Open transparency framework

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Latest edition: geertdevuyst.fr/en/transparency-framework

About

The Open transparency framework provides a common structure for **documenting** and **presenting information** about the products and activities of businesses in the medicinal plants and plant extracts sector.

It consists of two parts: a **structured set of thematic questions** applicable according to a brand's activities and products, and a series of focused **comparisons** based on selected, documented answers.

In this way, the Open transparency framework contributes to a shared commitment to sustainability across the sector.

Important

Not all questions are relevant to every brand. Some only apply to certain brand types of product types. For brands with several activities or different types of products, all relevant questions are included. Where a section or question applies only to certain brands, this is indicated directly below its heading.

For example, a producer in the EU that distils and sells its own essential oil does not need to answer questions about intermediaries, since it produces the oil itself. Questions about residual solvents are also irrelevant, as solvents are not used in essential oil distillation. A wholesaler selling the same oil, on the other hand, is asked about intermediaries, but not about soil management, since it does not grow the plants.

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Part 1: Core questions

Product information and labelling

Transparency of information provided to consumers and professionals.

PL Product labeling

Code	Question	Answer
PL-1	**Compliance with applicable product labelling regulations** Compliance with applicable EU and national labelling requirements, including those for cosmetics, food supplements, foods, herbal medicinal products and chemical substances or mixtures (CLP), according to the product's regulatory classification.	Always · Partially · Never
PL-2	**Botanical identity stated** Identification of the plant source by its scientific botanical name, including genus and species.	Always · Partially · Never
PL-3	**Chemotype stated where relevant** *Only for brands that sell: Essential oil, Diluted essential oil, Post-treated essential oil, Hydrolate, Concentrated hydrolate.* Indication of the chemotype when chemically distinct profiles occur within the same botanical species.	Always · Partially · Never
PL-4	**Plant part and optional development stage stated** *Only for brands that sell: Botanical materials and extracts, Diluted essential oil.* Identification of the plant part used for extraction and, where relevant, its developmental stage at harvest.	Always · Partially · Never
PL-5	**Extraction method stated** *Only for brands that sell: Diluted essential oil, Essential oil, Post-treated essential oil, Hydrolate, Concentrated hydrolate, Aqueous extract, Hydroglycolic extract, Hydroglycerinic extract, Tincture or infusion, Absolute, Concrete, CO2 extract, Resinoid, Extracted oleoresin, Vegetable oil, Macerated oil, Vegetable butter.* Identification of the method used to obtain the botanical extract, such as distillation, expression or solvent extraction.	Always · Partially · Never
PL-6	**Country of origin stated** *Only for brands that sell: Botanical materials and extracts, Diluted essential oil.* Indication of the country where the botanical raw material was cultivated or harvested.	Always · Partially · Never

PL Product labeling

Code	Question	Answer
PL-7	**Lot number stated** Identification of the product batch by a lot number enabling traceability.	Always · Partially · Never

PI SDG 12.8 Product documentation

Code	Question	Answer
PI-2	**Product specification sheet** A product specification sheet describes what a product contains, its main characteristics and the values and limits it must meet. For example, a specification sheet for sunflower oil may state its expected fatty acid composition and maximum permitted acid value. Unlike a batch analysis report, it describes the requirements for the product in general, not the test results for an individual batch. Answer "Always" if you have a specification sheet for every product, "Partially" if you have one for some products, or "Never" if you have none.	Always · Partially · Never
PI-3	**Geographic origin precision**	Country · Region
PI-4	**Analysis report, chromatography** The analysis report or chromatography gives what was measured on one specific lot, by the brand's own laboratory or an outside one. Each lot has its own. Choose "Not applicable" only if none of your products is analysed.	Downloadable · On request · Not available · Not applicable · Not documented
PI-7	**Safety data sheet (SDS/MSDS) availability** *Only for brands that sell: Diluted essential oil, Essential oil blend, Essential oil, Post-treated essential oil, Hydrolate, Concentrated hydrolate, Aqueous extract, Hydroglycolic extract, Hydroglycerinic extract, Tincture or infusion, Absolute, Concrete, CO2 extract, Resinoid, Extracted oleoresin, Resin, gum or balsam, Vegetable oil, Macerated oil, Vegetable butter.* Availability of safety data sheets (SDS/MSDS) for applicable products. Indicate whether they can be downloaded, requested or are unavailable. Select Not applicable only when safety data sheets are not applicable to the brand’s products.	Downloadable · On request · Not available · Not applicable · Not documented

