

Quality  
captivates

bio  inspecta q  inspecta

# bio.inspecta AG q.inspecta GmbH

EBC Webinar, Heike Renner, 16 February 2022



## Contents

1. Portrait bio.inspecta/ q.inspecta
2. EBC inspection and certification process
3. Update 2022



# 1. Portrait bio.inspecta/q.inspecta

- Bio.inspecta AG, Frick, CH
- Milestones
- EBC International Service

bio.inspecta AG, Frick, CH

<https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/en/home>



Office bio.inspecta AG,  
in between FiBL  
campus - Research  
Institute of Organic  
Agriculture



Source: FiBL

# Milestones

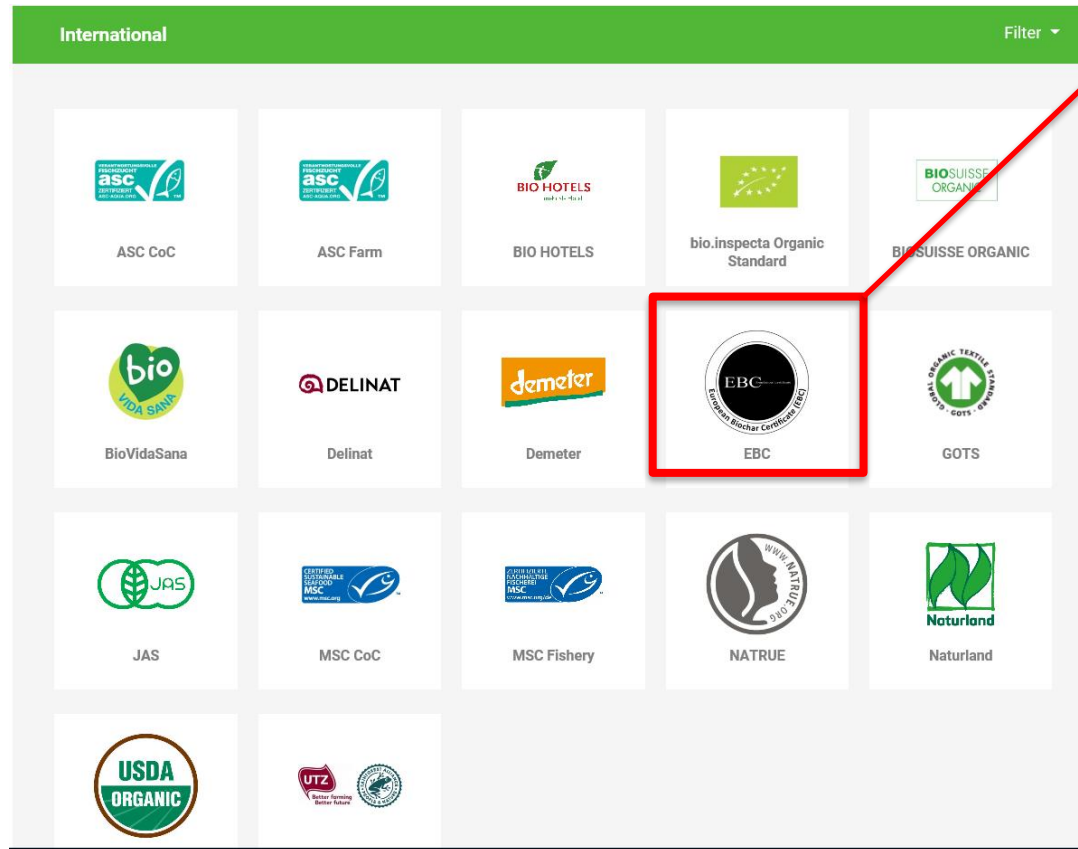
## Milestones

- 1999 Establishment of bio.inspecta.
- 2003 Introduction of Ecert software for inspection and certification processes.
- 2006 Establishment of subsidiary q.inspecta GmbH.
- 2008 Introduction of easy-cert.ch: Switzerland's central label and certificate platform.
- 2009 Partnership with SQS in Zollikofen, Switzerland.
- 2010 Establishment in Turkey of subsidiary bio.inspecta Ltd.
- 2017 bio.inspecta acquires shareholdings in Albinpekt Ltd.
- 2017 Establishment of the new bio.inspecta Romandie office in Etagnières.
- 2019 The organic certification body CERES becomes part of EASY-CERT group AG.
- 2019 In June 2019, bio.inspecta and Austria Bio Garantie, the two leading inspection bodies in Switzerland and Austria respectively, unite organisationally under the umbrella of the newly established EASY-CERT group AG.

