

Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline (EC 2018/848) –Version 1.1

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Summary of changes

The new EU Organic Regulation 2018/848 is applicable to all licensees in Northern Ireland from January 1st 2022. The Soil Association standards have now been split into the following:

Standards for licensees in Northern Ireland

- Soil Association Organic Standards for Northern Ireland – includes Soil Association higher standards in addition to 2018/848 requirements.
- Organic Standards for Northern Ireland – includes the baseline 2018/848 requirements.

Standards for licensees in Great Britain

- Soil Association Organic Standards for Great Britain – includes Soil Association higher standards in addition to 2007/834 & 2008/889 requirements.
- Organic Standards for Great Britain – includes the baseline 2007/834 & 2008/889 requirements.

This document summarises the changes made to the **baseline Organic Standards for Northern Ireland** document in order for the requirements to be compliant with 2018/848. Many areas of the regulation remain unchanged, or with minor alterations or clarifications.

In addition, a small number of wording changes have been made to some standards and guidance across all Soil Association Standards documents to provide further clarification for licensees. In this document we have not included small edits that have been made to formatting, grammar and spelling.

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

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Standards updated across all Northern Ireland baseline documents

Please note that these standards have been taken from the farming and growing standards document but these changes have been reflected across all sectors.

Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 5.2.1 Objectives and 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 at all levels, from the soil to plants and animals <u>and contribute to the protection of the environment and the climate.</u> 3. To maintain the long-term fertility and biological activity of soils. 4. <u>To contribute to high animal welfare standards and, in particular, to meeting animals' species-specific behavioural needs.</u> 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.
10. To foster biodiversity and protect sensitive habitats and landscape features, such as natural heritage sites.
11. Substantially contribute to a non-toxic environment.
12. To use preventative and precautionary measures and risk assessment when appropriate.
13. To exclude the use of GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs with the exception of veterinary medicinal products.
14. Encourage short distribution channels and local production.
15. Encouraging the preservation of rare and native breeds in danger of extinction.
16. Contributing to the development and use of plant genetic material adapted to the specific needs and objectives of organic agriculture, including the use of organic heterogeneous material and varieties suitable for organic production.
17. Fostering the development of organic plant breeding activities in order to contribute to favourable economic perspectives of the organic sector.
18. Ensuring the integrity of organic production at all stages of the production, processing and distribution of food and feed.
19. The exclusion from the whole organic food chain of animal cloning, rearing artificially induced polyploid animals, and ionising radiation.

*(EC) 848/2018 Art. 4; Art. 5
(EC) 848/2018 Annex II Part 1 1.9.2*

[\(EC\) 848/2018 Art. 24 \(5\)](#)

NI 5.3.2 Activities that require certification

1. In the UK and EU all stages of the organic supply chain must hold organic certification.
2. Before placing any products on the market as 'organic' or as 'in-conversion' your business must be certified if you produce, process, package, store, label, import, export, distribute of organic products. This includes, wholesale, storage and warehousing, acting as the first consignee for imported products or place such products on the market and any other activities that require the physical or financial ownership of organic or in-conversion products or ingredients.
3. You do not need certification if you only sell pre-packed organic products directly to the final consumer or user **provided that** you do not produce, prepare, store organic products other than in connection to the point of sale or import such products from a third country, or sub-contract out such activities. In other EU countries certification may be required for these activities.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 34 (1) (2) (3)

Without adequate certification at each stage of the supply chain, the products may lose their organic status. If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification please [contact us](#).

Placing on the market' is defined as: 'the holding of food or feed for the purpose of sale, including offering for sale or any other form of transfer, whether free of charge or not, and the sale, distribution, and other forms of transfer themselves' Regulation (EC) No 178/2002; Art.8.

You need certification if you manufacture, trade, wholesale, distribute, store, break down, pack, repack, re-label or process organic materials out of sight of the final customer. This includes (this is not an exhaustive list):

- wholesaling and storing products only, both packed and loose
- collecting bulk products from many points, for example milk haulier supplying ingredients to others to process for you
- buying and selling organic product – 'placing on the market'
- food service
- on-farm processing and packing
- importing organic products from outside NI or the EU
- first consignees of organic product from outside NI or the EU), and
- seed and animal feed mills.

Examples of businesses not requiring certification in the UK include supermarkets and mass caterers serving food e.g. restaurants, cafes, catering companies.

For more information on the certification requirements for importing and exporting please refer to importing standards (see section 6.8).

NI 5.3.3 Organic certificate

1. You are not allowed to sell ~~products with the Soil Association symbol~~ or with reference to organic or in-conversion without a valid certificate that shows that your activity complies with these organic standards.
2. Certificates are issued once Soil Association Certification has inspected your organic activity and they are satisfied that your activity meets organic standards. The certificate will list all the crops, livestock and/or products you are certified to produce, process and/or sell as organic.
3. The certificate may be in electronic format.
4. You are not entitled to obtain a certificate from more than one control body for the same category of products in the same country. This includes at different stages of production, preparation and distribution

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 35 (1)(2)(4)(5)

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 39

Soil Association Certification will issue licensees with the following documentation:

- An annual certificate with valid from and to dates, your name, address and licence number.
- A Trading Schedule with your certified products and status.
- For producers, an Information Schedule listing your licensed enterprises, holdings and fields.

If you are a farmer with animals and/or land in conversion, these will be shown as 'in-conversion' 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.

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.

The categories are as follows:

(a) unprocessed plants and plant products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material;

(b) livestock and unprocessed livestock products;

(c) algae and unprocessed aquaculture products;

(d) processed agricultural products, including aquaculture products, for use as food

(e) feed;

(f) wine;

(g) other products listed in Annex I to this Regulation or not covered by the previous categories.

2018/848 Article 35.7

Examples:

An egg producer who also packs eggs, or a grower who also packs the produce could not have certification with 2 different certification bodies. This because both the production and the packing would be classed as category A products (unprocessed).

An egg producer who then processes the eggs into mayonnaise could have certification with different certification bodies as the egg production would fall under category A and the processing under category B.

NI 5.4.1 Description of your activities

1. Before starting your organic enterprise, you must describe how you will comply with these organic standards, and the relevant practical measures to be taken to ensure compliance with this Regulation. 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:
 - a) facilities used for reception, processing, packaging, labelling and storage of products before and after any processing operations, and
 - b) procedures for the transport of products.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 39

To help you meet this requirement we have created an application form that outlines the information we need from you.

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.

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.

You must let us know if and when you plan to expand into new areas. For example, if you currently store organic products and wish to start packing or processing them, if you want to start importing products or if you have an abattoir and you want to start processing burgers and sausages. Depending on what you're adding or expanding, we will need to update your certificates and you may need an additional inspection or licence.

NI 5.4.2 Subcontracted operations

- If you sub- contract out your organic activity, in part or whole, to a third party, they must hold their own organic certification, unless you remain responsible for that organic production and have not transferred that responsibility to the subcontractor, in which case those activities may be covered under the scope of your organic license. The information in 5.4.1 must also include:
- a) a list of the subcontractors, including their activities and the certification body or authority that they are certified by

If you plan to contract out part or all of your operation, please contact the certification team.

<p>b) a written agreement by the subcontractors that their operation will comply with the control measures required as part of organic certification, and</p> <p>c) details of all the practical measures taken to ensure and demonstrate full traceability of products.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 34 (3)(5)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 5.4.3 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 5.4.1 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 <u>in the event that subcontractors are subject to controls by different control authorities or control bodies.</u> f. accept handing over information about your certification history when changing certification body or control authority g. will inform <u>your buyer</u> and certification body or control authority immediately <u>in the event that a suspicion of non-compliance has been substantiated, that a suspicion of non-compliance cannot be eliminated, or that non-compliance that affects the integrity of the products in question has been established.</u> h. in the case of withdrawing certification inform the certification body or control authority without delay i. accept that your Certification Body or control authority retains your certification history for a minimum of 5 years 	<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>
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<p>j. must inform the certification body of any changes to your activities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art.39 (1)(d)(iii)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 5.4.4 Other obligations and statutory requirements You must make sure your organic business and operations comply with all statutory regulations in your country, and you must make all declarations and other communications that are necessary for official controls. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Art.2 (4)(5); Art. 37; Art. 39 (1)(b)</i></p>	<p>This includes but is not limited to requirements concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • premises • equipment • staff facilities • general hygiene • protection of food from contamination or deterioration • animal welfare • water • transport • labour and workers, and • wildlife conservation and protection.
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<p>NI 5.5.1 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. You may also be inspected by your competent authority as part of their surveillance of our inspection procedures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 38 (2)(3)</i></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. <p>We may charge you for these additional inspections if they are needed because of non-compliances.</p>
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	<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>
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<p>NI 5.6.2 Reporting non-compliances</p> <p>1. If you consider or suspect that a any of your products <u>you have produced, prepared, imported or received from another operator</u> does not meet organic standards then you must inform us immediately and either :</p> <p>a) Withdraw any reference to organic in relation to the product. b) Check whether the suspicion can be substantiated. c) 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><u>(a) identify and separate the product concerned</u> <u>(b) check whether the suspicion can be substantiated</u> <u>(c) not place the product on the market as organic or in-conversion and not use it in organic production, unless the suspicion can be eliminated</u> <u>(d) where the suspicion has been substantiated or where it cannot be eliminated, immediately inform us and provide us with available information, where appropriate</u> <u>(e) fully cooperate with us in verifying and identifying the reasons for the suspected non-compliance.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 27</i></p> <p>If we have a substantiated suspicion that you intend to place a product on 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. <u>We will complete the investigation in a reasonable time period taking into</u></p>	<p>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* <u>(please see standard 5.6.3)</u> • a complaint from a reliable source • you have not been able to verify the organic status of goods you have received (see section 5.7 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>You must stop any further sale/use of the product as organic (or in-conversion if applicable) until any doubt over its organic status can be eliminated.</p> <p>You must inform the certification team if you have <u>substantiated suspicion or where you have not been able to eliminate</u> suspicion that the 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.</p> <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</p>
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account the complexity of the case and the durability of the product. 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.

If the suspicion is confirmed, then you must remove any reference to organic from the product. If the suspicion is not confirmed, then you no longer have to withhold the product from sale.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 27;
Art. 41 (1)(2)

~~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 what action to take, please contact the technical team at sacl.notifications@soilassociation.org.~~

NI 5.6.3 Actions to be taken in the case of suspicion of the presence of non-permitted products or substances

1. If you suspect that a product does not meet these organic standards due to the presence of a substance not authorised for use in organic production, you must:
 - a) identify and separate the product concerned
 - b) check whether the suspicion can be substantiated
 - c) not market the product as organic or in-conversion
 - d) not use the product in organic production
 - e) fully cooperate with Soil Association Certification in identifying and verifying the reasons for the positive residue detection.
2. To check whether the suspicion of a positive residue detection can be substantiated you must take account of the following elements:
 - a) where the suspicion concerns an incoming organic or in-conversion product check that the information provided on the label of the product matches the

The non-permitted products and substances referred to in this standard can include any product or substance not permitted in these organic standards. Such products and substances not authorised for use in organic production and processing can include but are not limited to:

- active substances used in plant protection products
- pest control products for use in agriculture and storage facilities
- fertilisers soil conditioners and nutrients
- non-organic feed material of plant, algal, animal or yeast origin or as feed material of microbial or mineral origin
- feed additives and processing aids
- food additives and processing aids
- cleaning and disinfection products
- non-organic ingredients not authorised for use in organic products
- processing aids for yeasts and yeast products.


The presence of non-permitted products or substances also includes and may be referred to as residue detections. Suspicion of contamination must be followed by the procedure outlined in this standard.

If you are unsure what action to take, please contact the technical team at sacl.notifications@soilassociation.org.

<p><u>information on the accompanying documents and that the information on the organic certificate provided by the supplier relates to the product purchased</u></p> <p>b) <u>where there is suspicion that the cause is under the control of your business you must examine any possible cause for the positive residue detection.</u></p> <p>3. <u>Where the suspicion has been substantiated or where it cannot be eliminated you must immediately inform Soil Association Certification and provide:</u></p> <p>a) <u>information and documents relating to the supplier (delivery note, invoice, the supplier's organic certification and the Certificate of Inspection (COI) if relevant)</u></p> <p>b) <u>information relating to the traceability of the product (lot identification or batch number, stock quantity and the quantity of the product already sold)</u></p> <p>c) <u>the laboratory results, from an accredited laboratory when relevant and available</u></p> <p>d) <u>the sampling sheet detailing the time, place and method used to take the sample</u></p> <p>e) <u>any information regarding a previous suspicion or substantiated residue detection for the specific product or substance</u></p> <p>f) <u>any other relevant documentation that will help clarify the case.</u></p> <p>4. <u>If your product has a positive residue detection for a substance not authorised for use in organic production we Soil Association Certification will carry out an investigation to determine:</u></p> <p>a) <u>if products or substances not authorised in organic production have been used</u></p> <p>b) <u>if sufficient precautionary measures have been taken</u></p>	
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<p>c) <u>if sufficient measures following previous requests from certification body have not been taken.</u></p> <p><u>You will be given the opportunity to comment on the investigation and you may be required to take corrective measure to avoid future contamination.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 28 (2); Art. 29 (1)(2)(3)(4); (EC) 2021/279 Art. 1 (1)(2)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 5.6.4 Exceptions</p> <p><u>Exceptions to certain production rules will only be allowed when explicitly referenced in these standards. Permission may be granted or confirmed by your certification body or competent authority.</u> You may only deviate from the standards when explicitly permitted in these standards. Permission may be granted or confirmed by your certification body.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 40 (4)(b)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 5.8.1 Using the term organic</p> <p>If you wish to refer to organic in relation to <u>product referred to in standard 5.1.1</u> 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><u>Terms listed in annex IV of (EC) 2018/848 (also listed in the guidance to this standard) and their derivatives, this includes terms used in the EU to describe organic products, whether alone or in combination, may be used throughout the European Union and in any language listed.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 2 (3)</i></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 transported in bulk, such as milk • 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</p>
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(EC) 2018/848 Art. 30 (1)(2)

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.

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 *Trade Descriptions Act*.

Examples of other references to organic include, "organically grown"; "organically produced"; "grown/produced using organic principles"; "grown/produced using organic methods".

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. 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 wording describing the certified service offered should be included e.g. "We offer certified packing of organic products".

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.

Labelling legislation

Along with meeting these standards for labelling, you will also need to make sure your labels meet other relevant labelling legislation such as *Regulation 1169/2011* on the provision of food information to consumers, and the *Food Information Regulations*.

