



# Fertilising products and growing media

Free movement of goods is ensured by the harmonisation of technical regulations at European level and, where the legislation is not harmonised, by the principle of “mutual recognition”. Below is information relating to fertilising products and growing media.

## Scope

■ **“Fertilising products”** are used to provide plants with nutrients and improve their nutrition efficiency, and to improve the physical, chemical or biological properties of soil. These products include:

- fertilisers intended to provide plants with directly useful nutrients. These may be primary or secondary nutrients or trace elements;
- soil improvers intended to modify or improve the physical, chemical or biological properties of soil;
- products the function of which – once applied on plants or to soil – is to stimulate natural plant or soil processes in order to enhance or regulate their absorption of nutrients or to improve their tolerance to abiotic stress.

■ **“Fertiliser additives”** are compounds that are added as a tank mix to fertilising products to modify the physical, chemical or biological properties of these products.

■ **“Growing media”** consist of products in which certain plants can be grown and which allow these plants, by anchoring their absorbing organs, to be in contact with the solutions necessary for their growth.

## Regulations

Regulation is not harmonised at European level

### French regulation

➤ French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code – Chapter V, Title V, Title II: Marketing and use of fertilising products, fertiliser additives and growing media

- Section 1: Definitions ([Article L.255-1](#))
- Section 1 bis: Reduction of ammonia emissions ([Article L.255-1-1](#))
- Section 2: Marketing and use of fertilising products, fertiliser additives and growing media ([Articles L.255-2 to L.255-13](#))
- Section 3: Measures to monitor the effects and efficacy of products ([Articles L.255-14 and L.255-15](#))
- Section 4: Emergency measures ([Articles L.255-16](#))
- Section 5: Checks and penalties ([Articles L.255-17 and L.255-18](#))



➤ [Decree no. 80-478 of 16 June 1980](#) (amended) implementing Articles L.412-1 of the French Consumer Code as regards fertilising products and growing media, and the implementing orders relating in particular to the checks and verifications that must be carried out by the person responsible for marketing.

## European regulation

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 laying down rules on the making available on the market of EU fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 (Text with EEA relevance)

[Regulation \(EC\) No 1069/2009](#) (amended) of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 142/2011](#) (amended) of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and implementing Council Directive 97/78/EC as regards certain samples and items exempt from veterinary checks at the border under that Directive

## Further information

A comprehensive overview of regulations on fertilising products is available on the website of the Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control ([DGCCRF](#)).

## Marketing procedures in France

### 1. General cases

Pursuant to the provisions of Article [L.255-2 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code](#), fertilising products, fertiliser additives and growing media may be placed on the market, imported, held for the purpose of sale, sold, distributed free of charge or used in France, provided that they are covered by a marketing authorisation.

To market these types of products in France, an application must be filed by the applicant with the Marketing Authorisations Directorate of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) tasked with processing and reviewing applications. Marketing authorisations for fertilising products, fertiliser additives and growing media are issued by ANSES, following a review finding that a given product has no harmful effects on human health, animal health or the environment under the conditions of use specified and that it is effective, as appropriate, for plants and plant products or for soil (Article L.255-7 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code).

For further information on procedures, refer to the [ANSES](#) website or that of the [Ministry for Agriculture and Food Sovereignty](#).

See procedures in Articles R.255-1 to 255-34 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code.

### 2. Special cases

#### Introduction permits

By way of derogation from Article L.255-2 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code, holding for the purpose of sale, offering for sale, distributing free of charge or using, on national territory, one of the products mentioned in said Article originating from a European Union Member State, on whose territory it is legally marketed, is subject only, where this product is identical to a "reference" product



already authorised to be marketed in France, to obtaining a permit issued in accordance with the conditions set out in [Article L.255-7 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code](#).

The permit issued for a product introduced into national territory only gives entitlement to the same conditions of marketing and use as those applicable to the reference product authorised in France.

### Experimental permits

Experimental permits must be obtained for the distribution or use for experimental purposes of fertilising products, fertiliser additives or growing media. They are issued by ANSES following a review finding that a given product has no harmful effects on human health, animal health or the environment under the conditions of use specified.

