



## Summary of standards changes

EU Equivalent documents updated Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – version 1.6

This document summarises the changes made to the Soil Association EU Equivalent standards documents for version 1.6.

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.

Following the end of the transition period for the UK exit from the EU, and agreement of a UK/EU trade deal, we have amended the Soil Association Standards to reflect changes to how organic regulations will be applied in the UK. The changes to the standards affect labelling and import requirements. They explain how those aspects of the standards must be applied and implemented differently for products produced in Northern Ireland to other parts of the UK.

In addition, a small number of wording changes have been made to some standards and guidance across all Soil Association Standards documents to provide further clarification for licensees. 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](mailto:standards@soilassociation.org).

**Changes to All Standards Documents following Brexit** – please note that these updates are from the EU Equivalent Food and Drink Standards but have been made across all relevant documents

<p><b>5.1.1 Scope of the standards</b></p> <p>1. The standards in this document set out the rules that must apply for all stages of production, preparation and distribution in order for products to be labelled and marketed as organic. These food and drink organic standards cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) processing or re-processing and labelling or re-labelling of food, seed and livestock feeds;</li><li>b) importing products from outside the <b>UK (or the EU if you are in Northern Ireland)</b>, including ensuring equivalence to production within the UK and EU; and</li><li>c) exporting organic products.</li></ul> <p>2. You must comply with these organic standards if you are involved in activities at any stage in the production, processing, preparation and distribution of organic products.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 1(1)(2)(3); Art. 8; Art. 28 (EC) 889/2008 Art. 1(1); Art. 80</i></p>	<p>If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification, please <a href="#">contact us</a>.</p> <p>For standards regarding Aquaculture and Seaweed, Farming and Growing, and Feed Processing, please visit our <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p>The scope of these standards does not include catering.</p>
<p><b>5.3.1 Certifying your business</b></p> <p>To become certified to these organic standards you must have a certification contract with an independent, accredited certification body and comply with all relevant organic standards for your organic activity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(1)(4); Art. 28(1)</i></p>	<p>Businesses across the world can become certified to standards that meet the EU Organic Regulation requirements. In EU <b>GB</b>, Defra is the competent authority <b>and in NI DAERA is the competent authority</b>, they have delegated some control tasks to accredited organic certification bodies. The certification body that is appointed by the Soil Association to inspect and certify to the standards in the UK is Soil Association Certification.</p> <p>Additionally, Soil Association Certification is accredited by <a href="#">IOAS</a> (International Organic Accreditation Service) and authorised to offer organic certification in specific countries outside the EU for certain types of products. Please contact Soil Association Certification for more details.</p>

<p><b>5.3.2 Activities that require certification</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the <b>UK and</b> EU all stages of the organic supply chain must hold organic certification.</li> <li>2. Your business must be certified if you produce, process, package, store, label, import or export, include wholesaling, storage and warehousing, acting as the first consignee for imported products and any other activities that require the physical or financial ownership of organic products or ingredients.</li> <li>3. In the UK (<b>including Northern Ireland</b>) you do not need certification if you only sell organic products directly to the final consumer or user <b>provided that</b> you do not produce, prepare, store organic products other than in relation to the point of sale <b>or</b> import such <del>products from outside the EU</del> <b>or</b> have not contracted out such activities. In other countries certification may be required for these activities.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(3); Art. 28(1); Art. 28(2)</i></p>	<p>Without adequate certification at each stage of the supply chain, the products may lose their organic status. If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification, please <a href="#">contact us</a>.</p> <p>You need certification if you manufacture, trade, wholesale, distribute, store, break down, pack, repack, re-label or process organic materials out of sight of the final customer. This includes (this is not an exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wholesaling and storing products only, both packed and loose</li> <li>• collecting bulk products from many points, for example milk haulier</li> <li>• supplying ingredients to others to process for you</li> <li>• food service</li> <li>• on-farm processing and packing</li> <li>• importing organic products from outside the <b>UK (or outside NI or the EU if you are in Northern Ireland)</b> <del>EU</del></li> <li>• <b>first consignees of organic product</b> from outside the <b>UK (or outside NI or the EU if you are in Northern Ireland)</b>, <del>EU</del> and</li> <li>• seed and animal feed mills.</li> </ul> <p>This covers all wholesalers, storage premises, including warehouses and distribution centres. It applies to those storing products in bulk, and those storing products that are already packed and labelled for the final consumer. However you do <b>not</b> need certification if you sell directly to the end consumer or user, or are a warehouse owned by or operating under contract to retailers or a store attached to a retail operation.</p> <p>For more information on the certification requirements for importing and exporting please refer to the importing standards (see section 6.8).</p>
--	---