List of terms for organic (annex IV of (EC) 2018/848)

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	<p><u>BG: биологичен.</u> <u>ES: ecológico, biológico, orgánico.</u> <u>CS: ekologické, biologické.</u> <u>DA: økologisk.</u> <u>DE: ökologisch, biologisch.</u> <u>ET: mahe, ökoloogiline.</u> <u>EL: βιολογικό.</u> <u>EN: organic.</u> <u>FR: biologique.</u> <u>GA: orgánach.</u> <u>HR: ekološki.</u> <u>IT: biologico.</u> <u>LV: bioloģisks, ekoloģisks.</u> <u>LT: ekologiškas.</u> <u>LU: biologesch, ökologesch.</u> <u>HU: ökológiai.</u> <u>MT: organiku.</u> <u>NL: biologisch.</u> <u>PL: ekologiczne.</u> <u>PT: biológico.</u> <u>RO: ecologic.</u> <u>SK: ekologické, biologické.</u> <u>SL: ekološki.</u> <u>FI: luonnonmukainen.</u> <u>SV: ekologisk.</u></p>
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NI 5.8.3 Products with less than 95% organic ingredients

1. For products where less than 95% of the agricultural ingredients are organic you can only include reference to organic in the ingredients list. In order to do this you must:

- a) indicate which ingredients are organic in the

Guidance for each point is set out below:

1. Less than 95% organic bulk labels
 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.

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ingredients list.

b) include the total percentage of organic ingredients in the ingredients list (as a percentage of the agricultural ingredients).

c) use the same colour, size and style of lettering in the reference to organic and percentage statement as you do as for the non-organic ingredients.

d) Also comply with standard 6.3.1, 6.3.3 and 6.3.4
(EC) 2018/848 Art. 30(5)

2. For products where the main ingredient is a product of hunting or fishing you may make reference to organic in the sales description and in the list of ingredients provided that you:

a) indicate which ingredients are organic in the ingredients list

b) ensure any reference to organic in the sales description is clearly related to the organic ingredients and not the product of hunting or fishing

c) all other agricultural ingredients are organic

d) include the total percentage of organic ingredients in the ingredients list (as a percentage of the total quantity of agricultural ingredients)

e) in the list of ingredients 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.

f) The product also complies with standard 6.3.1, 6.3.3 and 6.3.4
(EC) 2018/848 Art. 30 (5)

3. You must **not** use the EU logo on products covered under points 1 and 2 above.

2. Main ingredient of hunting and fishing
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.

Your labelling must not infer the product is organic. Any references to organic must only be in relation to the organic ingredients.

Products of hunting and fishing are considered agricultural ingredients so are included in percentage calculations.
For example, Sardines in tomato sauce:

Sardines	52%
Organic tomatoes	32%
Organic olive oil	11%
Organic lemon	5%
Organic content =	48%

The label will indicate total organic content of 48%.

The table below 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.

% organic agricultural ingredients	References to organic	Soil Association Organic logo	EU Organic logo (optional unless in NI)	Certification code	Statement of agricultural origin
More than 95%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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<p style="text-align: right;"><i>((EC) 2018/848 Art. 33 (1))</i></p> <p>4. The label must include the code number of the certifier who certifies the company that carries out the most recent production, preparation or packing for the product (which may or may not be you).</p>	<p>Less than 95%</p>	<p>Only in ingredient list</p>	<p>✗</p>	<p>✗</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✗</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 32 (1)(a)</i></p> <p>5. You must include a traceability code, such as a batch or date code.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 221/642 Annex (2.1.1)(d)</i></p>	<p>Main ingredient is product of hunting or fishing</p>	<p>In sales description and list of ingredients</p>	<p>✗</p>	<p>✗</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✗</p>
	<p>In-conversion product</p>	<p>You may use the wording 'product under conversion to organic farming'</p>	<p>✗ You may use the wording 'Soil Association approved organic conversion'</p>	<p>✗</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✗</p>

NI 5.8.5 In-conversion products

1. To label your product as 'in-conversion' or use a similar term, the product must:
 - a) have been grown on land that has gone through at least a 12-month conversion period before the crop was harvested, and
 - b) contain only one agricultural ingredient, which must be of plant origin, either processed or unprocessed.
 - c) meet all of the processed food requirements as detailed in these processed food standards.
 - d) ensure any reference to 'in-conversion' is not more prominent in colour, size and style of lettering than the sales description of the product.
 - e) Include the certifier code in the same visual field as the reference to in-conversion.

(EC) 2021/279 Art. 3 (1)(a)(b)

2. You must **not** use the EU logo on in-conversion products.
(EC) 2018/848 Art.33 (1)

NI 5.8.6 Using the EU organic logo

1. You must display the EU logo on labels of pre-packaged organic products produced in Northern Ireland or the EU.
2. You do not need to use the EU logo for products imported from third countries.
3. 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.

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](#).

You can download the EU logo in various formats from [here](#).

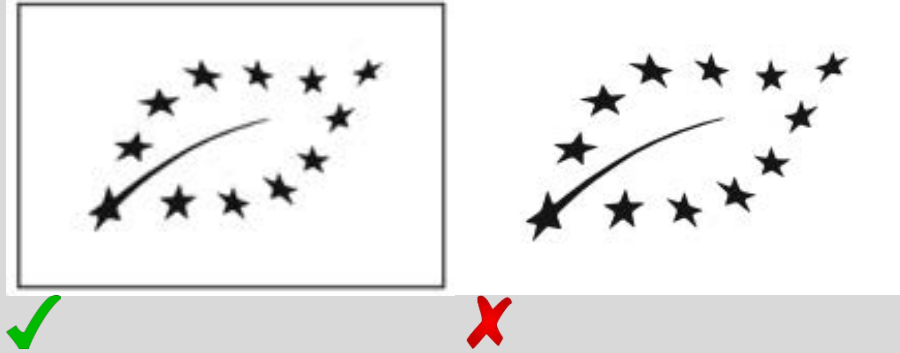
The white EU logo with the black stars is designed to be used on a dark background only. When the EU logo is used it must appear within a box or a black outline.



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



5. 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.
6. The EU organic logo may appear:
 - a) in negative, if the background of your packaging is dark.
 - b) in the single colour of your packaging if you are only able to print one colour.
 - c) with an outer line around it to improve how it stands



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

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

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

<p>out on coloured backgrounds.</p> <p>d) in conjunction with other logos and text referring to organic, providing this does not overlap, obscure or change the logo.</p> <p>7. <u>The organic production logo of the European Union shall not be used in the labelling, the presentation or the advertising of products originating from mass catering and shall not be used to advertise the mass caterer.</u></p> <p>8. <u>The organic production logo may be used for information and educational purposes related to the existence and advertising of the logo itself, provided that such use is not liable to mislead the consumer as regards the organic production of specific products, and provided that the logo is reproduced in accordance with the rules set out in this standard.</u></p> <p>You do not have to use the EU organic logo on products produced in GB or imported from countries outside the EU, but if you do, you must also use the declaration of where the ingredients have been farmed and the certifier code.</p> <p>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 2 (3), Art. 33 (1)(4)(5); 32 (1)(2)(3) Art. 33 (1)(4)(5)</p>	
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<p>NI 5.8.7 Declaring ingredient origin</p> <p>1. You need to include a declaration of where the ingredients have been farmed or grown.</p> <p>2. For products produces in GB you must use 'UK Agriculture', 'Non-UK Agriculture or UK/Non-UK Agriculture'</p> <p>1. 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:</p> <p>a) in the same visual field as the EU organic logo;</p>	<p>The declaration should be placed directly underneath the certifier.</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 country constituent nation of the UK it can be labelled either as that specific country. For</p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>b) below the certifier code, and c) no more prominent than the sales description.</p> <p>2. 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. The word 'Agriculture' may be replaced by 'Aquaculture' where appropriate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>EC) 2018/848 Art. 32 (1) (EC) 2021/279 (Art.3) (3)</i></p>	<p>example, lamb produced in Wales could be labelled or UK Agriculture. If you use this, it complies with both the UK and EU requirements as Welsh Agriculture.</p>
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<p>NI 5.9.1 Using accurate descriptions</p> <p>1. <u>References to organic production, as described in standard 5.8.1</u>. The term 'organic' can only be used to describe products (in 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, <u>which fall under the scope of these standards</u> or clearly have no connection to organic production.</p> <p>2. You must not use any terms, including terms used in trademarks, company names and practises, labels or advertising, that could mislead consumers into believing products are organic when they are not.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 30 (2)</i></p>	<p>Your sales description and product name will need to accurately describe your product. You can't use the word organic, even if it is part of your company trade name, in relation to non-organic products (e.g. on labels). <u>Refer to standards 5.8.1 for further details</u></p> <p>I Substantiating claims</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'
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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](#).

Labelling must not be misleading

You need to make sure that the way you label your products is not misleading. For example, if:

- you label your product as 'organic mint biscuits', it must contain organic mint.
- your product does not contain organic mint, you can only label it as 'organic biscuits with mint'.
- you label your product as 'organic strawberry ice cream' it needs to contain organic strawberries.
- your product does not contain organic strawberries but uses a natural strawberry flavouring instead, it could only be labelled as 'organic ice cream with strawberry flavour'.
- your company name includes the word organic, you cannot use it on non-organic products. For example, you could not use the name 'Brown Farm Organics' on non-organic products.

You will need to seek guidance from Trading Standards on any other claims you make on your product labels.

If you produce organic and non-organic lines in the same range, you need to make sure that the packaging is sufficiently distinguishable (for example by colour, design or wording) to prevent confusion.



Labelling legislation


Food labelling legislation is harmonised at an EU level. 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, Wales and Northern Ireland all domestic standards legislation is the responsibility of the

	<p>FSA.</p> <p>Visit this website for details.</p>
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<p>NI 5.11.1 Reducing the risk of contamination</p> <p><u>1. In order to avoid contamination with products or substances that are not authorised for use in organic production, you must take the following precautionary measures:</u></p> <p><u>(a) put in place and maintain measures that are proportionate and appropriate to identify the risks of contamination of organic production and products with non-authorised products or substances, including systematic identification of critical procedural steps;</u></p> <p><u>(b) put in place and maintain measures that are proportionate and appropriate to avoid risks of contamination of organic production and products with non-authorised products or substances;</u></p> <p><u>(c) regularly review and adjust such measures;</u></p> <p><u>(d) document the risks identified and the measures you put in place, and</u></p> <p><u>(d) comply with other relevant requirements of these standards that ensure the separation of organic, in-conversion and non-organic products.</u></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) 2018/848 Art. 28 (1); Annex II Part IV (1.2) (1.4)</i></p>	<p>Examples of risks include:</p> <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contamination from nearby non-organic, or historically treated, processing or storage areas. <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. Insufficient pest management. Products that may be in contact with crops. <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. Residues or contaminants from packaging, such as synthetic coatings for cheese if they contain fungicides or wood that has been treated with preservatives. <p>Boiler chemicals - If you use boiler chemicals to treat water in boilers be aware</p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	<p>that some chemicals are volatile and carry over in the steam and could contaminate organic product. For example, amines are designed to be carried into pipes with the steam to reduce corrosion. These should not be used where steam will be in direct contact with organic product or on product contact surfaces. Some boiler additives do not carry over with the steam, these include: mineral acids (usually phosphoric), polyphosphates, sodium hexametaphosphate, sodium bisulphate, sodium polyacrylate, sodium hydroxide, sulphite oxygen scavengers.</p> <p>You must document how you manage organic integrity, for example through your HACCP or quality management system.</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. Ensure that all new staff are adequately trained and that all staff are trained as and when changes are made to the Soil Association organic standards and your own operational procedures.</p>
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<p>NI 5.11.2 Genetic modification</p> <p>1. <u>Products If a product contains GMOs, consists of GMOs or is produced from GMOs it must not be labelled or advertised with reference to organic production.</u> labelled as consisting of or made from GMOs must never be described as organic.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 30 (4)</i></p> <p>2. <u>GMOs, products produced from GMOs, and products produced by GMOs shall not be used in food or feed, or as food, feed, processing aids, plant protection products, fertilisers, soil conditioners, plant reproductive material, micro-organisms or animals in organic production.</u> You must be able to demonstrate <u>the above.</u></p>	<p> If you source meat, egg or aquaculture animal products which were farmed outside the UK/EU we will ask for additional information to demonstrate the animal feed meets this Soil Association sourcing requirement.</p> <p>In the EU, if a product contains GMOs or their derivatives then it must be labelled as such, (as described in 5.11.2.3) 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</p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>You must not use GMOs or products made from or by GMOs or their derivatives. 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> <p>3. For food and feed products in the 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 or for products we are certifying outside the EU, you will need to get confirmation from your suppliers, in the form of a non-GM declaration, that the products supplied have not been produced from or by GMOs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 11</i></p>	<p>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> <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><u>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.</u></p> <p>5.11.2.3 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>The European regulations and directives referred to in the standard only apply to product within the EU market. This means that if we are certifying your business outside the EU, supplier declarations will be required for all GM risk ingredients and feed to confirm the products have not been produced from or by GMOs.</p>
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<p><u>NI 5.11.3 Nanoparticles</u> <u>1. Organic food must not contain or consist of engineered nanoparticles.</u></p>	<p><u>The definition of engineered nanomaterial, as stated in (EC) 2015/2283 is as follows:</u></p>
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(EC) 2018/848 Art.7 (e)
(EC) 2018/848 Art. 3 (63)

engineered nanomaterial' means any intentionally produced material that has one or more dimensions of the order of 100 nm or less or that is composed of discrete functional parts, either internally or at the surface, many of which have one or more dimensions of the order of 100 nm or less, including structures, agglomerates or aggregates, which may have a size above the order of 100 nm but retain properties that are characteristic of the nanoscale.

Properties that are characteristic of the nanoscale include:
(i) those related to the large specific surface area of the materials considered;
and/or
(ii) specific physico-chemical properties that are different from those of the non-nanoform of the same material.

Examples of products that we know may contain manufactured nanoparticles and that are commercially available include titanium dioxide and zinc oxide used in health and beauty products. The manufactured nanoparticle versions of these products are transparent.

NI 5.13.1 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.
2. You must ensure when implementing preventative measures in organic areas that you take precautionary proportionate and appropriate measures to avoid reduce the risk of contamination of organic products.

EC) 2018/848 Art. 28 (1); Annex II Part IV (1.2) (1.4) (

Your procedures must include 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:

- Flyscreens
- pheromones in traps and dispensers, for monitoring pest levels or as attractants and sexual behaviour disrupters
- effective covers of waste bins
- sealing gaps and entry points.

NI 5.14.1 Collection of products and transport to preparation units

If you are collecting organic, in-conversion and non-organic products at the same time, you must have measures in place to prevent any possible mixing or exchanges and you must

 Collection records

be able to clearly identify the organic **and in-conversion** products. Your collection records need to indicate the collection days, hours, collection circuit and the time and date when products were received.
(EC) 2018/848 Art.23 (1); Annex III (1)

NI 5.14.2 Labelling & transporting products

1. If you send an organic, **or in-conversion** product to another company, including retailers and wholesalers ~~and other licensees for further processing, packing or re-labelling~~ then you must:
 - a) ensure it is transported in **appropriate packaging, containers or vehicles closed in such** a way that would prevent ~~substitution~~ **alteration, including substitution, of the content without manipulation or damage of the seal.**
 - b) label it clearly, either on the product or on accompanying documentation undeniably linked to it so that the recipient can easily identify:
 - (i) the product **name** and its organic status
 - (ii) the name and address of the operator, and, if different, the seller or owner of the product
 - (iii) ~~include your certification body code,~~
 - (iv) **product** traceability code, **such as batch or lot number**
 - (v) % organic content of the product (if less than 95%).

The above information may solely be on an accompanying document, provided that document can be undeniably linked with the product packaging, container or vehicular transport.
The accompanying document must also include information on the supplier or transporter.

For additional requirements for labelling of retail packed products, please refer to section 5.8.

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.


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.

 Records of transportation of loose organic products.

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.

