



Organic Standards for Great Britain

Farming and growing

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Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction..... | 4 |
| Guide to using these standards | 5 |
| GB 1.0 General standards for organic farming and growing | 6 |
| GB 1.1 Scope | 6 |
| GB 1.2 Principles | 7 |
| GB 1.3 Becoming Soil Association certified | 9 |
| GB 1.4 Your obligations when certified..... | 11 |
| GB 1.5 Inspections..... | 13 |
| GB 1.6 Non-compliance with the standards | 15 |
| GB 1.7 Record keeping | 17 |
| GB 1.8 General labelling..... | 23 |
| GB 1.9 Making claims on your labels..... | 30 |
| GB 1.10 Labelling in specific scenarios | 31 |
| GB 1.11 Preserving organic integrity..... | 32 |
| GB 1.12 Cleaning | 35 |
| GB 1.13 Pest control | 38 |
| GB 1.14 Transport, dispatch and receipt of goods | 40 |
| GB 1.15 Storage of products..... | 43 |
| GB 2.0 Standards for organic land and crops | 44 |
| GB 2.1 Converting land and crops to organic production | 44 |
| GB 2.2 Managing organic and non-organic enterprises | 46 |
| GB 2.3 Environmental management and conservation | 48 |
| GB 2.4 Managing your soil | 51 |
| GB 2.5 Fertilisers and soil conditioners | 52 |
| GB 2.6 Controlling pests and disease | 59 |
| GB 2.7 Seeds, plant propagation and potted plants | 63 |
| GB 2.8 Standards for mushroom production | 67 |
| GB 2.9 Standards for wild harvesting | 68 |
| GB 3.0 Standards for organic livestock production..... | 71 |
| GB 3.1 Converting your animals to organic..... | 71 |
| GB 3.2 Sourcing livestock..... | 73 |
| GB 3.3 Keeping organic and non-organic livestock | 77 |
| GB 3.4 Keeping animals healthy and treating disease | 78 |
| GB 3.5 Animal welfare management..... | 82 |
| GB 3.6 Outdoor access and grazing | 87 |
| GB 3.7 Standards for pigs' outdoor access..... | 91 |
| GB 3.8 Housing livestock..... | 92 |
| GB 3.9 Housing standards for pigs and cattle | 98 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| GB 3.10 Feeding livestock | 99 |
| GB 3.11 Transporting and handling your animals | 110 |
| GB 3.12 Standards for poultry..... | 112 |
| GB 3.13 Beekeeping..... | 119 |

Introduction

Legislative standards put the principles of organic production into practice. These organic standards encompass *EU Regulations 834/2007, 889/2008 and 1235/2008* (referenced throughout as the GB Organic Regulation). These regulations were the legal basis for the control of organic farming, food processing and organic labelling within the EU until 31st December 2021, and have been retained in the UK for implementation in Great Britain (GB), as set out in *The Organic Production and Control (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*. Operators based in Northern Ireland (NI) should use our EU standards which are available on our website.

Each standard has a reference which tells you which part of the GB Organic Regulation it refers to.

A 'competent authority' is authorised to make rulings on organic legislation. In GB the competent authority is Defra or one of its devolved agencies who have delegated some controls to accredited organic certification bodies. The certification body that is appointed by the Soil Association to inspect and certify to the *Organic Standards for Great Britain* is Soil Association Certification. Throughout these standards 'your certification body' refers to Soil Association Certification. For further definitions, please refer to the separate [Glossary](#) document on our website.

The GB Organic Regulation does not cover processing of non-food crops such as for textiles and cosmetic products and certification of inputs.

The Soil Association offers standards for areas not covered by the EU Organic Regulation. These include:


- [textiles](#)
- [cosmetics](#)


Please contact us if you would like more information or visit [our website](#).

Guide to using these standards

The standards are listed in the column on the left. Where necessary, guidance is provided in the column on the right, with a grey background to differentiate it from the standard.

Each standard is referenced with the relevant article/s of the GB Organic Regulation

 This symbol shows where you need to keep a record to demonstrate that you are meeting the standard. The specific requirements for the records will be detailed in the standard or guidance.

 This symbol shows where additional relevant information is provided.

What is guidance?

Guidance provides supplementary information to the standards which explains how compliance will be assessed. It tells you where and how to provide the information required, for example through record keeping or demonstration at your inspection. The guidance may also provide examples of actions and measures to help you demonstrate compliance, and links to best practice guides and information.

EXAMPLE Standards

GB 3.4.16 Withdrawal periods


If you treat your animals with any allopathic veterinary medicinal products you must wait twice the legal withdrawal period as referred to in Article 11 of *Directive 2001/82/EC*, and no less than 48 hours, before you can sell your livestock products as organic.

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 24(5)

The relevant part of the GB organic regulation is referenced here.


EXAMPLE Guidance

You must have an effective system in place to ensure that treated animals or their products are not sold for consumption as organic during the withdrawal period.

 Both statutory and organic withdrawal periods must be recorded.

If veterinary medicinal products are used, the withdrawal period must be twice the withdrawal period as referred to in Article 11 of *Directive 2001/82/EC*.

The R symbol shows which records you need to keep to demonstrate that you meet this standard.

 If there is no suitable veterinary medicine authorised in the UK to treat a condition in a particular species, vets are permitted to use unauthorised veterinary medicines in accordance with the Cascade.

Vaccines and other authorised veterinary medicines must be observed.

The I symbol shows where additional relevant information is provided.

specified legal withdrawal periods

| GB 1.0 General standards for organic farming and growing | |
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| GB 1.1 Scope | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 1.1.1 Scope of the standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The standards in this document set out the rules that apply for all stages of production, preparation and distribution in order for products to be labelled and marketed as organic. These organic farming and growing standards cover: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> crop production (including wild harvesting) livestock husbandry vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivating yeasts used for feed These standards contain detailed production rules for the following livestock species: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> bovine, including buffalo and bison, equines pigs sheep goats poultry bees For livestock species not referred to in these standards, we can in certain cases, apply the standards for similar species to their production. You must comply with these standards if you are involved in activities, at any stage in the production, processing, preparation and distribution in relation to these organic products. <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 1(1)(2)(3); Art. 8 (EC) 889/2008 Art. 1(1)(2); Art. 7</p> | <p>Please contact us if you want to use our standards for livestock species not referred to in this document.</p> <p>If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification please contact us.</p> <p>For standards regarding food and drink processing please refer to the food and drink standards on our website.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.1.2 Products from hunting and fishing of wild animals</p> <p>Products from the hunting and fishing of wild animals cannot be sold as organic.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 1(2)</p> | |

GB 1.2 Principles

What is this chapter about?

This section details the principles on which these organic standards are based. Organic is a 'whole system' approach to farming and food production. It recognises the close interrelationships between all parts of the production system from the soil to the consumer. This comprehensive set of organic principles guides our work and our standards.

| Standards | Guidance |
|--|----------|
| <p>GB 1.2.1 General principles of organic production</p> <p>Your production system must meet the following principles and objectives:</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, ensuring that plant, water, animal and soil health are sustained and improved.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.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.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.9. To exclude the use of soluble mineral fertilisers. | |

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| <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>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 3; Art. 4</p> | |
| <p>GB 1.2.2 Specific principles for organic farming</p> <p>In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 1.2.1, organic farming must be based on the following specific principles:</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 rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests 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 | |

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| 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 (EG) 834/2007 Art. 5 | |
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| GB 1.3 Becoming Soil Association certified | |
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| What is this chapter about? | |
| This chapter explains which activities require certification and how you can certify your business to the GB Organic Regulation. | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 1.3.1 Certifying your business If you produce, prepare, store, or import from a third country, products to be sold as organic, you must have a certification contract with an independent, accredited certification body and comply with all relevant organic standards for your organic activity. (EG) 834/2007 Art. 27(1)(4); Art. 28(1) | In GB, Defra is the competent authority and has delegated some controls to accredited organic certification bodies. The certification body that is appointed by the Soil Association to inspect and certify to the <i>Organic Standards for Great Britain</i> is Soil Association Certification. You must comply with all applicable laws, and Qualifying Standards, including any conditions detailed in any non-compliances. Please refer to your organic client contract for more details. |
| GB 1.3.2 Activities that require certification 1. In GB all stages of the organic supply chain must hold organic certification. 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. 3. In GB you do not need certification if you only sell organic products directly to the final consumer or user provided that you do not | Without adequate certification at each stage of the supply chain, the products may lose their organic status. Examples of businesses not requiring certification in GB include supermarkets and mass caterers serving food e.g. restaurants, cafes, catering companies. If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification please contact us . |

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| <p>produce, prepare, store organic products other than in relation to the point of sale or import such or have not contracted out such activities. In other countries certification may be required for these activities.</p> <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(3); Art. 28(1); Art. 28(2)</i></p> | <p>For more information on the certification requirements for importing and exporting please refer to section 6.8 in the food and drink standards.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.3.3 Organic certificate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must not make reference to organic or in-conversion without valid certification documents that shows that your activity complies with these organic standards. 2. Certification documents are issued once Soil Association Certification has inspected your organic activity and they are satisfied that your activity meets organic standards. The certification documents will list all your certified activities and the crops, livestock and/or products you are certified to produce, process, package, store, label, import, export, and/or sell as organic. 3. The certification document may be in electronic format. <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 29(1)(3)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1)(d); Art. 68</i></p> | <p>Soil Association Certification will issue licensees with the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual certificate with valid from and to dates, your name, address and licence number • A Trading Schedule with your certified products, activities and status • For producers, an Information Schedule listing your licensed enterprises, holdings and fields. <p>If you are a farmer with land or crops in conversion, these will be shown as ‘product under conversion to organic farming’ on your Trading Schedule. Once they have gone through the relevant conversion period they will be shown as ‘organic’ on your Trading Schedule and you can start trading as organic. If your livestock are shown as ‘converted breeding stock’ they cannot be traded as organic.</p> <p>Annual renewal of your licence is linked to you continuing to meet the relevant standards and payment of the relevant renewal fee. Within a year of your original application date we will send you a renewal invoice.</p> <p>Contact us if you need to add a new enterprise to your license – refer to standard 1.4.1 for details.</p> |
| <p>Soil Association Certification</p> <p>Since 1973 Soil Association Certification Limited (Soil Association Certification) has certified farm enterprises, foods and other products as organic. Soil Association Certification is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Soil Association charity. We are registered with Defra to certify organic food production and processing under the terms of EU Regulation No. 834/2007.</p> <p>Certification bodies must be able to prove that they have the expertise, equipment, infrastructure and sufficient number of suitable qualified and experienced staff to carry out the task of certification. Soil Association Certification Limited is accredited and subject to an annual inspection by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for GB licensees.</p> <p>To uphold organic integrity and in order to work efficiently, certification bodies are obliged to communicate and exchange relevant certification information about their licensees to control authorities and other certification bodies. This includes when:</p> | |

- a) licensees change certification bodies
- b) non-compliances are found
- c) organic status of a products is lost, and
- d) certification is withdrawn.

Information

If you are interested in certifying your business, contact Soil Association Certification via:

Our website: www.soilassociation.org/certification/get-in-touch/

Email: GoOrganic@soilassociation.org

Phone: 0117 914 2406

Post: Spear House, 51 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AD

GB 1.4 Your obligations when certified

What is this chapter about?

This chapter explains your responsibilities and obligations when certified to these organic standards.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 1.4.1 Description of your activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before starting your organic enterprise, you must describe what practical measures you will take to ensure 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 | <p>To help you meet this requirement we have created an application form that outlines the information we need from you.</p> <p>You will need to have documentation that describes what you do. If you have a quality management system already, make sure these points are included within it.</p> <p>Practical measures include ensuring staff are adequately trained, having written procedures in place for dealing with organic products, an adequate record keeping system, appropriate cleaning and hygiene, separation and identification of organic products, appropriate pest control, procedures to ensure only permitted ingredients and inputs are used for organic production.</p> <p>If you make any significant changes to your activities, you must inform the Certification Team and make sure any relevant documentation is updated. Important changes are, for example, change of location of an activity, change of ownership, or change of contact person. Another important change is alteration of certified production which means that information previously submitted about the production is no longer correct.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1); Art. 64; Art. 70; Art. 74</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>Livestock management plan templates can be found on our website.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.4.2 Contracted operations</p> <p>If you contract out your organic activity, in part or whole, to a third party, the information in 1.4.1 must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a list of the subcontractors, including their activities and the certification body or authority that they are certified by b) a written agreement by the subcontractors that their operation will comply with the control measures required as part of organic certification, and c) details of all the practical measures taken to ensure and demonstrate full traceability of products. <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 28(1) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 86</p> | <p>This would include contractors used for agricultural work, such as harvesting, spraying, seed cleaning or storage.</p> <p>To comply with control measures contractors will be required to supply copies of any records of the work they have carried out for example field records, cleaning records of any storage areas or equipment and details of any separation measures they have in place to prevent contamination.</p> <p>Subcontractors premises and facilities may be subject to inspection to comply with control measures. You may need an appropriate agreement or contract with the subcontractor to allow these control measures to take place.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.4.3 Declaration</p> <p>You must sign a declaration stating that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have described your organic enterprise and activities as referred to in 1.4.1 accurately b) will perform your operations according to organic rules c) accept any enforcements in case of non-compliance d) inform the buyers of loss of status of your product e) accept exchange of information about your operation between different certification bodies or control authorities where dual certified f) accept handing over information about your certification history when changing certification body or control authority g) will inform your certification body or control authority immediately of any breaches affecting the organic status of | <p>This is covered in the contract you sign when you apply for certification with us and the declaration you sign after every inspection.</p> <p>You must comply with the terms of the contract at all times.</p> |

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| <p>your product or organic products received from other operators or subcontractors</p> <p>h) in the case of withdrawing certification inform the certification body or control authority without delay</p> <p>i) accept that your Certification Body or control authority retains your certification history for a minimum of 5 years</p> <p>j) must inform the certification body of any changes to your activities.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(2); Art. 64</p> | |
| <p>GB 1.4.4 Certification code</p> <p>1. Each certification body is issued with a unique certifier code.</p> <p>2. You must use Soil Association Certification's code if you are packing and labelling products yourself or if another Soil Association certified business in the UK is packing or labelling the product on your behalf.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(10) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 58</p> | <p>Please refer to the labelling section 1.8 General Labelling and 1.14.2 Labelling & Transporting Products for more information on labelling requirements.</p> <p>Products certified by Soil Association Certification and produced, packed or processed in GB must use the certifier code GB-ORG-05.</p> |

GB 1.5 Inspections

What is this chapter about?

This chapter explains the certification and inspection process and details your obligations as a licensee and the obligations of the certification body during the inspection process.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 1.5.1 Inspection visits</p> <p>1. A physical inspection of your organic certified activities must be carried out once per year. You may be subject to additional announced or unannounced inspections based on an assessment of risk.</p> <p>2. If you are a wholesaler dealing only with pre-packaged products you may be subject to a reduced frequency of inspections.</p> <p>3. You may also be inspected by your competent authority as part of their surveillance of our inspection procedures.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(3)(5) (EC) 889/2009 Art. 65(1)(4); Art. 92(c)(2)</p> | <p>We may carry out additional inspections if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you wish to add a new enterprise to your licence • you move to new premises • we receive a complaint regarding your business • it is necessary to inspect seasonal activity or at different times of year • we need to inspect again to make sure you have corrected non-compliances • you are selected as part of our additional inspection programme and/or our risk assessment of your operations suggests the need for this. • if you are a new licensee we may visit you in your first year to ensure you fully understand and implement the organic requirements. |

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| | <p>We may charge you for these additional inspections if we consider they are needed because of non-compliances.</p> <p>At least 10% of a certification body's inspections must be unannounced and 10% must be risk-based extra inspections. These are based on the general evaluation of the risk of non-compliance with the organic production rules, taking into account at least the results of previous controls, the quantity of products concerned and the risk for exchange of products.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.5.2 What happens at the inspection</p> <p>1. At your inspection Soil Association Certification will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> verify that the description of your activities provided in your declaration is accurate verify whether your activities are compliant with organic standards, and compile an inspection report with any possible deficiencies and non-compliances found. <p>2. You or an appointed representative must sign the inspection declaration stating that you agree with the outcomes of the inspection and to undertake necessary corrective actions. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(2); Art. 65(3); Art. 82(3)</p> | <p>As part of the closing meeting your Inspector will explain any non-compliances found during your inspection and will ask you to sign a declaration and explain the need to complete an Action Summary form (usually left with you at the end of the inspection) which lists the outcomes of the inspection.</p> <p>This includes any areas that do not comply with the standards and asks how you will correct them. It may also ask for extra information to complete the approval process.</p> <p>You must respond with details of the actions you will take to address non-compliances and supply any other information requested, before the deadline given. When we have received your returned form and agreed the information you have given is satisfactory, we will approve your corrective actions and issue/reissue your certificate.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.5.3 Access to facilities</p> <p>You must give Soil Association Certification or your control authority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> access to all parts of your unit and all premises, including any non-organic production units and any storage premises for input products which it deems necessary in order to certify your organic activities access to accounts and relevant supporting documents which it deems necessary in order to certify your organic activities any information reasonably necessary for the purposes of certifying your organic activities, and when requested, the results of your own quality assurance programmes. (EC) 899/2009 Art. 63(3); Art. 67(1); Art. 73; Art. 79; Art. 79d | |
| <p>GB 1.5.4 Sampling</p> | <p>We will take samples if there is a risk that organic standards have not been complied with or to verify that sufficient measures are in place to prevent contamination of organic products.</p> |

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| <p>You must allow Soil Association Certification to take samples which will be analysed for the presence of prohibited substances and checking compliance to organic standards.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 65(2)</p> | <p>Certification bodies are obliged to take samples from the equivalent of 5% of their licensees per year.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.5.5 Specific requirements for inspecting parallel production of perennial crops</p> <p>If you parallel produce perennial crops you must inform Soil Association Certification at least 48 hours before you harvest each crop so that inspection visits can take place during harvest.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 40(1)(a)</p> | |

GB 1.6 Non-compliance with the standards





What is this chapter about?



This chapter deals with non-compliances. A non-compliance is when an activity does not comply with an organic standard.




| Standards | Guidance |
|--|---|
| <p>GB 1.6.1 Non-compliances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Where you are found not to comply with organic standards Soil Association Certification will issue you with a non-compliance. The level of sanction will be proportionate to the severity and extent of the non-compliance and the risk it poses to the integrity of the organic product. Soil Association Certification will always apply the precautionary principle when making decisions on compliance to organic standards. Depending on the severity of the non-compliance Soil Association Certification may suspend or even withdraw your licence. If your licence is suspended or withdrawn you must not trade as organic. <p>(EC) 834 Art 27(2)(6)(12); Art. 30(1) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 92d</p> | <p>After your inspection we will draw up an <i>Action Summary Form</i> (either at inspection or we will send it to you afterwards). This lists areas that do not comply with the standards and asks how you will correct them.</p> <p>The different grades of sanctions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minor non-compliance • major non-compliance • critical non-compliance, or • manifest infringement. <p>You are required to complete the <i>Action Summary Form</i> with the actions you will take to comply with the standards and return it to us with any other information we request before the deadline given. When the Certification Team has received your completed form and agreed that the information you have given is satisfactory, they will approve the <i>Action Summary Form</i> and renew your licence.</p> <p>We may suspend or withdraw your licence in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if you are in breach of your contract with us • if you do not pay your fee within the deadlines |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • failure of licensee to return certified sales declaration (CSD) • we are unable to arrange an inspection • an inspector is refused access to premises • an inspector is refused permission to take a sample • if you do not send the completed <i>Action Summary Form</i>, or the information we request, within the deadlines • severe or repeated non-compliance resulting in loss of organic integrity of an operation, product or batch • a fraudulent activity is reported by an authority. |
| <p>GB 1.6.2 Reporting non-compliances</p> <p>1. If you consider or suspect that any of your products do not meet organic standards, then you must inform Soil Association Certification immediately and share all relevant information to assist with any further investigation to determine the organic status of the product. You must also either:</p> <p>a) Withdraw any reference to organic in relation to the product.</p> <p>b) Separate or identify the product and only allow it to be further processed or sold as organic once any doubt has been eliminated and this has been agreed with us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 91(1)</i></p> <p>2. If we have a substantiated suspicion that you intend to place a product on to the market as organic which does not meet organic standards, we will tell you to withhold the product for a set time period whilst we investigate. Before we make this decision we will give you opportunity to comment. You will need to cooperate fully with any investigation to resolve the suspicion.</p> <p>If the suspicion is confirmed, then you must remove any reference to organic from the product. If the suspicion is not confirmed within the set time period, then you no longer have to withhold the product from sale.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 91(2)</i></p> | <p>You must inform the Certification Team if you have any suspicion that a product may not meet organic standards and stop any further sale of the product as organic until any doubt over its organic status can be eliminated. Suspicion can originate from a number of sources including (but not exclusively):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A positive residue detection showing contamination with a substance not permitted in organic production (any detection, at any level, will initially be regarded as suspicion until an investigation has taken place). You must inform us in all positive residue detection cases. • A complaint from a reliable source. • You have not been able to verify the organic status of goods you have received (see section 1.7 for further information). • Not being able to verify valid certification of a product or supplier. For example, if your supplier's certification has been revoked. • Knowing that an element of the production did not meet organic standards, for example a prohibited substance has accidentally been applied to your crop or a non-organic ingredient has been used by mistake. <p>An investigation will be carried out to determine if the product has met organic production rules. Once this has been determined you will be informed if the product can be put back on the market as organic or not.</p> <p>Note: If you receive a positive detection, but from the information you have, you believe that the product still meets organic standards, then you do not have to inform us of the detection. You need to have justification as to why you believed it still met organic standards and keep that information on file so that we can check it at inspection if necessary. If you are unsure</p> |