PI SDG 12.8 Product documentation

Code	Question	Answer
PI-5	**Natural-origin content calculations** *Only for brands that sell: Cream, Gel, Balm, Lotion, Soap bar, Oil-based formulation, Topical botanical oil blend, Gel, cream or balm, Bath or sauna product.* Indicate whether natural-origin content calculations are documented for applicable cosmetic products. ISO 16128-1:2016 defines ingredient categories; ISO 16128-2:2017 provides calculation methods. Select 'Not applicable' where no products fall within this scope.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
PI-6	**Organic-origin content calculations** *Only for brands that sell: Cream, Gel, Balm, Lotion, Soap bar, Oil-based formulation, Topical botanical oil blend, Gel, cream or balm, Bath or sauna product.* Indicate whether organic-origin content calculations are documented for applicable cosmetic products. ISO 16128-1:2016 defines ingredient categories; ISO 16128-2:2017 provides calculation methods. A calculated organic-origin content does not establish organic certification. Select 'Not applicable' where no products fall within this scope.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
PI-8	**IFRA conformity documentation availability** *Only for brands that sell: Cream, Gel, Balm, Lotion, Soap bar, Oil-based formulation, Topical botanical oil blend, Gel, cream or balm, Bath or sauna product.* Indicates whether the brand provides documentation confirming that fragrance mixtures comply with applicable IFRA Standards for their intended uses. For individual fragrance ingredients, relevant supplier conformity information may be provided instead. Documentation may be downloadable or available on request. IFRA conformity documentation is not certification by IFRA and does not replace a product safety assessment. Select Not applicable if IFRA Standards are not relevant to the products offered.	Downloadable · On request · Not available · Not applicable · Not documented + *link*

Sustainability and responsibility

Environmental, social and economic responsibilities, structured around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

SA Societal approach

Code	Question	Answer
	Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer.	
	“Local” and “on site” here refer to any of the brand’s own sites (cultivation, processing, shop), in whatever country they are located, not to the countries where its products are sold.	
SA-1	**Awareness-raising and public reception on site** Activities organised by the brand at its own sites and open to people from outside the business.	Educational visits · Workshops · Participatory work days · Open days · None *(one or more)*
SA-2	**Local presence and meeting points** Places within 50 km of one of the brand’s own sites where the public can meet the brand or buy its products in person.	On-site shop open to the public · Local markets · Local shops and outlets · Local fairs and events, off site · None *(one or more)*
SA-3 SDG 17.17	**Partners in societal and environmental actions** Select the types of organizations with which the brand carries out joint activities for societal or environmental purposes, either currently or within the past three years.	Associations and foundations · Producer groups and other producers · Public institutions · Research and educational institutions · Businesses · None *(one or more)*
SA-4 SDG 11.4	**Cultural heritage linked to the activity** Select the forms of cultural heritage that the brand actively helps preserve or safeguard through its activities. These may include traditional know-how and techniques, local or heritage plant varieties, and built rural heritage.	Traditional know-how or techniques · Local or heritage plant varieties · Built rural heritage (terraces, dry-stone walls, old stills) · None *(one or more)*

GH SDG 3 Good health and well-being

Code	Question	Answer
GH-1 3.9	**Pesticide residue analysis**	Always · Partially · Never
GH-2 3.9	**Residual solvent analysis** *Only for brands that sell: Absolute, Concrete, Resinoid, Extracted oleoresin.*	Always · Partially · Never