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>2. You do not need to use closed packaging, containers or vehicles if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) transport takes place directly between two organically certified operatorsb) the transport includes only organic or in-conversion productsc) products are accompanied by a document containing the information required in point 1 aboved) both the sending and receiving operators keep records of the transportation. <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex III (2.1 & 2.2) amended by 2021/642 (2.1.1.)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 5.14.3 Receiving organic products</p> <p>When you receive an organic or in-conversion product you must check, upon delivery that the product is labelled according to standard 5.14.2 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><i>EC) 2018/848 Annex III (5)</i></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 standards (5.7) 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> <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.
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<p>NI 5.15.1 General separation</p> <p>You must manage your organic storage areas and containers in such a way to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) ensure identification of lots, andb) avoid any mixing with or contamination from products or substances that we do not allow in these standards. Your	<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
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>organic storage areas, containers and products must be clearly identifiable at all times. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex III (7.1)</i></p>	<p>accidental contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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>Describe in your procedures how you avoid any mixing or contamination from products or substances not permitted in these standards.</p> <p>Also refer to the 'preserving organic integrity' section, for details of contamination, and products and substances we do not allow.</p>
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<p>NI 5.15.2 Handling and separating organic and non-organic products</p> <p>1. When you use the same equipment and premises to store and handle both organic, <u>in-conversion</u> and non-organic products you must:</p> <p>a) Minimise Avoid the risk of mixing <u>and exchanging</u> organic <u>or in-conversion</u> products with <u>non-organic</u> products and feedstuffs by clearly identifying and separating them during <u>storage, handling and production including the separation of organic and in-conversion</u> process, and</p> <p>b) effectively clean equipment and storage areas used to handle or store non-organic products before handling or storing organic <u>and in-conversion</u> products.</p> <p><i>EC) 2018/848 Annex III (7.4); Annex II IV (1.5)</i></p>	<p>Also refer to the 'preserving organic integrity' (section 5.11) for details of contamination and products and substances we do not allow.</p>
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Standards updates specific to farming and growing

NI 1.1.1 Scope of the standards

1. 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:
 - a) crop production (including wild harvesting)
 - b) livestock husbandry
 - c) vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivating
 - d) yeasts used for feed
2. These standards contain detailed production rules for the following livestock species:
 - a) bovine, including buffalo and bison,
 - b) equines
 - c) pigs
 - d) sheep
 - e) goats
 - f) poultry
 - g) bees
 - h) **cervine**
3. For livestock species not referred to in these standards, we can in certain cases, apply the standards for similar species to their production.
4. You must ensure you comply with all other relevant EU legislation. ~~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.~~

EC) 2018/848 Art. 2 (1)(2)(3)(4)(5)

Please contact us if you want to use our standards for livestock species not referred to in this document.

If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification please [contact us](#).

For standards regarding food and drink, seed and livestock feed processing please refer to the food and drink standards, and feed processing standards, on our [website](#).

NI 1.2.2 Specific principles for organic farming

In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 1.2.1, organic farming must be based on the following specific principles:

1. the maintenance and enhancement of soil life and natural soil fertility, soil stability, soil water retention and soil biodiversity preventing and combating soil compaction, loss of soil organic matter, 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 use of seeds and animals with a high degree of genetic diversity, disease resistance and longevity
6. the maintenance of animal health by encouraging the natural immunological defence of animals and the selection of appropriate breeds and husbandry practices
7. the maintenance of plant health by preventative measures, such as appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests
8. In the choosing of plant varieties, having regard to the particularities of the specific organic production systems, focussing on agronomic performance, disease resistance, adaptation to diverse local soil and climate conditions and respect for the natural crossing barriers;
9. the use of organic plant reproductive material, such as plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material and of organic varieties suitable for organic production;

<p>10. <u>the production of organic varieties through natural reproductive ability and focussing on containment within natural crossing barriers</u></p> <p>11. <u>the possibility for farmers to use plant reproductive material obtained from their own farms in order to foster genetic resources adapted to the special conditions of organic production</u></p> <p>12. the practice of site-adapted and land-related livestock production</p> <p>13. <u>the practice of soil-related crop cultivation</u></p> <p>14. the production of products of organic livestock from animals that have been raised on organic holdings since birth or hatching and throughout their life</p> <p>15. the choice of breeds having regard to <u>a high degree of genetic diversity</u>, the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions, <u>their breeding value, their longevity</u>, their vitality and their resistance to disease or health problems</p> <p>16. the feeding of livestock with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients from organic farming and of natural non-agricultural substances</p> <p>17. 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</p> <p>18. <u>avoiding any endangerment of species of conservation interest that might arise from organic production.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>EC) 2018/848 Art. 6</i></p>	
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<p>NI 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</p>	<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>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>must have been applied to the land from the agreed start date of conversion for the following periods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) all land – 24 months b) crops grown on your land: <ol 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 iii. perennial crops already in the ground (other than grass or forage) – 36 months before harvesting organic crops. <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. <u>In this case the allowance for reduced conversion for land used for pigs or poultry will not apply.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 10(1)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.7.1)(1.7.2)(1.7.4.2)</i></p>	<p>We may take soil samples to determine if your conversion period needs to be extended.</p>
<p>NI 2.1.3 Reducing conversion periods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your conversion period may be reduced if you can demonstrate that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 b) the land has not been treated with any products prohibited under these organic standards for at least three years. 2. Your competent authority must approve any reduction. <u><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 10(3) (EC 2018/848 Annex II Part I (1.7.4)</i></u> 	<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, you need to get permission from your competent authority. In NI the competent authority is NICA. 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>NI 2.3.2 Preventing environmental contamination You must carefully manage your plant production techniques all your operations and activities to avoid or minimise contaminating the environment. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II I (1.6)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 4 (d)</i></p>	<p>Consider all aspects of your management practices and how they might impact on the environment.</p> <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 your Certification Officer.</p>
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<p>NI 2.4.1 Managing your soil 1. Your plants must be nourished primarily through the</p>	<p>Your system should:</p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>soil ecosystem. The organic matter, fertility and biological activity of the soil must be maintained and increased primarily by;</p> <p>a) <u>except in the case of grassland or perennial forage, by the use of multiannual crop rotation including mandatory leguminous crops as the main or cover crop for rotating crops and other green manure crops;</u></p> <p>b) <u>in the case of greenhouses or perennial crops other than forage, by the use of short-term green manure crops and legumes as well as the use of plant diversity; and</u></p> <p>c) <u>in all cases, by the application of livestock manure or organic matter, both preferably composted, from organic production.</u></p> <p>a) varied crop rotation b) legumes c) green manure crops d) application of livestock manure or organic material preferably composted and from organic production.</p> <p>2. The soil must be managed to enhance stability, soil organic matter levels and soil structure and to prevent compaction, erosion and run-off.</p> <p>3. Mineral nitrogen fertilisers cannot be used.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 6 (a) (c)</i> <i>EC) 2018/848 Annex II I (1.9.1) (1.9.2) (1.9.8)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build and maintain the health of your soil • 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.</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.
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NI 2.5.2 Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II I
(EC) 2021/1165 Art. 2; Annex II

Name of product	Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>Farmyard manure (FYM)</p>	<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 Preferably from Soil Association or EU organic 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>
<p>Name of product</p>	<p>Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use</p>
<p>Composted or fermented mixture of household waste</p>	<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.

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

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	<u>Where relevant in accordance with Regulation (EC) N° 1069/2009</u>
Guano	
Name of product	Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use
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 co-digested with material of plant or animal origin as listed in this table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-products of animal origin (including by-products from wild animals) of category 3 and digestive tract content 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. • 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>
Products or by-products of animal origin as below:	<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.
<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 	<p>Guidance</p> <p>I 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>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding, extraction with water or aqueous acid and/or alkaline solution, or fermentation <p><u>only from organic or collected in a sustainable way in accordance with point 2.4 of Part III of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848</u></p>
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.
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 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002.
Soft ground rock phosphate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>product obtained by grinding soft mineral phosphates and containing tricalcium phosphate and calcium carbonate as essential ingredients minimum content of nutrients (percentage by weight</u> <u>25 % P₂O₅</u> <u>phosphorus expressed as P₂O₅ soluble in mineral acids, at least 55 % of the declared content of P₂O₅ being soluble in 2 % formic acid</u> <u>particle size:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>– at least 90 % by weight able to pass through a sieve with a mesh of 0,063 mm</u> <u>– at least 99 % by weight able to pass through a sieve with a mesh of 0,125 mm</u> <u>until 15 July 2022, cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P₂O₅; from 16 July 2022,</u>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	<p><u>the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 apply</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product as specified in point 7 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
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. • <u>product obtained in amorphous form by heat treatment and grinding, containing aluminium and calcium phosphates as essential ingredients minimum content of nutrients (percentage by weight):</u> <u>30 % P₂O₅</u> • <u>phosphorus expressed as P₂O₅ soluble in mineral acids, at least 75 % of the declared content of P₂O₅ being soluble in alkaline ammonium citrate (Joulie) particle size:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>at least 90 % by weight able to pass through a sieve with a mesh of 0,160 mm</u> – <u>at least 98 % by weight able to pass through a sieve with a mesh of 0,630 mm</u> <p><u>until 15 July 2022, cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P₂O₅; from 16 July 2022, the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 apply</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Use limited to basic soils (pH > 7,5).</u>
Basic slag (<u>Thomas phosphates or Thomas slag</u>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>product obtained in iron-smelting by treatment of the phosphorus melts and containing calcium silicophosphates as its essential ingredients minimum content of nutrients (percentage by weight):</u> <u>12 P₂O₅</u> • <u>phosphorus expressed as phosphorus pentoxide soluble in mineral acids, at least 75 % of the declared content of phosphorus pentoxide being soluble in 2 % citric acid or 10 % P₂O₅ phosphorus expressed as phosphorus pentoxide soluble in 2 % citric acid</u> • <u>particle size:</u> – <u>at least 75 % able to pass through a sieve with a mesh of 0,160 mm</u> – <u>at least 96 % able to pass through a sieve with a mesh of 0,630 mm</u> • <u>from 16 July 2022, the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 apply</u> • 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"> • <u>product obtained from crude potassium salts minimum content of nutrients (percentage by weight):</u> <u>9 % K₂O potassium expressed as water- soluble K₂O</u> <u>9 % K₂O potassium expressed as water- soluble K₂O</u> <u>from 16 July 2022, the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 apply</u>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	<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 2 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"> <u>product of natural origin containing calcium sulphate at various degrees of hydration minimum content of nutrients (percentage per weight)</u> <u>25 % CaO</u> <u>35 % SO₃</u> <u>calcium and sulphur expressed as total CaO + SO₃ "fineness of grind:</u> <u>– at least 80 % to pass through a sieve with a 2 mm mesh width,</u> <u>– at least 99 % to pass through a sieve with a 10 mm mesh width "</u> <u>from 16 July 2022, the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 apply</u> 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"> <u>until 15 July 2022: as listed in accordance with Part E of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003;</u> <u>from 16 July 2022, the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 apply</u> Products as specified in Annex I D.3 of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

Trace elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • until 15 July 2022: as listed in accordance with Part E of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003; • from 16 July 2022, the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 apply 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).

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

NI 2.6.1 Pest, disease and weed management

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:

- a) Creating fertile soils with high biodiversity
- b) Choosing appropriate species and varieties, **including heterogenous material**, resistant to pests and diseases
- c) Grafting onto resistant rootstock
- d) Appropriate crop rotations
- e) Protecting and encouraging natural enemies of pests.
You may also introduce natural predators

3. cultivation techniques such as biofumigation, mechanical and physical methods

- f) Carefully planning planting dates
- g) Pre-emergence and post-emergence mechanical weeding
- h) **Thermal processes, such as solarisation and, in the case of protected crops, shallow steam treatment of the soil (to a maximum depth of 10 cm)**
- i) Using steam to sterilise buildings and equipment
- j) Using good husbandry and hygiene practices to limit the spread of any pests or disease.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 6(d)

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.10.1)

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.

NI 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) 2018/848 Art. 24(1a)

Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
Copper compounds in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copper hydroxide • copper oxychloride 	Guidance In compliance with <u>PPP legislation</u> you may use a maximum of 4kg/ha in any one year provided that over 7 years you do not exceed 28kg/ha. you must check

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copper oxide • Bordeaux mixture tribasic copper sulphate 	<p><u>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.</u></p>
<p>NI 2.7.1 Producing organic seed and propagating material</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. <u>For the production of organic varieties suitable for organic production, the organic breeding activities shall be conducted under organic conditions and shall focus on enhancement of genetic diversity, reliance on natural reproductive ability, as well as agronomic performance, disease resistance and adaptation to diverse local soil and climate conditions.</u> 3. <u>All multiplication practices except meristem culture shall be carried out under certified organic management.</u> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.8.1)(1.8.2)(1.8.4)</i></p>	
<p>NI 2.7.3 Seed and plant reproductive material</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When using seed and plant reproductive material <u>suitable for organic production</u> you must, in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) use organic seeds and plant reproductive material when a suitable variety is available b) use in-conversion seeds and plant reproductive material when a suitable variety is available 2. <u>You may use home saved organic or in conversion seed.</u> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.8.1)(1.8.3)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.8.5.1)</i></p> 	<p>You can find details of available organic or in-conversion seeds and seed potatoes at www.organicxseeds.co.uk.</p> <p><u>If you are using home saved in-conversion seed you do not need to refer to this database.</u></p>

NI 2.7.4 Using non-organic seed and vegetative propagating material

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.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.8.5.1)

You can find details of available organic or in-conversion 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.

Outside of the UK the competent authority will approve all permissions to use non-organic untreated seeds or vegetative propagating material.

The use of non-organic and vegetive propagating material will expire the 31st December 2036. From the 1st January 2029 the European Commission may extend or bring forward this date based on reporting of availability of organic seed and vegetive propagating material.

NI 2.7.6 Exceptional rules on Seed and plant propagating material due to catastrophic circumstances

1. When the use of organic or in conversion plant reproductive material is not possible due to a catastrophic event a derogation to use non-organic plant reproductive material may be granted by the competent authority.
2. Plant reproductive material must not have been 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.
3. Where appropriate, conversion periods set out in standard 2.1.2 must be complied with.
4. Upon approval by the competent authority, you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception.

*(EC) 2018/848 art. 22
(EC) 2020/2146 art. 3 (1)*

Please refer to standard 1.6.4 for more detailed rules on catastrophic events.

Your certification officer can submit a request to the competent authority on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before any action takes place.

NI 2.7.11 Soil-based production

1. **Plants must be grown in soil in connection with the subsoil and bedrock.**
2. **The following are excluded from this requirement:**
 - a) **plant propagation**
 - b) **aquatic plant production**
 - c) **plants in pots or containers (including salad cress) sold direct to consumers still in their pots, which are not intended to be grown on or harvested before they are sold**
 - d) **sprouted seeds which include sprouts, shoots and cress, solely living on the nutritional reserves available in the seeds, by moistening them in potable water, provided that the seeds are organic. The use of growing medium shall be prohibited, except the use of an inert medium intended solely to keep the seeds moist when the components of that inert medium are permitted in these standards.**

e) the obtaining of chicory heads, including by dipping them in clear water, provided that the plant reproductive material is organic. The use of a growing medium shall be allowed only when its components are authorised for this use in compliance with these standards.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II I (1.1) (1.4) (EC) 2018/848 Art. 3 (70)



Records of:

- substrates used and additional nutrients and other inputs applied
- seeds or vegetative propagating material used
- sales



A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors.

Point 3 applies to both edibles and ornamentals.

Note that hydroponic production is prohibited (Standard 2.4.2).

