

VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN CERTIFICATION

The market is growing strongly

How many vegans are there worldwide?

According to the study from 2010 there are about 1,525 million (1.525.000.000) or 21,8% world population who are vegans and vegetarians around the world.5 lug 2017 ([more info](#))

What percentage of the population is vegan?

The “Vegetarianism in America” study published by Vegetarian Times showed that 3.2 percent of U.S. adults, or 7.3 million people, follow a vegetarian-based diet. Approximately 0.5 percent, or 1 million, of those are vegans, who consume no animal products at all ([more info](#)).

How many vegans are there in the world in 2019?

But 2019 will be the year veganism goes mainstream. Interest in a way of life in which people eschew not just meat and leather, but all animal products including eggs, wool and silk, is soaring, especially among millennials. Fully a quarter of 25- to 34-year-old Americans say they are vegans or vegetarians ([more info](#)).

Is veganism growing in 2018?

Another company, international delivery service Just Eat named veganism as a top consumer trend in 2018 — due to a 94% increase in “healthy food ordered.” ... In particular, users chose vegan food 19% more in the first half of 2017 than in the first half of 2016 ([more info](#)).

The global vegan food market value is estimated to reach around USD 24.3 billion by 2026 and will grow at CAGR above 9.1% over the forecast time frame ([more info](#)).

Certification for vegetarian and vegan products

In order to make communication towards consumer clearer and more transparent and offer more guarantees to the market, both nationally and internationally, Bioagricert has developed a certification scheme dedicated to vegetarian and vegan products.

A brand and an independent control system (complying with EN 17065 standard) that aims to identify, enhance and guarantee products for vegetarian and vegan consumers.

A certification that can find excellent synergies with organic certification. This is why we have also thought of special discounts dedicated to operators already certified by Bioagricert for organic products.

The certification normally applies to food, feed and pet food products as well as gastronomic preparations and/or menus of catering activities. Vegetarian and vegan certification can also be extended to non-food products (cosmetics and detergents, clothing, footwear, etc.) that meet the requirements set by the standard.



Certification process

The certification process is divided into the following phases:

- 1) **Initial evaluation of the products and of the production process**, which includes, among other things, the assessment of the composition of the products for which certification is required, as well as the conformity of raw materials through the technical sheets of all components, including additives and technological adjuvants. The applicant company must describe all the production procedures and the separation and cleaning measures adopted in order to prevent any contact and contamination with animal ingredients.
- 2) **Inspection at the production plant** to ascertain the effective compliance of the products with the vegan requirements of the standard; the correct organization and management of manufacturing processes and internal procedures that could compromise the conformity of the product with the requirements defined in the standard; compliance with relevant environmental and social criteria.
- 3) **Issuance of the Certificate** which shows the list of products judged compliant with the standard and their classification: vegetarian or vegan.
- 4) **Annual surveillance** through periodic inspections aimed at confirming the maintenance of compliance conditions. The control plan may also include analysis aimed at investigating the possible presence of ingredients and/or contaminants of animal origin.

Certification requirements

In **VEGAN PRODUCTS** it is forbidden to use in any production process of any ingredient, adjuvant or processing aids of animal origin. Neither any substance of animal origin can be used indirectly in the production process nor as an additive, excipient, adjuvant or carry-over.

In **VEGETARIAN PRODUCTS**, on the other hand, the use of animal products such as milk, eggs and honey is allowed provided they are produced on farms that comply with European standards regarding animal welfare. Organic breeding farms or those that comply with other voluntary standards which provide more restrictive requirements in this regard are preferable.



Bioagricert certified for VeganOK (Italian Vegan Association)

Bioagricert has signed a collaboration agreement with VeganOK, thanks to which companies wishing to join this brand can also have the certification of a third party (issued by BAC).

The VeganOK trademark is normally issued on the basis of a self-certification in compliance with the European law UNI EN ISO 14021, legislation that guarantees that the company that uses the trademark is civilly and criminally responsible for what it declares. The third-party certification issued by BAC allows to increase the reliability and trust of the market in this trademark.

For further information: Dr.ssa **FRANCESCA RICCIARDI** francesca.ricciardi@bioagricert.org

How to apply...

Once Bioagricert receives the "Informative Questionnaire", properly completed, it processes and sends the personalized Fee/Estimate and the Memorandum of Understanding useful for the purpose of perfecting the contractual relationship.

When the VeganOK trademark is also required, the operator must also sign the contractual conditions with the trademark owner (www.veganok.it).

Subsequently, the applying operator must send to Bioagricert the documentation necessary for the preliminary document evaluation:

- **Certification request**
- **Recipe/Formulation** of the product
- **Technical sheets** of ingredients and technological aids used
- Veg-vegan Technical Report with the description of the production process and the measures adopted in order to meet the applicable requirements of the standard (suppliers' qualification, control and acceptance of supplies, prevention of admixture and contamination with products of animal origin, etc.).

Certification Fees

FOOD PRODUCTS

FIXED ANNUAL FEE	€
Small and medium companies (up to 500.00 € - annual turnover)	500
Big companies (> 500.00 € - annual turnover)	700

The fixed annual fee includes the costs for verification and approval of 10 products/recipes and related label. For every recipe over the first 10 **€ 30/recipe** will be billed.

ANNUAL AUDIT	€
Small and medium companies (for single craft companies)	300
Big companies (for single plant)	500

Additional inspections not provided for by the Control Plan (contractors, non-compliance management, etc.): **€ 300 /inspection.**

NON-FOOD PRODUCTS

FIXED ANNUAL FEE	€
Small and medium companies (up to 500.00 € - annual turnover)	700
Big companies (> 500.00 € - annual turnover)	1.000

The fixed annual fee includes the costs for verification and approval of 10 products/recipes and related label. For every recipe over the first 10 **€ 30/recipe** will be billed.

ANNUAL AUDIT	€
Small and medium companies (for single craft company)	400
Big companies (for single plant)	600

Additional inspections not provided for by the Control Plan (contractors, non-compliance management, etc.): **€ 400 /inspection.**

All costs shown are to be understood net of VAT.

The costs of any analysis and transfers (travel, board and possible accommodation) will be invoiced on the basis of the costs borne by BAC are excluded. The cost of the analysis, when requested, is between € 100-200.

A reduction of 10% on the above rates is applied to all operators already certified by BAC for organic products or other certification schemes.