<https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/en/company>



## bio.inspecta – EBC - International Service



Initial certifications:  
2012

<https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/en/services>

## 2. EBC inspection/certification process

- What benefit has an EBC certification?
- EBC inspection and certification - steps to successful certification
- Platform for certificates, [www.easy-cert.com](http://www.easy-cert.com)

## What benefit has an EBC certification ?



- Product differentiation: EBC certification allows biochar producers and processors to mark biochar as certified and to use the EBC logo and the q.inspecta certification mark to the products
  - ➔ added value
  - ➔ strengthens consumer trust. Guarantees product safety
  - ➔ strengthens fair competition between market participants
  - ➔ contributes to sustainable market development
- EBC as a precondition for the certification of the C-sink potential



## EBC inspection / certification process

### **On - site inspection**

The on-site inspection is carried out using a standardized inspection checklist. The companies receive documents for preparation. At the end of the inspection, the results are discussed in the final meeting, any necessary corrective measures and missing documents are summarized and a time frame is set in which these must be implemented. The inspection report is signed by both parties and forwarded to the certification body.

**Deadline management / backoffice** : Administration of open non-conformities and and reminders, after deadlines have expired.

### **Certification**

The certifier checks all information resulting from the inspection, including corrective measures submitted. If the biochar, biochar products are approved, a certificate is issued and the certification process is completed.

Inspection and certification of a product are never carried out by the same person (principle of four eyes).

## EBC certification



validation. Review of all documents and information from the inspection (4-eyes principle)



Validation of corrective actions



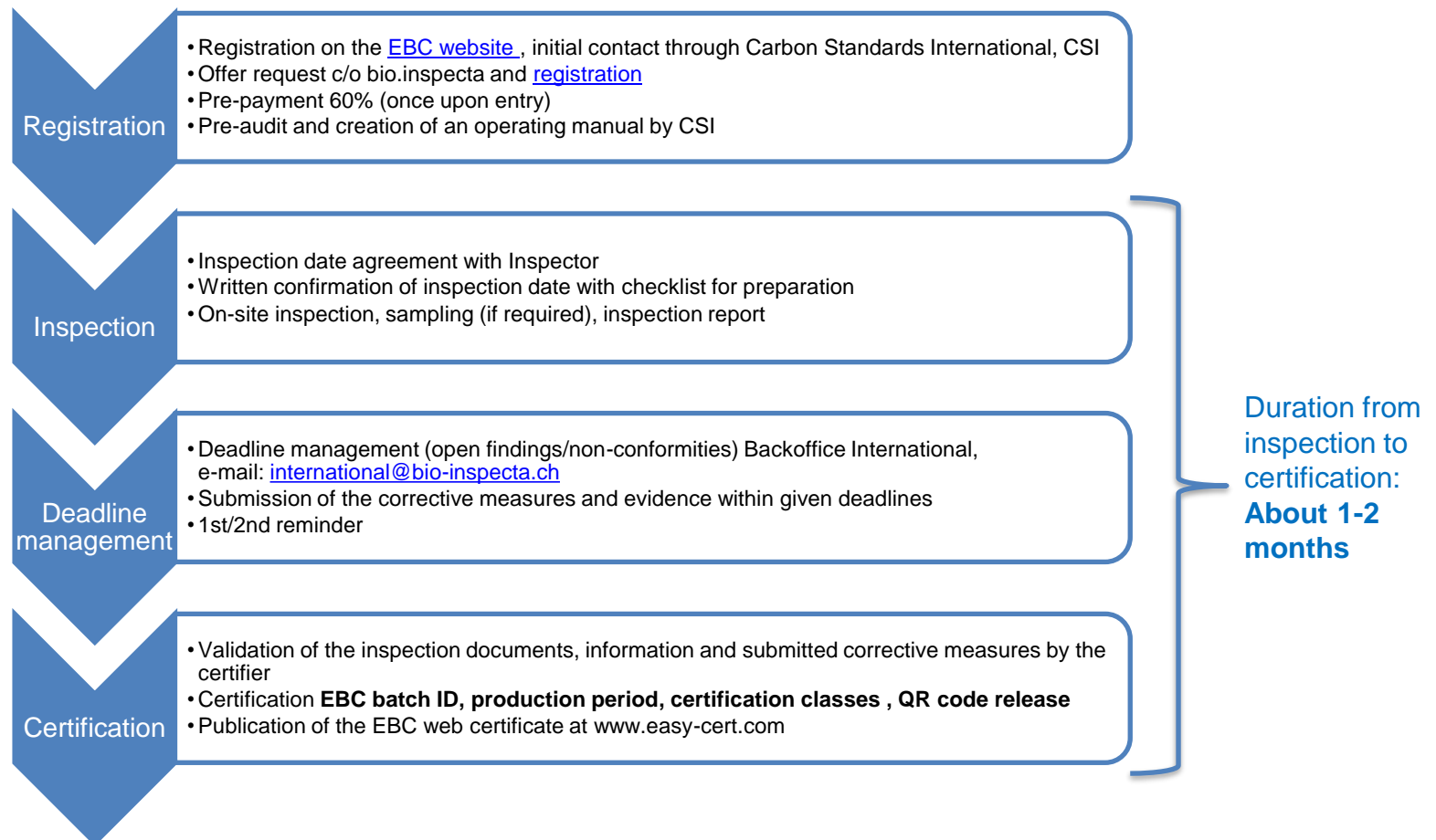
Issuance of EBC certificate and product list with biochar batch ID. Approval QR code in the EBC portal/website