<p><b>5.4.5 Certification code</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each certification body is issued with a unique certifier code. In the UK the Soil Association Certification's code is <del>GB-ORG-05</del>.</li> <li>2. You must use this code if you are packing and labelling products yourself or if another Soil Association certified</li> </ol>	<p>Please refer to the labelling sections 5.8 and 5.10 for more information on labelling requirements.</p> <p><b><u>In the UK (including in Northern Ireland) for product produced or processed in the UK, the Soil Association certifiers code is GB-ORG-05.</u></b></p>
---	---

<p>business in the UK is packing or labelling the product on your behalf.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(10)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 58</i></p>	<p><u><a href="#">A different certifier code may be required for some products being imported into GB and sold onto the EU market, for example product that is imported from a third country and re-exported to the EU without any further processing in GB will need to have the certification code GB-BIO-142 on the labels instead of GB-ORG-05.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK &amp; EU includes unprocessed agricultural or aquaculture products produced in the United Kingdom/EU or processed agricultural products for use as food or feed that have been processed in the United Kingdom/EU with ingredients that have been grown in the United Kingdom/EU or that have been imported into the United Kingdom/EU in accordance with United Kingdom/EU laws and regulations. This means that products imported into GB from a 3<sup>rd</sup> country which are not further processed are not included in the scope of the agreement. (for the purposes of the agreement products that are re-labelled or re-packed are not considered to have been processed). So for those products to be exported to the EU, (or NI) from GB they would need to be certified by a GB certifier recognised by the EC under annex IV of regulation 1235/2008. (Refer to standard 6.8.6 for details). Soil Association Certification are recognised under this annex and have been issued the code GB-BIO-142 for these activities.</a></u></p>
---	--

<p><b>5.8.2 Products with 95%-100% organic ingredients</b></p> <p>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:</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)(a)</i></p> <p>a) An indication of which ingredients are organic in the ingredients list.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)</i></p> <p>b) <u><a href="#">For Northern Irish Operators the EU organic logo must</a></u></p>	<p>Guidance for each point is set out below:</p> <p>a) Identifying organic ingredients</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For example:</p>
---	---

<p><u>be used</u> on pre-packaged food. <u>For operators in GB the use of the EU logo is optional.</u> (EC) 834/2007 Art. 25; Art. 24(1)(b)</p> <p>c) <u>For GB a statement of agricultural origin (see standard 5.8.7)</u></p> <p>d) 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)</p> <p>e) 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 <u>if the EU logo is used.</u> (EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(a) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 58(1)(d)</p> <p>f) A traceability code, such as a batch or date code. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 31(1)(d)</p> <p>g) 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. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(2)</p>	<p>Ingredients: Organic flour (fortified with calcium carbonate, iron, niacin, thiamin), water, organic eggs, organic sunflower seeds, yeast, salt.</p> <p>Or, Ingredients: Flour (fortified with calcium carbonate*, iron*, niacin*, thiamin*), water*, eggs, sunflower seeds, yeast*, salt*. *Non-organic.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>c) Statement of agricultural origin See standard 'declaring ingredient origin' (5.8.7) for details.</p> <p>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 <b>GB-ORG-05</b>. 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.</p> <p>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> <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> <p>g) Identifying non-organic ingredients of ingredients You must list any non-organic ingredients of ingredients. For compound ingredients you can either list the individual non-organic ingredient in the compound ingredient, or use a generic description such as 'contains a non-organic ingredient'.</p> <p>If you are using an organic flavouring in a product, you do not need to list the non-organic components of the organic flavouring, provided the non-organic components account for less than 1% of the final product.</p>
--	---

<p><b>5.8.5 Using the EU organic logo</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. You must display the EU logo on labels of packaged organic products produced in <a href="#">Northern Ireland</a> or the EU.</li><li>2. The EU logo is published for use in green as shown below. The reference for single colour printing is Pantone 376, or if you print using four colour process, 50% cyan, 100% yellow.</li></ol>	<p>The use of the logo is mandatory for all organic pre-packaged food produced within <a href="#">Northern Ireland or</a> the European Union. The terms of its use are set by the EU and more information can be found <a href="#">online</a>.</p> <p>You can download the EU logo in various formats from <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The white EU logo with the black stars is designed to be used on a dark background only. When the EU logo is used it must appear within a box or a black outline.</p>
--	---



3. Where colour is not possible you may use black & white.



4. The EU organic logo must:

- a) appear at least 9mm high and 13.5mm wide, or
- b) appear 6mm high for very small packages, and
- c) have a proportional height to width ratio of 1:1.5.