CW SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation

Code	Question	Answer
Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer.		
CW-1 6.4	**Recording of water consumption in production or processing**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
CW-2 6.3	**Handling and disposal of chemicals used**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

DW SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

Code	Question	Answer
Only for brands of these types: Producer outside the EU, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country, Export from a non-EU country to any other country.		
DW-1 8.3	**Support for local producers and small enterprises through purchasing or support arrangements**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
DW-2 8.5	**Remuneration terms for workers and supplying producers**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
DW-3 8.5	**Equal-opportunity and non-discrimination measures**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
DW-4 8.7	**Prevention of child labour and forced labour**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
DW-5 8.8	**Protection of workers' rights**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
DW-6 8.8	**Occupational health and safety**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

II SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Code	Question	Answer
Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer.		
II-1 9.4	**Recording of botanical raw-material inputs and resulting product quantities** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

II SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Code	Question	Answer
II-2 9.4	**Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
II-3 9.4	**Use of renewable energy in operations**	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

RC SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production

Code	Question	Answer
RC-1 12.2	**Recording and reduction of post-harvest botanical material losses** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
RC-2 12.5	**Prevention, reuse or recycling of production waste** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
RC-3 12.5	**Reduction or recycling of packaging waste** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
RC-4 12.6	**Publication of sustainability information or a sustainability report** Indicate whether the brand publishes information about its approach to sustainability, including environmental and social aspects, in a report, on its website or in other publicly accessible documents. Provide a link to this information if it is available online.	Documented · Self-declared · Not documented + *link*
RC-5 12.8	**Consumer guidance on responsible purchasing** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand.* Indicate whether the brand advises consumers to buy appropriate quantities and avoid unnecessary purchases or stockpiling. Provide a link to the guidance where available. Select Not applicable if the brand operates exclusively business-to-business and does not address end consumers directly.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

RC SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production

Code	Question	Answer
RC-6 12.8	**Consumer guidance on environmentally responsible product use** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand.* Indicate whether the brand provides consumers with guidance on environmentally responsible product use, explaining how recommended practices can contribute to reducing environmental impact. Provide a link to the guidance where available. Select Not applicable if the brand operates exclusively business-to-business and does not address end consumers directly.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
RC-7 12.8	**Consumer guidance on product storage** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand.* Indicate whether the brand provides consumers with storage guidance aimed at preventing premature product deterioration and avoidable losses. Provide a link to the guidance where available. Select Not applicable if the brand operates exclusively business-to-business and does not address end consumers directly.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
RC-8 12.8	**Consumer guidance on responsible disposal** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand.* Indicate whether the brand advises consumers on responsible disposal of unused products and their packaging, including relevant waste sorting or collection instructions. Provide a link to the guidance where available. Select Not applicable if the brand operates exclusively business-to-business and does not address end consumers directly.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

CA SDG 13 Climate action

Code	Question	Answer
CA-1 13.1	**Assessment of climate risks and adaptation measures** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

CA SDG 13 Climate action

Code	Question	Answer
CA-2 13.2	**Recording of greenhouse gas emissions for defined operations** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer.*	Documented · Self-declared · Not documented + *link*
CA-3 13.3	**Climate-related training or awareness activities for staff or suppliers** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Wholesaler, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

LO SDG 15 Life on land

Code	Question	Answer
LO-1 15.1	**Harvesting in the wild: harvest limits and regeneration** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative.* For plants gathered in the wild: how much may be taken from a site, and what is done so the population recovers, such as rotating sites, leaving part of the stand or resting periods. Not applicable when every plant is cultivated.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
LO-2 15.2	**Checks to prevent sourcing linked to deforestation** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Wholesaler, Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country, Private-label brand, Export from the EU to non-EU countries.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
LO-3 15.3	**Soil conservation or restoration at cultivation sites** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
LO-4 15.5	**Protection of biodiversity and natural habitats** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Raw material supplier.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

