

Summary of standards changes

EU Equivalent documents updated Wednesday 25th November 2020 – version 1.5

This document summarises the changes made to the Soil Association EU Equivalent standards documents for version 1.5.

The changes outlined below have been applied to the relevant standards documents which are: farming & growing, food & drink, abattoir & slaughtering, aquaculture, seaweed, and feed processing. In this document we have not included small edits that have been made to formatting, grammar and spelling.

Key to text changes: (~~strikethrough~~ = delete; underlined = new wording; normal text = no change)

If you have any questions, please contact the Standards Team by emailing standards@soilassociation.org.

Changes to All Standards Documents (aquaculture, abattoir & slaughtering, feed processing, farming & growing, food & drink and seaweed)

1.13.2 Treating infestations in organic products or areas used for organic products

If you find an infestation in organic products, on sacks or containers, in areas used for handling/storing organic products or in areas not used for organic products, you must only use pest control methods which do not contaminate the organic product.

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1)(c)



If you use pest control methods, you will need to keep records of:

- what pests you have found
- what chemicals, methods and equipment you used on them
- who did the treatment, when and which area or equipment was treated, and
- what precautions you took to prevent contamination of organic products.

For example, if you need to use pyrethrum as a spray or fog to control insects you must:

- remove all organic products from the area to be treated
- not put organic products back into the treated area for at least 24 hours after the treatment
- you will clean all product contact surfaces in the area, (using methods allowed in Soil Association standards), after the treatment and before you process or store organic product there again
- provide evidence that these measures were undertaken.

Please note that some products have a long residual activity and must only be used in such a manner that the residues will not contaminate the organic product. For example, if you plan to use products that migrate easily, or have longer residual activity such as synthetic pyrethroids, organophosphorous, carbamate or organochlorine compounds then you must put in place additional safeguards to prevent migration or contamination.

Rodenticides must only be used in tamper-proof bait stations and in places where there is no risk of contaminating products.

If you use pest control treatments in areas not used for organic production or storage, you must still assess the risk of contamination and take appropriate preventative measures.

You should make your pest control contractor aware that your unit is handling organic products and that you must comply with pest control procedures in section 1.13 of Soil Association standards.

Control methods on organic products

Control methods which are appropriate for use on organic products include, but are not limited to:

- carbon dioxide or nitrogen
- freezing and heating
- vacuum treatment

Control methods in organic areas

Control methods which are appropriate for use in organic areas include, but are not limited to:

- desiccant dusts such as diatomaceous earth and amorphous silica, preferably from naturally occurring sources
- electric flying insect control units, with shatterproof tubes that are positioned and cleaned correctly
- tamper resistant bait stations that contain legally approved pesticides
- sticky boards for insects.
- humane electronic rodent repellents such as floor mats

Changes specific to Farming and Growing Standards

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.4.1 Description of your activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before starting your organic enterprise, you must describe how you will comply with these organic standards. If you make any changes to your activity you must update your certification body accordingly. 2. You must include a full description of your premises, units and activities including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) fields and their status (organic, non-organic in conversion) b) the date of the last input of any agrochemicals, artificial fertilisers and other materials we do not allow for each field or area c) facilities used for receipt of goods, storage and where applicable facilities for processing, packaging and labelling, and d) procedures used for transporting products. 3. For livestock production you must also include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) livestock buildings b) grazing areas and open air runs c) facilities for storing manure d) premises for storage, packaging and processing of livestock, livestock products, raw materials and inputs e) a plan of your livestock management f) a plan for spreading manure agreed with the control body or authority, together with a full description of the areas given over to crop production, and g) where appropriate, as regards the spreading of manure, any written arrangements with other holdings. <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1); Art. 64; Art. 70; Art. 74</i></p>	<p>Some of this information will be collected as part of the application process.</p> <p>You must let us know if and when you plan to expand into new areas. For example, if you wish to add land, keep new livestock species or enterprises, or start a box scheme or start to pack or process food or feed. Depending on what changes are made, we might need to update your certificates and you may need an additional inspection or licence.</p> <p><u>Livestock management plan templates can be found on our website.</u></p>

2.5.1 The use of fertilisers and soil conditioners is restricted

1. You may only use the fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients in standards 2.5.2, if the measures and practices required in standard 2.4.1 are not adequate to meet the nutritional needs of your plants.
2. You must keep records which demonstrate why you need to use the product(s).
3. The use of these products is subject to the specific conditions in the table below.
(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(d)(e); Art. 16(1)(b)
(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(1)
4. The products in the table below may only be used if they are authorised for your intended use in your country.
(EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)

You must plan your production system to minimise the need for brought-in nutrients. You must keep documentary evidence of the need to use each product.