NI 2.7.12 -Marketing and production of organic heterogenous material - scope

1. Plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material may be marketed without complying with the requirements for registration and certification of categories for pre-basic, basic and certified material. Neither are they required to meet with the requirements for other categories, which are set out in Directives

In Northern Ireland the competent authority referred to in the standards on organic heterogenous material and associated plant reproductive material regulation is

For the purpose of these organic standards organic heterogenous material refers to a plant grouping within a single botanical taxon of the lowest known rank which:

- (a) presents common phenotypic characteristics;

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p><u>66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 98/56/EC, 2002/53/EC, 2002/54/EC, 2002/55/EC, 2002/56/EC, 2002/57/EC, 2008/72/EC and 2008/90/EC or acts adopted pursuant to those Directives other than those referenced in these standards.</u></p> <p>2. <u>Organic heterogenous reproductive materials include:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>agricultural and vegetable species,</u> b) <u>vegetable propagating material other than seeds,</u> c) <u>propagating material of ornamental plants,</u> d) <u>vine propagating material and fruit plant propagating material</u> <p>3. <u>For plant reproductive material to be included within the scope of these standards, they must meet the definition provided in the guidance to this standard as well as the wider organic requirements listed in these standards.</u></p> <p>4. <u>The requirements of these standards do not include the transfer of limited quantities of plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material intended for research on, and development of, organic heterogeneous material.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>(EC) 848/2018 art. 3(18); 13 (1)</u> <u>(EC) 2021/1189 art. 1; art. 2(1); art. 3</u></p>	<p><u>(b) is characterised by a high level of genetic and phenotypic diversity between individual reproductive units, so that that plant grouping is represented by the material as a whole, and not by a small number of units;</u></p> <p><u>(c) is not a variety within the meaning of Article 5(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 (2);</u></p> <p><u>(d) is not a mixture of varieties; and</u></p> <p><u>(e) has been produced in a certified organic system;</u></p>
<p>NI 2.7.13 - Registration, marketing and maintenance of organic heterogenous material</p> <p>1. <u>To register Organic heterogenous reproductive material the supplier shall notify the responsible official bodies for the registration of seed material by means of a dossier containing:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>the contact details of the applicant;</u> 	<p><u>The dossier shall be sent by registered letter, or by any other means of communication accepted by the official bodies, with confirmation of receipt requested.</u></p> <p><u>Three months after the date shown on the return receipt, provided that no additional information was requested or that no formal refusal for reasons of incompleteness of the dossier or non-compliance was communicated to the supplier, the competent authority shall be deemed to have acknowledged the notification and its content.</u></p>

<p>b) <u>the species and denomination of the organic heterogeneous material;</u></p> <p>c) <u>the description of the main agronomic and phenotypic characteristics that are common to that plant grouping, including breeding methods, any available results from tests on those characteristics, the country of production and the parental material used;</u></p> <p>d) <u>a representative sample</u></p> <p>2. <u>organic heterogenous material may be generated by one of the following techniques:</u></p> <p>a) <u>crossing of several different types of parental material, using crossing protocols to produce diverse organic heterogeneous material by bulking of the progeny, repeatedly re-sowing and exposing the stock to natural and/or human selection;</u></p> <p>b) <u>on-farm-management practices, including selection, establishing or maintaining material, which is characterized by a high level of genetic diversity;</u></p> <p>c) <u>any other technique used for breeding or production of organic heterogeneous material, taking into account particular features of propagation.</u></p> <p>3. <u>organic heterogeneous material shall be identifiable on the basis of all of the following elements:</u></p> <p>a) <u>the parental material and the production scheme used in the crossing for creation of the organic heterogeneous material or the history of the material and the on-farm management practices, including whether the selection has occurred naturally and/or through human intervention;</u></p>	<p><u>On approval the organic heterogenous material may be listed on a database free of charge.</u></p> <p><u>'parental material' means any plant material the crossing or propagation of which resulted in organic heterogeneous material;</u></p> <p><u>The denomination shall not cause difficulties as regards recognition or reproduction and shall not:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>be identical or likely to be confused with a denomination to which another variety or organic heterogeneous material of the same or of a closely related species is registered.</u><u>be identical or likely to be confused with other designations which are commonly used for the marketing of goods or which have to be kept free under other legislation;</u><u>mislead or cause confusion concerning the characteristics, the value or the identity of the organic heterogeneous material, or the identity of the breeder.</u> <p><u>The description of organic heterogeneous material shall include all of the following elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>the phenotypic characterisation of the key characters which are common to the material, together with the description of the heterogeneity of the material by characterising the phenotypic diversity observable between individual reproductive units;</u><u>documentation of its relevant characteristics, including agronomic aspects such as regards yield, yield stability, suitability for low input systems, performance, resistance to abiotic stress, disease resistance, quality parameters, taste or colour;</u><u>any available results from tests concerning the agronomic characteristics;</u><u>a description of the type of technique used for the breeding or production method of the organic heterogeneous material;</u>
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<p>b) <u>the country of breeding or production:</u> c) <u>characterisation of the common key characters and of the phenotypic heterogeneity of the material.</u></p> <p>4. <u>Where maintenance is possible you shall preserve the main characteristics of the material at the time of its notification, by maintaining it as long as it remains on the market. That maintenance shall be undertaken according to accepted practices adapted to the maintenance of such heterogeneous material.</u></p> <p>5. <u>The operator responsible for the maintenance shall keep records of duration and content of maintenance.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 848/2018 art. 13 (2)</i> <i>(EC) 2021/1189 art. 2(2); art. 4; art. 5; art. 8 (1)(2); art. 10; annex I</i> <i>B</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>a description of the parental material used to breed or produce the organic heterogeneous material and own production control programme used by the operator concerned with a reference to the techniques used to generate the material.</u> • <u>a description of the on-farm management and selection practices</u> • <u>a reference to the country of breeding or production, with information on the year of production and description of the pedo-climatic conditions;</u> <p><u>*Record keeping requirements*</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>A copy of the application dossier, your organic contract and certificate shall be kept for inspection.</u> - <u>Records demonstrating traceability and identification of generation techniques and parental material of the organic heterogeneous material.</u> - <p><u>The following requirements shall be kept on record for at least five years.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>The name of the species and denomination used for each notified organic heterogeneous material; type of technique used for the production of organic heterogeneous material shall be kept on record.</u> - <u>characterisation of the notified organic heterogeneous material</u> - <u>location of breeding of organic heterogeneous material and location of production of the reproductive material of the organic heterogeneous material</u> <p><u>surface area for the production of organic heterogeneous material and quantity produced</u></p>				
<p>NI SA 2.7.14 Sanitary quality, analytical purity and germination requirements</p> <p>1. <u>Organic heterogeneous material shall comply with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 (16) and the other relevant acts adopted pursuant to Regulation (EU)</u></p>	<p><u>For the production and marketing of organic heterogeneous material the following provisions listed in the table below shall apply</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Plant reproductive material</u></th> <th><u>Statutory requirements</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Plant reproductive material</u>	<u>Statutory requirements</u>		
<u>Plant reproductive material</u>	<u>Statutory requirements</u>				

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<p><u>2016/2031 concerning the presence, and the measures against, Union quarantine pests, protected zone quarantine pests and Union regulated non-quarantine pests.</u></p> <p>2. <u>For the production and marketing of organic heterogeneous material the statutory requirements, listed in the guidance of this standard, shall apply depending on the category of plant reproductive material.</u></p> <p>3. <u>The reproductive material of organic heterogenous material described in these standards shall only apply with regard to the analytical purity and germination requirements for seed and the quality and health requirements for other propagating material. The material does not need to comply with varietal identity and varietal purity and field inspection requirements for varietal identity and varietal purity requirements for statutory regulations described in the guidance to these standards.</u></p> <p>4. <u>You may apply for a derogation to place on the market organic heterogenous material that does not meet the germination requirements for statutory regulations described in this standard. If granted, you must indicate the germination rate of the seed concerned on the label or directly on the package.</u></p> <p><u>(EC) 2021/1189 art.6</u></p>	<p><u>fodder plant species (listed in Article 2(1)(A) of Directive 66/401/EEC)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>point 1 and the last column of the table in point 5 of Annex I to Directive 66/401/EEC, and</u> • <u>Section I, points 2 and 3 and Section III of Annex II to Directive 66/401/EEC.</u> 	
	<p><u>cereal species (listed in Article 2(1)(A) of Directive 66/402/EEC)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>point 1 and the last column of the table in point 6 of Annex I to Directive 66/402/EEC;</u> • <u>the third, sixth, tenth, thirteenth, sixteenth, twentieth and twenty-first row of the table in point 2(A) and point 2(B) of Annex II to that Directive,</u> • <u>the last column in the table in point 3 of Annex II to that Directive;</u> • <u>the third and the sixth row in the table in point 4 of Annex II to that Directive.</u> 	
	<p><u>vine material (within the meaning of Directive 68/193/EEC)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sections 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 and point 6 of Section 8 of Annex I to Directive 68/193/EEC;</u> • <u>Annex II to Directive 68/193/EEC, with the exception of point 1(1).</u> 	

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

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	<u>ornamental plants (within the meaning of Directive 98/56/EC.)</u>	• <u>Article 3 of Directive 93/49/EEC (17)</u>
	<u>Beet (within the meaning of Directive 2002/54/EC.)</u>	• <u>points A(1), B(2) and B(3) of Annex I of 2002/54/EC</u>
	<u>vegetable species (listed in Article 2(1)(b) of Directive 2002/55/EC)</u>	• <u>points 2 and 3 of Annex II of 2002/55/EC</u>
	<u>seed potatoes (within the meaning Directive 2002/56/EC)</u>	• <u>the provisions for the lowest category of seed potatoes in point 3 of Annex I and in Annex II of 2002/56/EC</u>
	<u>oil and fibre plants (listed in Article 2(1)(b) of Directive 2002/57/EC)</u>	• <u>point 1 and the last column of the table in point 4 of Annex I to Directive 2002/57/EC;</u> • <u>the table in point I(4)(A) of Annex II, except the requirements for basic seed of Brassica ssp. and Sinapis alba, and the last column of the table in point I(5) of Annex II to Directive 2002/57/EC.</u>

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	<p><u>vegetable propagating and planting material, other than seed within the meaning of Directive 2008/72/EC</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Articles 3 and 5 of Commission Directive 93/61/EEC</u> 											
	<p><u>fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants (within the meaning of Directive 2008/90/EC)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Article 23, except point (1)(b), Articles 24, 26, 27 and 27a of Commission Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU</u> • <u>Annexes I, II and Annex III and the requirements concerning CAC material in Annex IV to Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU.</u> 											
<p>NI 2.7.15 Packaging and Labelling of Organic Heterogenous Material</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>organic heterogeneous material not contained in ‘small packages’ shall be contained in packages or containers, which are closed in such a manner that they cannot be opened without leaving evidence of tampering on the package or container.</u> 2. <u>The operator shall affix on packages, containers of seeds or plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material a label in at least one of the official languages of the Union. The label shall be:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>be legible, printed or written on one side, unused and easily visible</u> b) <u>include the information set out in standard 5:</u> c) <u>be yellow with a green diagonal cross.</u> 	<p><u>‘small packages’ means packages containing seed up to the maximum quantities provided in the table of this standard</u></p> <p><u>Maximum quantity of seed to qualify as a small package:</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Species</u></th> <th><u>Maximum net mass of the seed (kg)</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>Fodder plants</u></td> <td><u>10</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Beet</u></td> <td><u>10</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Cereals</u></td> <td><u>30</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Oil and fibre plants</u></td> <td><u>10</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>Species</u>	<u>Maximum net mass of the seed (kg)</u>	<u>Fodder plants</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Beet</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Cereals</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Oil and fibre plants</u>	<u>10</u>
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<p>3. <u>Instead of a label, the information set out in standard 5 may be directly printed or written on the package or the container. In that case, point 2(c) shall not be applicable.</u></p> <p>4. <u>In the case of small, transparent packages, the label may be placed inside the package provided it is clearly legible.</u></p> <p>5. <u>By way of derogation from paragraphs 1 to 4, seed of organic heterogeneous material contained in closed and labelled packages and containers may be sold to final users in unmarked and unsealed packages up to the maximum quantities provided for in Annex II, provided that, on request, the purchaser is informed in writing at the time of delivery about the species, the denomination of the material and the reference number of the lot.</u></p> <p>6. <u>Labels must also meet the requirements of the general labelling standards in standard chapters 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 of this document.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>(EC) 2021/1189 art.7; annex II</u></p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>Seed potatoes</u></td> <td><u>30</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Vegetable seed:</u></td> <td><u>Not specified</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Legumes</u></td> <td><u>5</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Onions, chervil, asparagus, spinach beet or chard, red beet or beetroot, turnips, water melon, gourd, marrows, carrots, radishes, scorzonera or black salsify, spinach, corn-salad or lamb's lettuce</u></td> <td><u>0,5</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>All other vegetable species</u></td> <td><u>0,1</u></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Seed potatoes</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Vegetable seed:</u>	<u>Not specified</u>	<u>Legumes</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Onions, chervil, asparagus, spinach beet or chard, red beet or beetroot, turnips, water melon, gourd, marrows, carrots, radishes, scorzonera or black salsify, spinach, corn-salad or lamb's lettuce</u>	<u>0,5</u>	<u>All other vegetable species</u>	<u>0,1</u>
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<u>All other vegetable species</u>	<u>0,1</u>										
<p>NI 2.7.16 - Specific Requirements for the Labelling of Organic Heterogenous Material</p> <p>1. <u>The label shall contain the following information</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>the denomination of the heterogeneous material, together with the phrase 'Organic heterogeneous material';</u> b) <u>'Union rules and standards';</u> c) <u>the name and address of the professional operator responsible for affixing the label, or its registration code;</u> d) <u>country of production;</u> e) <u>reference number given by the professional operator responsible for affixing the labels;</u> 											

- f) month and year of closing, following the term: 'closed';
- g) species, indicated at least under its botanical name, which may be given in abridged form and without the authors names, in roman characters;
- h) declared net or gross weight, or declared number in case of seeds, except for small packages;
- i) where weight is indicated and pelleting substances, or other solid additives are used, the nature of the additive and also the approximate ratio between the weight of pure seeds and the total weight;
- j) information on the plant protection products applied to the plant reproductive material as required under Article 49(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council (1);
- k) the germination rate where, pursuant to as required in standard 3, organic heterogeneous material does not satisfy the conditions with respect to germination.

(EC) 2021/1189 annex I A

NI 2.7.17 Inspections Relating to the Production and Marketing and of Organic Heterogenous Material

1. The competent authority will carry out risk based inspections to check compliance with the requirements with these standards.
2. The testing of germination and analytical purity shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable methods of the International Seed Testing Association.

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3. At all times, the competent authorities shall have access to all records kept by the operator responsible for the material, in order to check its maintenance and compliance with these standards. The operator shall keep those records for 5 years after the moment the plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material is not marketed anymore.

(EC) 2021/1189 art. 8(3); art. 9; art. 10

NI 2.8.1 Substrates for mushroom production

1. You may **only** use the following substrates for mushroom production:
- a) manure from organic production and/or farms in their second year of conversion
 - b) other products of agricultural origin produced according to organic production methods
 - c) peat which has not been chemically treated
 - d) wood which has not been chemically treated after felling
 - e) mineral products permitted in standard 2.5.2.
 - f) water and soil.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II I (2.1)

You may use in-conversion products produced to organic standards.