LO SDG 15 Life on land

Code	Question	Answer
LO-5 15.5	**Checks and safeguards for threatened plant species in sourcing** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Wholesaler, Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country, Private-label brand, Export from the EU to non-EU countries.*	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
LO-6 15.6	**Access and benefit-sharing arrangements for genetic resources** This question concerns access and benefit-sharing (ABS) arrangements relating to the utilization of genetic resources. Under the Nagoya Protocol, utilization means research and development on the genetic or biochemical composition of genetic resources. Ordinary cultivation, distillation, purchasing or resale does not, by itself, constitute such utilization. Select “Not applicable” if the brand’s activities do not involve utilization of genetic resources subject to ABS requirements.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
LO-7	**Farming systems and practices** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative.* Select the systems and practices the brand currently applies on at least one plot it cultivates or one site where it gathers plants in the wild.	Agroforestry · Hedges and field margins · Permanent soil cover · Green manures · Crop rotation or association · Own seeds and plants · Harvesting by hand or with hand tools · None *(one or more)*
LO-8	**Biodiversity inventories and research at cultivation sites** *Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative.* Indicate whether the brand conducts inventories of species present (flora, fauna, soil life) or participates in research at its cultivation sites. Inventories and research may be carried out by the brand independently or in collaboration with other organizations.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*

Analyses, authenticity and sourcing

Analytical verification, botanical authenticity and supply chain integrity.

QP Quality control practices

Code	Question	Answer
QP-1	**Quality management system in place**	Certified · Documented · Self-declared · Not documented
QP-2	**Quality control performed by**	Third-party lab · In-house lab · Supplier certificate only · Not documented

AD Analytical documentation

Code	Question	Answer
AD-1	**Chromatographic profile** *Only for brands that sell: Essential oil, Diluted essential oil, Essential oil blend, Post-treated essential oil, Absolute, CO2 extract, Resinoid.* Indicate whether chromatographic profiles are provided for applicable products in your range, not necessarily for every product.	Always · Partially · Never
AD-2	**Relative density** *Only for brands that sell: Essential oil, Diluted essential oil, Essential oil blend, Post-treated essential oil, Absolute, CO2 extract, Resinoid.* Indicate whether relative density results are documented for applicable products in your range.	Always · Partially · Never
AD-3	**Refractive index** *Only for brands that sell: Essential oil, Diluted essential oil, Essential oil blend, Post-treated essential oil, Absolute, CO2 extract, Resinoid.* Indicate whether refractive index results are documented for applicable products in your range.	Always · Partially · Never
AD-4	**Optical rotation** *Only for brands that sell: Essential oil, Diluted essential oil, Essential oil blend, Post-treated essential oil, Absolute, CO2 extract, Resinoid.* Indicate whether optical rotation results are documented for applicable products in your range.	Always · Partially · Never

AD Analytical documentation

Code	Question	Answer
AD-5	**Fatty acid composition** *Only for brands that sell: Vegetable oil, Macerated oil, Vegetable butter.* Indicate whether fatty acid composition is documented for applicable products, especially vegetable and other lipid-rich oils.	Always · Partially · Never
AD-6	**Acid value and peroxide value** *Only for brands that sell: Vegetable oil, Macerated oil, Vegetable butter.* Indicate whether acid and peroxide values are documented for applicable products, especially vegetable and other lipid-rich oils.	Always · Partially · Never
AD-7	**Microbiological analysis** *Only for brands that sell: Formulated products, Presentation and dosage forms, Hydrolate, Concentrated hydrolate, Aromatised water, Aqueous extract, Hydroglycolic extract, Hydroglycerinic extract, Dried botanical material.* Indicate whether microbiological test results are documented for applicable products, especially hydrolats and other water-containing preparations.	Always · Partially · Never
AD-8	**Marker compound analysis** *Only for brands that sell: Absolute, Concrete, CO2 extract, Resinoid, Extracted oleoresin, Aqueous extract, Hydroglycolic extract, Hydroglycerinic extract, Tincture or infusion.* Indicate whether measured marker compounds are documented for applicable extracts, such as CO_2 extracts, absolutes and other botanical extracts.	Always · Partially · Never