For each supplementary nutrient you wish to use demonstrate:

- how you identify a need for supplementary nutrients, such as soil or tissue analysis and,
- that the nutrient and the application method and timing is appropriate to your soil type and crop needs

You can record the details of how you are meeting the requirements of this standard in your own Crop production plan or complete a 'Inputs Form **Crop Management Plan template**' which is available on our [website](#). These will be reviewed by your Certification officer to check that standard requirements are met.



Any changes to your plan should be submitted to your Certification Officer for review.

Fertiliser and soil conditioner input records.

Lists of certified fertiliser products are available on our [website](#).

2.5.4 Spreading surplus manure

You may establish links with other organic holdings to spread surplus organic manure. This must be an on-going arrangement held in writing. The maximum nitrogen limit of 170kg of nitrogen per year per hectare must be calculated on the basis of all the organic production holdings involved in such cooperation.

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(3)

You must document details of your arrangement.

An example arrangement would be where you exchange manure for straw or feed.

Organic manure can only be spread on organic land.

2.6.2 The use of pesticides and plant protection products is restricted

- 1) You may **only** use the products listed in standard 2.6.3 below for pest, disease and weed control when there is an established threat to your crops, and when plants cannot be adequately protected by organic preventative measures and practices described in standard 2.6.1
- 2) You must keep records which demonstrate why you need to use the product.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(1)(h)

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 5(1)

- 3) The products in the table below may only be used if they are authorised for your intended use in your country.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)

Plant production records need to specify why plant protection products need to be used.



At inspection we will look for evidence to show that you have followed the conditions for treatment. This may include:

- records of crop monitoring
- records of pest/disease levels
- preventative practices in place
- test results
- records of products used, and
- methods used to prevent damage to non-target species

You can record the details of how you are meeting the requirements of this standard in your own Crop production plan or complete an 'Annual Plan for the use of pest and disease control products from [Crop Management Plan template](#)' which is available on our [website](#). These will be reviewed by your Certification officer to check that standard requirements are met.

Any changes to your plan should be submitted to your Certification Officer for review.

It is your responsibility to check the products from the table below are authorised for your intended use in your country. In the UK a list of legally approved products and their specific use(s) is published on the [Chemicals Regulation Directorate](#). You will need to ensure that legal Health and Safety requirements are adhered to when applying products.

This applies to all parts of the organic or in-conversion holding including areas not used for crop production such as around buildings, paths, tracks and hedgerows.

<p>2.9.4 Maintaining wild plant resources</p> <p>The wild harvesting of plant resources must maintain the species in the collection area.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(2)(b)</p>	<p>Compliance to Principle 1 of the FairWild Standard demonstrates that you are meeting the requirements of this standard.</p> <p>You must hold information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The global and/or national/regional conservation status of the target species. 2. The collection methods and management practices including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How target species are adequately identified e.g. voucher (reference) specimens provided from the collection site b. A map of collection areas and location of target populations (preferably a 1:50,000 scale map or less) c. Species-specific harvest methods, including collected parts, collection method and collection period d. Minimum biological age/size class allowed for collection for each target species and collection site e. Maximum allowed collection limits (quantities, frequency, periods) 3. How you ensure that the rate (intensity and frequency) of target resource collection does not exceed the target species' ability to regenerate over the long term. To include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Baseline information/inventory on target species in the collection area, including population size, distribution, population structure (size/age classes), rate of reproduction/growth/regeneration. <p>How you use species-specific baseline information, resource assessment and/or monitoring data on collection impacts to inform your maximum collection quantities, frequencies and periods.</p> <p><u>Compliance to Principle 1 of the FairWild Standard demonstrates that you are meeting the requirements of this standard.</u></p>
<p>2.9.5 Preventing negative environmental impacts</p> <p>The collection activities must not negatively impact the habitat and other wild species in the collection area.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(2)(b)</p>	<p>Compliance to Principle 2 of the FairWild Standard demonstrates that you are meeting the requirements of this standard.</p> <p>You must hold information about:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anyrare, threatened or endangered species and habitats that are likely to be affected by collection of the target resource and how they are protected. 2. How the management activities supporting wild harvest of target species do not adversely affect ecosystem diversity, processes and functions. For example, evidence from monitoring that such practices do not negatively affect sensitive species or the ecosystem structure, diversity and functions in the collection area. <p>Management practices to minimise competition with or promote growth of the target species are used, including how these practices do not adversely affect sensitive species, ecosystem structure, diversity and function in the collection area. For example, evidence from monitoring.</p> <p><u>Compliance to Principle 2 of the FairWild Standard demonstrates that you are meeting the requirements of this standard.</u></p>
--	---

