



Summary of standards changes

EU Equivalent documents updated Thursday 30th April 2020 – version 1.4

This document summarises the changes made to the Soil Association EU Equivalent standards documents for version 1.4.

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 applied to all standards documents

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.2.1 General principles of organic production <u>Your production system must meet the following principles and objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To produce food of high quality and in sufficient quantity by the use of processes that do not harm the environment, human health, plant health or animal health and welfare.2. To work within natural systems and cycles at all levels, from the soil to plants and animals.3. To maintain the long-term fertility and biological activity of soils.4. To treat livestock ethically, meeting their species-specific physiological and behavioural needs.5. To respect regional, environmental, climatic and geographic differences and the appropriate practices that have evolved in response to them.6. To maximise the use of renewable resources and recycling.	




<p>7. To design and manage organic systems which make the best use of natural resources and ecology to prevent the need for external inputs. Where this fails or where external inputs are required, the use of external inputs is limited to organic, natural or naturally-derived substances.</p> <p>8. To limit the use of chemically synthesised inputs to situations where appropriate alternative management practices do not exist, or natural or organic inputs are not available, or where alternative inputs would contribute to unacceptable environmental impacts.</p> <p>9. To exclude the use of soluble mineral fertilisers.</p> <p>10. To foster biodiversity and protect sensitive habitats and landscape features.</p> <p>11. To minimise pollution and waste.</p> <p>12. To use preventative and precautionary measures and risk assessment when appropriate.</p> <p>13. To exclude the use of GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs with the exception of veterinary medicinal products.</p> <p>14. To sustainably use products from fisheries.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 3; Art. 4</i></p>	
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<p>1.8.1 Using the term organic</p> <p>If you wish to refer to organic in relation to an agricultural food or feed product anywhere on a label, in advertising materials or commercial documents, you must meet the requirements of these standards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(1)</i></p>	<p>I Labelling refers to the way in which you identify your products and show their organic status. The labelling standards apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retail packaging • bulk packaging • the labelling of loose produce for sale in retail outlets • information on delivery notes or invoices for products that are packed or labelled before sale, such as milk, livestock and grain • marketing materials, and • web content.
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	<p><u>Defra have provided guidance to UK certification bodies regarding marketing of pet food. If a pet food product is marketed as Organic then organic certification of the product is required and use of the EU organic logo would be permitted, although not required. If reference to organic is made in the ingredients list only, organic certification is not required and the EU organic logo could not be used.</u></p> <p><u>This includes reference to organic not just in the product name or sales description, but also in relation to ingredients of a food or feed product. For example, a cereal bar making organic claims about some of the ingredients may only do so if the cereal bar is certified to the organic regulation.</u></p> <p>This only applies to food and feed products. However, if you make such claims on non-food and feed products (such as textiles, health and beauty products, and pet food) your claims must still be true. In the UK all products are governed by the <i>Trade Descriptions Act</i>.</p> <p>Examples of other references to organic include, "organically grown"; "organically produced"; "grown/produced using organic principles"; "grown/produced using organic methods".</p> <p> Labelling legislation</p> <p>Along with meeting these standards for labelling, you will also need to make sure your labels meet other relevant labelling legislation such as <i>Regulation 1169/2011</i> on the provision of food information to consumers, and the <i>Food Information Regulations</i>.</p>
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<p>1.8.3 Products with less than 95% organic ingredients</p> <p>1. For products where less than 95% of the agricultural ingredients are organic you can only include reference to organic in the ingredients list. In order to do this you must:</p>	<p>Guidance for each point is set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less than 95% organic bulk labels <p>For bulk products which do not include the ingredient information on the label, indicate the total percentage of organic ingredients on the product label instead.</p>
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<p>a) indicate which ingredients are organic in the ingredients list.</p> <p>b) include the total percentage of organic ingredients in the ingredients list (as a percentage of the agricultural ingredients).</p> <p>c) use the same colour, size and style of lettering in the reference to organic and percentage statement as you do as for the non-organic ingredients. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)</i></p> <p>2. For products where the main ingredient is a product of hunting or fishing and other agricultural ingredients are organic you cannot call the product organic, but you can identify the organic ingredients in the same field visual field as the product description. You must also:</p> <p>a) indicate which ingredients are organic in the ingredients list</p> <p>b) include the total percentage of organic ingredients in the ingredients list (as a percentage of the agricultural ingredients)</p> <p>c) use the same colour, size and style of lettering in the reference to organic and percentage statement as you do for the non-organic ingredients. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)(c)</i></p> <p>3. You must not use the EU logo on products containing less than 95% organic ingredients. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 25(1)</i></p> <p>4. The label must include the code number of the certifier who certifies the company that carries out the most recent production, preparation or packing for the product (which may or may not be you). <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(a)</i></p> <p>5. You must include a traceability code, such as a batch or</p>	<p>2. Main ingredient of hunting and fishing</p> <p>The 'main ingredient' means it accounts for at least 50% agricultural ingredients or is the characterising ingredient. Added water and salt are not taken into account.</p> <p>Products of hunting and fishing are considered agricultural ingredients so are included in percentage calculations. For example, Sardines in tomato sauce:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Sardines</td><td>52%</td></tr> <tr><td>Organic tomatoes</td><td>32%</td></tr> <tr><td>Organic olive oil</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Organic lemon</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Organic content =</td><td>48%</td></tr> </table> <p>The label will indicate total organic content of 48%.</p> <p>3. This table provides a summary of the main differences in labelling requirements for products containing more than 95% and less than 95% organic agricultural ingredients, and in-conversion products.</p>	Sardines	52%	Organic tomatoes	32%	Organic olive oil	11%	Organic lemon	5%	Organic content =	48%								
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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="981 917 1178 1034"></th> <th data-bbox="1178 917 1377 1034">% organic agricultural ingredients</th> <th data-bbox="1377 917 1576 1034">References to organic</th> <th data-bbox="1576 917 1776 1034">EU Organic logo</th> <th data-bbox="1776 917 1975 1034">Certification code</th> <th data-bbox="1975 917 2175 1034">Statement of agricultural origin</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="981 1034 1178 1182"></td> <td data-bbox="1178 1034 1377 1182">More than 95%</td> <td data-bbox="1377 1034 1576 1182">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1576 1034 1776 1182">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1776 1034 1975 1182">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1975 1034 2175 1182">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="981 1182 1178 1324"></td> <td data-bbox="1178 1182 1377 1324">Less than 95%</td> <td data-bbox="1377 1182 1576 1324">Only in ingredient list</td> <td data-bbox="1576 1182 1776 1324">✗</td> <td data-bbox="1776 1182 1975 1324">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1975 1182 2175 1324">✗</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		% organic agricultural ingredients	References to organic	EU Organic logo	Certification code	Statement of agricultural origin		More than 95%	✓	✓	✓	✓		Less than 95%	Only in ingredient list	✗	✓	✗
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<p>date code.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 31(1)(d)</p>		<p>In-conversion product</p>	<p>You may use the wording 'product under conversion to organic farming'</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>
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1.11.2 Genetic modification