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| | what action to take, please contact the technical team at sacl.notifications@soilassociation.org . |
| GB 1.6.3 Exceptions You may only deviate from the standards when explicitly permitted in these standards. Permission may be granted or confirmed by your certification body. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(7)(b)</i> | |
| GB 1.6.4 Appeals and complaints We appreciate there may be occasions when you wish to make a formal complaint to us. This could be regarding service, standards, policy, another licensee or an unlicensed company. We have formal complaints and appeals procedures which are available on request. You can make a complaint in writing, by email or by telephone. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 92(c)</i> | If you have a complaint please send details in writing to cert.complaints@soilassociation.org or telephone Client Services on 0117 987 4564. If you wish to appeal a certification decision please send full details to the Certification Team. |


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| GB 1.7 Record keeping | |
| What is this chapter about? This chapter details all the records that you will need to keep and have available at your inspection. | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 1.7.1 General record keeping 1. You must have a record keeping system in place which allows you to prove the organic status of your products. Your records need to cover all production stages from everything produced or bought in through to all goods sold or dispatched and must allow you to demonstrate the balance between input and output. They must also allow retrospective traceability. 2. You must keep stock and financial records at your unit or premises which make it possible to verify the following information for every product: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the suppliers, sellers or exporters the nature and quantities of organic products delivered, including where relevant: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> nature and quantities of all materials bought and the use of | <p> Standards 1.7.1 -1.7.3 apply to all licensees. More specific record keeping requirements for agricultural operations follow below.</p> <p> Your records need to be sufficient for us to be able to carry out successful mass balance (input and output) and traceability exercises at your inspection. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you have bought/received sufficient organic material for the quantity you have sold/dispatched.</p> <p> You need to have a system to keep track of procedures and records to ensure they are correct, up-to-date and effective.</p> <p> Your records should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> checked organic status of goods such as feed, seed and livestock, delivered as per |

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| <p>such materials</p> <p>ii) the composition of compound feed stuffs</p> <p>c) the nature and quantities of organic products held in storage</p> <p>d) the nature, quantities, and consignees or buyers (other than final consumers) of any products which have left your unit, premises or storage facility.</p> <p>3. If you do not store or physically handle organic products, you will still need to keep records of:</p> <p>a) the nature and quantities of organic products bought and sold</p> <p>b) the suppliers, and where different, the sellers or the exporters</p> <p>c) the buyers, and where different the consignees.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 26(1)(2)(3); Art. 31(1)(d); Art. 66(1)(2)</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(13)</p> | <p>standard 1.14.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quantities, batch codes and invoices and delivery notes of goods received evidence that you produced, stored and handled organic and non-organic products separately evidence that you cleaned according to these standards before production relevant paperwork to identify any products sold, how much and to whom annual stock takes if appropriate any pest control treatments used |
| <p>GB 1.7.2 Verifying certification documents</p> <p>1. You must verify the certification documents of your suppliers and check that they:</p> <p>a) identify your supplier,</p> <p>b) cover the type or range of products you are purchasing, and</p> <p>c) are valid at the time you are making the purchase.</p> <p>2. You must make a record of these checks.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 29(2)</p> | <p>A certification document will be the organic certificate, or in the case of Soil Association Certification licensees this includes the certificate and trading schedule. The name and address on the certificate must match the name and address of your supplier (the company you are purchasing from).</p> <p>The term ‘suppliers’ also covers businesses supplying a service, e.g. storing organic product.</p> <p>You will need to verify certification documents for any supplier of organic products that you are purchasing from. This will include agents or traders who may not handle the product but who do take ownership of it and sell it to you.</p> <p>When you receive goods, you will also need to make the checks detailed in 1.14.3</p> <p>Tools such as BioC could be used as a way of doing this.</p> <p> Records of verification checks</p> |
| <p>GB 1.7.3 Complaints register</p> <p>You must keep a complaint register for your business. This must record:</p> <p>a) all complaints you make or receive</p> <p>b) any response to the complaint</p> <p>c) the action taken.</p> | <p> Keeping a record of any complaints you receive encourages transparency. It allows businesses to monitor issues and encourages good practice by ensuring there is a documented system for dealing with complaints.</p> |

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| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 27(5)(c)</i> <i>ISO65 (4.1.2.2)</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 1.7.4 Specific plant production records You must keep plant production records in the form of a register which is available at all times on the premises of your holding. These records must provide at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) as regards the use of fertiliser and soil conditioners: date of application, type and amount of fertiliser, parcels concerned; b) as regards the use of pesticides and plant protection products: reason and date of treatment, type of product, method of treatment; c) as regards purchase of farm inputs: date, type and amount of purchased product; d) as regards harvest: date, type and amount of organic or in conversion crop production. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 72</i></p> | <p>Refer to section 2.5 for permitted fertilisers and soil conditioners and 2.6 for permitted pesticides and plant protection products.</p> <p> Plant production records</p> |
| <p>GB 1.7.5 Cropping plan Each year, you must provide us with a cropping plan, giving a breakdown by parcel.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 71</i></p> | <p> We will send you our Annual Questionnaire form before your annual inspection, for you to record this information.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.7.6 General livestock records You must keep livestock records in the form of a register which is available at all times on the premises of your holding. These records must provide a full description of the herd or flock management system comprising of at least the information required in this section.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 76</i></p> | <p> We will send you our Annual Questionnaire form before your annual inspection, for you to record your livestock numbers.</p> <p>Livestock records see standards below for specific requirements.</p> |

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| <div>GB 1.7.7 Livestock movement records</div> <div><div>1. When you bring animals in you must record:<div><div>a) species, source, numbers</div><div>b) organic status</div><div>c) identification mark</div><div>d) any quarantine measures taken</div><div>e) age</div><div>f) veterinary history, and</div><div>g) date of arrival.</div></div></div><div><div>2. When your animals are sold or leave your holding you must record:<div><div>a) species</div><div>b) destination</div><div>c) numbers sold</div><div>d) slaughtered weight where appropriate</div><div>e) identification mark, and</div><div>f) age.</div></div></div><div>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 76(a)(b)</div></div><td><div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>R</div></div></div><div>At inspection you will be required to show up to date records. These can be in any format. Electronic and printed versions are available from several sources. Government guidance can be found here.</div></div></div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>R</div></div></div><div>Livestock movement records.</div></div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>I</div></div></div><div>We can provide Livestock Transfer Documents and Organic Livestock Movement to Slaughter documents which will meet all these requirements. Ask the Certification Team if you need copies of these.</div></div></div></div></div></td></div> | <div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>R</div></div></div><div>At inspection you will be required to show up to date records. These can be in any format. Electronic and printed versions are available from several sources. Government guidance can be found here.</div></div></div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>R</div></div></div><div>Livestock movement records.</div></div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>I</div></div></div><div>We can provide Livestock Transfer Documents and Organic Livestock Movement to Slaughter documents which will meet all these requirements. Ask the Certification Team if you need copies of these.</div></div></div></div></div> |
| <div>GB 1.7.8 Livestock mortality records</div> <div><div>You must keep details of livestock mortalities including:<div><div>a) species and number of animals lost</div><div>b) reason for mortality</div></div></div><div>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 76(c)</div></div> | <div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>R</div></div></div><div>Dairy cows</div></div><div><div><div>a) Number of losses per 100 cows calved for the following categories:<div><div>i) 0 - 24hrs - all calves (including stillborn)</div><div>ii) 24 hrs - 42 days - all calves</div><div>iii) 42 days - 1st calving - dairy heifers</div><div>iv) 1st calving - 2nd calving - dairy heifers.</div></div></div><div>b) Number of planned culls</div><div>c) Number of unplanned culls or casualty cows (died or killed on farm) in the last 12 months. Where possible, also record reasons</div><div>d) Number of enforced culls, e.g. TB.</div></div></div></div></div> |


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| | <p> Beef Cattle</p> | <p>Number of losses:</p> <p>a) Stillborn – 24 hours</p> <p>b) 24 hours – 10 days</p> <p>c) 10 days – weaning</p> <p>d) Weaning – first calving /point of sale</p> <p>e) Less than 30 months</p> <p>f) 30 months +</p> |
| | <p> Sheep</p> | <p>a) Number of planned culls</p> <p>b) Number of unplanned culls or casualties (died or killed on farm) in the last 12 months.</p> <p>When possible record reasons for cull / casualty ewes.</p> <p>When possible record main reasons for lamb losses.</p> |
| | <p> Pigs: Dry Sows</p> | <p>a) Percentage mortality (died but not actively culled) on farm in the last 12 months.</p> <p>b) Percentage culls in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Record the predominant cause of mortality.</p> |
| | <p> Pigs: Finishers</p> | <p>a) Percentage mortality (died but not actively culled) on farm in the last 12 months or for the last batch</p> <p>Record the predominant cause of mortality.</p> |
| | <p> Broilers</p> | <p>a) First week mortality, including culls (%).</p> <p>b) Mortality to date - dead birds only, i.e. not including culls (%).</p> <p>c) Culls to date, not including leg culls (%).</p> <p>d) Leg culls to date - leg culls only (%).</p> <p>Also record this information for the previous flock.</p> <p>Record predominant cause/s of mortality and culls.</p> |
| | <p> Laying hens</p> | <p>a) Mortality of previous flock</p> <p>b) Mortality to date</p> <p>c) Mortality to 40 weeks (where applicable)</p> <p>Record the predominant cause of mortality for each of a), b) and c).</p> |
| Standards | | Guidance |
| <p>GB 1.7.9 Feed records</p> <p>1. Your feed records must include:</p> <p>a) type, such as forage, straights or compound, including supplements</p> | | <p> At inspection provide the feed records in any format for each animal group. This should include copies of feed labels.</p> |


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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) source of feed c) percentage of each ingredient in the rations d) amount of feed, including the amount of non-organic ingredients fed to each animal or group of animals, e) organic status, such as organic, in-conversion or non-organic. <p>2. You must record the period when your livestock have access to grazing or exercise areas and, where applicable, periods of transhumance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 66 (1)(a)(b)(2); Art. 76(d)</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 1.7.10 Veterinary records</p> <p>1. When you use any veterinary medicines you must record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) date the treatment started and ended b) reason for treatment c) the name and type and batch number of the medicine and its active substance d) method of treatment e) number and identity of animals you treat f) length of the legal withdrawal period in days g) earliest date you can sell the animal or its products as organic <p>2. Whenever veterinary medicines are used the information recorded must be declared to your certification body or control authority before the livestock or livestock products are marketed as organic.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 76(e); Art. 77</i></p> | <p> Records of veterinary treatments used</p> <p>Veterinary medicines are products which are used to treat or prevent disease.</p> <p>Examples of veterinary medicines include antibiotics, vaccinations, parasite treatments, minerals and vitamins, herbal and homeopathic products.</p> <p>There are additional statutory record keeping requirements for veterinary medicines. Government guidance can be found here.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.7.11 Identification of livestock</p> <p>You must identify your livestock at all stages of their production, preparation, transport and marketing using techniques adapted to each species. This must be done individually in the case of large mammals and individually or by batch in the case of poultry and small mammals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 75</i></p> | <p>The methods you use to identify your livestock must meet the legal requirements of country. In GB you must follow Defra requirements.</p> |

GB 1.8 General labelling

What's this chapter about?

This section contains the labelling standards which need to be met if you wish to label your product as organic.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 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>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(1)</p> | <p> 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. <p>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.</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>If you sell organic products and non-organic products, any use of the word organic, or organic logos (certifier logos such as the SA Symbol, or the EU Organic logo), must be clear and unambiguous as to which products they apply to. Use of references to organic or logos on email footers, invoices, websites should be accompanied by an explanatory wording e.g. "We have a range of organic products, see our product listings for more details", and within the product listing a clear identification of products. For contract manufacturers/packers</p> |

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| | <p>wording describing the certified service offered should be included e.g. “We offer certified packing of organic products”.</p> <p>If your company name includes the word organic you may not use this on the labels of non-organic products. e.g. labels of non-organic products sold by ‘XXX Organic Farm’ could replace their branding with ‘XXX Farm’. On websites and marketing materials ‘XXX Organic Farm’ can be used provide it is clear and unambiguous to buyers which products are organic and which are not.</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> |
| <p>GB 1.8.2 Products with 95%-100% organic ingredients 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 (Food and Drink) 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) For operators in GB the use of the EU logo is optional.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 25; Art. 24(1)(b)</i></p> <p>c) For GB a statement of agricultural origin (see standard 1.8.6).</p> <p>d) When the EU logo is used, an indication of where the ingredients were farmed or grown (see standard 1.8.6).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(c)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 58(2)</i></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.</p> <p>For example: Ingredients: Organic Flour (fortified with calcium carbonate, iron, niacin, thiamine), Water, Organic Eggs, Organic Sunflower seeds, Yeast, Salt.</p> <p>Or, Ingredients: Flour (fortified with calcium carbonate*, iron*, niacin*, thiamine*), Water*, Eggs, Sunflower seeds, Yeast*, Salt*. *Non-organic.</p> <p>b) Using the EU logo</p> <p>The EU sets the rules for the use of the EU leaf logo. Its use is optional on foods produced in GB and other countries outside the EU. It cannot be used on non-food products. See EU logo standard (1.8.5) for details.</p> |

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| <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 if the EU logo is used</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(a)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 58(1)(d)</i></p> <p>f) A traceability code, such as a batch or date code.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 31(1)(d)</i></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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(2)</i></p> | <p>c) Statement of agricultural origin</p> <p>d) See standard ‘declaring ingredient origin’ (1.8.6) for details.</p> <p>e) Certifier code</p> <p>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, processing and/or labelling the product yourself, or a Soil Association certified company in GB is packing or labelling the product on your behalf, this is the code which must be used.</p> <p>The code for Soil Association Certification in Northern Ireland is XI-ORG-05, this is different from the code used in GB.</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 GB, NI or 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 do contact the Certification Team 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 GB Organic Regulation.</p> <p>f) Traceability code</p> <p>Your labelling must include a traceability code. Please refer to the record keeping section 1.7 for details.</p> |
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| | <p>The above mandatory information on <u>prepacked</u> product labels must be easily visible and clearly legible. This applies to the certification code and agriculture statement, and the EU logo when used. The organic regulation requires them to be in a conspicuous place - easily visible, clearly legible and indelible. This information cannot be inside a products packaging, for example, the inside lid of an egg box. You can view guidance from the Food Standards Agency on how to display mandatory information on packaging and labels.</p> <p>Labelling requirements for box schemes SA GB: Certification code (GB-ORG-05) and Soil Association symbol must either be on the box or accompanying paperwork. The box scheme contents should also be detailed. If the box scheme does not provide paperwork with the box, or label the box, it is acceptable for the information to be sent via e-mail, on the website or other social media.</p> <p>For certification in GB, the GB regulation statement of agricultural origin is only required for pre-packed product so is not applicable for box schemes.</p> | | | | | | |
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| Standards | Guidance | | | | | | |
| <p>GB 1.8.3 Products with less than 95% organic ingredients</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> indicate which ingredients are organic in the ingredients list. include the total percentage of organic ingredients in the ingredients list (as a percentage of the agricultural ingredients). 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. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)</i></p> 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>Guidance for each point is set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Main ingredient of hunting and fishing <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> <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> </table> | Sardines | 52% | Organic tomatoes | 32% | Organic olive oil | 11% |
| Sardines | 52% | | | | | | |
| Organic tomatoes | 32% | | | | | | |
| Organic olive oil | 11% | | | | | | |

| <div><div>a) indicate which ingredients are organic in the ingredients list</div><div>b) include the total percentage of organic ingredients in the ingredients list (as a percentage of the agricultural ingredients)</div><div>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.</div></div> <div><div>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(4)(c)</div></div> | <div>Organic lemon 5%</div> <div>Organic content = 48%</div> <div>The label will indicate total organic content of 48%.</div> <div>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.</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div>3. You must not use the EU logo on products containing less than 95% organic ingredients.</div> <div><div>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 25(1)</div></div> <div>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).</div> <div><div>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1)(a)</div></div> <div>5. You must include a traceability code, such as a batch or date code.</div> <div><div>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 31(1)(d)</div></div> | <table><tr><th></th><th>% organic agricultural ingredients</th><th>References to organic</th><th>EU Organic logo (optional in GB)</th><th>Certification code</th><th>Statement of agricultural origin</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>More than 95%</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Less than 95%</td><td>Only in ingredient list</td><td>✗</td><td>✓</td><td>✗</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>In-conversion product</td><td>You may use the wording 'product under conversion to organic farming'</td><td>✗</td><td>✓</td><td>✗</td></tr></table> | | % organic agricultural ingredients | References to organic | EU Organic logo (optional in GB) | Certification code | Statement of agricultural origin | | More than 95% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Less than 95% | Only in ingredient list | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | | In-conversion product | You may use the wording 'product under conversion to organic farming' | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| | % organic agricultural ingredients | References to organic | EU Organic logo (optional in GB) | Certification code | Statement of agricultural origin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | More than 95% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Less than 95% | Only in ingredient list | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | In-conversion product | You may use the wording 'product under conversion to organic farming' | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <div>Labelling requirements for box schemes</div> <div>Certification code (GB-ORG-05) must either be on the box or accompanying paperwork. The box scheme contents should also be detailed.</div> <div>If the box scheme does not provide paperwork with the box, or label the box, it is acceptable for the information to be sent via e-mail, on the website or other social media.</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | For certification in GB, the GB regulation statement of agricultural origin is only required for pre-packed product so is not applicable for box schemes. |
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| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 1.8.4 In-conversion products</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To label your product as 'in-conversion', the product must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> have been grown on land that has gone through at least a 12 month conversion period before the crop was harvested, and contain only one agricultural ingredient, which must be of plant origin, either processed or unprocessed. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 19(2)(e); Art. 26(b) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 62(a)(c) The label must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> include the wording 'product under conversion to organic farming', provided it is not more prominent in colour, size and style of lettering than the sales description of the product. The words 'organic farming' must not be more prominent than the words 'product under conversion to'. Include the certifier code. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 62(b)(d) You must not use the EU logo on in-conversion products. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 25(1) | |
| <p>GB 1.8.5 Using the EU organic logo</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> You must display the EU logo on labels of packaged organic products produced in Northern Ireland or the EU. 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. | <p>The use of the logo is mandatory for all organic pre-packaged food produced within Northern Ireland or the European Union. The terms of its use are set by the EU and more information can be found online.</p> <p>You can download the EU logo in various formats from here.</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 and 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 out on coloured backgrounds.
- d) in conjunction with other logos and text referring to organic, providing this does not overlap, obscure or change the logo.



If your product is being packed outside Northern Ireland and 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 1.14.2 for details of what you need to include).


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| <p>6. You do not have to use the EU organic logo on products produced in GB, but if you do, you must also use the declaration of where the ingredients have been farmed and the certifier code.</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>GB 1.8.6 Declaring ingredient origin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You need to include a declaration of where the ingredients have been farmed or grown. 2. For products produced in GB you must use 'UK Agriculture', 'Non-UK Agriculture or UK/Non-UK Agriculture' 3. 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) in the same visual field as the EU organic logo; b) immediately below the certifier code, and c) no more prominent than the sales description. 4. You can replace 'UK' or 'Non-UK', 'EU' or 'non-EU' with a particular country if all ingredients were farmed or grown there. In this case only one declaration is required. You do not have to count small amounts of ingredients up to a total of 2% of the agricultural ingredients. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 24(1c) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 58(2)</i></p> | <p>If the EU logo is used the declaration needs to be in the same visual field as the EU logo.</p> <p>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').</p> <p>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.</p> |

GB 1.9 Making claims on your labels

What is this chapter about?

The standards in this section outline the requirements relating to certain labelling claims. As well as meeting the requirements of these standards, you will need to make sure your products meet all statutory labelling legislation.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 1.9.1 Using accurate descriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The term 'organic' can only be used to describe products (on labels, advertising and commercial documents on products) that meet the requirements of these standards, unless the term is not being used in relation to agricultural products in food or feed, or | <p>Your sales description and product name will need to accurately describe your product. You cannot use the word organic, even if it is part of your company trade name, in relation to non-organic products (e.g. on labels).</p> <p> Substantiating claims</p> |

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| <p>clearly have no connection to organic production.</p> <p>2. You must not use any terms, including terms used in trademarks, labels or advertising, that could mislead consumers into believing products are organic when they are not.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(2)</i></p> | <p>You will need to be able to substantiate any claims that you make on your labels.</p> <p>For example: You should not use phrases such as ‘GMO free’ unless you can prove this, if challenged. Instead, you could use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘organic standards prohibit the use of GM materials’, or • ‘non-GM’. <p> You should not use phrases such as ‘pesticide free’ unless you can prove this, if challenged. Instead you could use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Less pesticides, or • ‘Organic farming uses virtually no pesticides, or • ‘No system of farming has lower pesticide use’ <p>We worked closely with the Advertising Standards Authority to draw up a document of approved advertising claims you can make when selling organic. You can find a copy on our website.</p> <p>Labelling claims</p> <p>In England, responsibility for food labelling legislation and policy is split across Defra, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Department of Health (DH). For Scotland and Wales all domestic standards legislation is the responsibility of the FSA.</p> <p>Visit this website for details.</p> |
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| GB 1.10 Labelling in specific scenarios | |
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| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 1.10.1 Stamping eggshells and meat</p> <p>You must only use colours in accordance with articles 2(8) and 2(9) of directive 94/36/EC for stamping meat and eggshells.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 27(1d)</i></p> | <p>Egg stamps</p> <p>Even if you stamp your eggs with the egg markings, you still need to label the egg boxes in accordance with the general organic labelling standards.</p> |

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| | <p>You can find more information on egg marking on the Defra website.</p> <p>Meat stamps</p> <p>Please refer to the abattoir standards on our website for full details of meat stamp requirements including details of the records which must be kept.</p> |
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GB 1.11 Preserving organic integrity

What is the chapter about?