NI 2.9.4 Maintaining wild plant resources

The wild harvesting of plant resources must maintain the species in the collection area.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(2.2.1)(b)

You must hold information on:

- 1. The global and/or national/regional conservation status of the target species.
- 2. The collection methods and management practices including:
 - a. How target species are adequately identified e.g. voucher (reference) specimens provided from the collection site

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Baseline information/inventory on target species in the collection area, including population size, distribution, population structure (size/age classes), rate of reproduction/growth/regeneration. <p>How you use species-specific baseline information, resource assessment and/or monitoring data on collection impacts to inform your maximum collection quantities, frequencies and periods.</p> <p>Compliance to Principle 1 of the FairWild Standard demonstrates that you are meeting the requirements of this standard. <u>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'.</u></p> <p> <u>A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors.</u></p>
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<p>NI 3.1.2 Producing organic livestock products</p> <p>Where non-organic animals have been brought onto the holding in accordance with the standards in section 3.2 and if their livestock products are to be sold as organic, the animals must be kept to full organic standards for at least the periods set out below:</p>	<p>To meet standard 3.2.6 you must have authorisation from your competent authority before bringing in non-organic birds. Refer to the standard below on minimum ages when poultry can be slaughtered.</p> <p>In NI, 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</p>
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<p>a) 12 months in the case of cattle and equines for meat production, and in any case at least three quarters oif their lifetime</p> <p>b) 6 months in the case of pigs, sheep and goats</p> <p>c) 6 months for milk producing animals</p> <p>d) 6 weeks in the case of poultry for egg production</p> <p>e) 10 weeks for poultry of slow-growing strains for meat production, brought in before they are 3 days old</p> <p>f) for fast growing strains of poultry for meat production, refer to standard 3.12.19 for minimum slaughter ages.</p> <p>g) three months for rabbits;</p> <p>h) 12 months for cervine animals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.3.4.4.4)</i> <i>(EC) 2015 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.2.2) (e) (g) (h)</i></p>	<p>bird. This may soon be supplemented by a list of particular strains classified as slow growing.</p> <p>If this daily live weight gain is exceeded, the poultry would be classified as a fast growing strain.</p>
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>NI 3.1.3 Simultaneous conversion</p> <p>1. 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>2. <u>During simultaneous conversion, animals present since the beginning of the conversion period may be fed with in-conversion feed produced on the in-conversion holding during the first year of conversion in exceedance to the 20% permitted for organic livestock. All other requirements for feeding in-conversion or organic feed must be met.</u></p> <p>3. <u>Non-organic animals may be introduced into an in-conversion production unit after the start of the</u></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>

conversion provided they meet the requirements of Chapter 3.2 in these standards.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14 (1) (a) (iii)
(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.2.1)

NI 3.1.6 Conversion period for land used for pig and poultry production

1. Notwithstanding the provisions in standard 3.1.5 you can 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.~~
2. In the case of treatment with substances not permitted in these standards the provision for organic pigs and poultry on second year conversion land will not apply.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I (1.7.4.2) (1.7.5) (b)

~~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.~~

NI 3.2.2 Bringing in livestock

1. If you need to bring in livestock you must source, in order of preference:
 - a. from other organic herds or flocks
 - b. converted breeding stock
 - c. non-organic breeding stock from rare breeds

Available livestock will be listed on the National database.

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.

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<p>2. When organic animals are not available in sufficient number and subject to the conditions of the standards in this section, you may bring non-organic animals onto your holding for breeding purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. if they are non-organic breeding stock from rare breeds, orb. when organic animals are not available in the database in sufficient quality or quantity to meet your needs, subject to the conditions of the other standards in this section, provided they have not previously given birth. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.3.1) (1.3.4.1)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.2.1)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.3.4.4)</i></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>
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<p><u>NI 3.2.3 Registering organic livestock for market</u></p> <p>1. <u>If you wish to sell organic livestock, you can register them on the organic livestock database. For registration, the supplier you must:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) <u>demonstrate that your organic certification is valid and covers the livestock you wish to market;</u>b) <u>provide the following information.:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">i) <u>number of animals</u>ii) <u>the common and scientific name for the species you wish to market.</u>iii) <u>the breed or strain</u>iv) <u>sex and production purpose of the animals;</u>v) <u>the ages of the animals and, if relevant, their stage of development;</u>vi) <u>the health status of the animals as defined in horizontal legislation.</u>	<p><u>The database is currently in development by NICA and information on how to access and contribute will be provided as soon as this service is available.</u></p>
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- c) provide your address, contact details and date the livestock will be available.
- d) make sure that all requirements on the transport and sale of live animals are followed, including all relevant statutory rules.
- e) make sure this information must be kept up to date. You must immediately inform the manager of the database if any of the registered animals are no longer available.

*(EC) 2018/848 art. 26 (1)(2)(b)(4)
(EC) 2020/464 art. 25(1); Annex III (3)*

NI 3.2.4 Establishing a herd or flock

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

- a) on a converting holding, convert existing animals on the holding;
- b) on organic land you may bring in non-organic animals, **only** if organic are not available in sufficient numbers. They must be reared organically from weaning and must comply with the following conditions:
 - (i) calves **and foals** 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
 - (iv) kittens (rabbits) must be less than three months old.**

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.3.4.4.1)

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

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

Please note that the requirements for cattle also apply to deer, unless specifically stated in chapter 3.16 additional Standards for organic deer.

The EU Regulation 2018/848 includes standards for rabbits, the Soil Association are yet to review these standards, therefore licensees can only certify to the EU only scheme.

NI 3.2.5 Replacement breeding stock

The percentage must be calculated from the number of adult animals present on

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<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: <ol 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, goats, <u>deer or rabbits</u> c) only one animal if you have less than five sheep, pigs or goats or less than ten cattle, equine animals, <u>deer or rabbits</u> 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 to these organic standards. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.3.4.4.2)</i> 	<p>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>
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<p>NI 3.2.7 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: 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>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.</u> 	<p>Organic Poultry suppliers in the UK are listed here.</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.</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
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<p>b) use non-organic pullets for egg production before they are 18 weeks old. Any non-organic pullets you bring in must have been reared to the veterinary and feed standards detailed in sections 3.4 and 3.10.</p> <p>e) use non-organic pullets for egg production before they are 18 weeks old. Any non-organic pullets you bring in must have 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>3. The EU Commission has stated that producers may request permission to use non-organic pullets until 31st December 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.3.4.3)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the name of your suppliers• whether any suppliers will be able to supply you with organic birds in future. <p>A form with all the relevant questions is available on our website or from the certification team.</p>
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<p>NI 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, ande) 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><u>Parallel production of livestock of the same species is only allowed in the case of research and educational centres.</u></p>	<p>In NI, permission is granted by NICA, the competent authority and we will submit an application on your behalf. Contact the certification team for more information.</p>
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If you are carrying out agricultural research or formal education, the following conditions must be met:

- a) keep the products used for the organic and in-conversion production units separate from those used for the nonorganic production units;
- b) keep the products produced by the organic, in-conversion and non-organic production units separate from each other;
- c) keep adequate records to show the effective separation of the production units and of the products.

(EC) 2018/848 Art.9 (9) (10)

NI 3.4.1 Preventing disease and injury

Disease management must be based on preventative measures. You must draw up a health plan to show how you will build health and reduce disease. This must be tailored to suit your own farm and should allow you to minimise your use of veterinary medicines. Preventative measures include:

- a) breed and strain selection **including:**
 - i) having regard to a high degree of genetic diversity
 - ii) the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions
 - iii) their breeding value
 - iv) their longevity
 - v) their vitality
 - vi) and their resistance to disease or health problems
- b) husbandry management practices
- c) high quality feed and exercise
- d) appropriate stocking density, and
- e) adequate and appropriate housing maintained in hygienic conditions.

(EC) 2018/848 Art.6 (j)

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.

Examples of preventative husbandry practices include:

- biosecurity measures
- grazing and range management
- stockmanship and welfare assessments
- breeding and culling management.

We strongly recommend that you consult with your vet on health planning and review where any improvements can be made annually.

Livestock management plan templates can be found on our [website](#).

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.

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.5.1.1) (EC) 2018/848 Art.39 (1) (c) (1) (d) (ii)</p>	<p>Include also the biosecurity measures you implement on your farm to limit the risk of specific diseases to your animals, such as restricting badger access to water troughs and feed, good manure management, and preventing disease transmission from neighbouring herds via shared equipment, brought-in manure or direct contact.</p> <p>For more information on suitable measures refer to government advice and advisory services. For example, for bovine TB consult TB Hub or contact the TB Advisory Service for free farm visits and bespoke advice.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of introducing disease you should avoid sourcing livestock from livestock markets and collection centres.</p> <p>Pasture should be managed to minimise disease and parasite burdens. Frequent disease and parasite monitoring will help you to assess the effectiveness of your pasture management. The welfare of your animals will be assessed at inspection and this will be used to indicate the effectiveness of your preventative measures.</p>
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<p>NI 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. (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.5.1.3)</p>	<p><u>This includes boluses.</u> This does not apply to analgesia and anaesthesia and vaccines</p>
<p><u>NI 3.4.11 Rearing of artificially induced polyploid animals</u> <u>The use of animal cloning, and the rearing of artificially induced polyploid animals, shall be prohibited.</u> (EC) 2018/848 Art. 9 (5)</p>	
<p>NI 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</p>	<p>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</p>

<p>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. <u>The following operations may be exceptionally allowed but only on a case-by-case basis and only when those practices improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock or where workers' safety would otherwise be compromised.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Tail docking of sheep</u> • <u>Dehorning</u> • <u>Beak trimming undertaken in the first three days of life</u> <p>2. <u>Disbudding may be allowed only on a case-by-case basis when it improves the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock or where workers' safety would otherwise be compromised.</u></p> <p>3. <u>Where the operator has duly notified the competent authority and provided justification, these practices may be authorised.</u></p> <p>4. You may only castrate in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production practices.</p> <p>5. 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) 2018/848 Annex II Part II(1.7.7) (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II(1.7.8)(1.7.9)(1.7.10)</p>	<p>relief will be given in your health plan. In NI we can authorise these practices on the competent authority's behalf if the relevant criteria are met.</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 NI.</p> <p>I In NI 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>I 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>I 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>
<p>NI 3.6.1 Pasture access</p> <p>1. You must allow all your herbivore species permanent access to pasture, unless the following circumstances temporarily prevent this:</p>	<p>You need to take account of both weather conditions and the state of the ground when deciding whether livestock should be out at pasture. Give consideration to the impact on the health and welfare of livestock and the management of the soil and pasture.</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>a) the health or welfare of the animal b) the weather conditions and the state of the ground, or c) community or national requirements or restrictions relating to specific animal or human health problems.</p> <p>2. Breeding bulls over one year old must have access to pasture or an open air run of at least 30 m².</p> <p>3. <u>Livestock must not be reared in pens on very wet or marshy soil.</u> (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.4.1) (e) <u>(1.6.10)</u> (1.7.3) (1.9.1.1 (b) (c) (1.9.2.1) (b) (c) (1.9.4.4) (d) (EC) <u>2020/464</u> Art. 7 (1)</p>	<p>For more information on methods to minimise soil damage refer to the guidance to standard 2.4.1 'Managing your soil'.</p> <p><u>If herbivores do not have access to pasture they must have permanent access to roughage, refer to standard 3.10.5.</u></p>
<p><u>NI 3.6.8 Exceptional rules on access to organic grazing due to Catastrophic circumstances</u></p> <p>1. <u>In exceptional circumstances due to a catastrophic event when your livestock production unit is affected the competent authority may authorise adaption to the rules on organic grazing requirements detailed in these standards.</u></p> <p>2. <u>Upon approval by the competent authority, you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception</u> (EC) 2018/848 art. 22 (EC) 2020/2146 art. 3 (4)</p>	<p><u>Please refer to standard 1.6.4 for more detailed rules on catastrophic events.</u></p> <p><u>The certification team can submit a request to the competent authority on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before any action takes place.</u></p>
<p><u>NI 3.6.5 Protecting your stock</u></p> <p>You must provide sufficient protection for your stock against predation and rain, wind, sun and extreme temperatures, depending on local conditions and breed. (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II(1.7.2)(1.6.2)(1.9.2.2.)(a) (EC) 2020/464 Art. 12(2)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

	<p>Shelter can be natural or artificial as long as it provides effective protection against prevailing conditions.</p> <p>Examples of protection could include, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees, hedges • Rocks, ridges • Scrub, tussocks • Drystone walls • Brashings • Field shelters • Bales • Buildings • Long grass • Wallows <p>I 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>NI 3.6.7 Grazing non-organic land during transhumance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, <u>provided they are kept separate from other animals.</u> 2. The uptake of non-organic feed, in the form of grass and other vegetation which the animals graze during this period must not exceed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>10% of the total feed ration per year 35 days covering both the outward and return journeys and.</u> 	<p>R Records of transhumance</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>b) <u>a maximum of 10 % of the total feed ration per year, calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feedstuffs of agricultural origin.</u> This figure must be calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feedstuffs from agricultural origin.</p> <p>3. You must keep records of the use of this provision. (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.4.2.2.2)</p>	
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<p>NI 3.7.2 Quality of outdoor area <u>The outdoor area must be attractive to pigs. Where possible, preference shall be given to fields with trees or forests.</u> (EC) 2020/464 Art.12 (1)</p>	
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<p>NI 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. <u>In such cases, animals shall have access to shelters or shady areas to protect them from adverse weather conditions.</u> (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.6.2)</p>	<p>You must provide housing for your animals if you cannot provide adequate shelter and there are not suitable ground conditions outside all year.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>NI 3.8.3 Animals must be able to move freely 1. All animals must be able to move freely. 2. Tethering or isolation of livestock shall be prohibited, except in relation to individual animals for a limited period and insofar as this is justified for veterinary reasons. <u>In this case livestock must be kept in spaces with a solid floor, provided with appropriate bedding and be able to turn</u></p>	<p>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.</p>
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<p><u>easily and lie down full length.</u> The isolation of livestock may only be authorised, and only for a limited period, where workers' safety is compromised or for animal welfare reasons. Competent authorities may authorise the tethering of cattle in farms with a maximum of 50 animals (excluding young stock) where it is not possible to keep the cattle in groups appropriate to their behaviour requirements, provided they have access to pastures during the grazing period, and have access to open air areas at least <u>twice a week when grazing is not possible.</u></p> <p>3. Cages, boxes and flat decks to raise livestock shall not be used for any livestock species</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.6.3) (1.7.5)</i></p>	
<p>NI 3.8.4 Stocking density</p> <p>1. The stocking density in your animal housing must provide for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the comfort and well-being of your animals species-specific and behavioural needs, which will depend on their breed, sex, age and the size of the group, and the animals' welfare by providing sufficient space to stand naturally, lie down easily, turn round, groom themselves, <u>to assume all natural postures</u> and make all natural movements such as stretching and wing flapping. <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.6.3) (1.7.2)</i></p>	<p>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.</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>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	<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>NI 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, slatted or uneven, and must not be 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. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.7.2) (1.9.1.2) (a) (1.9.1.2)(b)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Chapter II I Art. 4</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Chapter II 3 Art. 11</i> 	<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> <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>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

NI 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) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.6.4) (1.6.5) (1.7.3) (1.9.1.1) (d)
(EC) 2020/464 Annex I Part I (2)

NI 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 <u>until weaning</u>	7.5	2.5	10
Piglets Over 40 days and up to 30kg	0.6	0.4	1.0
Fattening pigs			
<u>Not more than 35kg</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>1.0</u>
<u>More than 35kg but not more than Up to 50 kg</u>	0.8	0.6	1.4
More than 50kg but not more than 85kg	1.1	0.8	1.9
More than 85kg but not more than 110 kg	1.3	1.0	2.3
<u>More than 110kg</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>2.7</u>
Breeding pigs			
Sows	2.5	1.9	4.9

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

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
<p>2. Open air areas may be partially covered.</p> <p>3. <u>At least half of the minimum surface of both the indoor area and the outdoor area laid down shall consist of a solid construction, that is to say, not of a slatted or grid construction – You must always provide a bed made of straw or other suitable material large enough to ensure that all pigs in a pen can lie down at the same time in the most space consuming way</u></p> <p><u>By way of derogation of point 3 holdings or production units with porcine animals in facilities built, refurbished or brought into use for organic production before 1st January 2022, and for which major reconstruction of external facilities is necessary to comply with the requirement on at least half of the surface of the outdoor area consisting of solid construction, shall comply with that Article as from 1 January 2030 at the latest.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.6.4) (1.6.5) (1.7.3) (1.9.1.1) (d)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art.11; Art. 26</i> <i>EC) 2020/464 Annex I Part III</i></p>			

<p><u>NI 3.8.11 Exceptional rules on housing livestock due to catastrophic circumstances.</u></p> <p>1. <u>In exceptional circumstances due to a catastrophic event when your livestock production unit is affected the competent authority may authorise exceptions to the rules on the stocking density in buildings and minimum surfaces for indoor and outdoor areas as described in the livestock production standards on housing livestock.</u></p> <p>2. <u>Upon approval by the competent authority, you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 art. 22</i> <i>(EC) 2020/2146 art. 3 (4)</i></p>	<p><u>Please refer to standard 1.6.4 for more detailed rules on catastrophic events.</u></p> <p><u>Your certification officer can submit a request to the competent authority on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before any action takes place.</u></p>
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NI 3.9.1 Housing pigs indoors

1. 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, during which time the sow must be able to move freely in her pen. Her movement shall only be restricted for short periods.
2. A few days before expected farrowing, sows must be provided with a quantity of straw or other suitable natural material sufficient to enable them to build nests.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.7.2) (1.9.3.2) (d) (e)

You may still keep your sows in groups during the last stages of pregnancy and the suckling period.