1. Products labelled as consisting of or made from GMOs must never be described as organic.
(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(3)
2. You must not use GMOs or products made from or by GMOs or their derivatives. You must be able to demonstrate that any food, feed, processing aids, additives, micro-organisms, plant protection products, fertilisers, soil conditioners, seeds, vegetative propagating materials and animals used in organic production do not contain any GMOs or their derivatives.
3. For food and feed **products produced in the EU, and covered under** Directive 2001/18/EC, Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 or Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 are applicable, **and** you may rely on labels or any other accompanying documents to confirm that they are non-GM, unless you have other information that the products do not meet the Directive and Regulations listed above.
4. For products that are not food or feed, or products that could be produced by GMOs or **for products we are certifying produced** outside the EU, you will need to get confirmation from your suppliers, in the form of a non-GM declaration, that the products supplied have not been produced from or by GMOs.
(EC) 834/2007 Art. 9(1)(2)(3)
(EC) 889/2008 Art. 69; Annex XIII

In the EU, if a product contains GMOs or their derivatives then it must be labelled as such, (as described in 1.11.2.3) so the regulation allows labels to be relied upon as evidence to indicate whether food contains GMOs or their derivatives. This would apply to products such as agricultural crops, like maize and soya, or their derivatives like lecithin or starch. However, Directive 2001/18/EC, Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 and Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 do not extend to the use of ingredients produced by genetically modified micro-organisms. For example, enzymes and vitamins. This means that it cannot be automatically assumed that a product complies with the specific GMO requirements of the organic regulations. For this reason, we require a completed GMO declaration for all products that may be a GM risk.