The standards in this section cover which substances are prohibited and what you need to do to prevent contamination.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 1.11.1 Reducing the risk of contamination</p> <p>You must identify any risk of contamination to your organic products by any unauthorised or prohibited substances and ensure measures are in place to reduce the risk of contamination. When new risks are identified you must review the measures you have in place and ensure they remain appropriate. The risks identified and the measures in place must be documented.</p> <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 26(1)(2); Art. 63(1)(c)</i></p> | <p>You must consider what you do to reduce the risk of contamination at all stages of production, including processing, storage and transport, including how you determine that the measures you have in place are sufficient and how you monitor that they remain effective. You could use details of any sampling and testing that you carry out.</p> <p>Examples of risks include:</p> <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray drift or environmental contamination from inputs used on near-by non-organic crops. • Contamination from nearby non-organic, or historically treated, processing or storage areas. • Cross pollination or physical contamination from GM crops and seeds either growing nearby or previously grown nearby or on the now organic land. • Heavy metal contamination in the soil. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient separation, clean down or procedures when carrying out non-dedicated production including equipment, processing, storage, packaging and transport. • Cleaning materials insufficiently rinsed off product contact surfaces • Ineffective identification of organic and non-organic products at all times. • Insufficient staff training and ongoing management to ensure procedures are being followed correctly. |


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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products that may be in contact with crops. • Insufficient pest management. <p>Risk products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical or GM contamination from non-organic inputs (e.g. manure, feed, minerals, pesticides, fertilisers). • Using risk ingredients – they may be a risk depending on what they are or where they come from. For example, some ingredients like maize and soya from countries like USA, Brazil, Argentina and Canada have a higher risk of being contaminated by GMOs. <p>If you use non-organic manure send us a completed GMO declaration form and we may request labels of feed fed to the animals producing the manure at inspection. Where PCR testing is used to determine that measures are effective at preventing GMO contamination the test must be carried out to the limit of detection of 0.1%.</p> <p>Where pesticide residue testing is carried out we recommend it is carried out by a laboratory accredited to the ISO 17025 standard. If possible, the actual test method should also be accredited to ISO 17025 or equivalent</p> <p>Staff training is an important way to ensure that risk of contamination is minimised. You should ensure that all staff are adequately trained and deemed competent to meet organic requirements and your own operational procedures. This will need to be repeated whenever changes are made. Training records and staff reviews may be reviewed at inspection to verify this.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.11.2 Genetic modification</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Products labelled as consisting of or made from GMOs must never be described as organic. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 23(3)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <p>In the UK and 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.</p> |

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| <p>3. For food and feed products in the UK and EU, 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.</p> <p>4. For products that are not food or feed, or products that could be produced by GMOs, 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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 9(1)(2)(3)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 69; Annex XIII</i></p> | <p>Our GMO declaration form explains which additives, processing aids and ingredients are GMO risks. The Certification Team can also confirm any other ingredients which are a GMO risk.</p> <p>Please contact us if you need a blank template of the non-GM declaration form for your suppliers to complete.</p> <p>Please note: The GMO declaration expires 12 months from the date signed. Supporting information must be dated within 12 months of sending to SA Certification. If older than 12 months, you must check with the supplier that the statement is still valid and provide evidence of this to SA Certification. An updated GMO declaration is not required if you have not re-ordered the product since originally submitting evidence.</p> <p>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> <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>As part of due diligence and controlling risks, operators who import/process/trade GM risk organic ingredients may wish to carry out testing for GMOs. For example, soya or maize products. Testing should be to 0.1% or lower* and not just to 0.9%.</p> <p>* Some laboratories can provide testing to a limit of quantification (LOQ) below 0.1%. Please refer to standard 5.6.2 for action to take if you detect GMOs in an organic product, or organic ingredient.</p> |
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GB 1.12 Cleaning

What is this chapter about?

The standards in this section which cleaning products and measures are permitted for different organic activities in order to minimise the use of chemical substances and risk of contamination.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 1.12.1 Cleaning measures <ol style="list-style-type: none">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. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1)(c); Art. 26(2)(b)(3)(e); Art. 35(4)(c)</i> | <p>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.</p> <p>For cleaning chemicals permitted in livestock housing refer to standard 1.12.2 and for aquaculture facilities please refer to the aquaculture standards.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p> Records of cleaning measures</p> <p>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, by carrying out a final rinse with potable water.</p> |

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.

Use of chlorine based and chlorate containing disinfectants, (e.g. sodium hypochlorite, sodium hydroxide/sodium hypochlorite, sodium hydroxide), can lead to residues in organic product. When used on product contact surfaces a potable water rinse must be carried out after use of these cleaning products. There appears to be a higher risk of contamination when used in milk processing and farm dairies. Testing of the raw milk will not usually detect chlorate, but it may be detected in further processed product such as powdered milk. This can be an issue for vulnerable consumers, such as infants and babies, and the legal maximum residue limits are for set infants and babies at 0.01%. Dairy farms and dairy processors may wish to consider alternatives to chlorine based and chlorate containing disinfectants to reduce the risk of contamination.

Non-dedicated equipment

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.

Sprayers

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-


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| | <p>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> |
| <p>GB 1.12.2 Additional rules for the cleaning and disinfection of livestock buildings and equipment</p> <p>1) For the cleaning and disinfection of livestock buildings and equipment you may only use the following products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) potassium and sodium soap b) water and steam c) milk of lime d) lime e) quicklime f) sodium hypochlorite (for example, as a liquid bleach) g) caustic soda h) caustic potash i) hydrogen peroxide j) natural essences of plants k) citric, peracetic, formic, lactic, oxalic and acetic acid l) alcohol m) phosphoric acid (dairy equipment only) n) nitric acid (dairy equipment only) o) formaldehyde p) cleaning and disinfection products for teats and milking facilities q) sodium carbonate. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(f); Art. 16(1)(e)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(4); Annex VII</i></p> | |

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| 2) These products may only be used if they are authorised for your use in your country. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)</i> | |
| GB 1.12.3 Additional rules for the cleaning and disinfection of buildings and installations used for plant production 1) For the cleaning and disinfection of buildings and installations used for plant production only authorised products may be used. 2) These products may only be used if they are authorised for your use in your country. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(1)(j); Art. 16(1)</i> | <p>Currently there are no substances specifically authorised for cleaning and disinfecting buildings and installations used for plant production.</p> <p>You can use water, steam and products which are permitted for the application on the soil and plants within these standards, such as the permitted pesticides. If you use any other products, you must be able to demonstrate that there is no risk of the products contaminating the soil or plants.</p> |

GB 1.13 Pest control

What is this chapter about?

The standards in this section detail how pests are controlled in and around facilities where you carry out organic activities. Pest control in organic production and storage areas should prevent birds, rodents, insects or other pests contaminating organic foods. Pest control should aim, in the first instance, to prevent infestation rather than depend on treatments.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 1.13.1 Preventing contamination by pests and pest control products 1. You must design and operate your buildings and controls to reduce the risk of contamination by pests. In areas used for housing livestock you must remove faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt food as often as necessary to keep smells to a minimum and avoid attracting insects and rodents. 2. You must ensure when implementing preventative measures in organic areas that you take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of contamination of organic products. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(4); Art. 63(1)(c)</i> | <p>You will need to demonstrate the measures you have in place to reduce the risk of contamination by pests. This should include measures to prevent and control wild birds, rodents and insects from getting into your buildings such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fly screens • pheromones in traps and dispensers, for monitoring pest levels or as attractants and sexual behaviour disrupters • effective covers of waste bins <p>sealing gaps and entry points.</p> |
| GB 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 | <p> If you use pest control methods, you will need to keep records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |

organic products, you must only use pest control methods which do not contaminate the organic product.

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 26(2)

- 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:

- if product is unpackaged, remove all organic products from the area to be treated and not put organic products back into the treated area for at least 24 hours after the treatment
- if product is in sealed packaging it can remain but additionally wrap the product with impermeable layer and do not remove the wrapping for at least 24 hours after the treatment.
- 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

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vacuum treatment <p>Control methods in organic areas Control methods which are appropriate for use in organic areas include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <p>GB 1.13.3 Treating infestations in livestock housing If you find an infestation in areas used for housing organic livestock, you must only use the pest control methods listed in standard 2.6.3, and rodenticides used in accordance with standard 2.6.4. You must ensure that you take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of contamination of organic products or toxicity to livestock. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(4); Art. 63(1)(c)</p> | <p> If you use pest control methods, you will need to keep records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 and toxicity to livestock. |

| GB 1.14 Transport, dispatch and receipt of goods | |
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| <p>What is this chapter about? This section details all the standards that need to be met for the transport, dispatch and receipt of organic products.</p> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 1.14.1 Collection of products and transport to preparation units If you are collecting organic and non-organic products at the same time, you must have measures in place to prevent any possible mixing or exchanges and you must be able to clearly identify the organic products. Your collection records need to indicate the collection days, hours, collection circuit and the time and date when products were received.</p> | <p> Collection records</p> |

| (EC) 889/2008 Art. 30 | |
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| <p>GB 1.14.2 Labelling & transporting products</p> <p>1. If you send an organic product to another company, including retailers, wholesalers and other licensees for further processing, packing or re-labelling then you must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensure it is transported in a way that would prevent substitution. label it clearly, either on the product or on accompanying documentation undeniably linked to it so that the recipient can easily identify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the product and its organic status the name and address of the operator, and, if different, the seller or owner of the product include your certification code, traceability code and % organic content of the product (if less than 95%). If this information is provided on the accompanying documentation, it must also include information on the supplier and/or transporter. <p>2. You do not need to use closed packaging, containers or vehicles if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> transportation is between two organically certified operators products are accompanied by a document containing the information required in point 1b above both the sending and receiving operators keep records of the transportation. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 31(1)(2)</p> | <p>For additional requirements for labelling of retail packed products, please refer to section 1.8.</p> <p>If your product is not prepacked for retail, or it goes on for further processing, you can put ingredient information either on the label, or on a document with the product provided it can be clearly linked with the product. For example, grain moved from a dryer to a mill would need to be accompanied by a delivery note with full supplier address, product information (including organic status), batch, haulier and vehicle identification and consignee address.</p> <p>Labelled packaging helps identify organic products and keeps them sealed which limits the risk of contamination and substitution. However, there are products that need to be transported in loose bulk, for example milk in a tanker or fruit and vegetables in open top boxes.</p> <p> Records of transportation of loose organic products</p> <p>However you choose to transport your products, you will need to make sure you have minimised the risk of contamination or substitution with non-organic products by using clear labelling and separation. For example, if you are transporting loose fruit and vegetables in open top boxes, consider transporting the organic or non-organic in separate vans, or, close the tops of the boxes containing organic to prevent accidental contamination.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.14.3 Receiving organic products</p> <p>When you receive an organic product you must check, upon delivery that the product is labelled according to standard 1.14.2 above and packed appropriately so that it cannot be mistaken or mixed up with other products. You must crosscheck that the label on the product matches the information on the accompanying documents and provide an account of how you check goods upon receipt.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 33; Art. 66(1)(2)</p> | <p>When receiving goods from other units or operators you need to have a system in place for checking the organic status of the products and have records to show these checks are always made.</p> <p> Please see the record keeping section 1.7 for details of the information you will need to record.</p> <p>If you cannot be sure about the organic status of a delivery, for example if information is missing or incorrect, you will need to either:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get written confirmation from the supplier • send it back • sell it as non-organic • use it in non-organic products. |
| <p>GB 1.14.4 Additional rules for transporting feed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In addition to standard 1.14.2, when transporting feed you must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that the transport of organic feed, in-conversion feed and non-organic feed is effectively separated physically b) ensure that the transport of finished organic feed is effectively separated physically or in time from the transport of other finished products c) label it clearly, either on the product or on accompanying documentation undeniably linked to it so that the recipient can easily identify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) the product or a description of the compound feedstuff and its organic status. ii) the name and address of the operator, and, if different, the seller or owner of the product. 2. If you use vehicles or containers that have been used to transport non-organic products, you must; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure they are thoroughly clean before transporting organic products. The cleaning measures used must be appropriate to the risks, and the effectiveness of the measures must be checked before transporting organic products. b) assess and implement measures to ensure that non-organic feed cannot be mistaken or mixed up with organic. Where necessary you may be asked to guarantee this. c) keep documentary records of these transport operations. 3. You must keep records of transport operations, including the quantity of products at the start and of each individual quantity delivered. <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 31(1)(b); Art. 32</i></p> | <div>  Records of cleaning measures </div> <div>  Records of all transport operations </div> |

| GB 1.15 Storage of products | |
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| <p>What is this chapter about?</p> <p>This section details the standards for storing and handling organic products.</p> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 1.15.1 General separation</p> <p>You must manage your organic storage areas and containers in such a way to avoid any mixing with or contamination from products or substances that we do not allow in these standards. Your organic storage areas, containers and products must be clearly identifiable at all times.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 35(1)</i></p> | <p>Demonstrate that your organic products are clearly identified and separated from areas used for other purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the room, area, or racking with the word ‘organic’ to show that it is for storing organic products • identify all organic materials clearly to avoid accidental contamination • have sufficient space or barriers around the organic storage area to stop accidental contamination • only use stores, bins and containers that are made of materials suitable for contact with the food they are to store • dedicate and identify bins and containers as organic • prevent contamination by birds, insects and vermin • clean the stores regularly so that there are no residues which could contaminate organic products or encourage pests. <p>Also refer to the ‘preserving organic integrity’ section, for details of contamination, and products and substances we do not allow.</p> |
| <p>GB 1.15.2 Handling and separating organic and non-organic products</p> <p>When you use the same equipment and premises to store and handle both organic and non-organic products you must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> minimise the risk of mixing organic products with other products and foodstuffs by clearly identifying and separating them during the production process, and effectively clean equipment and storage areas used to handle or store non-organic products before handling or storing organic products. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 35(4); 26 (3)</i></p> | <p>Refer to the ‘preserving organic integrity’ section 1.11, for details of contamination and products and substances we do not allow.</p> |

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| <p>GB 1.15.3 Storing unauthorised inputs on organic units is prohibited</p> <p>The storage of inputs in organic plant, seaweed, livestock and aquaculture production units, which are not permitted under these standards is prohibited.</p> <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 35(2)</i></p> | |
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| GB 2.0 Standards for organic land and crops | |
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| GB 2.1 Converting land and crops to organic production | |
| <p>What's this chapter about?</p> <p>This section covers conversion periods for land and various types of crops. It also includes standards for retroactive approval of conversion periods.</p> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 2.1.1 Starting your conversion</p> <p>Your conversion period starts on the date you inform your certification body that you wish to use the land for Soil Association certified production or when your certification body has determined that you comply with these organic standards. During the conversion period you must comply with these organic standards.</p> <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 17(1)(a)(b)</i></p> | <p>New land may enter conversion from the date that the application is received by Soil Association Certification (or a specified date thereafter). If it cannot be verified at inspection that organic standards have been met since the conversion start date, livestock that have grazed this land could lose status.</p> <p>You can convert your farm in separate units over a longer time period. Land and livestock conversion can start at different dates. The Certification Team can provide further details.</p> <p>You may also wish to consider the requirements for organic grant payments.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.1.2 Conversion periods for land and crops</p> <p>1. For land and crops to be considered organic, the organic production rules as referred to in these organic standards must have been applied to the land from the agreed start date of conversion for the following periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all land - 24 months b) crops grown on your land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. arable and horticultural crops – 24 months before the sowing or planting of the organic crops ii. grass – 24 months before grazing or cutting for organic hay or silage | <p>You must provide details of known historical environmental pollution or use of prohibited substances that may be present beyond the normal conversion period.</p> <p>We may take soil samples to determine if your conversion period needs to be extended.</p> <p>In GB the competent authority is Defra.</p> |


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| <p>iii. perennial crops already in the ground (other than grass or forage) – 36 months before harvesting organic crops.</p> <p>2. Your competent authority may decide that your conversion period is extended or declared unsuitable for conversion if your land has been contaminated by products not permitted in these standards. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 17(1)(c) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 36(1)(3) (EC) 834/2007 Art. 17(1)(b)</p> | |
| <p>GB 2.1.3 Reducing conversion periods</p> <p>1. Your conversion period may be reduced if you can demonstrate that:</p> <p>a) the land has been managed under a recognised agri-environmental scheme which prohibits any pesticides or fertilisers that these organic standards do not allow, or</p> <p>b) the land has not been treated with any products prohibited under these organic standards for at least three years.</p> <p>2. Your competent authority must approve any reduction. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 17(e) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 36(2)</p> | <p>To request a reduction in your conversion period you need to provide proof that you have not used anything we do not allow in these organic standards on this land for the period of this reduction.</p> <p>To request a reduction in your conversion period of over four months, you need to get permission from your competent authority. In GB the competent authority is Defra. It is likely that we will need to see third party verification that no prohibited inputs have been used. For example, Countryside Stewardship agreements with confirmation from the scheme managers that no prohibited substances have been used.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.1.4 Compulsory treatment of land with prohibited products</p> <p>1. If you have to treat an area of your organic land or land in the process of conversion with anything these organic standards do not allow as part of a compulsory pest or disease control scheme, or as part of a scientific test approved by your competent authority, you must notify your certification body. It will have to go through another conversion period.</p> <p>2. The conversion period may be reduced based on:</p> <p>a) the material used and how quickly it will break down in the soil or plant material</p> <p>b) when the next harvest (which cannot be sold as organic) is, and</p> <p>c) approval from your competent authority. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 36(4)</p> | <p>Provide us with details of the compulsory control scheme or scientific test including the products used and the next harvest date. We will inform your competent authority and they will decide if the re-conversion period can be reduced. In GB the competent authority is Defra.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.1.5 Selling in-conversion crops</p> <p>Your in-conversion crops can be labelled as ‘product under conversion to organic farming’ provided that:</p> | <p>We can provide you with a Trading Schedule showing crops that are eligible to sell as in-conversion.</p> |

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| <p>a) the land that the crop is grown on has completed one year of conversion before harvesting the crop</p> <p>b) the phrase ‘product under conversion to organic farming’ is not more prominent in colour, size and style of lettering than the sales description of the product</p> <p>c) the words ‘organic farming’ are not more prominent than the words ‘product under conversion to’</p> <p>d) the product contains only one crop ingredient of agricultural origin</p> <p>e) the label does not include the EU organic logo.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(EC) 834/2007 Art. 25 (1) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 62</p> | |
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GB 2.2 Managing organic and non-organic enterprises

What is the chapter about?

This section contains standards on how separation must be maintained in cases where both conventional and organic production occurs within the same holding.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 2.2.1 Simultaneous organic and non-organic production</p> <p>1. If you have organic and non-organic production units on the same holding you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) clearly define your units of land used for organic and non-organic production b) keep the organic and non-organic production and storage areas clearly separate c) not store products that are not allowed under these organic standards on your organic unit d) keep adequate records to show separation e) not have organic and non-organic livestock of the same species f) not grow organic and non-organic crops of the same variety <p>2. If your holding or unit is partly under organic production and partly in conversion to organic production, you must keep the organically produced and in-conversion products separate and the animals</p> | <p>You may use the same equipment for organic and non-organic production provided it is cleaned between uses to prevent contamination.</p> <p>We will inspect both the organic and non-organic production areas.</p> <p> Records demonstrating adequate separation of organic and non-organic production</p> <p>In GB Defra, the competent authority, defines clearly separate units as physically, financially and operationally separate.</p> <p>Physically separate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your non-organic unit must have distinct blocks of land which are separate from your organic unit • we do not allow a mosaic of organic and non-organic fields • organic and non-organic units can be next to each other but there must be a barrier between them, such as a hedge or fence. |

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| <p>separate or readily separable and keep adequate records to show separation.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 11; Art. 17(1)(d) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 35 (1); 40 (1)</p> | <p>Financially separate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you must keep separate financial records • you must be able to clearly identify invoices for each unit. <p>Operationally separate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you must demonstrate that you manage the organic unit as a distinct and separate operation • you can use shared cultivation equipment • you must show how you separate organic and non-organic in housing, machinery, equipment for feed, milling and mixing and parlours. <p>Refer to standards 2.2.2 and 2.2.3. for detailed rules on growing non-organic and organic crops and to section 3.3 for detailed rules on keeping organic and non-organic livestock.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.2.2 Growing non-organic crops</p> <p>If you grow the same crops on your non-organic land as on your in-conversion or organic land this is called parallel production. In these cases your certification body must be able to easily identify different varieties on each area.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 11</p> | |
| <p>GB 2.2.3 Parallel production exceptions</p> <p>1) You may ‘parallel produce’ only the following:</p> <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 or crops and livestock on farms used for formal education, only with agreement from your competent authority. <p>2) In addition (with the exception of grassland for grazing), you may ‘parallel produce’ only if you:</p> <ol 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 | <p>If the organic and non-organic operations are run as separate businesses, this does not apply.</p> <p>In GB the competent authority is Defra.</p> |

- e) for perennial crops only agree with your certification body, to convert the whole area concerned within five years.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 11; Art. 22(2)(a)

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 40(1)

GB 2.3 Environmental management and conservation

What is this chapter about?

This chapter details the obligations of organic farmers to protect the environment. Organic farming aims to produce food while maintaining and contributing to the preservation of natural areas and the wider environment. Organic farming is rooted within living ecological systems and benefits from working with the natural environment. Using practices that attract or introduce beneficial insects, provide habitat for predatory birds and mammals and increase soil biodiversity fulfil vital ecological functions in organic production systems.

Standards

GB 2.3.1 Biodiversity conservation and enhancement

Your production activities must contribute to high levels of biodiversity and the protection of ecologically significant habitats. You must take into account the local or regional ecological balance when taking production decisions.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 3(a)(i)(ii); Art. 5(d)

Guidance



- Identify on your farm maps any ecologically significant habitats, such as water courses, wetlands, open water, springs, woodlands, large native trees, lowland meadows, ridge and furrow fields, hedgerows, heathlands or rare habitats as declared by local law that are part of your holding or affected by your activities on your holding.
- Include any statutory, non-statutory, local wildlife sites and Biodiversity Action Priority (BAP) habitats.
- In the UK the [MAGIC](#) website provides geographic information on the location and type of priority habitats.
- Describe the measures you will implement to ensure these areas and habitats are protected and/or enhanced.

Any practices that may damage statutory, non-statutory or local wildlife sites or ecologically significant habitats are prohibited. For example, ploughing species rich or unimproved grasslands.



Here is a [link](#) to the list of BAP priority habitats in the UK.

