

General conditions

Martin Bauer is an expertise Company in herbs and herbal infusion since 1854. The long experience and the deep knowledge of the related issues, have led to highlight and elaborate some aspect detailed in the following paragraphs of this chapter.

1.	Microbiological contamination:	<p>Microbiological contamination of vegetal raw materials, is a well known topic in our Group, also regarding possible spot contamination from some pathogenic microorganisms like Salmonella, Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus. It's important to keep in mind the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Despite the application of GACP (Good Agricultural and Collection Practices) vegetal products wild or cultivated have naturally considerable differences in microbiological contamination, depending on the growing condition.b) Despite the application of GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) the manufacturing process (powdering and cutting), without specific treatment, is not enough to avoid all the microbiological contamination.c) Currently, there are no regulations in the European Union and on a national level, that specifically regulate the microbiological contamination in our type of vegetal products. For these reasons, it is very important to consult the limits proposed by the THIE (Tea & Herbal Infusions Europe Association) for the herbal and fruit infusions, and by the European Pharmacopoeia (9th Ed.) for herb infusions (herbal drug). <p>After all the above consideration, we can add that our Group performs microbiological contamination reduction treatments using steam and temperature for a volume of 50,000 tons / year of goods intended to use for boiling water infusions, in order to prevent</p>
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		<p>these problems.</p> <p>This process is helpful for the reduction of the microbiological contamination but it may also reduce the content of the flavouring substances in the product. The use of this treatment must be carefully evaluated by the flavourings Companies.</p>
2.	Processing factors:	<p>Contaminants legislation (such as heavy metals, mycotoxins, PAHs) involves the application of specific concentration factors, to correct changes in the contaminant concentration caused by drying processes.</p> <p>The data mentioned in our quality- conformity certificate shown (if applicable) the factors taken into consideration.</p>
3.	Herbal Infusion:	<p>This definition refers to the items produced by Martin Bauer Group in Germany, intended for packaging for the final consumer, without any further treatments.</p>
4.	Intended use:	<p>Our products are intended for industrial use and not for direct human consumption, unless otherwise specified.</p>
5.	Unprocessed material:	<p>Some batches of aromatic herbs are sold in original packaging (sometimes against specific request of Customers). These means that the product has been sampled and that on this sample we performed the analysis listed in our self-control plan, but not all the packaging of the batch have been controlled. It follows that it is not possible for us to declare the absolute absence of foreign matters and materials accidentally present inside a packaging.</p>
6.	Mixture's homogeneity	<p>Due to the own characteristics of miscibility, the coarse herbs blends can't be perfectly homogenised. Furthermore, the industrial process tolerance, the applied technology, the possible inaccuracies of the measuring instruments used (for ex.. Scales), the processed product, etc...must be taken into account.</p>
7.	Origin:	<p>For herbal products it is not possible to guarantee a single origin, that's the reason why, in some cases, our origin declaration is</p>

		<p>referred to several Countries.</p> <p>On the basis of three considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The processed batches can derive from raw materials blend with different Countries of origin. The aim is to obtain a conformable, homogeneous batch; b) Wild herbs are collected in large areas that can extend beyond the classical geographical boundaries; c) It is possible to guarantee the traceability of the origin only for large areas; d) Geographical areas are selected by the Group to avoid climate disaster that can compromise the crop; e) More detailed information (where possible) on each lot are available on request and reported in our "Plant Information Document".
8.	Agricultural product:	The herbal plant must be considered a non processed agricultural product. Therefore, the plant is a raw material that must be processed before being used as a food product.
9.	Herbal teas:	For their indication of use, they must be consumed only by infusion in boiling water because only the heat action can guarantee the consumer safety. It is appropriate that the packaging companies check that this indication is mentioned in the label.
10.	Tolerance on analysis:	<p>There is a variability that must be considered for our information in our quality-certified certificate, due to 3 causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - uncertainty during the sampling activity - uncertainty of the operator - uncertainty of the analytical technique <p>The sum of these factors lead to consider acceptable a variability range ($\pm 5-10\%$) on the given data.</p>

		The SANTE regulation consider acceptable an uncertainty of 50% on the analysis of pesticides.
11.	Tolerance on composition:	In order to maintain the sensory standard of the blend, the ingredients may vary as follows: by max 2% for ingredients constituting not more than 10% of the total blend, by max 5% for ingredients constituting more than 10% of the total blend. The above mentioned descending order of the ingredients is always maintained.
12.	Botanical identification:	identification is performed by technical micro and/or macro and/or morphological evaluation and/or TLC and/or DNA fingerprint and on the basis of supplier's information.
13.	Package weight:	herbs are subjects to variable natural weight loss.

Martin Bauer S.p.a.

This statement replaces all our previous editions.

This statement is transmitted electronically and is valid without signature.