## Our services are ...

- independent
- credible
- respectful
- correct (4-eyes principle)
- right of appeal



# Steps to a successful certification



## EBC logo and certification mark

Certified companies may use the EBC logo and the q.inspecta certification mark for marketing and product identification




Download:


<https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/en/certification-marks>




# Online platform - certificates database: [www.easy-cert.com](http://www.easy-cert.com)



**EASY-CERT**

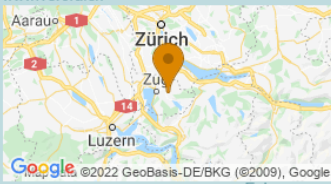


In co-operation with:



- Home
- Customer portal
- Certificates / Operators
- Agricultural inputs / auxiliary inputs
- Information
- Download documents
- Contact
- Partners

**Operator information** Share Link As at: 08.02.2022 ▼

ID-Number	33978
Name	Verora AG
Street	Heiterstalden 1
Postcode / Place	6313 Edlibach
Country	CH
Website	<a href="http://www.verora.ch">www.verora.ch</a>
Map bio	

To find out for which standards and which products this company is certified, please select one of the certificates below. If no certificate is displayed, the company is currently not certified for any standard and therefore no product is certified. You can find expired certificates by selecting a date from the past in the field 'As at'

## EBC certificate – check in real time

**Certificates**

As at: 08.02.2022 ▼

Number	valid until	
BINT-6520	31.12.2022	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">Zertifikat</div>  <div style="border: 2px solid #00a0e3; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> PDF → </div> </div>

Please note: If several certificates are listed for one standard, the certificate with the more recent date of issuance replaces the older certificate.

**Products**


As at: 08.02.2022 ▼

Verora Pflanzenkohle - EBC Futter - EBC ID: ba-ch-16-1-2, Produktion: 1.4.2021-31.3.2022 – Storage, Production

**All details** +

+

# EBC certificate



**Zertifikat**

Faszination Qualität

Numer des Zertifikates: BINT-6520

**Verora AG**  
**Heiterstalden 1**  
**6313 Edlibach**  
**Schweiz**  
 Betriebsnummer: 33978

Die Produkte und Tätigkeiten gemäss Produktliste des genannten Unternehmens sind nach folgenden Standards zertifiziert:

**EBC European Biochar Certificate**

Tätigkeiten: Produzent

Die Zertifizierungsdetails der Produkte und Tätigkeiten sind unter [www.EASY-CERT.com/CH/33978](http://www.EASY-CERT.com/CH/33978) aufgelistet.  
 Gültig bis: **31.12.2022**