Our GMO declaration form explains which additives, processing aids and ingredients are GMO risks. Your Certification Officer can also confirm any other ingredients which are a GMO risk.

Please contact us if you need a blank template of the non-GM declaration form for your suppliers to complete.

1.11.2.3 also says, if you have other information that the products do not meet the GM labelling requirements then you cannot rely on the information stated on the label. For example, test results which show GM DNA in the product. If you or a third party tests any of your organic products and gets a positive result, you must inform us of that result as soon as possible.

	<p>Farmers purchasing animal feeds may rely on the information provided on the labels, or accompany documents. Feed used must be certified organic so any checks on GM status will have been done by the feed processors.</p> <p><u>The European regulations and directives referred to in the standard only apply to product within the EU market. This means that if we are certifying your business outside the UK/EU, supplier declarations will be required for all GM risk ingredients and feed to confirm the products have not been produced from or by GMOs.</u></p>
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Changes specific to Farming and Growing Standards

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.2.2 Specific principles for organic farming <u>In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 1.2.1, organic farming must be based on the following specific principles</u> Organic farming is based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the maintenance and enhancement of soil life and natural soil fertility, soil stability and soil biodiversity preventing and combating soil compaction and soil erosion, and the nourishing of plants primarily through the soil ecosystem 2. the minimisation of the use of non-renewable resources and off-farm inputs 3. the recycling of wastes and by-products of plant and animal origin as inputs in plant and livestock production 4. taking account of the local or regional ecological balance when taking production decisions 5. the maintenance of animal health by encouraging the natural immunological defence of animals and the selection of appropriate breeds and husbandry practices 6. the maintenance of plant health by preventative measures, such as the choice of appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and diseases, appropriate crop 	

<p>rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. the practice of site-adapted and land-related livestock production 8. the observance of a high level of animal welfare respecting species-specific needs 9. the production of products of organic livestock from animals that have been raised on organic holdings since birth or hatching and throughout their life 10. the choice of breeds having regard to the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions, their vitality and their resistance to disease or health problems 11. the feeding of livestock with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients from organic farming and of natural non-agricultural substances 12. the application of animal husbandry practices, which enhance the immune system and strengthen the natural defence against diseases, in particular including regular exercise and access to open air areas and pasture where appropriate 13. the exclusion of rearing artificially induced polyploid animals <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5</i></p>	
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<p>2.2.3 Parallel production exceptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) You may 'parallel produce' only the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) perennial crops which are grown for at least three years b) seeds, vegetative propagating material or transplants c) grassland used only for grazing d) crops grown for agricultural research <u>or crops and livestock on farms used for formal education, only with agreement from your competent authority</u> 	<p>If the organic and non-organic operations are run as separate businesses this does not apply.</p>
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<p>e) crops and livestock on farms used for formal education, only with agreement from your competent authority</p> <p>2) In addition (with the exception of grassland for grazing), you may 'parallel produce' only if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) permanently separate the products from each unit b) tell your certification body at least 48 hours before you harvest each crop c) tell your certification body the exact quantities harvested and confirm you have kept the products separate d) get approval from your certification body each year, and e) for perennial crops only agree with your certification body, to convert the whole area concerned within five years. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 11; Art. 22(2)(a)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 40(1)</i></p>	
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<p>2.5.3 Applying manure</p> <p>The total amount of manure you can apply to your organic land, averaged over the whole area, must not be more than 170kg of nitrogen (N) per hectare per year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(2)</i></p>	<p>You must detail the maximum rate of nitrogen from manure that is applied per hectare of your holding per year. In nitrogen vulnerable zones (NVZs) the field limit is 250kg of nitrogen per hectare per year.</p> <p>To help calculate how much nitrogen is applied to your land you can use the table below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Solid manure (per t or m³)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">N(kg)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cattle farm yard manure (FYM)</td> <td>6.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sheep FYM</td> <td>7.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pig FYM</td> <td>7.0</td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Solid manure (per t or m³)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">N(kg)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Poultry Layer FYM</td> <td>19.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Broiler/turkey FYM</td> <td>30.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duck FYM</td> <td>6.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Solid manure (per t or m ³)	N(kg)	Cattle farm yard manure (FYM)	6.0	Sheep FYM	7.0	Pig FYM	7.0	Solid manure (per t or m ³)	N(kg)	Poultry Layer FYM	19.0	Broiler/turkey FYM	30.0	Duck FYM	6.5
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Horse FYM	7
Goat FYM	6
Slurry/liquid (per 1000l)	N(kg)
Cattle	2.6
Pigs	3.6
Separated manures (per 1000l)	N(kg)
Separated cattle slurry, liquid fraction, strainer box	1.5
Separated cattle slurry, liquid fraction, weeping-wall	2
Separated cattle slurry, liquid fraction, mechanically separated	3
Separated cattle slurry, solid Fraction	4
Separated pig slurry, liquid fraction	3.6
Separated pig slurry, solid fraction	5
<p><u>Composts containing manure must be included in your N calculation. Green waste composts are not included because they do not contain a significant amount of available nitrogen when the composting process is complete. We may check the analysis of your green waste compost to ensure this is the case.</u></p>	