Resources on wildlife and habitat conservation are available from Natural England, Scottish National Heritage, Natural Resources Wales or Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Where UK statutory bodies are responsible for designation and monitoring of wildlife sites, they can offer advice on habitat management.

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| | <p>Statutory recognised sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internationally important wildlife sites • Special Protection Area (EU birds directive) • Special Area of Conservation (EU habitats directive) • RAMSAR site (convention on wetlands of international importance) <p>Nationally important wildlife sites in the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site of Special Scientific Interest (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) • National Nature Reserve <p>Non-statutory or local sites may be described by a range of terms including:</p> <p> • Wildlife site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) • Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), or • Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). <p>The bodies that designate and monitor the non-statutory and local sites are either your local authority or the local Wildlife Trusts. Information is also sometimes held by County Environmental Record Centres.</p> <p></p> |
| <p>GB 2.3.2 Preventing environmental contamination <u>You must use preventive measures at every stage of organic production, to prevent environmental pollution and contamination.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(f)</i> <i>EC) 834/2007 Art 4(iv), Art 3(a)(c), Art 5(n)</i></p> | <p><u>‘Preventive measures’ include measures to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and soil quality, measures for the prevention and control of pests and diseases and measures that are to be taken to avoid negative effects on the environment, animal health and plant health.</u></p> <p><u>This would include pollution of waters, soils, and surrounding environment.</u></p> <p><u>Preventive measures should be taken by operators at every stage - production, preparation, and distribution.</u></p> <p>Consider all aspects of your management practices and how they might impact on the environment.</p> |

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| | <p>These can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil • manure, milk, slurry, silage and other effluents • plastics • supplementary nutrient inputs • pest and disease control products • fuel • waste products • dirty water • leftover foot bath solution and spent dip • redundant machinery and batteries <p>Where you identify risks, describe how you will minimise these. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how you avoid run-off and the pollution of ground water • how you avoid the loss of nutrients to the air and water • how you ensure sufficient storage capacity for livestock manure and slurry • how you assess water pollution risk • compliance with statutory rules (e.g. Code of good practise, NVZ rules, Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil (SSAFO) regulations in the UK). <p>Pest and disease control products such as sheep dip may not meet these organic standards. If you have any queries please contact the Certification Team.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.3.3 Making responsible use of resources</p> <p>You must use energy, water and other natural resources responsibly. You must reduce or minimise your use of non-renewable resources and off-farm inputs.</p> <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 3(iii)</i> <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(b)</i></p> | <p>Identify which resources you use and ensure you use them efficiently.</p> <p>For example, for energy use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of energy you use (renewables, electricity, gas, CO₂) for which purposes. • How you record this use. • How you minimise the use, e.g. using smart technology, ensuring buildings are well insulated, ventilated and draught-proofed. • Ensure heating and cooling systems have functioning timers and thermostats. Adapt their use according to weather conditions. • Purchase energy-efficient equipment, keep equipment well-maintained and switch it off when not in use. • Drive vehicles efficiently, ensuring correct tyre pressures. |

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| | <p>Burning fuel solely to produce carbon dioxide for use in protected cropping is not sustainable and does not meet this standard.</p> <p>For example, for water use, including irrigation and abstraction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you use water efficiently. • Consider systems for rainwater capture, storage and use. • Monitor your use of water to ensure you minimise wastage and optimise soil water content. • Identify areas prone to run off and soil erosion, and adopt appropriate strategies to minimise these. Strategies might include selecting suitable stock type and levels, under-sowing, inter-cropping systems, non-inversion and contour cultivation, herbage strips and overwinter green covers. • Minimise the amount of dirty water you have to dispose of. • Identify any local drainage basin management issues. |
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GB 2.4 Managing your soil

What is this chapter about?

Organic production is based on nourishing plants primarily through the soil ecosystem. This section details how an organic production system maintains and enhances natural soil fertility, good soil structure, stability and biodiversity, preventing and combatting soil compaction and soil erosion.


| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 2.4.1 Managing your soil</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must manage your soils for soil health by maintaining and enhancing soil life, appropriate fertility, structure, stability and biodiversity. 2. Your plants must be nourished primarily through the soil ecosystem. The organic matter, fertility and biological activity of the soil must be maintained and increased primarily by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) varied crop rotation b) legumes c) green manure crops d) the responsible application of livestock manure or organic material preferably composted and from organic production. 3. The soil must be managed to enhance stability, soil organic matter levels and soil structure and to prevent compaction, erosion and | <p>By following the organic standards your system will ensure that plant, water, animal and soil health are sustained and improved.</p> <p>We recommend monitoring and regularly reviewing your organic matter and nutrient levels of your soils alongside other soil health parameters. We may require evidence that soil fertility is being maintained. This may be through soil testing results and/or yield records.</p> <p>This should take into consideration areas of your farm which are prone to compaction, erosion, run-off, flooding, waterlogging and different soil types, and manage them appropriately. You may have this detailed in a crop or livestock management plan.</p> <p>Your system should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build and maintain the health of your soil |

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| <p>run-off.</p> <p>4. Mineral nitrogen fertilisers cannot be used. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(a)(c); Art. 12(1)(a)(b)(e)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise the efficient use of nutrients • minimise the use of brought-in inputs • minimise the risk of soil and water run-off, flooding, wind, and soil erosion • maintain good soil structure <p>If your crop or livestock management is not delivering these objectives then you need to review and amend your practices accordingly and update your crop and livestock management plans.</p> <p>In systems where crop rotation is not possible, you need to demonstrate that you are building and maintaining soil fertility by other means.</p> <p>The main examples of production systems where you cannot produce crops within a rotation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permanent pastures, including upland habitats • perennial crops such as orchards, vineyards and plantation crops. <p>We may require evidence that soil fertility is being maintained. This may be through soil testing results and/or yield records.</p> <p>Poaching, overgrazing and damage to grass and soil in pasture can be minimised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing or removing stock when soils are wet • moving stock to new pasture • moving feeders and water troughs at regular intervals or installing them onto permanent hard standing • avoiding using heavy machinery on wet grassland • restricting access to wet areas of the field and rivers/streams/pond banks. |
| <p>GB 2.4.2 Hydroponics</p> <p>Hydroponic production is prohibited. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 4</p> | |


GB 2.5 Fertilisers and soil conditioners

What is this chapter about?

This section covers standards for the fertilisers and soil conditioners that you can use in Soil Association crop production and the conditions for their use.

| Standards | | Guidance |
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| GB 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. <div style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(d)(e); Art. 16(1)(b)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(1)</i></div> 4) The products in the table below may only be used if they are authorised for your intended use in your country. <div style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)</i></div> | | <p>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.</p> <p>For each supplementary nutrient you wish to use demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • the method used for comparing nutrients that enter and leave the farm. <p>It may be beneficial to integrate a nutrient management plan with your crop management plan, to help with nutrient budgeting.</p> <p>Further details on NVZ requirements can be found here, and in standard 2.5.3 and 3.6.4</p> <p>You can record the details of how you are meeting the requirements of this standard in your own Crop production plan or complete a ‘Crop Management Plan template’ which is available on our websitehttps://www.soilassociation.org/certification/farming/licensee-resources/certification-forms/. These will be reviewed by the Certification Team to check that standard requirements are met.</p> <p>Any changes to your plan should be submitted to the Certification Team for review.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Fertiliser and soil conditioner input records.</p> </div> <p>Lists of certified fertiliser products are available on our website.</p> |
| GB 2.5.2 Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients | | <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(1); Annex I</i> |
| Name of product | Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use | |
| Farmyard manure (FYM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-organic manure must not be from factory farming origin (defined below) or contain GM ingredients. • Liquid animal manure must undergo controlled fermentation and/or appropriate dilution before use. | |

| | <p>Guidance</p> <p>Preferably from Soil Association or other organically certified systems and preferably composted.</p> <p>You must retain information on the source, including the animal species and the husbandry system it comes from. We may request labels of feed fed to the animals producing the manure at inspection.</p> <p>If you use non-organic manure, the following sources meet this standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poultry manure and deep litter from the following egg producing systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ free range ◦ deep litter systems which have a maximum stocking density of 7 birds/ m² ◦ deep litter rearing systems which have a maximum stocking density of 20kg/m² • Poultry manure and deep litter from free range, traditional free range and extensive indoor barn reared meat producing systems which have a maximum stocking density of 30kg/m² • Manure from straw-based pig production systems, not including indoor tethered sow breeding units • Manure from cattle systems where cattle have access to pasture for at least part of the year. <p>Animals from all these systems must be able to freely turn through 360° for the majority or all of their life-cycle and must not be kept permanently in the dark.</p> <p>A directory of Soil Association certified composts can be found here.</p> |
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| Name of product | Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use |
| Composted or fermented mixture of household waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product obtained from source separated household waste, which has been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production. • Only vegetable and animal household waste • Only when produced in a closed and monitored collection system, accepted by the Member State • The concentrations of heavy metals in mg/kg of dry matter must not exceed: cadmium: 0.7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): not detectable. |
| Peat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use limited to horticulture (market gardening, floriculture, arboriculture, nursery stock) |
| Mushroom compost | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This must be initially made from products permitted in this table. |
| Dejecta of worms (vermicompost) and insects | |
| Guano | |
| Composted or fermented mixture of vegetable matter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composts obtained from mixtures of vegetable matter which has been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production. |
| Biogas digestate containing animal by-products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-products of animal origin (including by-products from wild animals) of category 3 and digestive tract content |

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| co-digested with material of plant or animal origin as listed in this table | <p>of category 2 (categories 2 and 3 as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council). Animal by-products must not be from factory farming origin. The processing must have been done in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 142/2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to be applied to edible parts of the crop. <p>Guidance</p> <p>Biogas digestate has high nitrogen availability, so is only suitable for situations where nitrogen loss can be controlled, e.g. application in spring when the crop is actively growing.</p> |
| <p>Products or by-products of animal origin as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood meal • Hoof meal • Horn meal • Feather meal • Bone meal or degelatinised bone meal • Fish meal • Meat meal • Hair and ‘chiquette’ meal • Wool • Fur • Hair • Dairy products • Hydrolysed proteins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrolysed proteins must not be applied on edible parts of the crop. • For furs the maximum level of chromium (VI) must not be greater than: not detectable. <p>Guidance</p> <p> You should use products sourced from organic or extensive farming systems where possible.</p> <p>The Soil Association will continue to review the use of animal products with the aim of permitting only animal products sourced from organic or extensive systems in the future. If you are aware of any research or developments in this area please contact a member of the Standards Team: consultation@soilassociation.org</p> <p>Non-animal based alternatives to these inputs, such as composts, farmyard manure or soft ground rock phosphate, may be suitable to treat your nutrient deficiency.</p> <p>Animal products typically have readily available nitrogen and are suitable only for situations where nitrogen loss can be controlled.</p> |
| Products and by-products of plant origin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, oilseed cake meal, cocoa husks, malt culms. |
| Hydrolysed proteins of plant origin | |
| Seaweeds and seaweed products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For products which have been through the following processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding, (ii) extraction with water or aqueous acid and/or alkaline solution, or (iii) fermentation |
| Name of product | Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use |
| Sawdust and wood chips, composted bark and wood ash | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wood must not have been chemically treated after felling. |
| Leonardite | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw organic sediment rich in humic acids. • Only if it is obtained as a by-product of mining activities. |

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| Organic rich sediment from fresh water bodies formed under exclusion of oxygen (e.g. sapropel) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only organic sediments that are by-products of fresh water body management or extracted from former freshwater areas. When applicable, extraction methods should cause minimal impact on the aquatic system. Only sediments derived from sources free from contaminations of pesticides, persistent organic pollutants and petrol-like substances. The concentrations of heavy metals in mg/kg of dry matter must not exceed: cadmium: 0.7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): not detectable. |
| Chitin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The polysaccharide obtained from the shell of crustaceans. Only if obtained from organic aquaculture or sustainable fisheries, as defined in Article 3e of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002. |
| Soft ground rock phosphate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product as specified in point 7 of Annex 1 A.2 of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. The cadmium content must be less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P₂O₅. |
| Aluminium-calcium phosphate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product as specified in point 6 of Annex I A.2. of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. The cadmium content must be less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P₂O₅. Use only allowed where the soil pH is greater than 7.5. |
| Basic slag | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products as specified in point 1 of Annex I A.2 of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. |
| Crude potassium salt or kainit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products as specified in point 1 of Annex I A.3 of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. |
| Potassium sulphate, possibly containing magnesium salt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product obtained from crude potassium salt by a physical extraction process, possibly containing magnesium salts. |
| Stillage and stillage extract | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ammonium stillage excluded. |
| Calcium carbonate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only of natural origin, for example chalk, marl, ground limestone, Breton ameliorant, phosphate chalk. |
| Mollusc waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only from sustainable fisheries, as defined in Article 4 (1) (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 or organic aquaculture |
| | <p>Guidance You should also comply with Animal By-Product Regulations, for example in the UK.</p> |
| Egg shells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not be of factory farming origin. |
| | <p>Guidance You should also comply with Animal By-Product Regulations, for example in the UK.</p> |
| Name of product | Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use |
| Magnesium and calcium carbonate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only of natural origin, for example magnesium chalk, ground magnesium, limestone. |
| Magnesium sulphate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only of natural origin, for example kieserite. |
| Calcium chloride solution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foliar treatment of apple trees, after identification of a calcium deficiency |

| Calcium sulphate (gypsum) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only of natural origin. Products as specified in point 1 of Annex I D of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------|-------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|---------|-----|---|-------|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|----------|-----|-----------|---|----------|---|---------------------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Industrial lime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only as a by-product of sugar production from sugar beet or sugar cane, or vacuum salt production from brine found in mountains. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elemental sulphur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products as specified in Annex I D.3 of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trace elements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only the inorganic micronutrients listed in Annex I, part E of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sodium chloride | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stone meal and clays | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, ground basalt, bentonite, perlite and vermiculite. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humic and fulvic acids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only if obtained by inorganic salts/solutions excluding ammonium salts; or obtained from drinking water purification. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Xylite | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only if obtained as a by-product of mining activities (e.g. by-product of brown coal mining). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biochar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pyrolysis product made from a wide variety of organic materials of plant origin and applied as a soil conditioner. Only from plant materials, untreated or treated with products listed in standard 2.6.3. Maximum value of 4 mg polycyclic aromatic hydro-carbons (PAHs) per kg dry matter (DM). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Standards | Guidance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>GB 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. The field limit is 250kg of nitrogen per hectare per year. In nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs) the limit may be lower.</p> <p>To help calculate how much nitrogen is applied to your land you can use the table below:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Solid manure (per t or m³)</th><th>N(kg)</th></tr> <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>Solid manure (per t or m³)</th><th>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> <tr> <td>Horse FYM</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Goat FYM</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <th>Slurry/liquid (per 1000l)</th><th>N(kg)</th></tr> <tr> <td>Cattle</td><td>2.6</td></tr> </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 | Horse FYM | 7 | Goat FYM | 6 | Slurry/liquid (per 1000l) | N(kg) | Cattle | 2.6 |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| | 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. | |
| Standards | Guidance | |
| GB 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. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(3)</i> | 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. | |
| GB 2.5.5 Micro-organisms To improve soil condition or nutrient availability you may use appropriate preparations of micro-organisms. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(4)</i> | You must check that the product is authorised for use in your country for the intended purpose and it is not a GMO or derived from GMOs. | |
| GB 2.5.6 Compost activators For compost activation you may use compost activators made from microbial and plant extracts. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(5)</i> | Check that the product is authorised for use in your country for the intended purpose and it is not a GMO or derived from GMOs. | |
| GB 2.5.7 Biodynamic preparations | Refer to the Demeter biodynamic standards for information on biodynamic preparations. Any animal by-products used must meet these standards. | |

You may use biodynamic preparations.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(c)

GB 2.6 Controlling pests and disease

What is this chapter about?

Organic farming is a holistic agricultural production system that works with, rather than against, natural systems. Weeds are controlled, and pest and disease damage is reduced, using techniques which are sustainable and promote environmental preservation. It is fundamentally important that organic principles and practices are the primary tools in maintaining viable and healthy production systems. Any additional inputs should be viewed only as supplements, not substitutes, to the system and should only be called upon when absolutely necessary.

This chapter explains how organic farmers must prevent and control pests and disease, which plant protection products are permitted on organic crops and the conditions of use for these products.

| Standards | Guidance |
|---|---|
| <p>GB 2.6.1 Pest, disease and weed management</p> <p>The design and management of your organic system must rely primarily on organic preventative measures and practices to control and prevent damage caused by pests, diseases and weeds. This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Creating fertile soils with high biodiversityb) Choosing appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and diseasesc) Grafting onto resistant rootstockd) Appropriate crop rotationse) Protecting and encouraging natural enemies of pests. You may also introduce natural predatorsf) Mechanical and physical methodsg) Carefully planning planting datesh) Pre-emergence and post-emergence mechanical weedingi) Thermal processesj) Using steam to sterilise buildings and equipmentk) Using good husbandry and hygiene practices to limit the spread of any pests or disease. <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(f); Art. 12(g)</p> | <p>Storage areas should be cleaned appropriately and if necessary, left empty for a suitable length of time before use, to act as a disease and insect break.</p> |

GB 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 a 'Crop Management Plan template' which is available on our [website](#). These will be reviewed by the Certification Team to check that standard requirements are met.

Any changes to your plan should be submitted to the Certification Team 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 [Pesticides Register of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Authorised Products](#). . 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.

GB 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 |
| 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 Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 that are covered by the definition of ‘foodstuff’ in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and have plant or animal origin.</p> <p>Substances not to be used as herbicides, but only for the control of pests and diseases. 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 |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinegar • Whey • <i>Equisetum arvense</i> L. • Chitosan hydrochloride (Obtained from sustainable fisheries or organic aquaculture) <p>Contact the Certification Team 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 | |
| Copper compounds in the form of: <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 must check the pesticide register for the authorisation of the product you plan to use. You must comply with all specifications including the application limit set by the authorisation for the product you plan to use.</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 <i>Solanaceae</i> . |
| Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth) | |
| Lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide) | |
| Paraffin oil | |
| Potassium and sodium hydrogen carbonate (aka potassium/sodium bicarbonate) | |

| Pyrethroids (only deltamethrin or lambdacyhalothrin) | 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>GB 2.6.4. Using products in traps and dispensers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For products used in traps and dispensers, except pheromone dispensers, the traps and/or dispensers must prevent the substances from being released into the environment and prevent contact between the substances and the crops being cultivated. The traps must be collected after use and disposed of safely. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 5(2) | |

GB 2.7 Seeds, plant propagation and potted plants

What is this chapter about?

The aim of these standards is to ensure a broad range of varieties of high-quality organic seeds are available that will meet your production, environmental and market needs. At the same time it is important that you, the grower, have access to suitable seeds for organic production even when they are not yet available as organic.

| Standards | Guidance |
|--|--|
| <p>GB 2.7.1 Producing organic seed and propagating material</p> <p>To produce organic seeds and propagating material you must grow the mother plant to organic standards for at least one generation, or for perennial plants, two growing seasons. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(1)(i)</p> | <p>Propagating material includes cuttings and strawberry runners. Transplants are not regarded as propagating material and requirements for transplants are described in standard 2.7.8.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.7.2 Registering organic seed or seed potatoes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If you wish to sell organic seed or seed potatoes you can register your varieties that are available as organic on the seed database of organic seed availability. For registration, the supplier must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate that the supplier or the last operator, in cases where the supplier is only dealing with pre-packaged seed or seed potatoes, holds organic certification to produce organic seed or seed potatoes. | <p>In GB OrganicXseeds UK is the official database of organic seed availability.</p> <p>Any variety which has not been registered in the database will be considered unavailable when certification bodies are making decisions on granting derogations to allow the use of non-organic seeds.</p> <p>If the supplier does not provide all the information described in point 1 c) the manager of the database may, with the approval by the competent authority, refuse the supplier's application for registration or delete a previously accepted registration.</p> |

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| <p>b) Demonstrate that the seed or seed potatoes to be placed on the market comply with the general requirements applicable to seed and seed potatoes.</p> <p>c) Provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the scientific name of the species and the variety denomination ii) the name and contact details of the supplier or representative iii) the area where the supplier can deliver the seed or seed potatoes to the user and the usual time needed for the delivery iv) the country or region in which the variety is tested and approved for inclusion in the common catalogues of varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species as defined in Council Directives 2002/53/EC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species and 2002/55/EC on the marketing of vegetable seed v) the date from which the seed or seed potatoes will be available vi) the name and/or code number of the control authority or control body certifying the organic activity. <p>d) This information must be kept up to date and the supplier must immediately inform the manager of the database if any of registered varieties are no longer available.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 50; Art. 51</i></p> | <p>A fee may be charged for each registration which will represent the cost of inserting and maintaining the information in the database. For more details please see the OrganicXseeds website.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.7.3 Seed and plant propagating material</p> <p>When using seed and plant propagating material you must, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) use organic seeds and plant propagating material when a suitable variety is available b) use in-conversion seeds and plant propagating material when a suitable variety is available <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(1)(i); Art. 22(2)(b)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 45(1)(a)</i></p> | <p>You can find details of available organic seeds and seed potatoes at www.organicxseeds.co.uk.</p> |

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|---|--|
| <p>GB 2.7.4 Using non-organic seed and vegetative propagating material</p> <p>When there are no organic or in-conversion seeds or vegetative propagating material of a suitable variety available you may use non-organic. Your control body has to approve all permissions to use non-organic untreated seeds or vegetative propagating material. The conditions under which permission will be granted for non-organic seed and seed potatoes are set out in standard 2.7.5.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(b)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 45(1)(b)</i></p> | <p>You can find details of available organic seeds and seed potatoes at www.organicxseeds.co.uk. You can submit derogation requests online or you can ask us for a seed derogation form. You will need to get permission before you use any non-organic seed or seed potatoes. Any derogation will only be valid for one growing season.</p> <p>You do not require prior approval when sowing grass/forage/arable silage/whole crop silage/cover crop green manure mixes that contain at least 70% (by weight) organic seeds as long as you provide details of these on the Annual Questionnaire we will send you before your inspection.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.7.5 Conditions under which non-organic seed may be authorised</p> <p>The conditions under which the authorisation to use non-organic seed or seed potatoes may be granted are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) where no variety of the species which the user wants to obtain is registered on the www.organicxseeds.co.uk database b) where no supplier, meaning an operator who markets seed or seed potatoes to other operators, is able to deliver the seed or seed potatoes before sowing or planting in situations where you have ordered the seed or seed potatoes in reasonable time c) where the variety which you wish to obtain is not registered on the www.organicxseeds.co.uk database, and you can demonstrate that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate and that the authorisation therefore is significant for your production d) where it is justified for use in research, tests in small-scale field trials, or for variety conservation purposes agreed by the competent authority. The authorisation must be granted before the sowing of the crop and the derogation will only be valid for one growing season. The competent authority may grant general authorisation for all producers where conditions in point (a) and(c) are fulfilled. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 45(5-9)</i></p> | |

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| <p>GB 2.7.6 Organically available species</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When species for which we know organic seed or seed potatoes are available in sufficient number of varieties and quantities in all parts of the Community, they will be listed in the guidance to this standard. 2. Species listed cannot be grown from non-organic seed or seed potatoes unless it is justified and agreed by your certification body for use in research, to test in small scale field trials or for variety conservation purposes. <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 45(3); Annex X</i></p> | <p>Currently there are no species listed in Annex X.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.7.7. Chemically treated seed</p> <p>Non-organic seed and seed potatoes must not be treated with plant protection products that are not listed in standard 2.6.3, unless your competent authority requires it for plant health (phytosanitary) reasons.</p> <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 45(2), Art. 5(1)</i></p> | <p>In GB the competent authority is Defra.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.7.8 Buying transplants</p> <p>If you use transplants (bare root, blocks, modules, trees, soft fruit bushes) they must have been grown to organic standards by a certified organic producer.</p> <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 1(a)</i></p> | <p>Transplants are plants which are intended to be grown on in an organic production system within the soil before being harvested and sold as organic. Therefore, transplants are not plant propagating material, but represent a stage of plant production and so must be grown to organic standards.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.7.9 Growing transplants</p> <p>To produce transplants for use in organic growing, you may only use substrates made from materials in standard 2.5.2. Manure and plant material must be organic where available and preferably composted.</p> <p><i>(EC) 834.2007 Art. 12(1)(b)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(1)</i></p> | |

GB 2.8 Standards for mushroom production

What is this chapter about?