5. The EU organic logo may appear:

- a) in negative, if the background of your packaging is dark.
- b) in the single colour of your packaging if you are only able to print one colour.
- c) with an outer line around it to improve how it stands



If your product is being packed outside the EU, you do not need to apply the EU logo. However, due to the widespread recognition of the EU logo across Europe you may wish to apply it if the products are destined for the EU market.

Products without packaging do not need to display the EU logo (see standard 5.14.2 for details of what you need to include).

Pre-packed products for export only and not for sale on the EU market do not have to use the EU Leaf logo. However, operators must have measures in place to ensure the product cannot be placed on the EU market.

<p>out on coloured backgrounds.</p> <p>d) in conjunction with other logos and text referring to organic, providing this does not overlap, obscure or change the logo.</p> <p>6. You do not have to use the EU organic logo on products <b>produced in GB or</b> imported from countries outside the EU, but if you do, you must also use the declaration of where the ingredients have been farmed and the certifier code. <del>If you do not use the EU logo and code, you must identify your certifier by name.</del></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(b)(c); Art. 25 (EC) 889/2008 Art. 57; Annex XI (1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8)</i></p>	
---	--

<p><b>5.8.6 Declaring ingredient origin</b></p> <p>1. <del>Where the EU logo is used</del> You need to include a declaration of where the ingredients have been farmed or grown.</p> <p>2. <u>For products produces in GB you must use 'UK Agriculture', 'Non-UK Agriculture or UK/Non-UK Agriculture'</u></p> <p>3. <u>If the EU logo is used you must also include a declaration in relation to the EU - 'EU agriculture', 'non-EU agriculture', or 'EU/non-EU agriculture'. This must appear:</u></p> <p>a) in the same visual field as the EU organic logo;</p> <p>b) below the certifier code, and</p> <p>c) no more prominent than the sales description.</p> <p>4. You can replace <u>'UK' or 'Non-UK', 'EU' or 'non-EU'</u> with a particular country if all ingredients were farmed or grown there. <u>In this case only one declaration is required.</u> You do not have to count small amounts of ingredients up to a total of 2% of the agricultural ingredients.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1c) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 58(2)</i></p>	<p>The declaration should be placed directly underneath the certifier.</p> <p><u>If the EU logo is used the declaration</u> needs to be in the same visual field as the EU <a href="#">logo</a>.</p> <p><u>If you are in GB and use the EU organic logo for exports to the EU, you need to include both the GB statement of agriculture ('UK or non-UK Agriculture') and the EU statement of agriculture ('EU or non-EU Agriculture').</u></p> <p><u>If the product contains 98% ingredients grown in a particular constituent nation of the UK, it can be labelled either as that specific country or UK Agriculture. For example, lamb produced in Wales could be labelled either as Welsh Agriculture or UK Agriculture. If you use this, it complies with both the UK and EU requirements.</u></p>
---	--