Standards	Guidance
<p>3.4.1 Preventing disease and injury</p> <p>Disease management must be based on preventative measures. You must draw up a health plan to show how you will build health and reduce disease. This must be tailored to suit your own farm and should allow you to minimise your use of veterinary medicines. Preventative measures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) breed and strain selection b) husbandry management practices c) high quality feed and exercise d) appropriate stocking density, and e) adequate and appropriate housing maintained in hygienic conditions. <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(e)(l); Art. 14(1)(e)(i) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1)(b)</p>	<p>You must be able to demonstrate that you take preventative measures to limit your animal health problems. If health problems occur you must review your management, take appropriate action and monitor its effectiveness.</p> <p>Examples of preventative husbandry practices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biosecurity measures • grazing and range management • stockmanship and welfare assessments • breeding and culling management. <p>We strongly recommend that you consult with your vet on health planning and review where any improvements can be made annually.</p> <p><u>Livestock management plan templates can be found on our website.</u></p>

	<p>Include details of the biosecurity measures you implement when bringing new or returning animals onto your farm and managing diseased stock. This could include isolation, blood testing, TB testing, buying from disease-free sources, direct sources, double fencing.</p> <p>Include also the biosecurity measures you implement on your farm to limit the risk of specific diseases to your animals, such as restricting badger access to water troughs and feed, good manure management, and preventing disease transmission from neighbouring herds via shared equipment, brought-in manure or direct contact.</p> <p>For more information on suitable measures refer to government advice and advisory services. For example, for bovine TB consult TB Hub or contact the TB Advisory Service for free farm visits and bespoke advice.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of introducing disease you should avoid sourcing livestock from livestock markets and collection centres.</p> <p>Pasture should be managed to minimise disease and parasite burdens. Frequent disease and parasite monitoring will help you to assess the effectiveness of your pasture management. The welfare of your animals will be assessed at inspection and this will be used to indicate the effectiveness of your preventative measures.</p>
--	---

3.10.4 Feeding organic and in-conversion feed

1. The diet of your organic and converting animals must be based on organic feed composed of feedingstuffs obtained primarily from your holding or from other organic holdings in the same region.
2. You may feed or graze your organic or converting livestock:
 - a) up to 100% in-conversion feed from your own holding and no more than 30% in-conversion feed, forage or grazing from another holding.
 - b) up to 20% of the total average amount of feed can be first year conversion perennial forage crops and protein crops, only if they are produced from your own holding. The land you wish to use in this way must not have been part of any organic holding in the last five years.
3. When both in-conversion feed and first year conversion feed are being used, the total combined percentage used must not exceed the percentages in point a).
4. These percentages must be based on the annual dry matter intake of feedstuffs of plant origin.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(k); Art. 14(1)(d)(i)(ii)

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 21

In conversion feed (as defined in standard 2.1.5a) is feed grown on land that had completed one year of conversion before the crop was harvested. This one year of conversion can include any period recognised retrospectively as per standard 2.1.3.

Since 100% in-conversion from your own holding is currently permitted under point 2. a), point 3. is effectively redundant.

Pig and poultry enterprises can use first year in-conversion land after 6 months if the conditions in standard 3.1.6 have been met.