This section has specific standards for cultivating mushrooms. You must also comply with the applicable standards in Chapter 1 'General standards for farming and growing' and Chapter 2 'Standards for organic land and crops'.

| Standards | Guidance |
|---|--|
| <p>GB 2.8.1 Substrates for mushroom production</p> <p>1. You may only use the following substrates for mushroom production:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">manure from organic productionother products of agricultural origin produced according to organic production methodspeat which has not been chemically treatedwood which has not been chemically treated after fellingmineral products permitted in standard 2.5.2.water and soil. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 6</p> | <p>You may use in-conversion products produced to organic standards.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.8.2 Using non-organic manure</p> <p>1. You may only use non-organic manure in the substrate if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">manure from an organic farm is not available, andnon-organic manure does not exceed 25% of the substrate. <p>2. The percentage must be calculated as the fresh weight, before composting, of all components except the casing and any added water.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 6(a)(ii)</p> | <p>You must be able to demonstrate that organic manure is not available. For example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">providing correspondence with local organic producers who may be able to supply you with manureevidence of advertising for organic manure. <p>We recognise that the principle of returning organic manures to organic land often means that organic manures are not readily available.</p> |

GB 2.9 Standards for wild harvesting

What's this chapter about?


These standards cover the harvesting of plants, plant products and fungi from the wild (but not animals). Some people also call this 'wild crafting'. These standards cover a wide range of products and geographical areas. The aim of our standards is to make sure that when you harvest wild products:

- the yields you take are sustainable for the long-term preservation of the target species
- you protect the biodiversity of the area, and
- you prevent contamination.


You must also comply with the applicable standards in Chapter 1 'General standards for farming and growing' and Chapter 2 'Standards for organic land and crops'.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 2.9.1 Scope</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The following standards apply to the collection of wild plants, plant resources and fungi, growing naturally in natural areas, forests and agricultural areas 2. These standards do not apply to products from hunting and fishing wild animals. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 1(2) Art. 12</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 2.9.2 Wild harvest plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before starting your organic enterprise you must write a plan detailing how you will comply with these organic standards. The plan must be updated when you make any significant changes to your activity. 2. The plan must include a full description of your premises, units and activities. Including; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) storage and production premises, collection areas and, where applicable, processing and/or packaging premises b) the date of the last input on the collection area of any agrochemicals, artificial fertilisers and other materials which are not permitted in these organic standards. 3. Where third parties are involved in the management or control of the wild harvest collection area, you must provide guarantees from them which ensure that standards 2.9.3, 2.9.4 and 2.9.5 are complied with. | <p>You will need to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A map of the collection area which shows the target populations as well as other sensitive species and habitats • A description of the species, Latin and local names, and collected parts/resources • A management plan for sustainable wild harvest. For more information on requirements refer to standard 2.9.4 and 2.9.5. • A management plan for assessment and regular monitoring of the target resources and habitats • The planned harvesting quantities • Collectors' registers in order to make sure that all collectors are well trained and know the rules of collection • How you ensure collectors are trained, knowledgeable and competent in the following aspects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Plant to be collected (including which parts, harvesting area, minimum quality requirements etc.) ii. Sustainable collection methods iii. Post-harvest handling of collected material |

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| <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1)(a); Art. 70</p> | <p>iv. Any annual written authorisation from local and national regulatory bodies or other authorities where available.</p> <p>Your collection instructions must be regularly reviewed and revised if necessary based on site and species-specific monitoring of collection impacts. If you make any significant changes in your operation, inform the Certification Team. Significant changes are, for example, change of location of an activity, change of ownership, change of contact person or alteration of certified production.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.9.3 Wild harvest land treated with prohibited products The area which you use for wild harvesting must not have been treated with products which are not permitted in these organic standards during the last three years before harvest. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(2)(a)</p> | <p>You must be able to demonstrate what effective measures are taken to ensure that any collection areas are not affected by contamination with prohibited products.</p> <p>On a map of the collection area identify any areas or potential sources of contamination (towns, industry, landfills, intensive agriculture areas, etc.)</p> |
| <p>GB 2.9.4 Maintaining wild plant resources The wild harvesting of plant resources must maintain the species in the collection area. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(2)(b)</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. b. 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. |

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| | <p>Compliance to Principle 1 of the FairWild Standard demonstrates that you are meeting the requirements of this standard. In most cases it will not be possible to meet this principle if the harvested species is classified by the IUCN (www.iucn.org) red list as ‘critically endangered’.</p> <p> A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors.</p> |
| <p>GB 2.9.5 Preventing negative environmental impacts The collection activities must not negatively impact the habitat and other wild species in the collection area. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(2)(b)</p> | <p>You must hold information about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any rare, 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>Compliance to Principle 2 of the FairWild Standard demonstrates that you are meeting the requirements of this standard.</p> |

| GB 3.0 Standards for organic livestock production | |
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| GB 3.1 Converting your animals to organic | |
| What is this chapter about? This section covers the conversion periods for different livestock species and livestock products. It also includes standards for reduced conversion periods for land used for pig and poultry production and additional rules for the conversion of land used to feed organic livestock. | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 3.1.1 Producing organic livestock 1. Organic animals must be born and raised on an organic holding and managed to full organic standards throughout their lives. 2. For breeding purposes, non-organically raised animals may be brought onto a holding under the conditions of standard 3.2.2. Such animals and their products may be deemed organic after compliance with the conversion period referred to in standard 3.1.2. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(i); Art. 14(1)(a)(i)(ii)</i> | We will collect information on the status of your stock (organic, converted breeding stock and non-organic) during your inspection. You may mate animals on in-conversion land. |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 3.1.2 Producing organic livestock products 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12 months in the case of cattle for meat production, and in any case at least three quarters if their lifetime 6 months in the case of pigs 6 months in the case of sheep, cows and goats for milk production 6 weeks in the case of poultry for egg production 10 weeks for poultry of slow-growing strains for meat production, brought in before they are 3 days old for fast growing strains of poultry for meat production, refer to standard 3.12.19 for minimum slaughter ages. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 38(1)</i> | 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 on minimum ages when poultry can be slaughtered. In GB, 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. If this daily live weight gain is exceeded, the poultry would be classified as a fast growing strain. |

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 3.1.3 Simultaneous conversion</p> <p>Where non-organic animals exist on your holding when you begin to convert your land, you may convert all your livestock, pasturage and/or any land used for animal feed at the same time. The total combined conversion period, for livestock, pasturage and/or any land used for animal feed, before you can sell the animals or their products as organic, is 24 months. The animals must be mainly fed with products from this land.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(a)(iii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 38(2)</i></p> | <p>We interpret ‘mainly’ as meaning 51% or more.</p> <p>Animals that meet the requirements of simultaneous conversion may be brought on to or sold off your unit, but such livestock and any products from them may not be sold as organic until both buying and selling units have completed their conversion periods. Ask us to detail the stock on your trading schedule as ‘stock reared under simultaneous conversion’ before you trade or sell them (normally after your second inspection).</p> <p>If you have any other non-organic stock on the converting unit you must agree with us, through your conversion plan, when you will remove them.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.1.4 Selling in-conversion animals or animal products</p> <p>During the conversion periods you must not sell any of your livestock or livestock products as organic or ‘in-conversion’.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 17(1)(f); Art. 26(b)</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.1.5 Conversion of land used to feed livestock</p> <p>You must make sure that by the time your livestock operation reaches organic status, any land on your unit used for their grazing or feed is either organic or in-conversion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 37(1)</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.1.6 Conversion period for land used for pig and poultry production</p> <p>Notwithstanding the provisions in standard 3.1.5. Soil Association Certification may allow you to use land in its second year of conversion for organic pig or poultry production. This may be reduced further to allow the use of land after six months of conversion, if the land has not received anything which is prohibited in these organic standards for at least 12 months.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 37(2)</i></p> | <p>If you wish to make use of the provision to reduce the conversion period to 6 months, you will need to demonstrate that no prohibited inputs have been used on the land for the last 12 months. For example, through input records, or by being part of a recognised environmental scheme which prohibits the use of these inputs. Physical evidence and records will be used to confirm compliance at inspection.</p> <p> Input records may be required</p> |

GB 3.2 Sourcing livestock

What is this chapter about?

This chapter covers the standards on sourcing and bringing in livestock onto your holding. Organic farming aims to complete the production cycles of livestock species with organically reared animals. The objective is to increase the availability and the gene pool of organic animals and improve the self-reliance of the organic farming sector. The choice of breeds used should take account of their capacity to adapt to local conditions, their vitality and their resistance to disease.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 3.2.1 Breed and livestock selection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When choosing the breed and strain of your livestock you must give preference to indigenous breeds and strains. You must choose breeds or strains that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> are suitable to local conditions avoid the need for the mutilation of animals have vitality and resistance to disease, including specific health problems or diseases associated with some breeds or strains used in intensive production, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> porcine stress syndrome PSE Syndrome (pale-soft-exudative) sudden death spontaneous abortion, and 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>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>Some breeds and strains of chicken are not suitable for organic systems because research has shown them to be predisposed to welfare problems.</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. |
| <p>GB 3.2.2 Bringing in livestock</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If you need to bring in livestock you must source, in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> from other organic herds or flocks converted breeding stock non-organic breeding stock Only when organic animals are not available in sufficient number and subject to the conditions of the standards in this section, may you bring non-organic animals onto your holding for breeding purposes. | <p>A wide range of organic and converted breeding stock is normally available. There are several sources where you can look for organic stock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Organic Marketplace Similar platforms on other certification bodies' websites Organic marketing groups Organic sales at livestock markets and private sales Online auctions <p>Organic Poultry suppliers in the UK are listed here.</p> |

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| <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(a)(i)(ii) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 9(1)</p> | <p>If you are planning on bringing in non-organic animals you will need to demonstrate to us that organic animals are not available before purchase. You will need to contact the Certification Team with details.</p> <p>If you bring in non-organic animals see section 3.1 on conversion requirements.</p> <p>If you need more information please contact the Certification Team.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.2.3 Establishing a herd or flock When you are establishing a herd or flock for the first time you may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 9(2)</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Please refer to standards 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 for the livestock conversion requirements</p> |
| <p>GB 3.2.4 Replacement breeding stock</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To renew a herd or flock you may bring in non-organic male and female breeding stock only if organic is not available in sufficient numbers. 2. The number of non-organic female breeding stock you bring on must comply with the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) only up to 10% of your existing number of adults in your herd, per year for equine or cows, including buffalo and bison species b) only up to 20% of your existing number of adults in your herd or flock, per year for pigs, sheep and goats c) only one animal if you have less than five sheep, pigs or goats or less than ten cattle or equine animals d) females must not have previously given birth, in other words, they are before their first calving, lambing or farrowing. 3. Breeding stock brought onto your holding must be kept according | <p>The percentage must be calculated from the number of adult animals present on the holding prior to bringing in your replacements. The allowance is calculated as the number of replacements brought in within a 12 month period.</p> <p><u>There is no limit to the number of non-organic males you may bring in for breeding. If you bring in male breeding stock this does not reduce the number of female breeding stock you can bring in.</u></p> |


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| <p>to these organic standards.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 9(3)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.2.5 Additional allowances for bringing in non-organic stock</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With prior authorisation from your competent authority you may increase the percentage of non-organic breeding stock you bring in up to 40% of your existing adults in the following special cases: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) if you are significantly increasing the size of your herd or flock b) if you are changing breed c) if you are developing a new livestock enterprise, or d) it is a rare breed. 2. These animals must not have previously given birth, unless they are a rare breed. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 9(4)</p> | <p>In GB, permission is granted by the competent authority, Defra, and we will submit an application on your behalf. Permission will only be granted if you show us that appropriate organic or converted stock is not available.</p> <p>We will need the following details from you to submit to the competent authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why you cannot source organic animals • which organic suppliers you have contacted • the number of animals you need • the number of non-organic animals you plan to bring in and when • the name of your suppliers • whether any suppliers will be able to supply you with organic animals in future. <p>A wide range of organic and converted breeding stock is normally available. There are several sources where you can look for organic stock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Organic Marketplace - Similar platforms on other Certification Bodies' websites - Organic marketing groups - Organic sales at livestock markets and private sales - Online auctions. <p>Organic Poultry suppliers in the UK are listed here.</p> <p>Animals eligible to be considered as a rare breed must meet the conditions in <i>Annex IV to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1974/2006</i> (13)</p> |
| <p>GB 3.2.6 Exceptional rules for poultry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When you are establishing for the first time, renewing or reconstituting a flock, non-organic poultry may be brought in only when organic poultry are not available in sufficient numbers. If you have to bring in non-organic poultry you must in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) use pullets for egg production, or chicks for meat production, that have been kept to organic standards from three days of age, if they are available. b) use non-organic pullets for egg production before they are 18 weeks old. Any non-organic pullets you bring in must have | <p>Organic Poultry suppliers in the UK are listed here.</p> <p>The ability to use non-organic poultry with prior permission from Defra has been extended until 31st December 2025.</p> <p>If you are bringing in non-organic poultry you must have permission from your competent authority before you bring them onto the holding. In the UK, permission is granted by the competent authority and we will submit an application on your behalf. You must show us that organic poultry is not available in sufficient numbers and you must place an advert for the required organic poultry on the Organic Marketplace for at least 5 days before submitting the derogation request.</p> |


| <p>been reared to the veterinary and feed standards detailed in sections 3.4 and 3.10.</p> <p>2. You must have prior authorisation from your competent authority before bringing in any non-organic poultry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(b)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 42</i></p> | <p>We will need the following details from you to submit to the competent authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why you cannot source organic birds • which organic suppliers you have contacted • the number of birds you need • the number of non-organic birds you plan to bring in and when • the name of your suppliers • whether any suppliers will be able to supply you with organic birds in future. <p>The request must be submitted at least two weeks before ordering any non-organic birds to ensure enough time for review and approval to be given. A form with all the relevant questions is available on our website or from the Certification Team.</p> |
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| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.2.7 Exceptional rules due to catastrophic circumstances</p> <p>1. In the case of high mortality caused by health or catastrophic circumstances, you may renew or reconstitute your herd or flock with non-organic animals, when organically reared animals are not available and provided that the respective conversion periods are applied to the non-organic animals. Your competent authority must authorise this.</p> <p>2. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(f)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 47(a)</i></p> | <p>In GB, the Certification Team can submit a request to your competent authority, Defra, on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before you bring in non-organic livestock.</p> <p>An example of high mortality caused by ill health may be a TB outbreak.</p> |

GB 3.3 Keeping organic and non-organic livestock

What is this chapter about?


This section details when conventional and organic livestock production on the same holding is permitted and how separation must be maintained.




| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 3.3.1 Keeping non-organic livestock</p> <p>1. On your organic holding you may only keep non-organic livestock provided that they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) a different species to your organic stock,b) kept on clearly separate parcels of land, andc) kept in clearly separate buildings. <p>2. You must have adequate records to show separation. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 11; Art. 14(v) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 17(1)(5)</p> | <p>Non-organic livestock enterprises can only graze the organic land provided they meet the criteria in standard 3.3.3.</p> <p>Livestock kept as pets or for your own use only and not as a commercial enterprise may be kept on your organic holding and do not have to be kept to organic standards. If they have access to organic land they must be fed non-GM feed.</p> <p>If you sell any products from your non-organic livestock, this becomes a non-organic commercial enterprise and you must meet this standard.</p> <p> Records demonstrating separation</p> |
| <p>GB 3.3.2 Parallel production exceptions</p> <p>Your competent authority may authorise you to keep organic and non-organic livestock of the same species, on your organic holding, if you are carrying out agricultural research or formal education, where the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) appropriate measures, notified in advance to us, have been taken in order to guarantee the permanent separation between livestock, livestock products, manure and feedstuffs of each of the unitsb) you must inform us in advance of any delivery or selling of the livestock or livestock products, andc) you must tell us of the exact quantities of livestock or livestock products you produce, how you have identified them and confirm to us that you have applied all of the measures you have agreed with us. <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(1)(a) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 40(2)</p> | <p>In GB, permission is granted by the competent authority and we will submit an application on your behalf. Contact the Certification Team for more information.</p> |


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| <p>GB 3.3.3 Grazing non-organic stock on your land</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> You may graze non-organic stock on your organic or converting land for a limited time if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> they come from extensive husbandry or a system with a maximum stocking rate equivalent to 170kg of nitrogen per hectare per year, and you do not graze organic animals on those fields at the same time. You must have records of your use of this provision. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 17(2)(5) | <p>In GB, the competent authority usually limits the amount of time to a maximum of 120 days per calendar year that non-organic animals are on your whole holding, not on individual fields.</p> <p>Refer to standard 3.6.3 on maximum stocking rates.</p> <p> Records of non-organic stock grazing your land</p> |
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| GB 3.4 Keeping animals healthy and treating disease | |
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| <p>What's this chapter about?</p> <p>Organic farming aims to maintain animal health through prevention of disease and minimising the use of veterinary medicines. This section contains standards on how disease is prevented and what to do if any animals become sick or injured.</p> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 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.</p> <p>Preventative measures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> breed and strain selection husbandry management practices high quality feed and exercise appropriate stocking density, and adequate and appropriate housing maintained in hygienic conditions. <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(e)(i); 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>Livestock management plan templates can be found on our website.</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> |

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| | <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> |
| <p>GB 3.4.2 Quarantine If you obtain livestock from non-organic units, special measures such as screening tests or quarantine periods may apply, depending on local circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(3)</i></p> | <p>In your health plan, include details of the biosecurity measures you implement when bringing new or returning animals, including any organic animals, onto your farm and managing diseased stock.</p> <p>This could include isolation, blood testing, TB testing, buying from disease free sources, direct sources, double fencing. For more information on suitable measures refer to government advice and the TB Advisory Service.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.4.3 Treating disease and injury</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If an animal becomes sick or injured they must be treated immediately, if necessary in isolation and in suitable housing. 2. When treating you must use phytotherapeutic and homeopathic products and the trace elements, vitamins and minerals listed in standard 3.10.12 in preference to chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary treatment or antibiotics, provided that their healing effect works for the animal species and the condition you are treating. 3. Where these treatments are inappropriate or will not be effective to avoid suffering or distress of the animal, chemically- | <p>It is your responsibility to ensure that any treatments and veterinary products you use are licensed or have veterinary approval for the intended purpose.</p> <p>You must be able to demonstrate that you are treating animals affected by disease, injury or ill-health quickly and effectively. The use and application of treatments should be given under professional guidance or after appropriate training.</p> <p>Inspectors will check that animals have been identified and treated promptly for all disease and injuries, including the management of common diseases and injuries such as lameness, scour, pneumonia and mastitis.</p> |

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| <p>synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics may be used under the responsibility of your vet. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(e)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 24(1)(2)(3)</i></p> | <p>If the treatment is not effective and the animal will not recover you must euthanise the animal to prevent suffering.</p> <p> Veterinary medicines records. See standard 1.7.10 for more information on records required.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.4.4 Identifying treated animals Whenever veterinary medicines are used livestock treated must be clearly identified, individually in the case of large animals; individually, or by batch, or by hive, in the case of poultry, small animals and bees. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 77</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.4.5 Veterinary medicines for preventative treatment are prohibited You must not use chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicines or antibiotics for preventative treatment in the absence of illness or surgical intervention. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(1)</i></p> | <p>This does not apply to analgesia and anaesthesia and vaccines.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.4.6 Use of vaccines is permitted You may use immunological veterinary medicines. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(e)(iii)</i></p> | |
| <p>3.4.7 Growth promoters are prohibited You must not use substances to promote growth or production of your animals (such as antibiotics, coccidiostats and other artificial aids for growth promotion purposes). <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(d)(v)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(2)</i></p> | <p>Any veterinary products or nutritional supplements must only be used to treat known nutritional deficiencies or disease and not to promote growth or production.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.4.8 Hormone treatments are prohibited You must not use hormones or similar substances to control reproduction or for other purposes (e.g. induction or synchronisation of oestrus), unless as a form of veterinary therapeutic treatment for an individual animal. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(c)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(2)</i></p> | <p>You may give hormone treatments to individual animals if you need to induce parturition for welfare reasons, or for specific disorders where you have no alternative, for example cows which are not coming into heat. You may not use hormones to manipulate normal reproductive cycles/physiology.</p> |