### Products already authorised in another Member State (application for mutual recognition or for an introduction permit)

Marketing authorisations, as described in Article R.255-17 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code, or introduction permits, under the conditions set out in Articles R.255-18 to 255-20 of said Code in the special case of applying for an authorisation for an identical product already marketed in France, may be applied for in the case of fertilising products legally marketed in other European Union Member States or in a contracting party to the agreement establishing the European Economic Area.

For information on all special cases, refer to Articles R.255-15 to 255-28 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code.

**All marketing authorisation applications must be sent to ANSES.**

## 3. Exemptions from marketing authorisations

The following are exempt from the obligations set out in Articles [L.255-1 to L.255-4](#) of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code as regards marketing authorisations, introduction permits and experimental permits:

Fertilising products, fertiliser additives and growing media that comply with a standard made mandatory by an order issued on the basis of Decree no. 2009-697 of 16 June 2009 on standardisation implementing Act no. 41-1987 of 24 May 1941 on standardisation.

Mandatory standards are available on [AFNOR's website](#). They are defined by [the Order of 5 September 2003](#) (amended) on the mandatory implementation of standards.

Fertilising products that comply with [Regulation \(EC\) No 2003/2003](#) (amended) of 13 October 2003 relating to fertilisers.

Other exemptions related to the national context include:

- fertilising products, fertiliser additives and growing media that comply with specifications that have been approved by regulatory authorities and that guarantee their efficacy and safety;
- natural substances for biostimulant use that have been authorised in accordance with the special procedure laid down in the last sentence of the second paragraph of Article L.253-1 of the French Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code;



- waste, residues or effluents from facilities defined in Articles L.214-1 and L.511-1 of the French Environment Code, where their discharge or dumping onto farmland as a fertiliser product is covered by a manuring plan guaranteeing the absence of harmful effects on human health, animal health or the environment;
- raw organic materials or natural growing media not mentioned in the above bullet point, delivered as is or mixed together, obtained from natural materials without chemical treatment and that are by-products of a farm or a non-agricultural animal breeding or keeping facility where they are transferred directly, whether free of charge or against payment, by the farm operator or the facility manager;
- fertilising products, fertiliser additives or growing media stored or circulating on national territory which are not intended to be used or marketed there.

NB: These obligations are without prejudice to other regulatory measures imposed for health, plant health or environmental reasons (e.g. measures resulting from Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 and Council Directive 91/676/EEC).

## Contacts

### Regulatory authorities

#### Ministry for Agriculture and Food Sovereignty:

Directorate General for Food (DGAL) – Inputs and Biocontrol Bureau (BIB) –  
[bib.sdspv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr](mailto:bib.sdspv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr)

#### French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES):

Marketing Authorisations Directorate (DAMM)

⇒ Application filing: [damm.uia@anses.fr](mailto:damm.uia@anses.fr)

⇒ Appeals, claims relating to decisions, intentions to withdraw approval: [damm.recours@anses.fr](mailto:damm.recours@anses.fr)

⇒ Other: [contact.damm@anses.fr](mailto:contact.damm@anses.fr)

#### Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty:

Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) – Plant Product and Beverage Markets Bureau – 4C – [bureau-4c@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr](mailto:bureau-4c@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr)

### Market surveillance authorities

Ministry of Economy, Finance, Industrial and Digital Sovereignty:

**DGCCRF** (Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control): Plant Product and Beverage Markets Bureau 4C - [bureau-4c@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr](mailto:bureau-4c@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr)

**DGDDI (Customs)**: Inspection Policy Bureau – JCF2 – [dg-jcf2@douane.finances.gouv.fr](mailto:dg-jcf2@douane.finances.gouv.fr)

### Business federations

Association Nationale Professionnelle pour les Engrais et les Amendements (ANPEA)

Le Diamant A – 14 rue de la République – 92909 Paris La Défense Cedex – Tel. +33 1 46 53 10 30 –  
<https://anpea.com/>

Union des Industries de la Fertilisation (UNIFA)



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## Keywords

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