2.6.3. Permitted pesticides and plant protection products

All substances listed in this table must comply at least with the conditions for use as specified in the Annex of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011. More restrictive conditions for use for organic production are specified in the second column of the table.

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

(EC) 889/2008 Annex II

Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
Substances of plant or animal origin	
Allium sativum (Garlic extract)	
Azadirachtin extracted from <i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Neem tree)	
Beeswax	Only as pruning agent/wound protectant

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COS-OGA	
Hydrolysed proteins excluding gelatine	
Laminarin	Kelp must be either grown organically according to standard 15.7.4 (Art. 6d) or harvested in a sustainable way according to standard 15.7.3 (Art. 6c) of the Soil Association seaweed standards.
Maltodextrin	
Pheromones	Only in traps and dispensers
Plant oils	All uses authorised, except herbicide.
Pyrethrins	Only from plant origin
Quassia extracted from <i>Quassia amara</i>	Only as an insecticide, repellent
Repellents by smell of animal or plant origin/sheep fat	Only on non-edible parts of the crop and where crop material is not ingested by sheep or goats
<i>Salix</i> spp. Cortex (aka willow bark extract)	
Terpenes (eugenol, geraniol and thymol)	
Basic substances	
Basic substances based on food	<p>Only those basic substances within the meaning of Article 23(1) of <i>Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009</i> that are covered by the definition of 'foodstuff' in Article 2 of <i>Regulation (EC) No 178/2002</i> and have plant or animal origin.</p> <p>Substances not to be used as herbicides, but only for the control of pests and diseases.</p> <p>Basic substances are substances which are useful in plant protection, but are not predominantly used for this purpose. Many of them have traditionally been used in organic farming and include numerous foodstuffs of plant or animal origin.</p> <p>Substances that fall under this category are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecithins • Sucrose • Fructose • Vinegar • Whey • <i>Equisetum arvense</i> L.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chitosan hydrochloride (Obtained from sustainable fisheries or organic aquaculture) <p>Contact your Certification Officer for more information</p>
Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
Micro-organisms or substances produced by or derived from micro-organisms	
Micro-organisms	Not from GMO origin
Spinosad	
Cerevisane	
Other substances	
Aluminium silicate (Kaolin)	
Calcium hydroxide	Fungicide, only in fruit trees, including nurseries, to control <i>Nectria galligena</i>
Carbon dioxide	
<p>Copper compounds in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> copper hydroxide copper oxychloride copper oxide Bordeaux mixture tribasic copper sulphate 	<p>Guidance</p> <p>In compliance with PPP legislation you may use a maximum of 4kg/ha in any one year provided that over 7 years you do not exceed 28kg/ha.</p>
Diammonium phosphate	Only as attractant in traps
Ethylene	
Fatty acids	All uses authorised, except herbicide
Ferric phosphate (iron (III) orthophosphate)	Preparations to be surface-spread between cultivated plants.
Hydrogen peroxide	For seed treatment of lettuce and ornamentals and for disinfection of agricultural cutting tools used in Solanaceae.
Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth)	
Lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide)	
Paraffin oil	
Potassium and sodium hydrogen carbonate (aka potassium/sodium bicarbonate)	
Pyrethroids (only deltamethrin or lambda-cyhalothrin)	Only in traps with specific attractants; only against <i>Bactrocera oleae</i> and <i>Ceratitis capitata</i> Wied