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| <p>GB 3.4.9 Artificial insemination is permitted You may use artificial insemination. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(c)(i)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.4.10 Cloning or embryo transfer is prohibited You must not use cloning or embryo transfer. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(c)(iii)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.4.11 Compulsory treatments are permitted Treatments which are required by law are allowed. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(e)(iv)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.4.12 Number of permitted treatments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must not sell your livestock or their produce as organic if, within 12 months, you treat them with more than: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) three courses of chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary medicines or antibiotics, or b) one course of chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary medicines or antibiotics if their lifecycle is less than a year. 2. You must keep records of these treatments. 3. If an individual animal is treated over these limits they must undergo reconversion if you wish to sell their products as organic, refer to section 3.1 on conversion periods. 4. Excluded from this are vaccines, parasite control treatments and compulsory eradication schemes. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 24(4)</p> | <p>A course of treatment means all the measures you need to take to restore the health of your animal following one occurrence of a specific illness.</p> <p> You records will need to identify any animals and their products which cannot be sold as organic or need to reconvert.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.4.13 Withdrawal periods If you treat your animals with any allopathic veterinary medicinal products you must wait twice the legal withdrawal period as referred to in Article 11 of <i>Directive 2001/82/EC</i>, and no less than 48 hours, before you can sell your livestock products as organic. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 24(5)</p> | <p>You must have an effective system in place to ensure that treated animals or their products are not sold for consumption as organic during the withdrawal period.</p> <p> Both statutory and organic withdrawal periods must be recorded.</p> <p>If veterinary medicinal products are prescribed under the Cascade, you must implement twice the withdrawal period as legally required under the Cascade.</p> <p> If there is no suitable veterinary medicine authorised in the UK to treat a condition in a particular species, vets are permitted to use unauthorised veterinary medicines in accordance with the Cascade</p> |






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| | <p>Vaccines are not subject to this requirement. Only the specified legal withdrawal periods must be observed.</p> <p>If you fail an antibiotic test (that is, your animals are over the maximum residue limit) you must inform us. We will expect you to identify the cause of the contamination and what you will do to prevent this happening in the future.</p> <p>You must inform the Certification Team if you have any suspicion that your livestock products may not meet organic standards.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.4.14 Storing veterinary medicines</p> <p>You may store allopathic veterinary medicinal products and antibiotics on holdings provided that they have been prescribed by a veterinarian in connection with a treatment given under standard 3.4.3 They must be stored in a secure location and must be entered in the livestock record as required in standard 1.7.10.</p> <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 35(3)</i></p> | <p> Records of all veterinary medicines stored. See standard 1.7.10 for full requirements on veterinary medicine records.</p> |





| GB 3.5 Animal welfare management | |
|---|---|
| <p>What is this chapter about?</p> <p>This section details how animal welfare is maintained on organic farms and how it will be measured at inspection.</p> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.5.1 Maintaining good animal welfare</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must ensure your husbandry practices and housing, including stocking densities, meet your animals' species-specific developmental, physiological and behavioural needs at all times. 2. The persons looking after your animals must possess the necessary knowledge and skills to satisfy this standard. 3. Any suffering must be kept to a minimum during the entire life of the animal, including at the time of slaughter. <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(h); Art. 14(1)(b)(i)(ii)(viii)</i></p> | <p>Regularly assess your animals to ensure their health and welfare and watch for signs of distress, disease and injury. Routine monitoring of the welfare of your animals will allow you to recognise problems and identify areas for improvement. If you would like more information and support on monitoring the welfare of your animals see the Advisory Support pages on the AssureWel website or contact Producer Support or the Certification Team.</p> <p>If there is a welfare problem, prompt action must be taken, the effectiveness of which must be reviewed and altered if necessary. If a welfare problem is found at your inspection then you must describe what steps you will take to resolve the issue in your <i>Action Summary Form and Declaration</i> and it will be discussed at the following inspection.</p> |




The welfare of your animals will be assessed at inspection. For the major farm animal species your Inspector may use the following welfare outcomes measures to inform the decision on your compliance with this standard. However these lists are not exhaustive, your inspector will have other indicators and observations they use when assessing the welfare of stock. For measures marked with an * you will need to have these figures ready at your inspection.

For more information on each measure see the ‘explanation of measures’ pages on the [AssureWel website](#).

| Species | Welfare outcome measures |
|-------------|--|
| Laying hens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feather loss • Bird dirtiness • Antagonistic behaviours such as aggressive behaviour and injurious feather pecking • Flightiness • Birds that need further care • Mortality records*  |
| Species | Welfare outcome measures |
| Dairy cows | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility, including lameness • Body condition • Cleanliness • Hair loss and lesions • Swellings • Broken tails • Response to stockperson • Mastitis records* (see details below)  • Calf/Heifer survivability records* (see details below)  • Cull and Casualty Cows records* (see details below)  |
| Pigs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrichment use • Lameness |

| | | |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear and flank biting lesions and other body marks • Pigs needing further care • Hospital pens • Manure on the body • Leg swellings • Skin conditions • Tail lesions (finishers only) • Shoulder lesions, vulva lesions and body condition (dry sows only) • Mortality records*  • Antibiotic records*  |
| | Species | Welfare outcome measures |
| | Broilers These measures are still being developed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird distribution • Air quality • Panting • Dirtiness • Enrichment • Walking ability • Birds requiring culling • Dead birds and runts • Litter condition • Behaviour • Pododermatitis and Hock burn • Mortality records*  • Antibiotic records*  • Post-slaughter records  |
| | Beef cattle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lameness • Cleanliness • Body Condition Score (adult breeding animals only) • Hair loss, lesions or swellings |

| | | |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle needing further care • Animals with respiratory signs • Pneumonia treatments*  • Mortality records*  |
| | Sheep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lameness • Body Condition Score (thin sheep) • Dirtiness • Fleece loss • Sheep needing further care • Mortality records*  |
| | <p>For dairy cows you will need to show additional records of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cases of mastitis per 100 cows • Number of losses per 100 cows calved for the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v) 0 - 24hrs - all calves (including stillborn) vi) 24 hrs - 42 days - all calves vii) 42 days - 1st calving - dairy heifers viii) 1st calving - 2nd calving - dairy heifers. • Number of planned culls • Number of unplanned culls or casualty cows (died or killed on farm) • Number of enforced culls, for example TB culls <p>At inspection, we may use the Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock as a measure of compliance to this standard.</p> | |
| Standards | | Guidance |
| GB 3.5.2 Animal mutilations are restricted 1. You must not routinely carry out operations such as tail docking, cutting of teeth, trimming of beaks and disbudding or dehorning. These practices may be authorised by your competent authority for reasons of safety, or to improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the animals on a case-by-case basis. | |  If you wish to tail dock, disbud or dehorn your animals you must provide reasons for why it is necessary and how and when it will be carried out and what pain relief will be given in your health plan. In GB we can authorise these practices on the competent authority's behalf if the relevant criteria are met and if the practice is documented in your health plan and recorded on the Annual Questionnaire we send you prior to inspection. |

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| <p>2. You may only castrate in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production practices.</p> <p>3. When performing these operations any suffering to the animals must be reduced by applying adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia and by qualified personnel carrying out the operation only at the most appropriate age.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(viii) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 18(1)(2)</p> | <p>The Codes of Recommendations provide advice on the appropriate methods and ages to perform these practices, as well as the relevant legal requirements in the UK.</p> <p> In the UK under the <i>Veterinary Surgery Act 1966</i>, as amended, only a veterinary surgeon may castrate a calf which has reached the age of two months and a lamb which has reached the age of three months.</p> <p> As required in the Mutilations (permitted procedures) Regulations 2007, for sheep and cattle (only for castration), the use of a rubber ring, or other device, to restrict the flow of blood to the scrotum or tail, is only allowed if carried out during the first week of life.</p> <p> In the UK under <i>The Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954</i>, as amended, it is an offence to disbud calves or dehorn any cattle without the use of an anaesthetic other than when chemical cauterisation is used. Chemical cauterisation may only be used during the first week of life. The <i>Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Cattle</i> strongly recommends that chemical cauterisation should not be used.</p> |
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| GB 3.6 Outdoor access and grazing | |
|---|---|
| What is this chapter about? Organic farming is an extensive system of farming and aims to keep animals outside and on pasture whenever weather and environmental conditions allow. | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 3.6.1 Pasture access 1. You must allow all your herbivore species permanent access to pasture, unless the following circumstances temporarily prevent this: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the health or welfare of the animal the weather conditions and the state of the ground, or community or national requirements or restrictions relating to specific animal or human health problems. 2. Breeding bulls over one year old must have access to pasture or an open air run of at least 30 m ² . <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(iii)(d)(iii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 14(2)(4)</i> | You need to take account of both weather conditions and the state of the ground when deciding whether livestock should be out at pasture. You should give consideration to the impact on the health and welfare of livestock and the management of the soil and pasture. You can temporarily house farrowing sows and finishing pigs (for cleaning off prior to slaughter). All housed pigs must still have access to an outdoor rooting and dunging area in accordance with Standard 3.7.1. with the exception of finishing pigs for up to 72 hours prior to going to slaughter. For more information on methods to minimise soil damage refer to the guidance to standard 2.4.1 'Managing your soil'. |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 3.6.2 Landless livestock production is prohibited You must not operate landless livestock production, where you do not manage agricultural land and/or have a written cooperation agreement with another organic operator associated with your livestock enterprise. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5 (g)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 16</i> | All organic terrestrial livestock production is land-based. The organic land does not have to be owned by the livestock manager but there must be a written agreement between the livestock enterprise manager and landowner, including the use of the land for grazing and the use of the land for spreading manure. |
| GB 3.6.3 Managing pasture and ranges You must manage your stock and keep their stocking density low enough to prevent: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> poaching of the soil over-grazing of vegetation the application of more than 170kg of nitrogen/ha/year, and pollution. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(iv)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(2); Art. 15(1)</i> | You must be able to demonstrate how you manage pasture and outdoor ranges to prevent poaching and over-grazing. This could include a rotation plan. Refer to standard 3.6.4 to calculate the maximum stocking rate. The amount of nitrogen in livestock manure that is applied to your farm includes manure applied directly by grazing animals and by spreading. This must be calculated over a calendar year (i.e. a year beginning 1 January). The 170kg of nitrogen/ha is the 'loading limit' and is averaged over the farmed area of the organic unit. |

GB 3.6.4 Stocking densities

To comply with the 170kg of nitrogen/ha/year limit you must not exceed the following stocking densities.


(EC) 889/2008 Art. 15(2)

Defra have produced the following guidance for stocking densities for GB.

The table below has been taken from Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) guidelines.

| Livestock type | Category | Maximum stocking rate per hectare |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Pigs | 7kg < 13 kg | 170 |
| | 13kg < 31kg | 40 |
| | 31kg < 66kg | 22 |
| | 66kg > intended for slaughter | 16 |
| | Breeding sow before first litter | 15 |
| | Sow with litter up to 7kg | 9 |
| | Breeding boar 66kg - 150kg | 14 |
| | Breeding boar > 150kg | 10 |
| | Calves up to 2 months | 21 |
| Cattle | Dairy cows 2 months to < 12 months | 5 |
| | Dairy cows 12 months to first calf | 3 |
| | Dairy cows after first calf | 2 |
| | Beef cows or steers 2 months < 12mths | 5 |
| | Beef cows or steers 12 months < 24mths | 3 |
| | Beef cows or steers from 24 months for slaughter | 3 |
| | Females from 24 months for breeding, < 500kg | 3 |
| | Females from 24 months for breeding, > 500kg | 2 |
| | Bulls, non-breeding > 2mths | 3 |
| | Bulls for breeding, 2mths < 24 months | 3 |
| | Bulls for breeding > 24 months | 4 |
| Livestock type | Category | Maximum stocking rate per hectare |
| Sheep | 6 months – 9 months | 85 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|------|
| | | From 9 months to first lambing, tupping or slaughter | 121 |
| | | After lambing or tupping <60kg. | 22 |
| | | After lambing or tupping >60kg. | 14 |
| | Goats | | 11 |
| | Deer | Breeding | 11 |
| | | Other | 14 |
| | Horses | | 8 |
| | Poultry | Layers <17 weeks | 800 |
| | | Layers >17 weeks* | 320* |
| | | Broilers | 510 |
| | | Breeding stock <25 weeks | 590 |
| | | Breeding stock >25 weeks | 240 |
| | | Male turkey | 140 |
| | | Female turkey | 190 |
| | | Ducks | 230 |
| * Figures assume 80% of excreta are deposited in buildings | | | |
| Standards | Guidance | | |
| GB 3.6.5 Protecting your stock You must provide sufficient protection for your stock against predation and rain, wind, sun and extreme temperatures, depending on local conditions and breed. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(ii)</i> | | You must be able to demonstrate what measures you have in place and how you monitor that they are effective. For example, monitoring mortality rates from predation, exposure, sunburn, heat exhaustion, use of range, condition of livestock etc. Shade provision should allow animals to reduce at least 30 - 50% of their total heat load and can be natural or artificial. Natural shade, such as trees, is often more effective due to the cooling effect of the water evaporation. Pigs will also need wallows over the summer months to protect against the heat and the sun. Shelter can be natural or artificial as long as it provides effective protection against prevailing conditions. Examples of protection could include, as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees, hedges • Rocks, ridges • Scrub, tussocks • Drystone walls • Brashings | |

| | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field shelters • Bales • Buildings • Long grass • Wallows <p> Extremes of temperature will limit the productivity of an animal as well as potentially compromising its welfare. Providing cattle, sheep, pigs and goats with shade and shelter at pasture gives them the opportunity to minimise the effects of heat stress and inclement weather conditions, which can lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better food conversion and growth rates • better survival rates of young animals • increased pasture growth and utilisation, with animals spread out to graze and ruminate. |
| <p>GB 3.6.6 Grazing your organic stock on common land</p> <p>1. You may graze your organic animals on common land only if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) you can show that the land has not been treated with any products which are not permitted in these organic standards for at least three years b) any non-organic stock which graze the land come from a farming system equivalent to those described in Art. 36 of <i>Regulation 1698/2005</i> (Council Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAGGF)) or <i>Art. 22 Regulation 1257/1999</i> (Council Regulation on support for rural development from the EAGGF and amending and repealing certain Regulations) c) you can show that there is adequate segregation from non-organic animals that use the land if you wish to sell their products as organic. <p>2. You must keep records of the use of this provision.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(v)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 17(3)(5)</i></p> | <p>In the UK common land is registered with the National Register of Common Land. If the common land is not officially registered you will have to add the land to your licence and put it through a 24 month conversion period.</p> <p>We regard common land differently from organic and list it as a separate category on your licence.</p> <p>Examples of adequate segregation can include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly hefted animals • clear identification, i.e. ear tags • methods to avoid access to non-organic feed • separate handling and treatment. |

GB 3.6.7 Grazing non-organic land during transhumance

1. During the period of transhumance animals may graze non-organic land when they are being moved on foot from one grazing area to another. The uptake of non-organic feed, in the form of grass and other vegetation which the animals graze during this period must not exceed 10% of the total feed ration per year. This figure must be calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feedstuffs from agricultural origin.


2. You must keep records of the use of this provision.

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 17(4)(5)



Records of transhumance

GB 3.7 Standards for pigs' outdoor access

| Standards | Guidance |
|---|--|
| <p>GB 3.7.1 Rooting and dunging area provision</p> <p>The outdoor area for pigs must allow your pigs to dung and root. For the purposes of rooting different substrates can be used.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 11(6)</p> | <p>Pigs must be able to root and dung even when they are housed. Any outdoor area must provide enough material for all pigs to use whenever they want. Suitable rooting substrates include straw or green fodder (hay, grass, silage, alfalfa, etc.), wood shavings etc. Suitable substrate must allow the pigs to root using their snout and it must be regularly renewed, as pigs will normally lose interest in rooting material that is soiled with faeces. Frequent replacement with novel materials (e.g. that include fresh loose grains/seeds) will encourage greater rooting.</p> <p>Manipulation and exploration of enrichment material with the mouth and snout is a good indicator that your substrate provision is suitable. Your inspector may use the</p> <p> 'enrichment use' measure to determine whether you meet this standard.</p> <p>For more information on providing enrichment see the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) Pork website.</p> |

GB 3.8 Housing livestock

What is this chapter about?

This section includes the standards on how organic animals are housed. See also the respective species-specific sections for the additional standards that apply for those species. Organic farming aims to ensure that the specific behavioural needs of animals are met. Housing conditions should provide enough light, space, comfort and sufficient space to allow ample freedom of movement and room for animals to express their natural behaviours.

| Standards | Guidance |
|---|--|
| GB 3.8.1 Keeping livestock outdoors You do not have to provide housing for your livestock if the climate and soil type in your area is suitable for your animals to live outdoors. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(2)</i> | You must provide housing for your animals if you cannot provide adequate shelter and there are not suitable ground conditions outside all year. You may use woodchip corrals or stand-off pads. Seek specialist, professional advice to ensure they meet the relevant statutory environmental requirements. As they are classed as housing, the stocking densities used must meet the requirements set out in standard 3.8.6. |
| GB 3.8.2 Providing suitable housing 1. Housing must provide the insulation, heating and ventilation necessary to ensure that air circulation, dust levels, temperature, humidity and gas concentrations are kept within limits that are not harmful to your animals. 2. Housing must permit plentiful natural ventilation and light to enter. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(1)</i> | Monitor your livestock to ensure that the housing conditions are suitable. Respiratory illnesses, for example coughing and eye and nasal discharge, may indicate a problem. At inspection we may measure environmental parameters such as ammonia and dust levels and use welfare outcome measures to assess the suitability of your housing e.g. the number of pneumonia treatments required. |
| GB 3.8.3 Animals must be able to move freely 1. All animals must be able to move freely. Animals must not be tethered or held in isolation. 2. You can only temporarily tether or isolate individual livestock for a limited period of time if this can be justified for safety, welfare or veterinary reasons. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(vi)</i> | If you house any breeding bulls in bull pens for specific reasons such as health and safety or animal welfare, and they are physically separate from other animals, you must keep them in sight of other animals in order to meet this standard. |
| GB 3.8.4 Stocking density 1. The stocking density in your animal housing must provide for: a) the comfort and well-being of your animals b) species-specific and behavioural needs, which will depend on their breed, sex, age and the size of the group, and | The minimum stocking densities are set out in standards 3.8.6, 3.8.7 and 3.8.8 Consider your specific animals' needs when setting the stocking rates. For example if you are keeping horned cattle together, you should provide extra lying and feeding space. |

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| <p>c) the animals' welfare by providing sufficient space to stand naturally, lie down easily, turn round, groom themselves and make all natural movements such as stretching and wing flapping.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(3)</i></p> | <p>The welfare of your animals will be assessed at inspection and your inspector may use the following welfare outcome measures to inform the decision on your compliance with this standard:</p> <p>Pigs Body marks and lesions on pigs can be caused by keeping them at the wrong stocking density. Wounds of the head and shoulder are associated with fights for social rank, particularly in a restrictive environment that limits effective dispersal and the display of appropriate submissive behaviour.</p> <p>Cattle The identification of swellings and lesions on cattle can indicate obstructions in walkways and a lack of space for free movement.</p> <p>If you use cubicles to house your cattle, you must be able to demonstrate that you have sufficient number and size of cubicles to meet each individual cow's needs. We would expect you to have at least 5% more functioning cubicles than the number of cows in the herd to ensure the cows can always find a cubicle to lie down in, away from conflict and bullying. The size of your cubicles must be suitable for the size, shape and weight of all your cattle.</p> <p>Follow this link for guidelines for cubicle dimensions.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.8.5 Floor space and resting area for mammals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least half the housing for mammal species must be a comfortable clean and dry resting/lying area, which is solid and not slippery and not slatted or of grid construction. 2. The resting/lying area must have ample dry bedding. 3. The bedding must comprise of straw or other suitable natural material and may be enriched with mineral products listed in standard 2.5.2. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 11(1)(2)</i></p> | <p>Natural materials used on the bedding must not have been treated with prohibited materials or substances which would prevent them from being applied to organic land. Examples of suitable bedding material are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural materials such as bean haulm, bracken or rushes • sawdust and wood shavings (from untreated wood only) • sand • non-organic straw. <p>If you use cubicles in your cattle housing, you must make sure they are comfortable and clean. If you are using rubber mats, mattresses, water beds or other cushioned materials, these on their own are not regarded as sufficient natural bedding material.</p> <p>The welfare of your animals will be assessed at inspection. Your Inspector will use the following welfare outcomes measures to indicate whether you are meeting this standard:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cattle: cleanliness, hair loss, lesions and swellings pigs: manure on the body and leg swellings sheep: fleece loss and dirtiness. <p>Lameness can be caused by animals slipping over and could demonstrate that the floor surface you are providing is slippery or damaging to feet. Slurry build up can cause foot problems.</p> |
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Standards

GB 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 indoor space m ² per head (net area available to animals) | Additional area required m ² per head * (indoors or outdoors, excluding pasture) | Total m ² per head |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Breeding and fattening cattle: | | | |
| 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 ² /100kg | 3.7 with a minimum of 0.75m ² /100kg | 8.7 with a minimum of 1.75m ² /100kg |
| Dairy cows | 6.0 | 4.5 | 10.5 |
| Bulls for breeding | 10 | 30* | 40 |
| | When a bull is fully mature and used for breeding then the space allowance for 'Bulls for breeding' should be applied, if they are adolescent bulls, not yet at maturity the space requirements for 'breeding and fattening cattle' should be applied for all the animals in the group. If mature bulls are housed within a group made up of different ages or types e.g. Cows or adolescent bulls, then the space calculation should be made for the other cattle in the group with the additional space for the bull. | | |