Feed records


This standard has also been changed in the Feed Processing standards

3.10.11 Use of additional products and substances in feed and feed supplements

1. You may only use the products and substances in standard 3.10.14 below if they are necessary to maintain animal health, welfare and vitality and to contribute to an appropriate diet which fulfils the physiological and behavioural needs of your animals, or if it is impossible to produce or preserve feed without them. Their use is subject to the specific conditions in the table.

You must be able to justify the use of additional feed products, supplements and substances. For example ~~show~~:

- by forage or soil analysis show that your home grown feeds are deficient, or
- with blood or tissue analysis, or details of previously identified deficiencies in your stock,
- referencing a known species specific nutritional need that cannot be met through feeding organic feed materials of plant origin
- where a positive welfare outcome will result from the inclusion of the additional feed product in the livestock's ration

<p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(d)(ii)(iv); Art. 16(2)(e) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 22</p> <p>2. The products in the table below may only be used if they are authorised for your intended use in your country. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)</p>	<p>The products you use should target the nutritional needs as closely as possible and must be used in compliance with the conditions set in the table below.</p> <p>Mineral licks must be free from additives and ingredients not permitted in these standards. Contact your Certification Officer for more information on using mineral and feed blocks.</p> <p><u>Boluses are acceptable if the components are listed in 3.10.12 with the exclusion of the metal ballast.</u></p> <p> Records of any feed supplements used</p> <p><u>Your livestock management plan should include details of any additional feed products and supplements fed along with the reason for their use.</u></p> <p>All products must also be authorised under Regulation (EC) 1831/2003, <u>with the exception of:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>organic feed materials of animal origin</u> • <u>non-organic feed materials of plant or animal origin, or fermentation (by-products) from micro-organisms, the cells of which have been inactivated or killed</u> • <u>feed materials of mineral origin</u> • <u>products from sustainable fisheries</u> • <u>non-organic spices, herbs and molasses</u>
--	--

This standard has also been changed in the Feed Processing standards

Changes to Food and Drink Standards

Standards	Guidance
<p>6.2.1 Using ethylene</p> <p>You may use ethylene as a post-harvest plant growth regulator. only:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to ripen bananas, kiwis and kakis 2. to ripen citrus fruit as part of a strategy to prevent fruit fly damage 3. to induce flowering of pineapples 4. to inhibit sprouting of onions and potatoes. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Annex II</i></p>	<p><u>Ethylene can be used in storage for sprout suppression or for ripening of fruits.</u></p>
<p>6.7.1 EU derogations</p> <p>The EU Organic Regulation allows for some derogations to use non-organic agricultural ingredients where they aren't available on the market in organic form and aren't already listed in standard 6.6.1.</p> <p>In these cases you can apply to your competent authority for a derogation to use the particular ingredients.</p> <p>This standard only applies to products containing 95-100% organic agricultural ingredients.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 6(a); Art. 19(2)(c); (EC) 889/2008 Art. 29</i></p>	<p>If you are having trouble finding an agricultural ingredient in organic form, contact your Certification Officer. We licence a wide range of products and should be able to provide details of companies that will be able to supply you with what you need.</p> <p>If an ingredient is not available in organic form anywhere in the EU, then you may still be able to use it provided you have successfully applied for a derogation to do so. This applies to products labelled as organic only.</p> <p>Derogations can only be granted for agricultural ingredients. Neither certification bodies nor the competent authorities can give derogations to use additives and processing aids which are not listed as permitted in the organic regulation unless they are covered by this standard.</p> <p>If you are producing juice from concentrate and unable to source an organic version of the top note, you can apply for a derogation. If the derogation is issued, the top note must be listed as a non-organic ingredient on the retail label (see standard 5.8.2).</p>