Quartz sand	
Sodium chloride	All uses authorised, except herbicide
Sulphur	

Standards	Guidance
<p>3.1.2 Producing organic livestock products</p> <p>Where non-organic animals have been brought onto the holding in accordance with the standards in section 3.2 and if their livestock products are to be sold as organic, the animals must be kept to full organic standards for at least the periods set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 12 months in the case of cattle for meat production, and in any case at least three quarters if their lifetime b) 6 months in the case of pigs c) 6 months in the case of sheep, cows and goats for milk production d) 6 weeks in the case of poultry for egg production e) 10 weeks for poultry of slow-growing strains for meat production, brought in before they are 3 days old f) for fast growing strains of poultry for meat production, refer to standard 3.12.19 for minimum slaughter ages. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 38(1)</i></p>	<p>To meet standard 3.2.6 you must have authorisation from your competent authority before bringing in non-organic birds. Refer to the standard below 3.12.19 on minimum ages when poultry can be slaughtered.</p> <p>In the UK, the competent authority classifies “slow growing strains” of poultry under organic management as strains wherein the live weight gain per day does not exceed 45g (or in the case of turkeys, 55g per day), averaged over the life of the bird. This may soon be supplemented by a list of particular strains classified as slow growing.</p> <p>If this daily live weight gain is exceeded, the poultry would be classified as a fast growing strain.</p>

<p>3.2.1 Breed and livestock selection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When choosing the breed and strain of your livestock you must give preference to indigenous breeds and strains. 2. You must choose breeds or strains that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) are suitable to local conditions b) avoid the need for the mutilation of animals c) have vitality and resistance to disease, including 	<p>Welfare issues, mortality and disease levels for all animal species can indicate that the breeds and strains chosen for your system are not suitable. The inspector will use your mortality and disease records and welfare outcome to inform a decision on compliance to this standard.</p> <p><u>Some breeds and strains of chicken are not suitable for organic systems because research has shown them to be predisposed to welfare problems.</u></p>
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<p>specific health problems or diseases associated with some breeds or strains used in intensive production, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) porcine stress syndrome ii) PSE Syndrome (pale-soft-exudative) iii) sudden death iv) spontaneous abortion, and v) difficult births requiring caesarean operations <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(g)(j); Art. 14(1)(c)(iv)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 8(1)</i></p>	<p>The breed you use must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet Defra’s definition of slow-growing (no more than 45g per day), or • be on the RSPCA’s list of welfare-approved free-range broiler breeds.
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<p>3.10.8 Feeding young mammals</p> <p>1. Young mammals must be fed natural, organic milk, preferably maternal milk, for a minimum period of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 12 weeks for calves b) 45 days for lambs and kids c) 40 days for piglets. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(d)(vi)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 20(1)</i></p>	<p>Maternal milk is milk from the mother; natural milk is from the glands of a mammal. Natural milk can come from other species provided that it meets the nutritional and health needs of the species you are feeding it to. Milk powder is considered as natural milk as long as it only contains milk powder.</p> <p>Milk powder containing vegetable oil and milk replacers is not considered as natural milk and therefore must be regarded as a concentrate for feed calculations during the minimum periods set out in this standard.</p> <p>You should have a plan in place to provide an organic source of colostrum. In an emergency you may feed non-organic milk replacer to young mammals calves until they are 72 hours old. However, if you feed them non-organic milk replacer for any longer they will lose their organic status.</p>
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*this has also been updated in the Feed Processing standards

<p>3.12.19 Minimum slaughter ages for fast growing poultry strains</p> <p>To prevent the use of intensive rearing methods, poultry shall either be reared until they reach a minimum age or else must come from slow-growing poultry strains. Where slow growing poultry strains are not used the following minimum age at slaughter must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 81 days for chickens 	<p>In the UK, Defra regards strains as ‘slow growing strains’ under organic management if the live weight gain per day does not exceed 45g or in the case of turkeys, 55g per day, averaged over the life of the bird. In due course this may be supplemented by a list of particular strains regarded as slow growing. You may use certain poultry strains with intermediate growth rates.</p> <p>For permitted breeds and strains of chicken, see standard 3.2.1.</p>
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<p>b) 49 days for Peking ducks c) 70 days for female Muscovy ducks d) 84 days for male Muscovy ducks e) 92 days for Mallard ducks f) 94 days for guinea fowl g) 140 days for male turkeys and roasting geese h) 100 days for female turkeys</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(5)</i></p>	
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Changes specific to Food and Drink Standards