NI 3.9.4 Keeping calves in individual pens

1. You must not house calves in individual pens after they are 7 days old unless specifically required for veterinary reasons.
2. When a calf is treated individually for veterinary reasons, it shall be kept in spaces that have a solid floor and shall be provided with straw bedding. The calf must be able to turn around easily and to lie down comfortably at full length.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.6.3) (1.7.5) (1.9.1.2) (c) (d)

NI 3.9.5 Exceptional production rules for tethering

Competent authorities may authorise the tethering of cattle in small farms with a maximum of 50 animals (excluding young stock) where it is not possible to keep the cattle in groups appropriate to their behaviour requirements, provided they have access to pastures during the grazing period, and have access to open air areas at least twice a week when grazing is not possible.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II (1.7.5)



This provision only applies to small, traditional holdings where geographical and structural differences in agriculture and climatic constraints require the use of this exception.

We do not allow the use of this provision in NI as NI is not subject to the same geographical and structural constraints as found in the mountainous regions of mainland Europe.



Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>NI 3.10.1 Meeting the nutritional needs of your livestock You must feed your livestock organic <u>or in-conversion</u> feed that meets their nutritional needs at all stages of their development. <u>Restricted feeding shall not be permitted in livestock production unless justified for veterinary reasons.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II <u>Part II</u> (1.4.1) (b)</i></p>	<p>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 our Advisory Support pages or contact Producer Support or your Certification Officer.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>NI 3.10.2 Force feeding is prohibited You must not force feed your livestock. <u>Fattening practices must always respect the normal nutritional patterns for each species and the animals' welfare at each stage of the rearing process; force-feeding is forbidden.</u> Fattening practices are allowed only if they are reversible at any stage of the rearing process. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II <u>Part II</u> (1.4.1) (d)</i></p>	
<p>NI 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 feeding stuffs obtained primarily from your holding or from other organic <u>or in-conversion</u> holdings in the same region. 2. You may feed or graze your organic or converting livestock: 	<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>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>a) up to 100% in-conversion feed from your own holding and no more than 30²⁵% in-conversion feed, forage or grazing from another holding.</p> <p>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 the this way must not have been part of any organic holding in the last five years.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>4. These percentages must be based on the annual dry matter intake of feedstuffs of plant origin.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art.6 (m)</i> <i>2018/848 Annex II <u>Part II</u> (1.4.1) (a) (b) (1.4.3.1) (1.4.3.2)</i></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>NI 3.10.5 Feeding herbivores</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 <u>or in-conversion production units and feed operator using feed and feed material</u> from the same region. <u>This percentage shall be raised to 70% as from 1 January 2024.</u></p> <p>2. A reduction to 50% for animals in dairy production for a maximum period of three months in early lactation is allowed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II <u>Part II</u> (1.9.1.1) (a) (e) (f) (1.9.2.1) (a) (e)</i></p>	<p> Feed records</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 3.10.6 Feeding pigs and poultry</p> <p>1. For your pigs and poultry, you must ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage is added to their daily ration. at least 20% 30% 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. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.3.1) (a) (b) (1.9.4.2) (a) (b)</i> 	<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>
<p>NI 3.10.7 Use of non-organic protein for pigs and poultry</p> <p>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. <u>Where the competent authority has confirmed organic protein feed is not available in sufficient quantity, for pigs up to 35kg and young poultry, you may feed up to 5% non-organic specific protein feed compounds.</u></p> <p>2. This percentage must be calculated on an annual dry matter basis <u>per period of 12 months on the dry matter of feed of agricultural origin.</u></p> <p>3. At your inspection you must have records to demonstrate that you have not fed more than 5% non-organic protein feed.</p> <p>4. This exemption will be in place until 31st December 2021 <u>2026.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II (1.9.3.1) (c) (1.9.4.2) (c) date updated by 2020/1693</i></p>	<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>When the EU Commission reviews this exemption we will update this page</p>

<p>NI 3.10.8 Feeding young mammals</p> <p>1. Young mammals must be fed natural, organic milk, preferably maternal milk, for a minimum period of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12 weeks 90 days for calves and foals 45 days for lambs and kids 40 days for piglets. <p><u>Milk replacers containing chemically synthesised components or components of plant origin must not be used during that period.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.4.1) (g) (EC) 2020/464 Art. 2 (EC) 2020/464 Chapter 2 Art.9</p>	<p>Maternal milk is milk from the mother; natural milk is from the glands of a mammal. Natural milk can come from other species provided that it meets the nutritional and health needs of the species you are feeding it to. Milk powder is considered as natural milk as long as it only contains milk powder.</p> <p>Milk powder containing vegetable oil and milk replacers is not considered as natural milk and therefore must be regarded as a concentrate for feed calculations during the minimum periods set out in this standard.</p> <p>You should have a plan in place to provide an organic source of colostrum. In an emergency you may feed non-organic milk replacer to young mammals 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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<p>NI 3.10.9 Exceptional rules on feed due to catastrophic circumstances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>For the feeding of herbivores your competent authority may authorise, on a temporary basis, the reduction of the percentage, on a daily basis, of fresh or dried fodder, roughage or silage detailed in 3.10.5 provided that the animal's nutritional requirements at the various stages of its development are met.</u> 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><u>Please refer to standard 1.6.4 for more detailed rules on catastrophic events.</u></p> <p><u>The certification team can submit a request to the competent authority on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before any action takes place.</u></p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>a) exceptional weather conditions b) infectious disease outbreaks c) contamination with toxic substances d) fire.</p> <p>3. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception. (EC) 2018/848 Art.22 (2)(3) (EC) 2020/2146 Art.3 (3)</p>	
<p>NI 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. (EC) 2018/848 Art.1 (EC) 2018/848 Art. 2 (EC) 2018/848 Art 3. (EC) 2018/848 Annex I</p>	
<p>NI 3.10.12 Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(EC) 2018/848 Art 24(1)(c (d) (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.3.1)(c)(ii) (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part V(2.3) (EC) 2018/848 Article 24(3)(e)(iv) (EU)2021/1165 Art (3) (4) (EC) 2021/1165 Annex III B</p>	
<p>Trace elements</p>	
<p>ID no. or Functional Group</p>	<p>Product or Substance</p>
<p>3b304</p>	<p>Coated granulated cobalt (II) carbonate hydroxide (2:3) monohydrate</p>
<p>3803</p>	<p>Sodium selenate</p>

Poultry

NI 3.12.2 Number of birds permitted in each flock

Each poultry house flock must not contain more than:

- a) 3,000 birds for laying hens or breeder chickens
- b) 10,000 pullets
- c) 4,800 birds for meat chickens
- d) 5,200 birds for guinea fowl
- e) 4,000 birds for female ducks or poulardes
- f) 3,200 birds for male ducks
- g) 2,500 birds for capons, geese or turkeys.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)
(EC) 2020/464 Art. 13
(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15(3)

A 'flock' means a group of birds that are kept together not mixing with other poultry species, and with their own dedicated indoor and outdoor areas.

NI 3.12.3 Separation between flocks

1. You may subdivide your house into compartments provided that each flock has its own compartment and separate outdoor area.
2. Compartments and separation of outdoor areas must ensure that contact with other flocks is restricted and that birds from different flocks cannot mix inside or outside the poultry house.
3. For all chickens (*Gallus gallus*), i.e. breeders, pullets, laying hens, broiler roosters and meat chickens, and all laying poultry of other species compartments must be separated by solid partitions or semi-closed partitions, nets or meshes.

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>4. <u>For other poultry species for meat production, compartments must be separated by solid partitions that ensure a complete physical separation from the floor to the roof.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15 (3)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 16 (2)</i></p>	
<p>NI 3.12.34 Maximum permitted area for meat birds The total usable area of poultry houses for meat production on any single unit must not exceed 1,600 m². <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)</i></p> <p><u>However, you may provide an additional usable area of housing provided that:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) <u>it is not taken into account when calculating stocking density</u> e) <u>it meets the pop-hole requirements for verandas in standards 3.12.12 and 3.12.13.</u> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 Art.15 (2)</i></p>	<p>The usable area includes all covered areas where the animals have full access 24 hours a day.</p>
<p>NI 3.12.56 Housing requirements for all poultry species The buildings for all poultry species must meet the following conditions: <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Annex I Part IV</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15 (5)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15(2)</i> (</p>	<p>When calculating the internal stocking rate you must exclude the area taken up by nest boxes.</p>
<p>Indoor area (net area available to animals, excluding veranda)</p>	

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	Perch	Nest	Maximum no animals/m ²
Laying hens <u>(including dual purpose strains raised for meat and egg production) and breeder chickens</u>	18 cm/bird	7 laying hens per individual nest box, or 120cm ² per laying hen in communal nests	6
<u>Pullets and brother roosters</u>	<u>Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both, providing minimum 10cm perch/bird or minimum 100cm² raised sitting level/bird</u>		<u>21 kg liveweight/m²</u>
Table chickens	<u>Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both, providing minimum 5cm perch/bird or minimum 25cm² raised sitting level/bird</u>		In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m²
			In mobile housing*: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m²
<u>Capons and poulardes</u>	<u>Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both, providing minimum 5cm perch/bird or minimum 25cm² raised sitting level/bird</u>		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	<u>Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both, providing minimum 10cm perch/bird or minimum 100cm² raised sitting level/bird</u>		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

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

			In mobile housing*: 16 , with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m ²
Guinea fowl	20cm per bird <u>Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both, providing minimum 5cm perch/bird or minimum 25cm² raised sitting level/bird</u>		In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m ² In mobile housing*: 16 , with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m ²
*only in mobile housing not exceeding 150m ² floor space. <u>To be regarded as mobile housing, the houses must be moved regularly during the production cycle, and at least between each batch of poultry, to ensure the availability of vegetation to the birds.</u>			

<p>NI 3.12.8 9 Multi-tiered systems</p> <p><u>1. You may use multi-tiered systems for breeder chickens, laying hens, pullets for future egg production, pullets for future parents and brother roosters only.</u></p> <p><u>2. Multi-tiered systems must have no more than three tiers of usable area including the ground floor.</u></p> <p><u>3. Your multi-tiered system must:</u></p> <p><u>a) prevent droppings falling onto birds on lower tiers;</u></p> <p><u>b) be equipped with an efficient system of manure removal;</u></p> <p><u>c) allow for easy inspection of birds on all tiers;</u></p> <p><u>d) ensure that all birds can move freely and easily to the different levels or intermediate areas;</u></p> <p><u>e) provide easy, equal access to open air areas to all birds.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15 (4)(a-f)</i></p>	
<p>NI 3.12.911 Feed and water provision</p> <p>1. Your livestock must always have easy access to feed and water.</p>	<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.</p>

2. When feed availability from the range is limited, for example due to long term snow cover or dry weather conditions, you must provide your poultry with supplementary roughage.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.7.2)

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II, Part II (1.9.4.4)(i)

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:

Layers

- 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*

Table birds

- linear feeder space: 2.5cm/bird
- 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

Layers and table birds

- linear drinker space: 2.5cm/bird
- circular drinker space: 1cm/bird

* These are the minimum number of feeders and drinkers required by the Council Directive 1999/74/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens.

<p>NI 3.12.102 Access to the outdoor range</p> <p>1. Poultry must be given <u>continuous daytime</u> 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. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)(e)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)(d)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 3.12.113 Stocking density on the range</p> <p>The stocking densities on the range for different poultry species are set out in this table. <i>(EC) 2020/464 Annex I Part IV (</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15 (5)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15 (2)</i></p>	<p>To be regarded as mobile housing, the houses must be moved regularly during the production cycle, and at least between each batch of poultry, to ensure the availability of vegetation to the birds. The new location must provide the poultry access to a different range 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>
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	Range size available e (excluding veranda)	
Species	Static/fixed housing	Mobile housing
Laying hens <u>(including dual purpose strains raised for meat and egg)</u>	1 bird/4 m ²	1 bird/4 m ²

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

production) and breeder chickens		
Pullets and brother roosters	<u>1 bird/1 m²</u>	<u>1 bird/1 m²</u>
Table chickens	1 bird/4 m ²	1 bird/2.5 m ²
Capons and poulardes	<u>1 bird/4m²</u>	<u>1 bird/4m²</u>
Ducks	1 bird/4.5 m ²	1 bird/2.5 <u>4.5</u> m ²
Guinea fowl	1 bird/4 m ²	1 bird/2.5 <u>4</u> m ²
Turkeys	1 bird/10 m ²	1 bird/2.5 <u>10</u> m ²
Geese	1 bird/15 m ²	1 bird/2.5 <u>15</u> m ²
All subject to ensuring that 170kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded.		


