

Plants and Flowers  
Buying Policy  
**ALDI SUISSE**



## 1. Introduction

The ALDI SOUTH Corporate Responsibility Principles define our understanding of acting responsibly towards our customers and business partners, as well as the environment. In this context, sustainable procurement of our products throughout the global supply chains plays a significant role. To ensure our responsible use of natural resources, ALDI SUISSE is committed to the principle of sustainability when buying plant and flower products. In close collaboration with our suppliers, we address the related social, economic, and ecological challenges. With our corporate buying policy, we communicate our goals and requirements to our suppliers and customers.

## 2. Challenges faced throughout the supply chain

### 2.1 Social challenges

While the majority of potted plants is grown in Europe, cut flowers are often produced in countries located in the temperate up to tropical climate zones, where in some cases working and social conditions are not subject to legal provisions. By means of our requirements, we enforce the sustainable improvement of working and living conditions and support the local fight against discrimination against workers. Within the scope of our buying process, we refer to the ALDI **Social Standards in Production** which have been defined as part of our **CR Principles**. These standards reflect our minimum requirements which we strive to exceed wherever possible. We expect all our business partners and suppliers to meet these standards throughout the entire supply chain and to ensure that all of their sub-suppliers and production processes also comply with these requirements. Our Social Standards in Production are based on:

- the ILO (International Labour Organization) standards,
- the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child,
- the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and
- the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Furthermore, the ALDI SOUTH Group and, thus, ALDI SUISSE AG as well, joined the amfori Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) in 2008. amfori BSCI participants are committed to improving the working conditions throughout their supply chains, to compliance with environmental guidelines, and to the creation of structures for ensuring social standards in production.

### 2.2 Ecological challenges

The use of pesticides plays an important role with regard to the production of plants. Some of these pesticides contain active substances which pose a risk to the health of the workers involved in the cultivation and a potential hazard to the environment. We consider adequate protective measures concerning the handling of pesticides in the countries of cultivation a prerequisite. By means of our requirements, we want to keep the exposure of workers and the environment to active substances as low as possible. We expect our suppliers to manufacture their plant and flower products in accordance with the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) standards. This framework defines a fundamental strategy for the protection of people, animals, and the environment applicable to producers of agricultural goods and also serves as a means of managing the quality of plant products. Among other things, the GAP standards contain aspects of integrated conservation of plants and groundwater as well as sustainable soil management. This also means that the use of synthetic fertilisers and harmful pesticides is minimised. Moreover, we expect our suppliers and business partners to use the required resources, such as water, responsibly.

Our network of national and international suppliers of plants and flowers is just as diverse as our product range. While we procure a large portion of our cut flower products from African countries via wholesalers, regional, family-owned businesses provide us with many of the plant products offered by us. This ALDI SUISSE Corporate Buying Policy for Plants and Flowers serves as a compulsory guideline for implementation by our employees and our business partners alike in order to achieve sustainable supply chains. Moreover, we work to ensure transparent information for our customers concerning the origin of our plant and flower products.

### 3. Scope of application

This corporate buying policy is compulsory for ALDI SUISSE AG and its scope of application includes all plant and flower products. For plant products in the area of food, such as potted herbs, we also welcome a corresponding implementation.

### 4. Measures and goals

The requirements specified below must be fulfilled for the scope of application defined above by the end of 2019 at the latest:

#### 4.1 Certification schemes and standards

- All relevant products are certified according to the GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody scheme.
- Alternatively, we also accept other standards which are recognised by GLOBALG.A.P as being equivalent. For an overview of all standards currently accepted, please refer to the following list:  
[https://www.globalgap.org/uk\\_en/what-we-do/the-gg-system/benchmarking/BM-Equivalence/index.html](https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/what-we-do/the-gg-system/benchmarking/BM-Equivalence/index.html)

#### 4.2 Social standards

- **In addition**, all relevant merchandise is required to undergo a **social audit**. For this purpose, the **GLOBALG.A.P. GRASP** add-on module (GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice) is accepted.
- Alternatively, we also accept all standards recognised by the ALDI SOUTH Group and thus by ALDI SUISSE. For an overview of all standards currently accepted, please refer to the following list:  
[https://www.globalgap.org/uk\\_en/for-producers/globalg.a.p.-add-on/grasp/grasp-retailer-recommendation/](https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/for-producers/globalg.a.p.-add-on/grasp/grasp-retailer-recommendation/)

These certification schemes address the most important social and ecological challenges in the production of plants and flowers. The name GLOBALG.A.P. stands for Good Agricultural Practice and is the independent system of testing behind the GGN (GLOBALG.A.P. number) consumer label. This standard is committed to ensuring safe production methods and the responsible use of natural resources at a global level. In addition to those criteria audited within the scope of GLOBALG.A.P. certification, the GRASP add-on module also covers social aspects, such as social management and occupational health and safety.

Until implementation of these requirements is complete, flower bouquets are already required to be at least MPS-A certified.

#### 4.3 Transparency and traceability

If available, the GLOBALG.A.P. consumer label is to be displayed on the product. This enables us to provide complete transparency throughout our entire supply chains in cooperation with our suppliers and, thus, ensure that our customers' trust in the quality of our products is justified. By means of the 13-digit number on the GGN label, our customers are enabled to trace their products using the [GLOBALG.A.P. database](#).



#### 4.4 Bee conservation

Bee populations play a crucial role in pollination and, consequently, in our ecosystem. Pesticides which are toxic to bees as well as scarcity of food and places for nesting significantly contribute to the reduction in the population of bees and other insects. As a large business, we consider it our responsibility to actively promote the conservation of biodiversity and actively contribute to the protection of bees and other flying insects:

- ALDI SUISSE maintains a strict pesticide monitoring programme for cut flowers and potted plants which serves the purpose of enabling verification of compliance of our suppliers with our requirements (e.g. for substances toxic to bees). This programme not only aims to protect people and the planet but also to conserve bee populations and other pollinators.
- ALDI SUISSE is actively committed to protecting bees. In order to raise awareness of the need for bee protection, we have set up bee houses inhabited by various bee colonies at our national and two of our regional corporate offices.
- Moreover, ALDI SUISSE supports a project run by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) for the conservation of the dark honeybee. This project researches to what extent native bee races are better adapted to local and biological conditions than especially bred bee races.

#### 5. Active implementation and verification of compliance with our requirements

This ALDI SUISSE Corporate Buying Policy for Plants and Flowers forms part of our contractual terms and conditions. The implementation of this policy is realised in close cooperation with our suppliers and business partners. In the event that our binding objectives are not fulfilled, we rigorously monitor their strict future implementation and develop specific measures for immediately improving production processes in cooperation with our business partners. ALDI SUISSE reserves the right to assess compliance with the requirements specified above also on site. Such assessment may also be undertaken by independent third parties. In certain cases of non-compliance, we reserve the right to terminate business relations. Our common aim: to make sustainable products the common standard for retailers and consumers alike. This corporate buying policy is reviewed on a regular basis in accordance with the latest sustainability-related developments and updated as required.

#### 6. Cooperation with key partners

ALDI SUISSE expects its suppliers and business partners to develop measures for the sustainable sourcing of plants and flowers, and to establish a management system for continuously monitoring the status of implementation. Furthermore, we also welcome any individual sustainability projects and initiatives undertaken or promoted by our suppliers concerning the cultivation of plants and flowers, and any information they proactively provide to us on the measures taken and developments achieved.

Besides this, we also maintain constant dialogue with external partners in the field, such as NGOs, scientific experts, and other stakeholder groups.

