Suppliers Approval Guide

How to use this guide
If you intend to certify your product to the Soil Association Food & Drink Standards, and use the Soil Association organic symbol, please refer to Section 1.

Is your supplier:
• In the UK or the EU? – see Section 2
• Outside the UK or EU? – see Section 3

General points
• Do you have a copy of your supplier’s organic certificate that’s in date and includes the product(s)/ingredient(s) you intend to buy?
• Any company producing, processing, storing, importing or placing products on the market (selling/transferring ownership) must hold an organic certificate in their name.
• If you don’t have a copy of your supplier’s certificate, please request a copy and refer to this guidance. If you’re in any doubt, please contact us before placing an order with them.

Resources and further guidance
To check supplier certificates are valid:
• Approved EU certification bodies
• Recognised third countries outside the EU
• Recognised non-EU certification bodies
• To check ingredients where Soil Association standards have additional requirements for an ingredient - refer to Sourcing Organic Ingredients

and if your supplier’s certificate is current and genuine:
• Many countries publish all of their certified organic farms and businesses using Bio C
• Lots of certifiers have their own checking services, for example: Soil Association Certification | Ecocert - visit the certifier’s website or we can provide you a list of links.

If you’d like further guidance or to double check your supplier's certificate, please contact your Certification Officer, directly.
Section 1: Can I use this supplier for organic ingredients in products certified to Soil Association organic standards?

Is the certificate issued by Soil Association Certification and does it confirm the product is certified to Soil Association organic standards? See examples on pg 4

No

Does the product/ingredient you intend to buy consist of or contain ingredients made from:
- Poultry or pork
- Meat or offal, or products containing meat or offal, slaughtered outside of the UK
- Eggs
- Fish, prawns and other aquaculture animals

Yes

No

Contact us for advice and approval of the supplier.

Yes

Refer to Section 2 for UK & EU Suppliers and Section 3 for non-UK/EU Suppliers to check the supplier can be used for organic ingredients.

Section 2: Can I use this supplier for organic ingredients? (UK and EU Suppliers)

Does this certificate confirm certification to EC regulations 834/2007 and 889/2008? See examples on pg 5

No

Contact your supplier to ask whether they have certification to the EU organic regulations or contact us for advice on cert@soilassociation.org.

Yes

Provided the general points on page 1 are met, this supplier can be used. Make sure you have a valid copy of their certificate on file and/or check its validity with the issuing body.
Section 3: Can I use this supplier for organic ingredients? (Suppliers outside the UK and EU)

Is the supplier in a recognised third country, the product category, the certifier and standard listed in annex III of EC reg 1235/2008?

See examples on pgs 6-7

Yes

Provided the general points on page 1 are met, this supplier can be used. Make sure you have a valid copy of their certificate on file and/or check its validity with the issuing body.

Make sure the consignment has a certificate of inspection, endorsed by the certifier of export, the port health authority where the goods enter the UK/EU and the first consignee.

No

Is the certifier issuing the certificate a recognised non-EU certification body, operating in the country and product category specified?

See examples on pg 7

Yes

No

The product/ingredient cannot be sold or distributed with reference to organic in the UK/EU.

If you’d like further guidance or to double check your supplier’s certificate, please contact your Certification Officer directly.
**Example 1:** Certificate confirming approval of an ingredient to Soil Association standards will feature the SA Organic symbol and specify that the Soil Association standard has been met.

**Example 1a:** N.B. Not all certificates issued by Soil Association Certification confirm compliance to the Soil Association standards – some confirm compliance with the EU organic regulations only.
Section 2 examples

Example 2: Certificates confirming compliance to EU organic regulations

Example 3: Certificates confirming compliance to EU organic regulations
### Section 3 examples

#### Example 4: Approved third country certificate

![Certificate of Compliance](image)

**AUSTRALIA**

1. **Product categories:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of products</th>
<th>Designation of category as in Annex IV</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unprocessed plant products</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processed agricultural products for use as food (*)</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Composed essentially of one or more ingredients of plant origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Wine, yeast not included.

2. **Origin:** products of categories A and F that have been grown in Australia and products of category D processed in Australia with organically grown ingredients that have been grown in Australia.

3. **Production standard:** national standard for organic and bio-dynamic produce


#### Example 5: Excerpts from annex III of EC reg 1235/2008
5. Control bodies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Internet address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AU-BIO-001</td>
<td>Australian Certified Organic Pty Ltd</td>
<td>M24 <a href="http://www.aco.net.au">www.aco.net.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU-BIO-003</td>
<td>Bio-dynamic Research Institute (BDRI)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.demeter.org.au">www.demeter.org.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU-BIO-004</td>
<td>NASAA Certified Organic (NCO)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nasaa.com.au">www.nasaa.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU-BIO-005</td>
<td>Organic Food Chain Pty Ltd (OFC)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.organicfoodchain.com.au">www.organicfoodchain.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU-BIO-006</td>
<td>AUS-QUAL Pty Ltd</td>
<td><a href="http://www.auqual.com.au">www.auqual.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example 6:** Excerpts from annex III of EC reg 1235/2008

**Example 7:** Recognised non-EU certification body certificate

**Example 8:** Excerpts from list of recognised non-EU certification bodies