Standards	Guidance
<p>5.2.2 Specific principles for the processing of organic food</p> <p><u>In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 5.2.1, the processing of organic food must be based on the following specific principles:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The production of organic food from organic agricultural ingredients, except where an ingredient is not available on the market in organic form.</u> 2. <u>The restriction of the use of food additives, of non organic ingredients with mainly technological and sensory functions and of micronutrients and processing aids, so that they are used to a minimum extent and only in case of essential technological need or for particular nutritional purposes.</u> 3. <u>The exclusion of substances and processing methods that might be misleading regarding the true nature of the product.</u> 4. <u>The processing of food with care, preferably with the use of biological, mechanical and physical methods.</u> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 6</i></p>	

5.8.2 Products with 95%-100% organic ingredients

1. Food products containing 95%-100% organic agricultural ingredients can be labelled as organic provided that they meet the composition requirements in standard 6.3.1 and the labelling includes the following:

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)(a)

a) An indication of which ingredients are organic in the ingredients list.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)

b) The EU organic logo on pre-packaged food.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 25; Art. 24(1)(b)

c) When the EU logo is used, an indication of where the ingredients were farmed or grown (see standard 5.8.7).

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(c)

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 58(2)

d) The code of the certifier who certifies the company that applies the labels (which may or may not be you). This must appear in the same visual field as the EU organic logo.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(a)

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 58(1)(d)

e) A traceability code, such as a batch or date code.

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 31(1)(d)

f) The EU logo, statement of agricultural origin and code of the certifier must be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and indelible.

834/2007 Art. 24(2)

Guidance for each point is set out below:

a) Identifying organic ingredients

If any non-organic ingredients are used, make a clear indication on the ingredients panel as to the organic status of each ingredient. This includes water and salt as these are non-organic. This also includes non-organic top notes used in juice from concentrate, which must be identified on the retail label of the juice. Note that a derogation to use non-organic top notes must be obtained as per standard 6.7.1.

b) Using the EU logo

The EU sets the rules for the use of the EU leaf logo. Its use is optional on foods imported from outside the EU. It cannot be used on non-food products. See EU logo standard DL a for details.

c) Statement of agricultural origin

See standard 'declaring ingredient origin' (5.8.7) for details.

d) Certifier code

Each certification body has its own code, which its operators need to use on pack. The code for Soil Association Certification in the UK is **GB-ORG-05**. If you are packing and labelling the product yourself, or a Soil Association certified company in the UK is packing or labelling the product on your behalf, this is the code which must be used.


However, if you use another company to apply packaging or labels to your product(s), you need to use the code of their certification body on pack, even if the product carries the Soil Association symbol. For example, if you are using a French contract packer certified by Ecocert, use the Ecocert code FR-BIO-01, do not use GB-ORG-05. The certification code of your subcontractor is usually featured on their organic certificate.

	<p>If your product is labelled outside the EU and you are not using the EU logo then you do not have to use the certifier’s code, but you must include the name of the certifier.</p> <p>If you are in any doubt as to what certifier code you should use on your labels please contact your Certification Officer for guidance.</p> <p>Labels of non-food products, such as textiles and health and beauty care, or medicinal products must not include the code of the certifier. This is because they fall outside the scope of the EU Organic Regulation.</p> <p>e) Traceability code Your labelling must include a traceability code. Please refer to the record keeping standard 5.7.1 for details.</p>
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<p>6.3.4 Using organic and non-organic versions of the same ingredients You must not use organic and non-organic or in-conversion versions of the same ingredient in the same product. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 18(2); Art. 19(2)(d); Art. 20(2)</i></p>	<p>This also applies to products made with less than 95% organic ingredients.</p>
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6.7 Derogations	
Standards	Guidance
<p>6.7.1 EU derogations 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>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>This standard only applies to products containing 95-100% organic agricultural ingredients. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 6(a); Art. 19(2)(c); (EC) 889/2008 Art. 29</i></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><u>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).</u></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 In the UK, you will need to complete 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>
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<p>6.8.6 Certificates of Inspection</p> <p>1. All organic products imported into the EU must be accompanied by an original endorsed Certificate of Inspection (COI) issued in the third country.</p>	<p> COIs need to be issued and endorsed (signed and stamped in box 14) by the certification body of the exporter and need to be available at the EU port of entry for further endorsement by the member state authority.</p>
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2. If transport documents are not available in time to fully complete the COI before the goods leave the third country, provisional information available at the time of issuing the COI may be included. Final transport documents must be included by the certification body within 10 days from the issuance of the COI and, in any case, before endorsement of the COI from the importing authority.