Page 1 of 1

**Product list**  
 as of 08.02.2022

**Verora AG**  
**Heiterstalden 1**  
**6313 Edlibach**  
**CH**

ID-Number: **33978**

**This product list is only valid in combination with a valid certificate downloaded from EASY-CERT. Products registered after this product list was issued are not listed below. They will be published at [www.EASY-CERT.com/CH/33978](http://www.EASY-CERT.com/CH/33978) subsequent to being certified.**

**Products**

Products	Activities	Standards	Status	valid until
Verora Pflanzkohle - EBC Futter - EBC ID: ba-ch-16-1-2, Produktion: 1.4.2021-31.3.2022	Storage, Production	European Biochar Certificate - for a sustainable production of biochar	Recognized	<b>31.12.2022</b>

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## Successful certification

- Clear/transparent structure in the audit and certification steps
- Transparent communication with the company
- Simplified inspection/certification process through IT tool /software
- Easy access to the certificate and product list via online tools
- Team availability and support

## Update 2022

- Update EBC inspection program
- Update EBC certification
- Reassessment of already certified batches (2021) acc. to EBC Rili Rev. 10.1

## Update inspection program 2022 (II)

Checkpoints - e.g.	Adjustments e.g.																
Classification of activities (CP 01-05)	<table> <tr><td>Production</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Preperation/Processing</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Subcontracting</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Trade</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Storage</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Import</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Export</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Other activities:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </table>	Production	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preperation/Processing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Subcontracting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Import	<input type="checkbox"/>	Export	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other activities:	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Trade	<input type="checkbox"/>																
Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>																
Import	<input type="checkbox"/>																
Export	<input type="checkbox"/>																
Other activities:	<input type="checkbox"/>																
Current EBC product list (CP 02-03)	<p>02-03</p> <p>Current EBC product list is complete and certification class of products is correct.</p> <p>Mandatory attachment: Please adapt EBC product list from easy-cert.com, note changes and upload doc./file "b.i. No_Year_EBC product list updated".</p>																
Classification target EBC certification class (CP 03-01)	<table> <tr><td>EBC-Feed</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>EBC-AgroOrganic</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>EBC-Agro</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>EBC-Urban</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>EBC-ConsumerMaterial</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>EBC-BasicMaterials</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>EBC- Biochar based products</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </table>	EBC-Feed	<input type="checkbox"/>	EBC-AgroOrganic	<input type="checkbox"/>	EBC-Agro	<input type="checkbox"/>	EBC-Urban	<input type="checkbox"/>	EBC-ConsumerMaterial	<input type="checkbox"/>	EBC-BasicMaterials	<input type="checkbox"/>	EBC- Biochar based products	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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EBC- Biochar based products	<input type="checkbox"/>																



# Update inspection program 2022 (III)

07		Biochar properties	
07-01		Threshold values of all parameters according to analysis certificate / biochar batch / application class confirmed.	

<

Deviations and measures

Type	Deviation c	Deviation	Sel.	Code	Measure
		EBC-Feed	<input type="checkbox"/>		Biochar batch ID: ##1##
		EBC-Agro	<input type="checkbox"/>		Biochar batch ID: ##1##
		EBC-AgroOrganic	<input type="checkbox"/>		Biochar batch ID: ##1##
		EBC-Urban	<input type="checkbox"/>		Biochar batch ID: ##1##
		EBC-ConsumerMaterials	<input type="checkbox"/>		Biochar batch ID: ##1##
		EBC-BasicMaterials	<input type="checkbox"/>		Biochar batch ID: ##1##

