
EUROPEAN FLAX® STANDARD

Article 1 Object

This document provides a definition of technical criteria that must be fulfilled by each company wanting to use the EUROPEAN FLAX® trademark.

Article 2 Description of the traceability chain

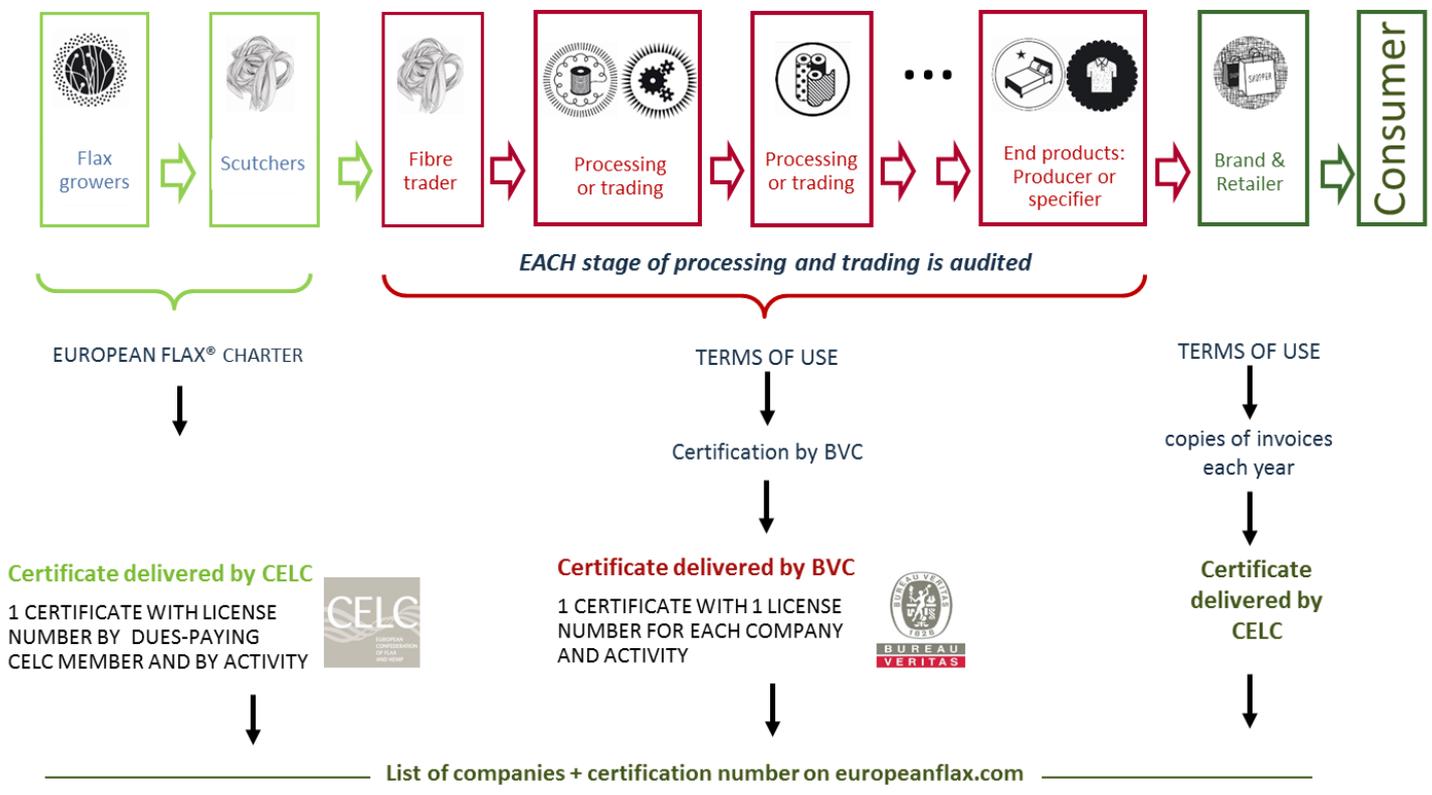
Each company shall make a conformity assessment against the EUROPEAN FLAX® criteria. Following this verification, a EUROPEAN FLAX® certificate is issued to the company.

For companies producing flax fibre (scutching), the certificate is delivered by the CELC MASTERS OF LINEN. This certificate issuance process is defined in the EUROPEAN FLAX® Charter.

For companies trading flax fibre, processing linen/flax, traders of yarns/fabrics/semi-products, manufacturers of finished products, the certificate is delivered by Bureau Veritas Certification. Retailers can also be certified by BVC.

