

COSMOS-standard AISBL

LICENCE FEES

Version 1.2 – 28 July 2015

Introduction

The COSMOS-standard AISBL is an international non-profit organisation based in Brussels. To finance its work, COSMOS-standard AISBL levies three types of fee:

- Licence fee, which operators pay for the right to use the COSMOS ORGANIC/NATURAL/CERTIFIED/APPROVED signatures;
- Certifier fees, which certification bodies pay for the right to certify to the COSMOS-standard, consisting of an application fee to apply for approval and annual fees thereafter;
- Membership fee, which members and associate members pay for the right to participate in the COSMOS-standard AISBL and to decide on its management and direction.

Licence fees

Licence fees are calculated every year and are payable in advance, based upon the total turnover of COSMOS-standard sales in the preceding year. These are defined as:

- **the sales value** obtained by the final responsible certified operator who puts the product on the market in its finished form and is identified on the label (note that the brand owner who may actually market the product may be different);
- **half the sales value** obtained by B-to-B transactions, eg in the case of a sub-contracted operator or ingredient manufacturer;
- **zero sales value** in the case of handlers who are not certified in their own right but are part of another operator's certification (as they have no COSMOS-standard sales themselves);
- a **registration fee** of €10 per approved substance is payable for 'ingredients with no organic content that are acceptable for use under the COSMOS-standard' (within scope 2.b as detailed in the Control Manual). This is instead of the licence fee and is collected by the certification body in the same way. However, it applies to all such substances, even if the manufacturer is a member of an association.

COSMOS sales (cumulative bands)	Licence fees payable according to the type of operator		
	Normal (all other operators)	Client of founder certifiers (ECOCERT, ICEA)	Member of founder associations (BDIH, COSMEBIO, SOIL ASSOCIATION)
Up to €1m	0.40%	0.25%	Paid as part of their normal fees to their association
Between €1m and €2m	0.35%	0.20%	
Between €2m and €8m	0.20%	0.10%	
Between €8m and €20m	0.10%	0.05%	
Over €20m	0.05%	0.01%	

Example: for sales of €1.5m, the 'normal' fee would be (1m x 0.4%) + (500k x 0.35%) = €5750.

COSMOS-standard AISBL, Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
E: info@cosmos-standard.org, W: www.cosmos-standard.org

NB:

The licence fee is subject to VAT which is payable in the country of origin (of the operator).

The minimum fee is €250, which is therefore also the first year's licence fee.

The licence fee (and the minimum fee) are subject to a **20% discount** until the 2017 licence fee (ie 2016 sales value).

Terms of payment

Certification bodies are required to collect the annual licence fees from their clients according to their normal licensing and charging procedures and pay these into the bank account of the COSMOS-standard AISBL within 30 days of the 30th June and 31st December.