<p><b>6.8.2 Importing products from <del>within</del> the EU</b>  <u>If you are in Northern Ireland</u> you do not need to be licensed as an importer to import organic products from within the EU, or the European Economic Area (EEA), provided those products are certified in accordance with the EC organic regulations. However, you will still require certification to trade, wholesale, distribute, store, break down, pack, repack, re-label or process organic product.</p> <p><u>If you are in GB and importing from anywhere outside the UK you will need to be licensed as an importer.</u>                  (EC) 834/2007 Art. 34(1)</p>	<p>EEA countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.</p> <p>Refer to standard 5.1.1 for details of which activities require certification.</p>
<p><b>6.8.3 Importing products from outside the EU UK (or outside the EU or EEA if you are in Northern Ireland)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If you wish to import products from a third country (<del>outside the EU or EEA</del>), you will need certification in order to do so.</li> <li>2. If you use a sub-contractor to import on your behalf, they will also need certification.</li> <li>3. You will also need certification if you wish to export your products.</li> </ol> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 28(1)</p>	<p>Importer means the natural or legal person within <u>UK or EU or EEA if you are in Northern Ireland</u> who presents a consignment for release for free circulation into the <u>UK (or EU or EEA if you are in Northern Ireland)</u>, either in person, or through a representative (e.g. a clearing or forwarding agent).</p> <p>The first consignee also needs to be licenced. First consignee means the natural or legal person to whom the imported consignment is delivered and who will receive it for further preparation and/or marketing.</p>
<p><b>6.8.5 Importing products certified by approved certifiers or from equivalent countries <del>outside the EU</del></b>                  You may import organic products from suppliers, including exporters, certified by a certification body recognised and approved by the <u>UK (or EU if you are in Northern Ireland)</u> or a country which has an equivalence agreement with the <u>UK (or EU if you are in Northern Ireland)</u>                  (EC) 834/2007 Art. 32; Art. 33</p>	<p>The <u>UK and</u> EU publish lists of approved countries and certification bodies and also the categories each is approved for.</p> <p><b>Recognised third countries</b>                  Countries whose national organic standards and control systems are recognised as equivalent to EU organic standards are known as 'recognised third countries'. A list of countries and approved certification bodies operating in each country can be found in <a href="#">Annex III of EU Regulation 1235/2008</a>. <del>These countries are:</del>  <u>Argentina</u></p>

*(EC) 1235/2008 Annex III; Annex IV*

Australia  
Canada  
Chile  
Costa Rica  
India  
Israel  
Japan  
New Zealand  
Switzerland  
Tunisia  
United States of America

Each country is approved for specific product categories, (see below for details). This means not all product types can be imported, for example wine from Argentina. Before you arrange to import anything from these countries please contact your Certification Officer so they can let you know about any restrictions.

#### **Categories**


You will often see categories referred to on the organic certificates of companies from outside the UK. These categories indicate the products which the company is allowed to export to the EU. Below is what each category means:

- A: Unprocessed plant products
- B: Live animals or unprocessed animal products (includes honey)
- C: Aquaculture products and seaweeds
- D: Processed agricultural products for use as food
- E: Processed agricultural products for use as animal feed
- F: Seeds and propagating material

#### **Recognised certification bodies**

Control bodies whose standards and control system have been recognised as equivalent to EU organic standards are known as 'recognised certification bodies'. Just like recognised third countries, each certification body is approved

	<p>for specific product categories. The list of these certification bodies is in <a href="#">Annex IV of EU Regulation 1235/2008</a>.</p> <p>When obtaining certificates from suppliers certified by recognised certification bodies, you will need to check that the documents state that the supplier is certified to the EU regulation and that they make explicit reference to regulations 834/2007 and 889/2008. You will also need to check that the scope of the company's certification includes export.</p> <p>The list of approved certifiers occasionally changes. If you are unsure about whether a prospective supplier is certified by an approved certifier, please contact your Certification Officer and forward them a copy of your supplier's organic certificate.</p> <p><b>Compliant certification bodies</b> Control body whose standards have been recognised by the EU as compliant. Meaning it follows all aspects of the EU regulation.</p> <p>There are currently no countries recognised as compliant to EU organic regulations.</p>
--	--

<p><b>6.8.6 Certificates of Inspection</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All organic products imported <del>into the EU</del> <u>from a third country</u> must be accompanied by an original endorsed Certificate of Inspection (COI) issued in the third country.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<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 port of entry for further endorsement by the <u>country of import</u> <del>member state</del> authority.</p> <p><u>COIs are sometimes referred to as 'transaction certificates'</u></p> <p><u>If you are in Northern Ireland, Great Britain is regarded as a third country for the duration of the Northern Ireland Protocol. However, for products moving from Northern Ireland to Great Britain, Northern Ireland is within the UK and so no COI will be required.</u></p>
---	---

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 6.8.10, provided it is printed or stamped 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'.