This certificate issuance process is defined:

- in this document EUROPEAN FLAX® standard: technical criteria.
- in the document Description of the EUROPEAN FLAX® certification process: issuance process.



MATERIAL SOURCING

EUROPEAN FLAX® suppliers

The company shall ensure that the supplier of certified material has a valid certificate.

The company shall establish and maintain an up-to-date list of its EUROPEAN FLAX® suppliers. This list shall include the supplier name, his certificate number and the certificate expiration date. This list shall be updated at least once a year, including a check of the certificates validity on www.europeanflax.com.

Assessment and verification: *The company shall provide the suppliers list, including the date of the last update, and a copy of the valid certificates of EUROPEAN FLAX® certified material suppliers or the screenshot of the website www.europeanflax.com showing the certificate validity.*

Control on receipt of material

On receipt of certified material, the company shall check claims on purchase invoices.

Invoices shall clearly specify which material is certified by using the claim « EUROPEAN FLAX® certified ». Moreover, the supplier certificate number shall be written on the invoice.

Assessment and verification: *The company shall provide:*

- *A description of the checking system in place or an appropriate work instruction.*
- *A sample of purchase invoices, as defined by the certification body. This sample determination is a representative and reliable selection according to the ISO 19011 standard; it is defined by the certification body prior to or during the audit.*

ON SITE TRACEABILITY

The company shall ensure that **only certified flax/linen** is used as inputs in certified products.

If the company uses non certified flax/linen, a physical segregation in space and/or time and/or identification shall be put in place.

Assessment and verification: *The Company shall provide a description of the system in place. During on-site audits, the Company shall be able to show the material tracking and to demonstrate physical segregation is guaranteed.*

SUBCONTRACTOR

Note: using a subcontractor means outsourcing a work on certified flax/linen material. Purchase and sale of certified products are managed by the Company, not the subcontractor. The material remains the property of the certified company. Invoicing between the subcontractor and the Company is only related to the outsourced activities.

When a company is outsourcing work on certified fibres/products, the concerned subcontractors shall be included in the certification scope: the subcontractors shall be in conformity with the technical criteria related to **on site traceability**.

The company shall establish and maintain an up-to-date list of relevant subcontractors and inform the certification body if any changes. Outsourcing sites shall also be part of the audit scope.

PRODUCTS COMPOSITION

Only products presenting the following composition can be certified:

- The linen/flax content is 100% certified
- Composed of 100% linen/flax or a majority linen/flax content: at least 50% of certified linen/flax. The mix could therefore contain maximum 50% of other kind of fibres, excluding non-certified linen/flax, not allowed in the product composition.

The company agrees to mention the exact composition and percentages on the labels of certified products, according to labelling rules in force in the country in which its certified product is commercialized.

The company shall perform each year fibres' composition tests on a selected EUROPEAN FLAX® products sample, according to the methodology approved by the « BAST FIBRE AUTHORITY » and by one of the accredited laboratories using the appropriate form available on www.europeanflax.com.

The product sampling to be tested will be defined by the certification body: it will be defined during each annual audit based on the annual accounting summary by reference (see paragraph below **Records of EUROPEAN FLAX® products' references**).

Assessment and verification: *Results of the fibres' composition tests performed by one of the accredited laboratories on the selected EUROPEAN FLAX® products shall be provided.*

SALES

Sales Invoices shall clearly specify which material is certified by using the claim « EUROPEAN FLAX® certified ». Moreover, the supplier certificate number shall be written on the invoice.

The exact composition and percentages of certified products shall be written on each relevant invoice.

Assessment and verification: *The Company shall provide a sample of sale invoices, as defined by the certification body. This sample determination is a representative and reliable selection according to the ISO 19011 standard; it is defined by the certification body prior to or during the audit.*

During the on-site audit, the certification body may also check an invoices' sample of non-certified products.

RECORDS

Records

The company shall establish and maintain during at least 3 years records showing conformity to the requirements of this standard, in particular: purchase invoices, suppliers list, suppliers' certificates, production records, sale invoices...

Records of EUROPEAN FLAX® products' references

The company shall establish and update the EUROPEAN FLAX® products' references list. For each reference, the exact fibres' composition shall be indicated.

Assessment and verification: *The Company shall provide the EUROPEAN FLAX® products' references list indicating their composition. The company shall make an annual accounting summary of material inputs (EUROPEAN FLAX® sourcing) and outputs (EUROPEAN FLAX® sales), for each reference and, if relevant, explanation on the conversion factor (input/output conversion rate , material yield).*

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The following applies for retailers who wish to receive their own EUROPEAN FLAX® certification, in addition to the certification on the finished products they buy.

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