*The additional area for bulls is not required if the bull is temporarily being run with cows provided the additional area is provided for all other animals within the group

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

| Standards | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| GB 3.8.7 Minimum housing area for sheep and goats | | | |
| 1. When housing your animals you must give them at least the following space: | | | |
| Class of animal | Lying area or indoor area m ² per head | Outdoor exercise area required m ² per head (Excluding pasture) | Total m ² per head |
| Sheep/goat | 1.5 | 2.5 | 4 |
| Lamb/kid | 0.35 | 0.5 | 0.85 |
| 2. 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. | | | |
| 3. Open air areas may be partially covered. | | | |
| (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(iii) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(4); Art. 14(1)(3); Annex III | | | |

| Standards | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| GB 3.8.8 Minimum housing area for pigs | | | |
| 1. When housing your animals you must give them at least the following space: | | | |
| Class of animal | Lying area or indoor area m ² per head | Outdoor exercise area required m ² per head (Excluding pasture) | Total m ² per head |
| Farrowing sows with piglets up to 40 days | 7.5 | 2.5 | 10 |
| Piglets Over 40 days and up to 30 kg | 0.6 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| Fattening pigs | | | |
| Up to 50 kg | 0.8 | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| Up to 85 kg | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Up to 110 kg | 1.3 | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| Breeding pigs | | | |
| Sows | 2.5 | 1.9 | 4.9 |
| Boars | 6 If pens are used for natural service: 10m ² /boar | 8.0 | 14 If pens are used for natural service: 18 m ² /boar |
| 2. Open air areas may be partially covered. | | | |

| Standards | Guidance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|-------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|
| <p>GB 3.8.9 Feed and water provision</p> <p>Your livestock must always have easy access to feed and water. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(ii)</p> | <p>Feed</p> <p>For animals fed <i>ad lib</i> you must feed them in a way that minimises bullying. For animals not given continuous access to feed, you must provide adequate feed space to ensure that all animals can feed at the same time and to avoid competition and aggression. The following is a guide to providing adequate feeding space for different livestock species:</p> <p>Sheep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When feeding concentrate, 45cm of trough space and when feeding hay and silage, approximately 12-15cm of trough space per ewe. The size of the animals and presence or absence of horns should be taken into account. <p>Pigs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum trough space per pig when fed a rationed feed: <table border="1" data-bbox="1003 655 2177 986"> <thead> <tr> <th>Weight of pig (kg)</th><th>Trough space (cm)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>5</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>35</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>60</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>90</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>120</td><td>30</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Water</p> <p>To ensure that all animals, including animals pre-weaning, have access to water at all times, you should carefully consider the height of drinkers so that you ensure all livestock can access the drinking point.</p> <p>The following is a guide to providing adequate water supply to different livestock species:</p> <p>Cattle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be enough water available for at least 10% of housed cattle to drink at any one time. <p>Pigs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where nipple drinkers are used, provide one drinker per ten pigs. | Weight of pig (kg) | Trough space (cm) | 5 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 35 | 20 | 60 | 23 | 90 | 28 | 120 | 30 |
| Weight of pig (kg) | Trough space (cm) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 60 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 90 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 120 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | Nipple drinkers should have the following minimal flow rates for various weights of pigs: | |
| | Weight of pig (kg) | Flow rate (ml/min) |
| | Newly weaned | 300 |
| | Up to 20kg | 500-100 |
| | 20kg-40kg | 1000-1500 |
| | Finishing pigs up to 100kg | 1000-1500 |
| | Sows and gilts – pre-service and in-pig | 2000 |
| | Sows and gilts – in lactation | 2000 |
| | Boars | 2000 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where troughs are used, provide 30cm of trough length per 10 pigs. <p>Your Inspector will use the guidelines for feed and water space given above, to determine whether you are meeting this standard.</p> |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.8.10 Managing your housing to prevent disease and injury</p> <p>Your housing, pens, equipment and utensils must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be kept in a condition that is unlikely to cause your animals injury be properly cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross-infection and build-up of disease have faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt food removed as often as necessary to minimise smell and to avoid attracting insects or rodents. <p style="text-align: right;">(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(e)(i) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(4)</p> | <p>Good hygiene in housing can reduce the prevalence of certain diseases such as scouring, pneumonia and watery mouth.</p> <p>The welfare of your animals will be assessed at inspection. Your inspector will use the following indicators to determine whether your housing may be causing injury to your animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle: lameness, cleanliness, presence of broken tails, hair loss, lesions and swellings and mastitis records Sheep: lameness, cleanliness and fleece loss Pigs: lameness, body marks, lesions and leg swellings Broilers: dirtiness, walking ability, hock burn, pododermatitis Laying hens: feather loss, dirtiness. <p>The condition of facilities (such as gates and feeders) will also be taken into account to determine if they are likely to cause injury.</p> |

| GB 3.9 Housing standards for pigs and cattle | |
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| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.9.1 Housing pigs indoors If you need to house your pigs indoors you must keep your sows in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 11(4)</i></p> | <p>You may still keep your sows in groups during the last stages of pregnancy and the suckling period.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.9.2 Farrowing crates are prohibited You must not use farrowing crates.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(3)</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.9.3 Keeping piglets on flat decks or in cages is prohibited You must not keep piglets on flat decks or in piglet cages.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 11(5)</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.9.4 Housing during the final fattening phase You may finish your cattle in well-bedded spacious yards, provided this period is less than one fifth of their lifetime and is no more than three months.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(d)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 46</i></p> | <p>This is in addition to any normal winter housing period.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.9.5 Keeping calves in individual pens You must not keep calves in individual pens after they are seven days old.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(vi)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(3); Art. 11(3)</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.9.6 Exceptional production rules for tethering As an exception, due to climatic, geographical or structural constraints, competent authorities may authorise cattle in small holdings to be tethered if it is not possible to keep them in groups appropriate to their behaviour requirements. The animals concerned are to have daily access to pasture during the grazing period, or at least twice a week</p> | <p>This provision only applies to small, traditional holdings where geographical and structural differences in agriculture and climatic constraints require the use of this exception.</p> <p>We do not allow the use of this provision in the UK as the UK is not subject to the same geographical and structural constraints as found in the mountainous regions of mainland Europe.</p> |



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| access to open air exercise areas where conditions preclude access to pasture. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(a)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 39</i> | |
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GB 3.10 Feeding livestock

What is this chapter about?

The aim of these organic standards is to feed organic livestock grass, fodder or feedstuffs produced from the same organic farm, which meet the nutritional needs of the animals at every stage of their lives. This section includes how the nutritional needs of organic animals are met and includes which additives and minerals are permitted in organic feeds and the conditions of their use.


| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 3.10.1 Meeting the nutritional needs of your livestock You must feed your livestock organic feed that meets their nutritional needs at all stages of their development. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(d)(ii)</i> | Routine monitoring of your animals is necessary to check that their nutritional demands are being met at each stage of the production cycle. You can use a range of measures to assess the nutritional status of your animals, for example, body condition, cleanliness and diarrhoea, skin and coat condition, body weight and mortality (for lambs). If you would like more information and support on monitoring the welfare of your animals see AssureWel's Advisory Support pages or contact Producer Support or the Certification Team. Young mammals must be fed sufficient colostrum and milk and only weaned after the minimum ages referred to in standard 3.10.09 and when they are taking in sufficient quantities of solid food. The welfare of your animals will be assessed at inspection and your inspector will use the welfare outcomes measures described above to determine whether you are meeting this standard. |
| GB 3.10.2 Force feeding is prohibited You must not force feed your livestock. Fattening practices are allowed only if they are reversible at any stage of the rearing process. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 20(5)</i> | |
| GB 3.10.3 Encouraging anaemia is prohibited The keeping of livestock in conditions, or on a diet, which may encourage anaemia is prohibited. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 20(4)</i> | |

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| <p>GB 3.10.4 Feeding organic and in-conversion feed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 5(k); Art. 14(1)(d)(i)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 21</i></p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Since 100% in-conversion from your own holding is currently permitted under point 2. a), point 3. is effectively redundant.</p> <p>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.</p> <p> Feed records</p> |
| <p>GB 3.10.5 Feeding herbivores</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rearing systems for herbivores must be based on maximum use of grazing pasturage according to the availability of pastures in the different periods of the year. You must ensure for your herbivore species that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) At least 60% of their daily diet on a dry matter basis consists of fresh or dried fodder, roughage or silage, except during the period each year when the animals are under transhumance, and b) At least 60% of their total diet comes from your own holding, or if this is not possible, feed produced in cooperation with other organic farms in the same region. 2. A reduction to 50 % for animals in dairy production for a maximum period of three months in early lactation is allowed. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 19(1); Art. 20(2)</i></p> | <p> Feed records</p> |



| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 3.10.6 Feeding pigs and poultry 1. For your pigs and poultry, you must ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage is added to their daily ration. b) at least 20% of their total diet comes from your own holding. Where this is not possible, you may use feed produced in the same region in cooperation with other organic farms or feed business operators. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 19(2); Art. 20(3)</i></p> | <p>Roughage, fresh and dried fodder must be fed at all stages of production. When rearing poultry you can feed hay or alfalfa in hay nets. For more ideas on how to enrich chicken's diets with roughage see the FeatherWel website.</p> <p>When animals are on pasture and able to forage and graze, no additional forage or roughage needs to be provided.</p> <p> Feed records</p> |

| Guidance table on daily dry matter intakes (DMI) | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Lactating dairy cows | | Growing beef cattle, beef suckler cows and dairy young stock | |
| Weight (kg): | Daily DMI (kg) | Weight (kg): | Daily DMI @ 2.5% of live weight (kg) |
| 400 | 14.0 | 100 | 2.50 |
| 450 | 15.75 | 150 | 3.75 |
| 500 | 17.5 | 200 | 5.00 |
| 550 | 19.25 | 250 | 6.25 |
| 600 | 21.0 | 300 | 7.50 |
| 650 | 22.75 | 350 | 8.75 |
| 700 | 24.5 | 400 | 10.00 |
| 750 | 26.25 | 450 | 11.25 |
| Daily DMI has been calculated as 3.5% of live weight | | Daily DMI has been calculated as 2.5% of live weight | |
| Sheep and goats (all groups) | | Pigs | |
| Weight (kg) | Daily DMI @ 2% of live weight (kg) | Class | Average daily DMI (kg) |
| 10 | 0.25 | Sow + six piglets | 4.50 |
| 20 | 0.50 | plus each extra piglet | 0.40 |
| 30 | 0.75 | Gilts | 2.60 |
| 40 | 1.00 | Weaners at nine weeks | 1.00 |
| 50 | 1.25 | Weaners at 25 weeks | 2.65 |

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| 60 | 1.50 | |
| 70 | 1.75 | |
| 80 | 2.00 | |
| Daily DMI has been calculated as 2% of live weight | | |
| Poultry | Daily DMI (kg) | |
| Laying chickens | 0.118 | |
| Table chickens | 0.077 | |
| Turkeys | 0.138 | |
| Ducks and geese | 0.150 | |

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 3.10.7 Use of non-organic protein for pigs and poultry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you cannot source 100% organic feeds that meet the nutritional needs of your animals, you may feed pigs and poultry up to 5% non-organic protein feed. 2. This percentage must be calculated on an annual dry matter basis. 3. At your inspection you must have records to demonstrate that you are unable to source an appropriate 100% organic or in-conversion ration and that you have not fed more than 5% non-organic protein feed. 4. This exemption will be in place until 31st December 2025. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(b) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 43 | <p>If you are using a feed that is certified as suitable for organic production and it contains some non-organic ingredients, the feed mill will already have demonstrated that organic ingredients are not available. If you are mixing or blending your own feeds then you must demonstrate that suitable organic ingredients are not available.</p> <p> Feed records</p> |
| <p>GB 3.10.8 Feeding young mammals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young mammals must be fed natural, organic milk, preferably maternal milk, for a minimum period of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 12 weeks for calves b) 45 days for lambs and kids c) 40 days for piglets. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(d)(vi) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 20(1) | <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 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> <p>Proper care of youngstock is critical for their long-term health and survival. If a newborn is unable to suckle a bottle, or consume the full amount of colostrum, then a stomach tube should be used. This is a skilled technique which requires training to ensure the correct the placement of the tube. See how to safely tube a calf using the AHDB Colostrum Feeding video here and guidance on tubing a lamb here.</p> |
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| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.10.9 Catastrophic circumstances</p> <p>1. Your competent authority may authorise on a temporary basis the use of non-organic feed under catastrophic circumstances when forage is lost or when restrictions are imposed, in particular as a result of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> exceptional weather conditions infectious disease outbreaks contamination with toxic substances fire. <p>2. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(f)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 47(c)</i></p> | <p>In GB, the Certification Team can submit a request to your competent authority on your behalf. The competent authority will require the following information to consider your request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agricultural parish(es) in which your farm is located The quantity of forage you usually make and the scale of your current shortage The reason/s for the forage shortage (if it is due to bad weather please provide details such as a report from the Met Office) Ways in which you have tried to overcome the shortage - e.g. organic forage purchased, new land rented, stock numbers reduced Evidence to show that you have tried and failed to source organic forage, including the area in which you have been searching and for how long Details of your livestock numbers, the organic diet fed to each group of animals and how long the shortage is forecasted to last Details of the groups of stock to be fed non-organic forage and how many are in each group, e.g. dry cows, young stock, in-lactation animals Details of the period of time that you wish to feed non-organic forage. Please note derogations can be given for a maximum of 3 months at a time. If towards the end of the permitted period you need the permission to be extended, you will need to submit a new request For dairy cows, the competent authority will also need confirmation that you have contacted your milk buyer and the details of their response <p>If the derogation request is due of the quality of the diet, the competent authority will also require information to show the nutritional value of the current diet and details as to why it is unsatisfactory.</p> |

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| | <p> Records of the use of this exception</p> |
| <p>GB 3.10.10 Buying feed When you use commercial, compounded or blended feeds they must be licensed by an organic certification body and comply with organic standards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 1</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.10.11 Use of additional products and substances in feed and feed supplements</p> <p>1. You may only use the products and substances in standard 3.10.12 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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(d)(ii)(iv); Art. 16(2)(e)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 22</i></p> <p>3. The products in the table below may only be used if they are authorised for your intended use in your country.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)</i></p> | <p>You must be able to justify the use of additional feed products, supplements and substances. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by forage or soil analysis that your home grown feeds are deficient, • 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 • where a positive welfare outcome will result from the inclusion of the additional feed product in the livestock's ration <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 the Certification Team for more information on using mineral and feed blocks.</p> <p>Boluses are acceptable if the components are listed in 3.10.12 with the exclusion of the metal ballast.</p> <p> Records of any feed supplements used</p> <p>Your <u>livestock management plan</u> should include details of any additional feed products and supplements fed along with the reason for their use.</p> <p>All products must also be authorised under Regulation (EC) 1831/2003, with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organic feed materials of animal origin |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • feed materials of mineral origin • products from sustainable fisheries • non-organic spices, herbs and molasses |
| Standards | | |
| GB 3.10.12 Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed | | |
| (EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)(c)(d) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 22; Annex V; Annex VI | | |
| Feed Material | | |
| Product or substance | | Conditions of use |
| Organic feed materials of animal origin | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are restrictions on what animal by-products you can feed to different animal species. UK guidance is available here |
| 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: a) <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> b) <i>Saccharomyces carlsbergensis</i> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be produced or prepared without chemical solvents; and • only used as part of the non-organic feed allowance in compliance with standards 3.10.7 and 3.10.9. |
| Minerals | | |
| Product or substance | | Conditions of use |
| Sodium | Sea salt Coarse rock salt Sodium chloride Sodium bicarbonate Sodium carbonate Sodium sulphate | |
| Potassium | Potassium chloride | |
| Calcium | Calcareous marine shells Maerl Lithotamn Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate | |
| Phosphorus | Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| | Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate Monosodium phosphate Calcium magnesium phosphate Calcium sodium phosphate Monosodium phosphate | |
| Magnesium | Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia) Magnesium sulphate Magnesium chloride Magnesium carbonate Magnesium phosphate | |
| Preservatives | | |
| Functional Group | Product or substance | Conditions of use |
| E 200 | Sorbic acid | |
| E 236 | Formic acid | |
| E 237 | Sodium formate | |
| E 260 | Acetic acid | |
| E 270 | Lactic acid | |
| E 280 | Propionic acid | |
| E 330 | Citric acid | |
| Antioxidants | | |
| ID no. or Functional Group | Product or substance | Conditions of use |
| 1b306(i) | Tocopherol extracts from vegetable oils | |
| 1b306(ii) | Tocopherol-rich extracts from vegetable oils (delta rich) | |
| Binders and anti-caking agents | | |
| ID no. or Functional Group | Product or substance | Conditions of use |
| E 412 | Guar gum | |
| E 535 | Sodium ferrocyanide | • Maximum dose rate of 20 mg/kg NaCl calculated as ferrocyanide anion |
| E 551b | Colloidal silica | |
| E 551c | Kieselguhr (diatomaceous earth, purified) | |

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| 1m558i | Bentonite | |
| E 559 | Kaolinitic clays, free of asbestos | |
| E 560 | Natural mixtures of stearites and chlorite | |
| E 561 | Vermiculite | |
| E 562 | Sepiolite | |
| E 566 | Natrolite-Phonolite | |
| 1g568 | Clinoptilolite of sedimentary origin | |
| E 599 | Perlite | |
| Silage additives | | |
| ID no. | Product or substance | Conditions of use |
| 1k | Enzymes, micro-organisms | Use restricted to production of silage when weather conditions do not allow for adequate fermentation. The use of formic, propionic acid and their sodium salts in the production of silage shall only be permitted when weather conditions do not allow for adequate fermentation. |
| 1k236 | Formic acid | |
| 1k237 | Sodium formate | |
| 1k280 | Propionic acid | |
| 1k281 | Sodium propionate | |
| Sensory additives | | |
| ID no. | Product or substance | Conditions of use |
| 2b | Flavouring compounds | Only extracts from agricultural products |
| | Castanea sativa Mill.: Chestnut extract | |
| Nutritional additives | | |
| ID no. | Product or substance | Conditions of use |
| 3a | Vitamins and provitamins | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Only if derived from agricultural products, orIf synthetic vitamins are used only those identical to vitamins derived from agricultural products may be used for monogastric and aquaculture animals Only synthetic vitamins A, D and E if identical to vitamins derived from agricultural products may be used for ruminants. Their use is subject to approval by the Member State. If you want to make use of this provision, you must justify why you need to use these vitamins. In GB this must be approved by the competent authority. |
| 3a920 | Betaine anhydrous | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Only for monogastric animals.Only from natural origin and when available from organic origin. |

| Trace elements | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| ID no. or Functional Group | Product or Substance | Conditions of use |
| E1 Iron | | |
| 3b101 | Iron(II) carbonate (siderite) | |
| 3b103 | Iron(II) sulphate monohydrate | |
| 3b104 | Iron(II) sulphate heptahydrate | |
| 3b201 | Potassium iodide | |
| 3b202 | Calcium iodate, anhydrous | |
| 3b203 | Coated granulated calcium iodate anhydrous | |
| 3b301 | Cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate | |
| 3b302 | Cobalt(II) carbonate | |
| 3b303 | Cobalt(II) carbonate hydroxide (2:3) monohydrate | |
| 3b304 | Coated granulated cobalt(II) carbonate hydroxide (2:3) monohydrate | |
| 3b305 | Cobalt(II) sulphate heptahydrate | |
| 3b402 | Copper(II) carbonate dihydroxy monohydrate | |
| 3b404 | Copper(II) oxide | |
| 3b405 | Copper(II) sulphate, pentahydrate | |
| 3b409 | Dicopper chloride trihydroxide (TBCC) | |

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|---|---|---|
| 3b502 | Manganese(II) oxide | |
| 3b503 | Manganous sulfate, monohydrate | |
| 3b603 | Zinc oxide | |
| 3b604 | Zinc sulphate heptahydrate | |
| 3b605 | Zinc sulphate monohydrate | |
| 3b609 | Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate (TBZC) | |
| 3b701 | Sodium molybdate dihydrate | |
| 3b801 | Sodium selenite | |
| 3b810, 3b811, 3b812, 3b813 and 3b817 | Selenised yeast inactivated | |
| Zootechnical additives | | |
| ID no. or Functional Group | Product or substance | Conditions of use |
| 4a, 4b, 4c and 4d | Enzymes and micro-organisms in the category of “Zootechnical additives” | |
| Product or substance | | Conditions of use |
| Products from sustainable fisheries, | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only when they are produced without chemical solvents their use is restricted to non-herbivores the use of fish protein hydrolysate is restricted solely to young animals |
| | | Guidance |
| | | The source must be independently certified as sustainable, such as by the Marine Stewardship Council. |
| Non-organic spices, herbs and molasses provided that: | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only when organic is not available must be produced or prepared without chemical solvents, and use is limited to 1% of the feed ration of a given species calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feed from agricultural origin |
| | | Guidance |
| | | If you use non-organic spices, herbs or molasses you must demonstrate that the organic form is not available. |

| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 3.10.13 Synthetic amino-acids You must not use synthetic amino-acids. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(d)(v)</i> | |

GB 3.11 Transporting and handling your animals

What is this chapter about?