3. The endorsed COI must accompany goods to the premises of first consignee and then must be kept by the importer for at least two years.

4. The first consignee or importer (where relevant) can make a copy of the COI in order to fulfil the record keeping requirements listed in 6.8.9, provided it is printed or stamped 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'.

*(EC) 834/2007 Art. 33
(EC) 1235/2008 Art. 13*

Electronic Certification of Inspection for the import of organic products into the EU

COIs are sometimes referred to as 'transaction certificates'.

The new system of electronic certificate for imports of organic products became compulsory on 20 October 2017. The electronic certificate aims to enhance traceability of imported organic products and reduce potential fraud. It also aims to reduce the administrative burden for operators and authorities, and provides statistical data on organic imports. You can find out more at

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/electronic-certificate_en

Importers, and exporters in the country of origin, must register for a TRACES NT account. This is the electronic system used by the European Commission to issue and monitor all COIs.

According to the EC organic regulation the certificate of inspection must be issued by the certification body of the exporter before the consignment leaves the country of export. The certification body will carry out the necessary documentary checks before signing box 18. However, Box 13, Box 16 and Box 17 of the COI may be filled in with the provisional information available at the time of issuing the COI. Final transport documents must be included by the certification body within 10 days from the issuance of the COI and, in any case, before endorsement of the COI from the importing authority. So it is important to check that your exporter is aware of this and able to meet this requirement to ensure you do not experience any problems on import.

Control bodies and control authorities will be able to update the information in Boxes 13, 16 and 17 and upload the final transport documents in TRACES after the signature of Box 18 and before the COI is endorsed by the Member State (in Box 20).

In the UK, the Port Health Authority (PHA) is responsible for checking documentation of organic produce at the port of arrival. They have the authority to stop entry of organic product not accompanied by a valid COI and the goods may be held at port or lose their organic status. The PHA checks that the information on the COI matches with the goods being imported and other

documents associated with the shipment e.g. the Airway Bill or Bill of Landing. If the information is correct they endorse the COI (they complete box 20 on the form) & the goods are allowed to enter the EU as organic.

If products are imported without the endorsed COI then the competent authority will not allow them to be endorsed retrospectively. If you do not have an endorsed COI for each consignment, the product may lose its organic status.

Whilst the exporter is responsible for getting the COI issued and endorsed by their certification body before the product is exported to the EU, it is the importer's responsibility to ensure that the valid COI is presented at port for each consignment. You need to ensure that each section of the COI is endorsed by the relevant party and that you retain the stamped originals for a minimum of two years. If you or the first consignee make a copy of the COI then it must be marked as 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'.

Any products without original COIs may lose organic status.
UK Port Health Authorities charge for endorsing COIs. Please check with the PHA at your proposed port of arrival for details of their costs. Some certification bodies also charge their licensees for issuing COIs, however the Soil Association does not charge for this service.

First consignee means the natural or legal person to whom the imported consignment is delivered who will receive it for further preparation and/or marketing.

Changes specific to Aquaculture Standards

<p>12.2.2 Specific principles for organic aquaculture Organic aquaculture systems are based on: <u>In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 12.2.1, organic aquaculture production must be based on the following specific principles:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><u>1. The observance of a high level of animal welfare respecting species-specific needs</u><u>2. The production of products of organic livestock from animals that have been raised on organic holdings since birth or hatching and throughout their life</u>3. The continuing health of the aquatic environment and the quality of surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems4. Feeding of aquatic organisms with feed from sustainable exploitation of fisheries as defined by Art 3 Regulation 2371/2002 Conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under Common Fisheries Policy, or5. With organic feed made of agricultural ingredients from organic farming and natural non-agricultural substances. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5</i>	
<p>13.2.7 Replacing stock in cases of high mortality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When there is high mortality of aquaculture animals caused by the following circumstances*, you may bring in non-organic stock when organically reared animals are not available. You must keep these animals under organic management for at least the latter two thirds of the duration of the production cycle. <u>Your competent authority must authorise this.</u> <p>Applicable circumstances: a) Natural disasters</p>	<p>Contact your Certification Officer first if you think you need to bring in non-organic stock.</p>

- b) Adverse climatic events
- c) Sudden water quality and quantity changes for which the operator is not responsible
- d) Diseases in aquaculture, failure or destruction of production facilities for which the operator is not responsible.

2. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception.

**Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 Art. 57(1)(a) to (d)
(EC) 889/2008 Art. 47(f)*