BA Botanical authenticity and adulteration: Purchased extracts

Code	Question	Answer
Only for brands of these types: Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Wholesaler, Private-label brand, Raw material supplier, Finished product manufacturer.		
BA-1	**Supplier authenticity documentation checked** Checks supplier records of botanical identity, plant part, extraction method and relevant origin against purchasing requirements.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*

BA Botanical authenticity and adulteration: Purchased extracts

Code	Question	Answer
BA-2	**Analytical results reviewed against product specifications** Reviews analytical results for purchased extracts against relevant product specifications. Unexplained deviations require investigation and do not, on their own, establish adulteration.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*
BA-3	**Targeted adulteration testing of purchased extracts** Documents targeted testing of purchased extracts for identified risks, such as dilution, substitution, addition of undeclared compounds or mixing with other extracts. Methods are selected according to the suspected adulteration.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*
BA-4	**Procedures for handling suspected adulteration** Documents how suspect purchased lots are held, investigated and accepted or rejected.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*

BP Botanical authenticity and adulteration: Production

Code	Question	Answer
Only for brands of these types: Producer in the EU, Producer outside the EU, Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor.		
BP-1	**Botanical identity verified before processing** Checks the species and relevant plant part of botanical material before extraction or processing.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*
BP-2	**Segregation of botanical materials and production lots** Documents controls to prevent unintended mixing or substitution of species, materials and lots.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*
BP-3	**Extraction and processing records maintained** Records extraction methods, processing steps and any substances added for each production lot.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*
BP-4	**Finished extract authenticity verification** Verifies finished extracts by comparing documented analytical results with appropriate product specifications or authenticated reference profiles, where applicable.	Always · Partially · Never · Not applicable + *link*

SP Sourcing policy

Code	Question	Answer
SP-9	**Supplier qualification and monitoring procedures** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor, Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Procedures for assessing and approving suppliers, monitoring their practices, and addressing identified non-conformities, including corrective actions where necessary.	Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable + *link*
SP-1	**Sourcing model** *Only for brands of these types: Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor, Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Select every route through which the business obtains its materials. A raw material supplier, distiller or botanical processor answers for its plants; any other business answers for its extracts. A business of both kinds answers for both. Own production means the business itself grows or harvests the plants, or itself makes the extracts.	Own production · Direct from producers · Cooperatives · Brokers or traders · Not disclosed *(one or more)*
SP-2	**Share of range produced in-house** *Only for brands of these types: Distiller, Botanical processor, Finished product manufacturer, Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries.* Count extracts actually produced by the business, excluding products merely bottled, relabelled or marketed under its own brand. Count distinct botanical extract products offered, not bottle sizes, sales or volume. Majority: over 50%; minority: over 0% to 50%; none: 0%.	Majority · Minority · None · Not disclosed
SP-3	**Share of range purchased directly from producers** *Only for brands of these types: Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Count extracts purchased directly from the business that produced them, without an independent trading intermediary. Exclude products produced in-house. Count distinct botanical extract products offered, not bottle sizes, sales or volume. Majority: over 50%; minority: over 0% to 50%; none: 0%.	Majority · Minority · None · Not disclosed

SP Sourcing policy

Code	Question	Answer
SP-4	**Plant growers and harvesters named** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor, Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Indicate whether the brand names the persons, businesses or cooperatives that cultivate or collect the botanical materials used in its products or ingredients. For wild-collected plants, identify the harvester or collecting organisation. Naming only the supplier, trader, importer or brand does not count unless that party actually cultivated or harvested the plants. Select Always if all applicable sources are named, Partially if only some are named, and Never if none are named.	Always · Partially · Never
SP-7	**Identification of the extract producer** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Distiller, Botanical processor, Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Indicate whether the brand identifies the persons, businesses or cooperatives that carry out the distillation, pressing, maceration or other extraction process used to obtain the botanical extracts in its product range. Select Always if all applicable extraction operators are named, Partially if only some are named, and Never if none are named.	Always · Partially · Never + *link*
SP-5	**Sourcing regions disclosed** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor, Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Indicate whether the brand discloses the geographical regions where the plants used in its extracts are grown or harvested. This refers to the origin of the plants, not the location of distillation, extraction or packaging.	Always · Partially · Never