This section contains standards on transporting and handling organic animals.

| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 3.11.1 Transport and handling 1. You must minimise any stress and suffering during handling and transport. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(viii)</i> 2. The duration of transport must be minimised. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(vii)</i> 3. You must not tranquilise any of your livestock before or during transport. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 18(4)</i> | <p>The welfare of animals in transport is the responsibility of both those sending and receiving the livestock. Animal transport needs to be planned and managed to ensure livestock are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport and handling of livestock needs to be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>Transporting ill or injured animals is likely to cause unnecessary stress and suffering. You should avoid transporting these animals where possible.</p> <p>Transporting very young and heavily pregnant animals is likely to cause unnecessary stress. To minimise stress, avoid transporting the following animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle over 6 months in-calf (65% of gestation period) • Ewes over 3 months in-lamb (65% of gestation period) • Calves under one-month old, or under 12 weeks old without dams • Lambs and kids under 45 days old without ewes or nannies <p>Unnecessary long distance travel is prohibited Journey times must be kept to a minimum. Any long journeys, defined as being over 8 hours as calculated from first animal loaded to last unloaded, must be justified.</p> <p>The export or other unnecessary long distance transport of organic animals is not compliant with this standard. For example, you cannot transport organic animals long distances for slaughter when a suitable slaughter facility is available closer to your farm.</p> <p>Aim to source and sell your organic animals locally. On our website you can advertise and view organic certified stock and local certified abattoirs. If there are no organically certified</p> |



abattoirs in your area, you can add a local abattoir to your licence through our local abattoir scheme.

If you sell livestock either through a market or directly, do everything you can to ensure that they are not sent for export out of the UK and/or are then raised in intensive systems. We are particularly concerned about the long distance transport and sale of calves into continental-style veal systems which have been shown to deliver poor animal welfare.

Livestock markets

To minimise stress and handling of livestock you should aim to sell or source livestock directly with farmers rather than through a livestock market. If you have no option but to use a livestock market, the handling, care and welfare of the livestock is the responsibility of the livestock owner. The livestock owner is responsible for ensuring organic standards are met, for example by ensuring that animals are fed organic feed while at market.

The welfare of animals at transport is protected by law. Information on the legal requirements in GB can be found [here](#).



The main legislation that governs animal welfare at shows and markets includes the:

- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 (WAMO)
- Welfare of Animals at Markets (Amendment) Order 1993
- Welfare of Horses at Markets (and Other Places of Sale) Order 1990 (WHAMOPSO)
- Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006

The owners and keepers of livestock, including persons with temporary responsibility, such as market operators are responsible for safeguarding animal welfare.

WAMO is enforced by local authorities who identify problems at markets and Animal and Plant Health Agency officials who regularly visit and inspect markets.

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| <p>GB 3.11.2 Use of electric goads is prohibited</p> <p>Loading and unloading animals must be carried out without the use of any type of electrical stimulation to coerce the animals.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 18(4)</p> | <p>Loading and unloading is the most common circumstance where electrical stimulation is used to coerce animals. In GB the competent authority has confirmed that the use of electric stimulation at any stage of organic production is prohibited.</p> |
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| <p>GB 3.12 Standards for poultry</p> | |
| <p>What is this chapter about?</p> <p>This section contains all the poultry specific standards for organic poultry production that you must comply with together with the general livestock standards.</p> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.12.1 Keeping poultry in cages is prohibited</p> <p>You must not keep poultry in cages.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(1)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.12.2 Number of birds permitted in each house</p> <p>Each poultry house must not contain more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 3,000 birds for laying chickens b) 4,800 birds for meat chickens c) 5,200 birds for guinea fowl d) 4,000 birds for female ducks e) 3,200 birds for male ducks f) 2,500 birds for capons, geese or turkeys. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(3)(e)</p> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.12.3 Maximum permitted area for meat birds</p> <p>The total usable area of poultry houses for meat production on any single unit must not exceed 1,600 m².</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(3)(f)</p> | <p>The useable area includes all covered areas where the animals have full access 24 hours a day.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.12.4 Floor area for poultry</p> <p>At least 1/3 of the floor area of your poultry housing must be solid, that is, not of slatted or grid construction.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(3)(a)</p> | |

| Standards | | Guidance | |
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| GB 3.12.5 Housing requirements for all poultry species The buildings for all poultry species must meet the following conditions: (EC) 889/2008 Art. 10(4); Art. 12(3)(c); Annex III | | When calculating the internal stocking rate you must exclude the area taken up by nest boxes. | |
| | Indoor area (net area available to animals) | | |
| | Perch | Nest | No animals/m² |
| Laying hens | 18 cm/bird | 7 birds per individual nest box, or 120cm² per bird in communal nests | 6 |
| Table chickens | | | In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m² |
| | | | In mobile housing*: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m² |
| | Indoor area (net area available to animals) | | |
| Turkeys | | | In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m² |
| | | | In mobile housing*: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m² |
| Ducks | | | In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m² |
| | | | In mobile housing*: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m² |
| Geese | | | In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m² |
| | | | In mobile housing*: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m² |
| Guinea fowl | 20 cm/bird | | In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m² |
| | | | In mobile housing*: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m² |
| *only in mobile housing not exceeding 150m² floor space | | | |

| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 3.12.6 Providing litter The solid floor area must be covered with a litter material such as straw, wood shavings, sand or turf. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(3)(a)</i> | We will assess at inspection whether your litter is suitable and well managed for example whether it is dry and friable. |
| GB 3.12.7 Poultry house hygiene For poultry houses for laying hens, a sufficiently large part of the floor area must be available for the collection of bird droppings. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(3)(b)</i> | The system you have in place for the collection of droppings must ensure that there is not a build-up of droppings in the area to which poultry have access. |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 3.12.8 Artificial light You may use artificial light to prolong the day length up to 16 hours. You must give your poultry a continuous nocturnal rest period of at least 8 hours. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(4)</i> | |
| Standards | Guidance |
| GB 3.12.9 Feed and water provision Your livestock must always have easy access to feed and water. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(ii)</i> | <p>For animals fed <i>ad lib</i> you must feed them in a way that minimises bullying. This can include providing alternative sources of food on the range, such as suitable vegetation to encourage foraging. For animals which are not given continuous access to feed, you must provide adequate feed space to ensure that all animals can feed at the same time and to avoid competition and aggression. Carefully consider the height of drinkers to ensure all livestock can access the drinking point. The following is a guide to providing adequate feeding space and water supply for different poultry species:</p> <p>Layers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear feeder space: 10 cm/bird* • Circular feeder space: 4 cm/bird* • Bell drinkers: 1 cm/bird* • Nipple drinkers: one per 10 birds • Drinking troughs: 2.5 cm /bird* <p>Table birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • linear feeder space: 2.5cm/bird |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • circular feeder space: 33cm per 65 birds • bell drinkers: one per 100 birds • nipple drinkers: one per 10 birds • cup drinkers: one per 28 birds <p>Layers and table birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • linear drinker space: 2.5cm/bird • circular drinker space: 1cm/bird <p>* These are the minimum number of feeders and drinkers required by the Council Directive 1999/74/EC (adopted by the UK) laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.12.10 Access to the outdoor range</p> <p>1. Poultry must be given access to an outdoor range from as early an age as practically possible. This means whenever physiological and weather conditions allow, except in the case of temporary restrictions or obligations imposed by competent authorities.</p> <p>2. Access must be given for at least one third of their life.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(iii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 14(5)</i></p> | | |
| Standards | | Guidance |
| <p>GB 3.12.11 Stocking density on the range</p> <p>The stocking densities on the range for different poultry species are set out in this table.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Annex III</i></p> | | <p>To be regarded as mobile housing, the houses must be moved between flocks of birds onto a fresh range. The fresh range must provide the poultry access to a different area than was provided for the previous flock.</p> <p>Within the life of a flock you may restrict access to parts of the range to prevent poaching and allow vegetation to recover. Poultry must always have access to at least two thirds of the total range area at any one time. Access may only be restricted for up to a third of the total length of time that poultry have access to the range.</p> <p>Open water can be included as part of the range space provision for waterfowl.</p> |
| | Range size available within a rotation | |
| Species | Static/fixed housing | Mobile housing |
| Laying hens | 1 bird/4 m ² | 1 bird/4 m ² |

| Table chickens | 1 bird/4 m ² | 1 bird/2.5 m ² |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Ducks | 1 bird/4.5 m ² | 1 bird/2.5 m ² |
| Guinea fowl | 1 bird/4 m ² | 1 bird/2.5 m ² |
| Turkeys | 1 bird/10 m ² | 1 bird/2.5 m ² |
| Geese | 1 bird/15 m ² | 1 bird/2.5 m ² |
| All subject to ensuring that 170kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded. | | |
| Standards | | Guidance |
| GB 3.12.12 Easy access to the outside Your poultry house must allow all of the birds easy access to the outdoor range. <div style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(3)(g)</i></div> | | The following may prevent birds from having easy access to the outdoor range: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-holes which have a large step up • Pop-holes which do not give the hens an easy view of the range • obstructions in front, or outside of, the pop-holes • poor provision of shade and shelter close to the housing and across the range. |
| GB 3.12.13 Pop-hole size Poultry houses must have pop-holes of a size adequate for the birds, and these pop-holes must have a combined length of at least 4m per 100m ² area of the house available to the birds. <div style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(3)(d)</i></div> | | |
| GB 3.12.14 Range management 1. You must design and manage your poultry range to ensure that the range: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) is mainly covered with vegetation b) provides protective shelter at all times c) permits poultry easy access to adequate numbers of drinking and feeding troughs. <div style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 14(6)</i></div> | | <p>You must be able to demonstrate how you will maintain vegetation cover on your range at your desired outdoor stocking density. This will need to include how you manage the area outside the pop-holes.</p> <p>As part of your range management you may rotate your range during the life of the flock. You must always give your poultry access to at least two thirds of the total range area at any one time. Access may only be restricted for up to a third of the total length of time that poultry have access to the range.</p> <p>Putting down stones, slats or woodchip outside of pop-holes can help you manage poaching. For more information on range management and methods to reduce poaching see the FeatherWel website.</p> <p>Drinkers and feeders do not have to be provided outside, but must be easily accessible to birds out on the range.</p> |

| Standards | Guidance |
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| <p>GB 3.12.15 Resting the range for poultry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For poultry the range must be rested for sufficient time to allow vegetation to grow back. 2. This must be no less than two months per year. 3. You must keep records to demonstrate what resting period has been applied. 4. These requirements do not apply if your poultry are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) not reared in batches b) are not kept in runs, and c) are free to roam throughout the day. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(5)</i></p> | <p>It is your responsibility to ensure that the range is rested for sufficient time to allow vegetation to regrow and to manage disease risk. You must be able to justify your resting periods and explain how you will maintain vegetation cover and disease risk on your range at your desired outdoor stocking density. The resting periods may need to be extended to allow vegetation to recover and to control disease risk.</p> <p>Grass and vegetation cover on the range may be used as an indicator to assess whether sufficient time has been left between batches of poultry. Putting down stones, slats or woodchip outside the pop-holes can help you manage poaching.</p> <p> Records of the applied resting period</p> <p>You may restrict access to part of the range within the life of a flock to help you manage vegetation cover. Your poultry must always have access to at least two thirds of the total range area at any one time. Access may only be restricted for up to a third of the total length of time that poultry have access to the range.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.12.16 Keeping poultry indoors due to restrictions</p> <p>Where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of Community legislation, they must have permanent access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material to meet their ethological needs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 14(7)</i></p> | <p>Suitable material includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straw/hay bales • alfalfa bales/blocks • vegetables • other vegetation, such as foliage. <p>At least two enrichments per 500 hens.</p> <p> For more information on enrichment materials see the FeatherWel website.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.12.17 Disease prevention</p> <p>Buildings must be emptied of livestock between each batch of poultry reared. The buildings and fittings must be cleaned and disinfected during this time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 23(5)</i></p> | <p>Cleaning and disinfecting procedures need to ensure there is no dirt, dust, debris, or litter present when washing is complete.</p> <p>The health and performance of the next flock can indicate that appropriate resting, cleaning and disinfecting procedures are in place. Problems with red mite and bacterial diseases such as <i>E.coli</i> or <i>Mycoplasma</i> can be a result of poor hygiene, inadequate cleaning of buildings and feed/drinker lines between flocks.</p> |

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| <p>GB 3.12.18 Access to water for waterfowl</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To meet their species-specific needs and welfare requirements, waterfowl must have access to a stream, pond, lake or pool, whenever weather and hygiene conditions allow. 2. You must maintain and manage the water to prevent the build-up of disease. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(2); Art. 23(4)</i></p> | <p>To meet their species-specific needs, ducks need full body access to water. If you are unable to provide ducks with full body access to water, for example during extreme weather, you should still give them access to water for preening.</p> <p>Ducks use different depths of water to perform different behaviours and you should provide a varying water depth to meet their behavioural needs.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.12.19 Minimum slaughter ages for poultry</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"> a) 81 days for chickens 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 style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 12(5)</i></p> | <p>In GB, 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.</p> <p>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> |

GB 3.13 Beekeeping

What is this chapter about?


Organic beekeeping aims to optimise the health of the bees and the integrity of their products through:


- your hive management and the treatments you apply
- the quality of the foraging area, and
- the way you harvest, process and store the honey.


You must also comply with the applicable standards in:

- Chapter 1 'General standards for farming and growing'
- Chapter 2 'Standards for organic land and crops'
- Chapter 3 'Standards for organic livestock production'
- Chapter 6 'Specific standards for food and drink'

| Standards | Guidance |
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| GB 3.13.1 Producing organic bees and bee products You can sell bees and bee products as organic when you have kept them to full organic standards for at least 12 months. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 38(3) | Bees and bee products must be added to your trading schedule before you can sell them as organic. |
| GB 3.13.2 Sourcing bees 1. When choosing your breed or strain, you must give preference to local ecotypes of <i>Apis mellifera</i> . 2. You must choose breeds or strains that: a) are suitable to local conditions b) avoid the need for the mutilation of animals c) have vitality and resistance to disease. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(c)(iv) &(e)(i) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 8 | |
| GB 3.13.3 Establishing a new apiary You must establish your organic apiaries by bringing in colonies or swarms from organic units. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(a)(i) | |

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| <p>GB 3.13.4 Converting an existing apiary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You may convert your existing hives, but you must keep your bees to these standards for at least 12 months before you can sell any of their products as organic. 2. During this time you must replace their comb with organic wax. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 38(3)(5)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.5 Increasing your stocks</p> <p>You must increase your stocks by dividing your own colonies or bringing in colonies or swarms from other organic units.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(a)(i)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.6 Bringing in non-organic replacements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You may replace a maximum of 10% per year of your queen bees and swarms with non-organic queen bees and swarms, only when organic stock is not available in sufficient number. These bees will not need to go through a conversion period. 2. You must place them in hives with comb or foundation from organic production. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 9(5); Art. 38(4)</p> | <p>You must demonstrate that suitable organic stock is not available.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.13.7 Exceptional rules due to catastrophic circumstances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the approval of your competent authority, in the case of high mortality caused by health or catastrophic circumstances, you may renew or reconstitute your apiaries with non-organic bees when organic bees are not available. 2. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception. <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(f) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 47(b)</p> | <p>In GB, the Certification Team can submit a request to the competent authority, Defra, on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before you bring in non-organic bees.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.13.8 Keeping organic and non-organic bees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You may keep organic and non-organic apiaries on the same holding only where necessary for the purpose of pollination, and for a limited period of time. 2. You must demonstrate that the pollination services of the non-organic apiaries are necessary to initiate or maintain organic | <p> Records of keeping non-organic bees</p> |

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| <p>production on your holding due to climatic, geographical or structural constraints.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. You must manage the non-organic apiaries to all of these standards, with the exception of siting of apiaries. 4. You must not sell products from non-organic apiaries as organic. 5. You must keep records as evidence of the use of this provision. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(a)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 41</i></p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.9 Preventing disease</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must be able to show that you take preventative measures to limit your bee health problems. 2. Disease prevention must be based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) breed and strain selection b) husbandry management practice c) high quality feed, and d) adequate and appropriate hives, maintained in hygienic conditions. 3. 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 apiaries and should allow you to minimise your use of veterinary medicines. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(e)(i)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 63(1)(b)</i></p> | <p>If health problems occur you must review your management, take appropriate action and monitor its effectiveness. This must be detailed in your livestock management plan.</p> <p>Preventative measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renewing the queens regularly • regularly inspecting your hives to detect health problems • disinfecting materials and equipment regularly • destroying contaminated material • regularly renewing beeswax, and • leaving enough reserves of honey and pollen in your hives. |
| <p>GB 3.13.10 Treating disease</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If your colonies become sick or infested you must treat them immediately, and, if necessary, place the colonies in isolation apiaries. 2. Veterinary medicinal products may be used in organic beekeeping provided they are legally authorised for their intended use in the country of production. 3. If you give veterinary treatment to your bees you must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) clearly identify treated colonies by hive b) record the type of product and its active ingredient, together with details of the diagnosis, the dose, the method of administration, the duration of the treatment and the legal withdrawal period | <p>It is your responsibility to ensure that any treatments and veterinary products you use are licensed or have veterinary approval for their intended purpose.</p> <p> Records of veterinary treatments used</p> |

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| <p>c) provide us with this information before the bee products are marketed as organic.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(e)(ii) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 24(2)(3); Art. 25(4)(5); Art. 77; Art. 78(3)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.11 Treated colonies If you treat any colonies with chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary treatments, except those we allow against Varroa mite, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) put them in isolation apiaries during the treatment period b) replace all the wax with organically produced wax, and c) put the treated colony into a 12 month conversion period, starting from the date of treatment. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25(7)(8)</p> | <p>You must have an effective system in place to ensure that treated bees or their products are not sold as organic during the 12 month conversion period. This needs to be detailed in your livestock management plan.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.13.12 Treatment of Varroa mite infestation If you have an infestation of <i>Varroa destructor</i>, you may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) destroy the male brood to contain the infestation b) use formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid and oxalic acid c) use menthol, thymol, eucalyptol or camphor, and d) use veterinary treatments which are compulsory under national or community legislation. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25(3)(5)(6)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.13 Welfare of bees You must not mutilate bees, for example, clipping the wings of the queen bee.</p> <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 18(3)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.14 Feeding bees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must leave your colonies with enough honey and pollen reserves to survive the winter. 2. You may only feed your bees when the survival of the hives is endangered due to climatic conditions. 3. You may only feed them with organic honey, organic sugar or organic sugar syrup. 4. You must record the type of feed, dates, quantities and the hives that you artificially feed. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 19(3); Art. 78(2)</p> | <p>To prevent the risk of disease, feeding your bees with honey is not recommended except from your own disease-free colonies.</p> <p> Records of any supplementary feed given</p> |

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| <p>GB 3.13.15 Exceptional feeding rules due to catastrophic circumstances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the approval of your competent authority, in the case of long-lasting exceptional weather conditions or catastrophic circumstances which hamper the nectar or honeydew production, you may feed your bees with organic honey, organic sugar or organic sugar syrup. 2. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 22(2)(f) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 47(d) | <p>In GB, the Certification Team can submit a request to the competent authority on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before you feed your bees.</p> <p>To prevent the risk of disease, feeding your bees with honey is not recommended except from your own disease-free colonies.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.13.16 Designated regions</p> <p>Your control body, in line with any National Authority requirements, may have identified regions or areas where organic beekeeping is not practicable. You must not site or manage your apiaries in these areas. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 13(2)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.17 Siting your apiaries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When you are siting your apiaries you must ensure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Your bees have access to water and enough natural nectar, honeydew and pollen sources to sustain your colonies. b) Nectar and pollen sources within 3km of your apiary consist essentially of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) organic crops ii) uncultivated areas with natural vegetation, and iii) crops that have only been managed with low environmental impact methods and which cannot significantly affect the organic description of beekeeping. c) Your bees are kept far enough from sources that may lead to the contamination of beekeeping products or to the poor health of bees. You must provide us with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) a map on an appropriate scale listing the location of hives, and | <p>Low environmental impact methods are those that are part of a recognised scheme for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ways of using agricultural land which are compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, the landscape and its features, natural resources, the soil and genetic diversity • an environmentally-favourable extensification of farming and management of low-intensity pasture systems • the conservation of high nature-value farmed environments which are under threat • the upkeep of the landscape and historical features on agricultural land • the use of environmental planning in farming practice. <p>Potential sources of contamination and poor health include urban centres, motorways, industrial areas, waste dumps, waste incinerators and areas of cropping where pesticides are used. For example, insecticides such as neonicotinoids can be a source of contamination and can also affect bee health.</p> |

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| <p>ii) appropriate documentation and evidence, including suitable analyses if necessary, that the areas accessible to your colonies meet the conditions required in these standards.</p> <p>2. If you have put your hives in areas where flowering is not taking place or if they are dormant, you do not need to meet the above conditions for siting apiaries for this time.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(d)(ii) (EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(ix) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 13(1) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 78(1)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.18 Hive management</p> <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify each of your hives individually b) inform us when you move your apiaries, within a timescale we have approved and agreed with you, and c) record all details of your hive management operations, such as removing supers and extracting honey. <p>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 78(4)(6)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.19 Hive materials</p> <p>Your hives must be made mainly of natural materials which give no risk of contaminating either the environment, the bee products or the bees themselves.</p> <p>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(1)(b)(x) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 13(3)</p> | |
| <p>GB 3.13.20 Cleaning hives</p> <p>You may only use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) natural products in the hives, such as propolis, wax and plant oils b) physical cleaning treatments such as steam or direct flame c) rodenticides only in traps and appropriate products, listed in standard 2.6.3 to protect frames, hives and combs against pests, and d) appropriate substances listed in standard 1.12.2 for cleaning and disinfecting your beekeeping materials, buildings, utensils or products. | |

| (EC) 889/2008 Art. 13(5); Art. 23(4); Art. 25(1)(2); Annex VII | |
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| <p>GB 3.13.21 Sourcing wax</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must use organic wax: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) for all your new foundations b) to replace combs during a hive's conversion period, and c) to set up a new hive or installation. 2. In the case of new installations or during the conversion period, if organic wax is not available, you may use non-organic wax from cappings where you can prove it is free from contamination. (EC) 889/2008 Art. 13(4); Art. 38(5) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 44 | <p>You must demonstrate that organic wax is not available.</p> |
| <p>GB 3.13.22 Extraction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must make sure you adequately extract, process and store your bee products. 2. You must not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) use chemical synthetic repellents during honey extraction operations b) destroy bees in the combs to harvest bee products, or c) extract honey from combs that contain brood. (EC)834/2007 Art. 14(1)(xi) (EC) 889/2008 Art. 13(6)(7); Art. 78(5) | |