*(EC) 834/2007 Art. 33*

*(EC) 1235/2008 Art. 13*

**For the import of organic products into Great Britain from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries you will have to use a GB COI. You can find out more by visiting our website.**

**For the import of organic products into Northern Ireland and the EU there is an electronic system called TRACESNT, this is the electronic system used by the European Commission to issue and monitor all COIs. You can find out more at [https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/electronic-certificate\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/electronic-certificate_en)**

**In Northern Ireland, the EU, and the EEA (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) importers, and exporters in the country of origin, must register for a TRACES NT account. Note: Switzerland also uses TRACESNT system for organic imports.**

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 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

	<p>the information is correct they endorse the COI (they complete box 20 on the form) &amp; the goods are allowed to enter as organic.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Whilst the exporter is responsible for getting the COI issued and endorsed by their certification body before the product is exported, 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'.</p> <p>Any products without original COIs may lose organic status.</p> <p>UK Port Health Authorities charge for endorsing COIs. Please check with the PHA at your proposed port of arrival for details of their costs. <a href="https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/preparing-your-organic-business-for-brexite/importing-after-brexite/#CoI">There will also be charges for issuing COIs. For guidance on importing and COIs visit https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/preparing-your-organic-business-for-brexite/importing-after-brexite/#CoI</a></p> <p>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.</p>
--	--

## Changes to farming and growing standards

### **3.2.3 Establishing a herd or flock**

When you are establishing a herd or flock for the first time you may:

- a) on a converting holding, convert existing animals on the holding;
- b) on organic land you may bring in non-organic animals, **only** if organic are not available in sufficient numbers. They must be reared organically from weaning and must comply with the following conditions:
  - (i) calves must be less than six months old
  - (ii) lambs and kids must be less than 60 days old
  - (iii) piglets must weigh less than 35kg.

*(EC) 889/2008 Art. 9(2)*

Where you are establishing a new livestock enterprise on an in-conversion holding you may bring in non-organic animals, these must be converted once the land becomes organic.

Please refer to standards 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 for the livestock conversion requirements

### **1.12.1 Cleaning measures**

1. You must have suitable cleaning measures in place to prevent contamination and maintain the integrity of your products throughout production, processing and storage.
2. You must monitor your cleaning measures to make sure they are effective and keep records to show that you have done this.
3. If you process or store both non-organic and organic at the same site, you must ensure organic processing or storage is only carried out once suitable cleaning of the equipment and/or storage area(s) has been carried out.  
*(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1)(c); Art. 26(4)(a)(b)(5)(e); Art. 35(4)(c)*

For farms this would include cleaning of harvesting or handling equipment, crates and boxes used to store organic produce, grain silos, use in dairies and fruit and vegetable packing areas.

~~For cleaning chemicals permitted in livestock housing refer to standard 1.12.2 and for aquaculture facilities please refer to the aquaculture standards.~~

You will need to demonstrate at inspection that your cleaning procedures are appropriate and effective. We will look at how you clean harvesting/handling equipment, storage areas and equipment used for organic production, and how you limit the risk of contamination of organic product from microbial contaminants, from cleaning chemicals, non-permitted substances and from non-organic product.

You will need to ensure your staff, or contractors using their own equipment, are trained to carry out effective cleaning to prevent contamination of your organic products.

Your cleaning procedures need to be clear and need to set out what will be cleaned, how, with what frequency (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly or annually), who is responsible, what chemicals and equipment needs to be used and details of the final rinse of food contact surfaces with potable water (where appropriate).



Records of cleaning measures

#### **Cleaning chemicals**

Detergents, disinfectants, sterilants and sanitisers allowed for use in the food industry may be used for cleaning equipment and storage areas. Residues of these chemicals must be removed from surfaces in contact with organic food so that they do not contaminate organic products.

Sanitizers containing quaternary ammonium compounds or QACs/QUATs, such as Benzalkonium Chloride (BAC) or Didecyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride (DDAC) are difficult to remove from surfaces, and if not adequately rinsed will result in residues in the organic product. Brand names include Deosan, Detsan, Foamsan and Quatsan.

If you use these to clean harvesting/handling equipment, storage boxes, dairy equipment or work surfaces, which are in direct contact with organic products, you need to take measures to ensure they are not contaminating your organic product. For example:

- Switch to a cleaning product that does not contain QACs or other substances difficult to rinse and likely to contaminate products that come in contact with them.
- Check whether your rinsing procedures are sufficient by testing food contact surfaces to ensure no residues remain. For example, a cold water rinse may not be sufficient to remove residues.