<p>NI 3.12.124 Easy access to the outside</p> <p>1. Your poultry house must allow all of the birds easy access to the outdoor range.</p> <p><u>2. Birds must be able to access pop-holes without any obstacle.</u></p> <p><u>3. Where pop-holes are raised, a ramp must be provided.</u></p> <p><u>4. If your poultry house has a veranda, pop-holes must give the birds easy access from the indoor house to the veranda and from the veranda to the outdoor range.</u></p> <p>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15 (1) (EC) 2020/464 Art.4 (2)(a)</p>	<p>The following may prevent birds from having easy access to the outdoor range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • popholes which do not give the hens an easy view of the range • poor provision of shade and shelter close to the housing and across the range.
<p>NI 3.12.135 Pop-hole size and quantity</p> <p>1. Pop-holes to the outdoor range must have a combined length of at least 4m per 100m² of the minimum usable area of the poultry house</p> <p><u>2. If your poultry house has a veranda, pop-holes from the indoor house to the veranda must have a combined length of at least 2m per 100m² of the minimum usable area of the poultry house. Pop-holes from the veranda to the outdoor range must comply with point 1 above.</u></p>	

<p>3. <u>Every</u> pop-hole must be of a size adequate for the birds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15 (1)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art.4 (2)(b)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 3.12.16 Range management</p> <p>1. You must design and manage your poultry range to ensure that the range:</p> <p>a) is <u>attractive to the birds and fully accessible to all birds</u></p> <p>b) mainly covered with vegetation, <u>composed of a diverse range of plants . The vegetation must be maintained regularly to reduce the potential for nutrient surpluses.</u></p> <p>c) provides protective shelter at all times, <u>in the form of shrubs, trees or shelters distributed throughout the entire open air area. to ensure that the birds are using the whole range in a balanced way</u></p> <p>d) permits poultry easy access to adequate numbers of feeding and drinking troughs.</p> <p>e) <u>does not extend beyond a radius of 150m from the nearest pophole. However, you may extend the range up to 350m from the nearest pop-hole of the building provided that a sufficient number of shelters from inclement weather and predators are evenly distributed through the whole open air area, with at least four shelters per hectare.</u></p> <p>f) <u>for geese, allows the birds to satisfy their need to eat grass.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 16 (1-6)</i></p>	<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 you 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 do not have to be provided outside, but must be easily accessible to birds out on the range.</p>
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<p>NI 3.12.168 Keeping poultry indoors due to restrictions</p> <p>1. Where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of Community legislation,</p>	<p>Suitable material includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straw/hay bales • alfalfa bales/blocks
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>they must have permanent access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material to meet their ethological needs.</p> <p>2. <u>Where breeder poultry and pullets are kept under the above restrictions, they may be given access to a veranda with a wire mesh barrier to keep other birds out.</u></p> <p>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)(d)(f)(j) (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)(f) (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.4)(j)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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></p>
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<p>3.12.1820 Access to water for waterfowl</p> <p>1. To meet their species-specific needs and welfare requirements, water fowl must have access to a stream, pond, lake or pool, whenever weather and hygiene conditions allow.</p> <p>2. <u>When weather conditions do not allow point 1 (above), birds must have access to water which enables them to submerge their heads so as to clean plumage;</u></p> <p>3. You must maintain and manage the water to prevent the build-up of disease.</p> <p>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.5.1.7) (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.1)</p>	<p>To meet their species-specific needs, ducks need full body access to water. Ducks use different depths of water to perform different behaviours and you should provide a varying water depth to meet their behavioural needs.</p>
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<p>NI 3.12.1921 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 <u>adapted to outdoor rearing</u>. Where slow growing poultry strains are not used the following minimum age at slaughter must be:</p> <p>a) 81 days for chickens</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><u>The competent authority may provide details of acceptable strains in due course. Until then</u> the breed you use must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet Defra's definition of slow-growing (no more than 45g per day), or • be on the RSPCA's list of welfare-approved free-range broiler breeds
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>b) 49 days for Peking ducks c) 70 days for female Muscovy ducks d) 84 days for male Muscovy ducks e) 92 days for Mallard ducks f) 94 days for guinea fowl g) 140 days for male turkeys and roasting geese h) 100 days for female turkeys i) <u>150 days for capons</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.1)</i></p>	
<p>NI 3.12.202 Live plucking of poultry is prohibited <u>You must not pluck live birds.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.4.3)</i></p>	

Deer

NI 3.13 Additional standards for organic deer	
Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 3.13.1 Species and origins of stock (including parkland managed deer)</p> <p>1. <u>You may only use:</u></p> <p>a) <u>red deer</u> b) <u>fallow deer.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 Annex I</i></p> <p>2. <u>Your stock must be domesticated.</u></p>	<p><u>You can use park deer if you can meet these standards.</u></p> <p><u>Domesticated means deer that are farm bred and reared for at least four generations.</u></p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>NI 3.13.2 Herd stocking density 1. <u>You must not exceed the following stocking density:</u> (EC) 2018/848 Art. 6 (EC) 2020/464 Annex I Part II</p>		
<u>Cervine animals species</u>	<u>Minimum surface for outdoor area per enclosure or per pen</u>	<u>Stocking density maximum number of adult animals (*)per ha</u>
<u>Sika deer</u> <u>Cervus nippon</u>	<u>1 ha</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Fallow deer</u> <u>Dama dama</u>	<u>1 ha</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Red deer</u> <u>Cervus elaphus</u>	<u>2 ha</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Père David's deer</u> <u>Elaphurus davidianus</u>	<u>2 ha</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>More than one cervine species</u>	<u>3 ha</u>	<u>7 in case red deer or Père David's deer are part of the herd;</u> <u>15 in case neither red deer nor Père David's deer are part of the herd</u>
<p><u>* Two cervine animals up to 18 months count for one cervine animal.</u></p>		

Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 3.13.3 Shelter and fencing <u>You must:</u> a) <u>provide visual and weather protection facilities. by preference this should be natural and part of a wooded landscape. If this is not possible a roofed shelter should be provided.</u> b) <u>provide vegetation or structures that allow animals to rub off velvet from their antlers.</u> c) <u>provide vegetation that allow hinds/ does to hide prior to calving and two weeks after.</u></p>	<p><u>Perimeter fencing should be at least 1.8 meters high</u></p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>d) <u>construct fencing in such a way so that stock cannot escape.</u> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 8 (1)(2)(3)(4)</i></p>														
<p>NI 3.13.4 Field and fencing management 1. <u>You must:</u> a) <u>construct outdoor enclosures or pens in such a way that the different species of cervine animals can be separated if needed.</u> b) <u>allow for outdoor enclosures or pens to be divisible or adjacent to another pen so that maintained can take place.</u> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 7 (2)(3)</i></p>														
<p>NI 3.13.5 Feeding and water provision 1. <u>Your rearing system must be based on maximum use of grazing pasture throughout the year. Pens that do not provide grazing during the summer period are not allowed.</u> 2. <u>Deer must be provided with easy access to clean and fresh water.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.2.1)(d)(f)(g)(h)</i></p>	<p><u>For each deer, this means at least the following trough space:</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Red deer</u></th> <th><u>Fallow deer</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>Hinds/yearlings</u></td> <td><u>55cm</u></td> <td><u>28cm</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Weaned calves</u></td> <td><u>33cm</u></td> <td><u>17cm</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Stags</u></td> <td><u>75cm</u></td> <td><u>38cm</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>Red deer</u>	<u>Fallow deer</u>	<u>Hinds/yearlings</u>	<u>55cm</u>	<u>28cm</u>	<u>Weaned calves</u>	<u>33cm</u>	<u>17cm</u>	<u>Stags</u>	<u>75cm</u>	<u>38cm</u>
	<u>Red deer</u>	<u>Fallow deer</u>												
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<u>Stags</u>	<u>75cm</u>	<u>38cm</u>												
<p>NI 3.13.6 Feeding calves milk and minimum weaning age <u>Calves must be fed natural, organic milk, preferably maternal milk, for a minimum period of 90 days.</u> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 5</i></p>	<p><u>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.</u></p>													

	<p><u>Milk 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.</u></p> <p><u>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 calves until they are 72 hours old. However, if you feed them non-organic milk replacer for any longer they will lose their organic status.</u></p>
<p>NI 3.13.7 Housing and husbandry practises</p> <p>With regard to housing and husbandry practices, the following rules shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Deer shall be provided with hiding places, shelters and fences that do not harm animals; b. in red deer pens, animals must be able to roll in the mud to ensure skin grooming and body temperature regulation; c. any housing shall have smooth, but not slippery floors; d. any housing shall be provided with a comfortable, clean and dry laying or rest area of sufficient size, consisting of a solid construction which is not slatted. Ample dry bedding strewn with litter material shall be provided in the rest area. The litter shall comprise straw or other suitable natural material. The litter may be improved and enriched with any mineral product authorised in standard 2.5.2 as a fertiliser or soil conditioner for use in organic production; e. feeding places shall be installed in areas protected from the weather and accessible both to animals and to persons attending to them. The soil where feeding places are located shall be consolidated, and the feeding apparatus shall be equipped with a roof; f. if permanent access to feed cannot be ensured, the feeding places shall be designed so that all animals can feed at the same time. <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.2.2)</i></p>	

Beekeeping

NI 3.1314.2 Sourcing bees

1. When choosing your breed or strain, you must give preference to local ecotypes of *Apis mellifera*.
2. You must choose breeds or strains giving preference to those with a high degree of genetic diversity, their breeding value, their longevity, and their resistance to health problems. You must ensure that breeds:
 - a) are suitable to local conditions
 - b) avoid the need for the mutilation of animals
 - c) have vitality and resistance to disease.
3. Welfare should not be impaired by breed and strain selection.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 14 (1)

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II **Part II** 1.3 (d) (1.3.2) (d) (1.3.3) (1.5.1.1) (1.9.6)


NI 3.1314.4 Converting an existing apiary

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 the conversion period, the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping.


However, non-organic beeswax may be used:

- a) where beeswax from organic beekeeping is not available on the market;

<p>b) <u>where it is proven free of contamination with products or substances not authorised for use in organic production;</u> and c) <u>provided that it comes from the cap.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.2.2) (f)</i></p>	
<p>NI 3.143.6 Bringing in non-organic replacements 1. You may replace a maximum of 10% <u>20%</u> 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. 2. You must place them in hives with comb or foundation from organic production. 3. <u>In any case, one swarm or queen bee may be replaced per year by a non-organic swarm or a queen bee</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.3.4.2)</i></p>	<p>You must demonstrate that suitable organic stock is not available.</p>

<p>NI 3.134.89 Treating disease 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. <u>Chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products, including antibiotics, may be used where necessary, under strict conditions and under the responsibility of a veterinarian, when the use of phytotherapeutic, homeopathic and other products is inappropriate.</u> 4. If you give veterinary treatment to you bees you must:</p>	<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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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>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 c) provide us with this information before the bee products are marketed as organic. (EG) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.5.2.1) (1.5.2.2) (1.5.2.3) (1.9.6.3)</p>	
<p>NI 3.143.123 Feeding bees 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 colonies is endangered due to climatic conditions. 3. You may only feed them with organic honey, <u>organic pollen</u>, organic sugar or organic sugar syrup. 4. You must record the type of feed, dates, quantities and the hives that you artificially feed. (EG) 2018/848 Annex II part II (1.9.6.2) (a) (b) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.9.6.6)</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>
<p>NI 3.143.13 Exceptional rules for beekeeping due to catastrophic circumstances 1. <u>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.</u> 2. <u>With the approval of your competent authority, where the survival of the colony is endangered bee colonies may be moved to areas not respecting the provisions for the placing of the apiaries.</u> 3. <u>With the approval of your competent authority, where the survival of the colony is endangered for other reasons than climatic conditions, bee colonies may be fed with organic</u></p>	<p>In the UK, your Certification Officer 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><u>honey, organic pollen, organic sugar syrups, or organic sugar.</u></p> <p>4. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception <i>(EC) 2018/848 Art 22(2)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/2146 (3.6) (3.7) <u>Art. 3(2)(6)(7)</u></i></p>	
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<p>NI 3.143.156 Siting your apiaries</p> <p>1. When you are siting your apiaries you must ensure:</p> <p>a) Your bees have access to water and enough natural nectar, honeydew and pollen sources to sustain your colonies.</p> <p>b) Nectar and pollen sources within 3km of your apiary consist essentially of:</p> <p>i) organic crops</p> <p>ii) uncultivated areas with natural vegetation, <u>non-organically managed forests and</u></p> <p>iii) crops that have only been managed with low environmental impact methods and which cannot significantly affect the organic description of beekeeping.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>i) a map on an appropriate scale listing the location of hives, and</p> <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>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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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<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. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.6.5) (a) (b) (c) (1.9.6.6)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 3.147.167 Hive management 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 a) record all details of your hive management operations, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) removing supers and extracting honey ii) <u>moving hives</u> iii) <u>the amount and dates of the collection of honey.</u> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.6.6)</i></p>	
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Rabbit production

<p>NI 3.15 Rabbit production</p>	
<p><u>You must also comply with the applicable standards in</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Chapter 1 General standards for farming and growing</u> • <u>Chapter 2 Standards for organic land and crops</u> • <u>Chapter 3 standards for organic livestock production.</u> 	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>NI 3.154.1 Breeds suitable for organic production 1. <u>You must choose robust breeds adapted to outdoor conditions.</u></p> <p><i>EC 2018/848 Annex II II (1.9.5.2) (c)</i></p>	

<p>NI 3.154.2 Keeping rabbits in groups</p> <p>1. <u>You must keep rabbits in groups.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 annex II II (1.9.5.2) (b)</i></p>	
<p>NI 3.154.3 Outdoor access and grazing or access to pasture</p> <p>1. <u>Rabbits shall have access to pasture for grazing whenever conditions allow.</u></p> <p>2. <u>Your rearing system must be based on maximum use of grazing pasture throughout the year, allowing for appropriate rotations throughout the grazing period that encourages maximum use by your stock.</u></p> <p>3. <u>The vegetation of the outdoor runs shall be maintained regularly and in such a way suits the needs of your livestock.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 annex II II (1.9.5.1) (b)(c)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 21</i></p>	
<p>NI 3.154.4 Housing rabbits</p> <p>1. <u>Rabbits shall have access to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>covered shelter including dark hiding places;</u> b) <u>an outdoor run with vegetation, preferably pasture;</u> c) <u>a raised platform on which they can sit, either inside or out;</u> d) <u>nesting material for all nursing does.</u> <p>2. <u>Housing shall be provided with a comfortable, clean and dry lying or rest area of sufficient size, consisting of a solid construction which is not slatted. Ample dry bedding strewn with litter material shall be provided in the rest area. The litter shall comprise straw or other suitable natural material. The litter may be improved and enriched with any mineral product authorised pursuant to chapter 2.5.2 as a fertiliser or soil conditioner for use in organic production.</u></p>	

3. During the grazing season, rabbits shall be kept in mobile housing on pastures or in fixed housing with access to pasture.
4. Outside the grazing season, rabbits may be kept in fixed housing with access to an outdoor run with vegetation, preferably pasture.
5. Mobile housing on pastures shall be moved as often as possible to ensure the maximum use of grazing pasture and shall be constructed in such a way that it is possible for rabbits to graze the pasture on the floor.