Description

1 Biochar batch ID acc. EBC

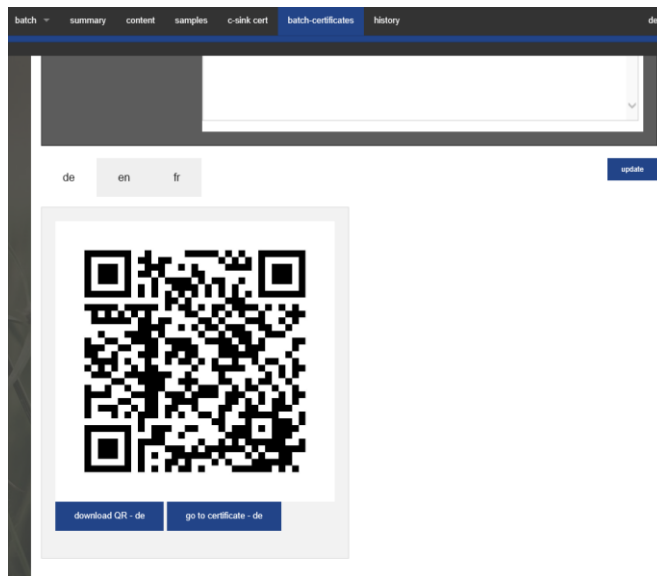
# Update EBC certification 2022 (I)

- Certification of biochar batch IDs according to new EBC threshold values of certification classes

EBC -Certification Class		EBC-Feed	EBC-AgroOrganic	EBC-Agro	EBC-Urban	EBC-ConsumerMaterials	EBC-BasicMaterials
Elemental analysis	Declaration of Ctot, Corg, H, N, O, S, ash						
	H/Corg	< 0.7					
Physical parameters	Water content, dry matter (@ < 3mm particle size), bulk density (TS), WHC, pH, salt content, electrical conductivity of the solid biochar						
TGA	Needs to be presented for the first production batch of a pyrolysis unit						
Nutrients	Declaration of N, P, K, Mg, Ca, Fe						
Heavy metals	Pb	10 g t <sup>-1</sup> (88%DM)	45 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	120 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	120 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	120 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	declaration, no limit values for certification
	Cd	0.8 g t <sup>-1</sup> (88% DM)	0.7 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	1,5 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	1,5 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	1,5 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	
	Cu	70 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	70 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	100 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	100 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	100 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	
	Ni	25 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	25 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	50 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	50 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	50 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	
	Hg	0.1 g t <sup>-1</sup> (88% DM)	0.4 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	1 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	1 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	1 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	
	Zn	200 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	200 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	400 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	400 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	400 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	
	Cr	70 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	70 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	90 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	90 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	90 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	
	As	2 g t <sup>-1</sup> (88% DM)	13 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	13 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	13 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	13 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	
Organic contaminants	16 EPA PAH	declaration	4±2 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	6.0+2.2 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM	declaration	declaration	not required
	8 EFSA PAH	1.0 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM					4 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM
	benzo[e]pyrene benzo[b]fluoranthene	< 1.0 g t <sup>-1</sup> DM for each of both substances					
	PCB, PCDD/F	See chapter 10	Once per pyrolysis unit for the first production batch. For PCB: 0.2 mg kg <sup>-1</sup> DM, for PCDD/F: 20 ng kg <sup>-1</sup> (I-TEQ OMS), respectively				

## Update EBC certification 2022 (II)

- Entering analysis parameters / batch ID
- Release QR code of the certified biochar batch ID on the EBC website/EBC portal



# Reassessment of certified batches (2021)

acc. to new Rev., EBC Guidelines v. 10.1, January 2022

New: 16 EPA PAH, 8 EFSA PAH, **benzo[e]pyrene/ benzo[j] fluoranthene**.

- Operator orders laboratory for re-analysis of missing parameters for re-assessment from reserve sample of actual certified biochar batch ID
- Request for reassessment to bio.inspecta AG, back office, e-mail: [international@bio-inspecta.ch](mailto:international@bio-inspecta.ch) with indication of batch ID and new targeted EBC certification classes, incl. EBC analysis report Eurofins with new presentation of PAH values, 16 EPA PAH, 8 EFSA PAH, benzo[e]pyrene/ benzo[j] fluoranthene
- Certifier performs reassessment and adapts certification status/class of batch ID, production period 1.1.2022 - end of batch ID production xx.xx.2022
- Activation of the updated certified "product list" on easy-cert.com and EBC portal/website.
- Dispatch of the result of the reassessment and delivery of the updated product list to the customer.
- Invoicing of reassessment order with the next invoice 2022 (approx. 1h/reassessment)

# PM EBC, bio.inspecta AG – International Division

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[heike.renner@bio-inspecta.ch](mailto:heike.renner@bio-inspecta.ch)





# Questions?



**Thank you for your attention !**