#### **Non-dedicated equipment**

	<p>Where non-dedicated equipment or storage is used you must be able to demonstrate that the cleaning carried out before it is used for organic products is effective. This may require sampling or swabbing for analysis to demonstrate that the procedures you have in place are effective.</p> <p><b>Sprayers</b> If you use a non-dedicated sprayer on farm, including any contract sprayers, you will need to demonstrate that the cleaning procedures you have in place eliminate residues of any non-permitted substances to prevent contamination. The normal three rinse procedure may not be effective for many substances.</p> <p>Even if you do not produce organic, for example, if you just wholesale or transport, cleaning is still important to minimise the risk of contamination. For example, loading equipment and vehicles need to be cleaned and the risk of contamination minimised.</p> <p>If you process or store non-organic you will need to have a system for checking that cleaning has been undertaken and that it is effective to remove residues of non-organic material and/or previous production. This could involve visual inspection, micro-biological testing, testing to ensure sanitisers have been removed from organic food contact surfaces, ATP testing.</p>
--	---

### 3.8.6 Minimum housing area for cattle

1. When housing your animals you must give them at least the following space:

Class of animal	Minimum <b>indoor space</b> lying area m <sup>2</sup> per head ( <b>net area available to animals</b> )	Additional area required m <sup>2</sup> per head * (indoors or outdoors, excluding pasture)	Total m <sup>2</sup> per head
<b>Breeding and fattening cattle:</b>			
Up to 100 kg	1.5	1.1	2.6
Up to 200 kg	2.5	1.9	4.4
Up to 350 kg	4.0	3.0	7.0
Over 350 kg	5.0 with a minimum of 1m <sup>2</sup> /100kg	3.7 with a minimum of 0.75m <sup>2</sup> /100kg	8.7 with a minimum of 1.75m <sup>2</sup> /100kg



<b>Dairy cows</b>	6.0	4.5	10.5
<b>Bulls for breeding</b>	10	30*	40

\* This additional area is not required if the bulls are housed with cows.

2. Open air areas may be partially covered.

3. You do not need to provide the outdoor exercise area during the winter months provided that the winter-housing system allows freedom of movement and the livestock have access to pasture during the grazing period.

*(EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(4); Art. 14(1)(3); Annex III*

<p><b>3.12.19 Minimum slaughter ages for poultry</b></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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 81 days for chickens</li> <li>b) 49 days for Peking ducks</li> <li>c) 70 days for female Muscovy ducks</li> <li>d) 84 days for male Muscovy ducks</li> <li>e) 92 days for Mallard ducks</li> <li>f) 94 days for guinea fowl</li> <li>g) 140 days for male turkeys and roasting geese</li> <li>h) 100 days for female turkeys</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(5)</i></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> <p><u>The breed you use must either:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>meet Defra's definition of slow-growing (no more than 45g per day), or</u></li> <li>• <u>be on the RSPCA's list of welfare-approved free-range broiler breeds</u></li> </ul> <p><del>In the UK, Defra regards strains as 'slow growing' 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. You may use certain poultry strains with intermediate growth rates.</del></p> <p><del>For permitted breeds and strains of chicken, see standard 3.2.1.</del></p>
---	---

## Changes to aquaculture standards

### **13.12.1 Aquaculture conversion periods**

The following conversion periods for production units must be applied for the following types of aquaculture facilities including the existing aquaculture animals.

Defra, the competent authority in the UK, has confirmed that the conversion of the production unit can take place when the site is stocked and being managed to organic standards. This allows the animals and the site to convert to organic production simultaneously. Requests for a reduced conversion period must be submitted to your Certification Officer who will seek approval from the competent authority.

The conversion period cannot begin until your application has been approved.

Your application will be assessed via an application review stage. The application review will cover a full assessment of your application documentation and management plans. This review will ensure that we have assessed that organic certification is appropriate for your operation, and that you are able to meet the organic standards. We estimate that the application review will take 6 weeks to complete, this is based on submission of all the required information. This timeframe may vary depending on the scope of the application.

### **13.5.3 Lighting**

You may only prolong natural day-length to levels that respect the ethological needs, geographical location and general health of the aquaculture species. You may only prolong natural day-length to beyond 16 hours per day for reproductive purposes. You must avoid abrupt changes in light intensity at changeover time by using dimmable lights or background lighting.

*(EC) 889/2008 Art.25h (2)*

In your aquaculture management plan, detail for which reproductive purposes you are prolonging natural day length to beyond 16 hours per day for, and the light intensity levels used.

Artificial lighting of any level is not permitted for non-reproductive purposes beyond 16 hours in outdoor facilities.