	<p>If you are producing a less than 95% organic product you will not need to request a derogation from your competent authority for the non-organic ingredients.</p> <p>Please refer to section 5.8. of these standards for further information on labelling.</p> <p>How to apply for a derogation</p> <p>In the UK, you will need to complete a Defra non-organic ingredient application form.</p> <p>Before submitting an application it is important that you ensure you have checked the EU market, not just UK suppliers and provide that evidence with your application.</p> <p>Double check your percentage calculations to ensure they are correct and that the total percentage of organic agricultural ingredients will not exceed 5%. Please refer to our web tool for help with calculating maximum percentages. Please note some additives are included in the percentage calculations - refer to standard 6.4.2 for details.</p> <p>an OB9 form which is available from Defra.</p> <p>Defra normally issues derogations for 12 months then for two further periods of 12 months each. However, Defra may cancel derogations or reduce the time of derogations if enough of the ingredient in organic form becomes available in the EU.</p> <p>If you are outside of the EU, and we certify you to the EU Organic Regulation, then you need to apply to us for a derogation. Please contact your Certification Officer for details of how you do this.</p> <p>Please refer to our web tool for help with calculating maximum percentages.</p>
--	---

6.9.3 Additives and processing aids

You may use the products and substances listed in the table below for making wine. You must cross reference this with *EC Regulation 1234/2007* and the specific conditions and limits of application listed in Annex I A of *EC Regulation 606/2009*.

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 29(c)(2)(3); Annex VIIIa
(EC) 606/2009 Annex Ia



It is important to note that the wine regulation 606/2009 details further specific conditions and restrictions on using the materials outlined in the table below. You will need to make sure that you also meet these requirements.

Some additives and processing aids are a potential GM risk because they are derived from crops that can be GM or are made using processes that sometimes involve GM. For these additives and processing aids you will need to provide additional proof that they are non-GM by completing a non-GM declaration form, signed by the additive or processing aid manufacturer, and providing supporting information. The type of supporting information required will depend on the additive or processing aid.

Please refer to [this](#) guidance document for more information.

Product/ Substance	Oenological practice	Specific conditions and restrictions within the limits and conditions set out in Regulation (EC) 1234/2007 and Regulation (EC) 606/2009
Air Gaseous oxygen	For aeration or oxygenation	
Perlite Cellulose Diatomaceous earth	Centrifuging & filtration	To use only as inert filtering agents.
Nitrogen Carbon dioxide Argon	To create an inert atmosphere and to handle the product shielded from the air	
Yeasts, yeast cell walls	Use	Individual strains organically sourced if available.
Diammonium phosphate Thiamine hydrochloride Autolysates of yeast	Use	
Sulphur dioxide Potassium bisulphite or potassium metabisulphite	Use	See standards 6.9.4, 6.9.5 and 6.9.6 for permitted levels.
Charcoal for oenological use	Use	
Product/ Substance	Oenological practice	Specific conditions and restrictions within the limits and

		conditions set out in Regulation (EC) 1234/2007 and Regulation (EC) 606/2009
Edible gelatin Plant proteins from wheat or peas Isinglass Egg white albumin Tannins Potato proteins Yeast protein extracts	Clarification	From organic raw material if available.
Casein Chitosan derived from <i>Aspergillus niger</i> Potassium caseinate Silicon dioxide Bentonite Pectolytic enzymes	Clarification	
Lactic acid L(+)/Tartaric acid	Acidification	
L(+)/Tartaric acid Calcium carbonate Neutral potassium tartrate Potassium bicarbonate	Deacidification	
Aleppo pine resin	Addition	
Lactic bacteria	Use	
L-Ascorbic acid	Addition	
Nitrogen	Bubbling	
Carbon dioxide	Addition	
Citric acid	Wine stabilization	
Tannins	Addition	From organic raw material if available.
Meta-tartaric acid	Addition	For partially fermented wines for direct human consumption as such, and the products defined in paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16 of Annex IV of <i>EC Regulation 479/2008</i> . No more than 100mg/l.
Product/ Substance	Oenological practice	Specific conditions and restrictions within the limits and conditions set out in Regulation (EC) 1234/2007 and Regulation (EC)

Summary of changes - EU Equivalent documents updated Wednesday 25th November 2020 – Version 1.5

		606/2009
Acacia gum (gum Arabic)	Use	From organic raw material if available.
Potassium bitartrate	Use	
Cupric citrate	Use	
Yeast mannoproteins	Use	
Oak chips	Use	
Potassium alginate	Use	
Chitosan derived from <i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Use	
<u>Inactivated yeast</u>	<u>Use</u>	
Calcium sulphate	Treatment in accordance with Annex III A (2)(b) to <i>EC Regulation 606/2009</i>	Only for 'vino generoso' or 'vino generoso de licor'.