of the written exam is set at 30min.

5 Evaluation Criteria

5.1 Multiple-Choice Exam

Each question is scored with a maximum of one point each. There are several answer options per question. For each the complete exam at least 50% of the total score must be achieved.

5.2 Overall assessment and examination repetition

To pass the overall examination, at least 50% must be achieved.

6 Issue and validity of certificates

The successful evaluation of the initial certification examination, according to section 5, is a prerequisite for the issuance of a certificate.

The certificates are valid for 3 years.

7 Recertification

7.1 Criteria for renewal of the certificate

To renew the certificate, the certificate holder must fulfil one of the following criteria:

7.1.1 The certificate holder must retake the exam.

7.1.2 The certificate holder must hand in a written report stating the use of the skills in a project/work environment proven by the school/university/company.

7.2 Issue of the certificate

After fulfilling all the criteria, according to 7.1, the certificate is renewed for 2 years.

7.3 Deadlines

Recertification must take place before the certificate expires. In exceptional cases, recertification may also take place after expiry of the certificate. In this case, the following conditions apply:

7.3.1 If the recertification takes place after the expiration of the validity of a certificate within a period of maximum 6 months, the recertification shall be carried out in accordance with the criteria and process specified in Section 7.1. Otherwise, an audit to the extent of the initial certification shall be performed in accordance with Section 5.

7.3.2 The validity of the certificate is always based on the date of initial certification. This means that the date of the initial certification is always taken as the starting point, regardless of the recertification date.