SP Sourcing policy

Code	Question	Answer
SP-6	**Typical number of intermediaries** *Only for brands of these types: Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Indicate the usual number of independent businesses that purchase and resell extracts between the producer (distiller or extractor) and the brand. Exclude transporters, warehouses, brokers who do not purchase the extracts, and businesses providing only packaging services.	0 · 1 · 2 or more · Not disclosed
SP-8	**Origin or chain-of-custody documentation available** *Only for brands of these types: Producer cooperative, Raw material supplier, Distiller, Botanical processor, Wholesaler, Export from the EU to non-EU countries, Finished product manufacturer, Private-label brand, Intra-EU purchasing, Import from non-EU countries into the EU, Import from any country into a non-EU country.* Indicate whether the brand provides documents establishing the geographical origin of the plants or tracing the movement of the resulting extracts through the supply chain. Specify whether these documents are downloadable, available on request or unavailable.	Downloadable · On request · Not available · Not applicable · Not documented

Notes on the answers

Yes, with a document · Yes, without a document · No · Not applicable

Yes, with a document: A written procedure, record or certificate exists and can be shown: give its link below.

Yes, without a document: The practice is in place, without written documentation.

No: Nothing is in place on this point.

Not applicable: This question does not concern the brand's activity.

Educational visits · Workshops · Participatory work days · Open days · None

None: Nothing is in place on this point.

On-site shop open to the public · Local markets · Local shops and outlets · Local fairs and events, off site · None

None: Nothing is in place on this point.

Associations and foundations · Producer groups and other producers · Public institutions · Research and educational institutions · Businesses · None

None: Nothing is in place on this point.

Traditional know-how or techniques · Local or heritage plant varieties · Built rural heritage (terraces, dry-stone walls, old stills) · None

None: Nothing is in place on this point.

Agroforestry · Hedges and field margins · Permanent soil cover · Green manures · Crop rotation or association · Own seeds and plants · Harvesting by hand or with hand tools · None

Agroforestry: Agroforestry is the deliberate integration of trees or other woody perennial plants with agricultural crops and/or livestock within the same land-management system.

None: Nothing is in place on this point.

Part 2: Projections

The framework compares two brands using a weighted similarity score based on their documented information.
Each comparison focuses on a specific buyer concern and includes only questions that apply to both brands and have comparable answers.
Differences are measured on a scale from 0 (identical) to 1 (completely different).
Ranked answers are compared by their distance on the scale, single-choice and yes/no answers by whether they match, and multiple-choice answers using Jaccard distance, which measures the proportion of options not shared.
The overall similarity score reflects the weighted average of these differences, while a separate coverage score indicates the proportion of applicable questions that could be compared.

Product information

Can I find the information I need before buying?

- PI-2 Product specification sheet
- PL-2 Botanical identity stated
- PL-4 Plant part and optional development stage stated
- PL-5 Extraction method stated
- PL-6 Country of origin stated
- PL-7 Lot number stated

Control and authenticity practices

How does the brand check what it sells?

- QP-1 Quality management system in place
- QP-2 Quality control performed by
- PI-4 Analysis report, chromatography
- AD-1 Chromatographic profile
- AD-8 Marker compound analysis
- BA-3 Targeted adulteration testing of purchased extracts
- BP-1 Botanical identity verified before processing
- BP-4 Finished extract authenticity verification
- GH-1 Pesticide residue analysis

Origin and sourcing

Where do the ingredients come from, and who produces them?

- PI-3 Geographic origin precision
- SP-1 Sourcing model
- SP-2 Share of range produced in-house
- SP-3 Share of range purchased directly from producers
- SP-4 Plant growers and harvesters named
- SP-7 Identification of the extract producer
- SP-5 Sourcing regions disclosed

- SP-6 Typical number of intermediaries
- SP-8 Origin or chain-of-custody documentation available

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