*(EC) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.9.5.2) (a)(d):
(EC) 2020/464 Art. 19*

NI 3.154.5 Providing suitable housing for rabbits

1. The indoor area in fixed and mobile housing shall be constructed in such a way that:
 - a) its height is sufficient to allow all rabbits to stand with ears erect;
 - b) it can accommodate different groups of rabbits and allow the preservation of the broods' integrity upon transfer to the fattening phase;
 - c) it is possible for bucks and pregnant and reproductive does to be separated from the group for specific animal welfare reasons and for a limited period provided they can keep eye contact with other rabbits
 - d) it is possible for the doe to move away from the nest and return in the nest for nursing the kits;
2. Housing shall provide:
 - a) covered shelter including dark hiding places in sufficient number for all categories of rabbits;

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>b) <u>access to nests for all does at least one week before the expected date of birth and at least till the end of the nursing period of the kits;</u></p> <p>c) <u>access to nests for kits in sufficient number with a minimum of one nest per nursing doe with kits;</u></p> <p>d) <u>materials to allow rabbits to gnaw.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 art.20</i></p>		
<p>NI 3.154.6 Minimum housing area for rabbits</p> <p><u>When providing housing for your animals you must give them at least the following space:</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 Art. 18</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Annex I Part V</i></p>		
<u>Class of animal</u>	<u>Indoor area (net area usable per animal excluding platforms m²/head) for the rest area</u>	
	<u>Fixed housing</u>	<u>Mobile housing</u>
<u>Nursing does with kits until weaning</u>	<p><u>0,6 m²/doe with kits if doe liveweight is below 6 kg</u></p> <p><u>0,72 m²/doe with kits if doe liveweight is above 6 kg</u></p>	<p><u>0,6 m²/doe with kits if doe liveweight is below 6 kg</u></p> <p><u>0,72 m²/doe with kits if doe liveweight is above 6 kg</u></p>
<u>Pregnant does and reproductive female rabbits</u>	<p><u>0,5 m²/pregnant doe or reproductive female if liveweight is below 6 kg</u></p> <p><u>0,62 m²/pregnant doe or reproductive female if liveweight is above 6 kg</u></p>	<p><u>0,5 m²/pregnant doe or reproductive female if liveweight is below 6 kg</u></p> <p><u>0,62 m²/pregnant doe or reproductive female if liveweight is above 6 kg</u></p>
<u>Fattening rabbits from weaning to slaughter</u>	<u>0,2</u>	<u>0,15</u>

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<u>Replacement rabbits (end of fattening to 6 months)</u>		
<u>Adult bucks</u>	<u>0,6</u> <u>1 if buck receiving does for mating</u>	<u>0,6</u> <u>1 if buck receiving does for mating</u>
<p><u>NI 3.154.7 Outdoor areas for fixed housing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Outdoor areas must have raised platforms in sufficient number and that are evenly distributed;</u> 2. <u>Outdoor areas must be surrounded by fences that are high and deep enough to prevent escape, either by jumping or digging;</u> 3. <u>if the housing has a concrete outside area, there must be easy access to the part of the outdoor run with vegetation. Without such easy access, the surface of the concrete area may not be included in the calculation of the minimum surface of the outdoor area;</u> 4. <u>Outdoor areas must provide:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>covered shelter including dark hiding places in sufficient number for all categories of rabbits;</u> b. <u>materials to allow rabbits to gnaw.</u> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/464 Art.20</i></p>		
<p><u>NI 3.154.8 Minimum outdoor area for rabbits</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>When providing outdoor areas for your animals you must give them at least the following space: (insert table 2 from below)</u> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>EC 2020/464 Art. 18</i> <i>EC 2020/464 Annex I Part V</i></p>		
	<u>Outdoor area (outdoor run with vegetation preferably pasture) (net area usable per animal excluding platforms m²/head)</u>	<u>Outdoor area (net area usable per animal excluding platforms m²/head)</u>


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	Fixed housing	Mobile housing
<u>Nursing does with kits until weaning</u>	2,5 m ² /doe with kits	2,5 m ² /doe with kits
<u>Pregnant does/Reproductive females</u>	2,5	2,5
<u>Fattening rabbits from weaning to slaughter</u>		
<u>Replacement rabbits (end of fattening to 6 months)</u>	0,5	0,4
<u>Adult bucks</u>	2,5	2,5
<p>NI 3.154.9 Feeding rabbits</p> <p>1. <u>fibrous feed such as straw or hay shall be provided when grass is not sufficient. Forage shall comprise at least 60 % of the diet.</u></p> <p>2. <u>at least 70 % of the feed shall come from the farm itself or, if this is not feasible or such feed is not available, shall be produced in cooperation with other organic or in-conversion production units and feed operators using feed and feed material from the same region.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.5.1) (a)(d)</i></p>		

Standards updates specific to Food and Drink

<p>NI 5.1.1 Scope of the standards</p> <p>1. The standards in this document set out the rules that must apply for all stages of production, preparation, labelling, importing, exporting and distribution in order for products to be labelled and marketed as organic in Northern Ireland and the EU. The organic regulation covers products originating from agriculture, including aquaculture and beekeeping:</p> <p>a) live or unprocessed agricultural products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material; (refer to</p>	<p><u>Food supplements are covered by the scope of these standards. A food supplement is defined under EC Directive 2002/46/EC as: 'food supplements' means foodstuffs the purpose of which is to supplement the normal diet and which are concentrated sources of nutrients or other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect, alone or in combination, marketed in dose form, namely forms such as capsules, pastilles, tablets, pills and other similar forms, sachets of powder, ampoules of liquids, drop dispensing bottles, and other similar forms of liquids and powders designed to be taken in measured small unit quantities.'</u></p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>separate standards document for farming, growing and plant reproductive material)</p> <p>b) processed agricultural products for use as food;</p> <p>c) feed. (Refer to separate feed standards document)</p> <p>d) certain other products closely linked to agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yeasts used as food or feed, - maté, sweetcorn, vine leaves, palm hearts, hop shoots, and other similar edible parts of plants and products produced therefrom, - sea salt and other salts for food and feed (Salt production standards are under development by the EC) - silkworm cocoon suitable for reeling, - natural gums and resins, - beeswax, - essential oils, - cork stoppers of natural cork, not agglomerated, and without any binding substances, - cotton, not carded or combed, - wool, not carded or combed, - raw hides and untreated skins, - plant-based traditional herbal preparation <p>2. You must ensure you comply with all other relevant EU legislation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 1(1); Art. 9 (1); Art. 19 (1)</i></p>	<p><u>Tinctures that are classed as food products are also covered by the scope of these standards.</u></p> <p><u>Medicinal products, and tinctures classed as medicinal products, are not covered by the scope of these standards. Medicinal products must have no indication on their labels that they comply with the Organic Regulations as this regulation relates to food and excludes medicinal products. This means the EU organic logo and certifiers certification code may not be used. If you are unsure as to whether your product is classed as a medicinal product contact the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for advice https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-mhra</u></p> <p>If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification, please contact us.</p> <p>For standards regarding Aquaculture and Seaweed, Farming and Growing, and Feed Processing, please visit our website.</p> <p>The scope of these standards does not include catering.</p>
<p>NI 6.1.4 Processing organic and non-organic</p> <p>If you process organic, in-conversion and non-organic products, either using the same equipment or at the same site, you must:</p> <p>a) assess the risk of contamination and mixtures or exchanges, and put in place controls to avoid those risks</p> <p>b) process and store organic and <u>in-conversion</u> products separately, in time or space, from non-organic products</p>	<p> Also refer to storage (5.15), cleaning (5.12), preserving organic integrity (5.11), and record keeping (5.7) sections.</p> <p>There are many ways in which you can ensure separation of organic and non-organic at your facility. As each business is unique it is your responsibility to ensure you have systems and procedures in place that are right for you and your business.</p> <p>Some businesses may have dedicated organic production days, following a</p>

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- c) ensure that the cleaning of your facilities and equipment is sufficient to remove residues of non-organic product before you start processing. This would also apply if you are switching from in-conversion to organic.
- d) finish the whole run of organic or in-conversion products before you start to process non-organic products
- e) keep a record of all organic, in-conversion and non-organic operations and the quantities processed.
- f) guarantee that non-organic products are not placed on the market with an indication referring to organic production
- g) take the necessary measures to ensure identification of lots and to avoid mixtures or exchanges between organic, in-conversion and non-organic products;

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II IV (1.1-1.5)

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 26(5) (EC) 834/2007 Art. 19(1)

thorough clean down of equipment, whereas others may judge it best to carry out organic processing first thing in the morning followed by non-organic production. The important thing is that you manage risk in a way that is appropriate for your operation.

NI 6.1.6 Transitional measures for stock of products produced in accordance with Regulation (EC) 834/2007

Products produced in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 before 1 January 2022 may be placed on the market after that date until stocks are exhausted.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 60

Processors can manufacture from 1st Jan 2022 using organic ingredients produced under 834/2007.

E.g. organic fruit preparation produced in 2021 used as an ingredient in yogurt after 1st Jan 2022. Seller of the fruit preparation could continue to sell it until stocks are used up. Wheat harvested in 2021 could be used to make flour after 1st January 2022.

However, a manufacturer could not, for example, add a non-organic flavour to their product from 1st Jan 2022 unless the flavour complied with the new flavour requirements in 2018/848. E.g. soft drink produced in Jan 2022 could only add a non-organic flavour which complied with the new flavour requirements in 2018/848.

<p>NI 6.2.1 Using ethylene You may <u>only</u> use ethylene as a post-harvest plant growth regulator <u>for bananas and potatoes; however, it may also be used on citrus as part of a strategy for the prevention of fruit fly damage.</u> <i>(EC) 2021/1165 Annex I (4)</i></p>	<p>Ethylene can be used in storage for sprout suppression or for ripening of fruits.</p>
<p>NI 6.2.5 Restrictions of the use of Ion exchange and adsorption resin techniques <u>Ion exchange and adsorption resin techniques are authorised when used for the preparation of organic raw materials under the following circumstances only:</u> a) <u>for baby food, infant formula, and processed cereal-based food (as referred to in points (a) and (b), respectively, of Article 1(1) of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013), provided that using those techniques is necessary to meet the requirements of that Regulation and acts adopted on the basis of Article 11(1) of that Regulation for the products concerned; or</u> b) <u>for products regulated by Directive 2006/125/EC, provided that using those techniques is necessary to meet the requirements of that Directive.</u> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art.23 (1) (2)</i> <i>(EC) 2021/1165 Annex V (part a)</i></p>	<p><u>Ion exchange and adsorption resin techniques are not permitted for any other use.</u></p>
<p>NI 6.3.2 Organic products To label your product as organic (or organically grown or organically produced), it must: a) contain at least 95% (by weight) of organic agricultural ingredients (including those additives marked with an asterisk in standard 6.4) b) contain a maximum of 5% (by weight) <u>of natural flavours, additives marked with an asterisk in standard</u></p>	<p>Please see the example calculation below based on the composition of an organic wholemeal loaf:</p>

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6.4, and/or non-organic ingredients, but only non-organic ingredients that are covered in these standards
 c) only be processed using processing techniques and processing aids allowed in these standards.

*(EC) 2018/848 Art.24 (2)(a)(b); Art.30 (5);
 (EC) 2018/848 Annex II IV (2.2.2)(a),(2.2.4)(a)(b)
 (EC) 2020/464 Art.23 (1)*

Agricultural ingredient	Non-agricultural ingredients (e.g. water, salt, selected additives)	Weight (g)	Status (organic, non-organic, organic wild harvested)
Wholemeal wheat flour		560	Organic
Yeast		5	Non-organic
Dried rosemary		20	Organic
Poppy seeds		20	Organic
Sunflower oil		20	Organic
	Sea salt	20	Non-organic
	Water	300	Non-organic
Total weight: (kg)		945	

Of the 945g product, 320g is salt and water. We do not include this in the calculation but only factor in the weight of the agricultural ingredients; 625g.

Of this 625g, 5g is non-organic yeast which makes the proportion of the agricultural ingredients in this product 99.2% organic. This loaf can be marketed as organic.

You can use our [online tool](#) to help with this calculation.

If you wish to use any non-organic agricultural ingredients not listed in these standards (refer to standard 6.6.1), then you must apply for a derogation from your competent authority (please see standard 6.7).


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NI 6.4.1 Permitted additives

You may only use the additives in the table below in organic foods and according to the specific conditions against them.

Additives marked with an asterisk (*) must be included in the calculation of agricultural ingredients in order to determine the organic percentage of the product overall.

[\(EC\) 2021/1165 Annex V Part A](#)

 If you source products manufactured outside of the UK/EU they must meet this Soil Association sourcing requirement.

See the glossary for the definition of a food additive.

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

If you need to use a non-organic additive or processing aid in your product, please contact the certification team to discuss what will be required.

For Soil Association products, you must use organic additives if they are available (see standard 6.4.1).

E no.	Name	Organic foodstuffs to which it may be added	<u>Requires non-GMO declaration form to be completed (unless being used in organic form)</u>	Specific conditions and limits
E153	Vegetable carbon	Only in edible cheese rind of ashy goat cheese Morbier cheese		
E160b (i)	Annatto bixin	Only in Red Leicester, Double Gloucester, Cheddar and Mimolette cheeses.		
E160b (ii)	Annatto norbixin*	Only in Red Leicester, Double Gloucester, Cheddar and Mimolette cheeses.		
E170	Calcium Carbonate	May be used in any product of plant and animal origin.		Shall not be used for colouring or calcium enrichment of products
E220	Sulphur dioxide	fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead with and without added sugar) (see standard		100 mg/l (Maximum levels available

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		6.4.3. for additional SA standard related to free sulphur dioxide levels).		from all sources, expressed as SO ₂ in mg/l)
E223	Sodium metabisulphite	Crustaceans ² . This can be used in EU product only. Prohibited for SA product (see standard 6.4.4 for details).		
E224	Potassium metabisulphite	Fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead with and without added sugar):		100 mg/l (Maximum levels available from all sources, expressed as SO ₂ in mg/l.
E250	Sodium nitrite	meat products		May only be used, if it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the competent authority that no technological alternative, giving the same guarantees and/or allowing to maintain the specific features of the product, is available. Not in combination with E252. maximum ingoing amount expressed as NaNO ₂ : 80 mg/kg, maximum residual amount expressed as NaNO ₂ : 50 mg/kg
E252	Potassium nitrate (saltpetre)	Meat products		May only be used, if it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the competent authority that no technological alternative, giving the same guarantees and/or allowing to maintain the specific features of the product, is available. Not in

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				combination with E250. Maximum ingoing amount expressed as NaNO ₃ : 80 mg/kg, maximum residual amount expressed as NaNO ₃ : 50 mg/kg
E270	Lactic acid	products of plant and animal origin	X	
E290	Carbon dioxide	products of plant and animal origin		
E296	Malic acid	products of plant origin	X	
E300	Ascorbic acid	products of plant origin meat products	X	
E301	Sodium ascorbate	meat products	X	may only be used in connection with nitrates and nitrites
E306	Tocopherol rich extract (Vit E)*	products of plant and animal origin	X	Anti-oxidant
E322	Lecithins*	products of plant origin milk products.		only from organic production
E325	Sodium lactate	products of plant origin milk-based and meat products	X	
E330	Citric acid	products of plant and animal origin	X	
E331	Sodium citrates	products of plant and animal origin	X	
E333	Calcium citrates	products of plant origin	X	
E334	Tartaric acid (L(+)-)	products of plant origin mead.	X	
E335	Sodium tartrates	products of plant origin	X	
E336	Potassium tartrates	products of plant origin	X	
E341 (i)	Monocalcium Phosphate	self raising flour.		raising agent
E392	Extracts of rosemary*	products of plant and animal origin		only from organic production
E400	Alginic acid	products of plant origin milk products		
E401	Sodium alginate	products of plant origin milk products		

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		sausages based on meat		
E402	Potassium alginate	products of plant origin milk-based products		
E406	Agar	products of plant origin milk-based products and meat products		
E407	Carrageenan	products of plant origin milk-based products		
E410	Locust bean gum*	products of plant and animal origin		only from organic production
E412	Guar gum*	products of plant and animal origin		only from organic production
E414	Arabic gum*	products of plant and animal origin		only from organic production
E415	Xanthan gum	products of plant and animal origin	X	
E417	Tara gum powder	products of plant and animal origin		Thickener. Only when derived from organic production.
E418	Gellan gum	products of plant and animal origin		High-acyl form only Only when derived from organic production. Applicable as of 1 January 2026
E no.	Name	Organic foodstuffs to which it may be added		Specific conditions
E422	Glycerol	plant extracts products from animal origin	X	Only from plant origin
		Flavourings	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - solvent and carrier in plant extracts and flavourings - humectant in gel capsules - surface coating of

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				tablets - only from organic production
E440 (i)	Pectin* (non amidated)	products of plant origin milk-based products	X	
E460	Cellulose	gelatine		
E464	Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose	products of plant and animal origin	X	Encapsulation material for capsules
E500	Sodium carbonate	products of plant and animal origin		
E501	Potassium Carbonates	products of plant origin		
E503	Ammonium Carbonates	products of plant origin		
E504	Magnesium carbonates	products of plant origin		
E509	Calcium chloride	milk-based products		Milk coagulation
E516	Calcium sulphate	products of plant origin		Carrier
E524	Sodium hydroxide	'Laugengebäck'		Surface treatment
		flavourings		acidity regulator
E551	Silicon dioxide gel or colloidal solution	For herbs and spices in dried powdered form. Flavourings and propolis.		
E553b	Talc	sausages based on meat products of plant origin		Surface treatment
E901	Beeswax	As a glazing agent for confectionary only. Beeswax from organic beekeeping.		glazing agent only from organic production
E903	Carnauba wax	confectionary		glazing agent
		citrus fruit Products of plant origin		mitigating method for mandatory extreme cold treatment of fruit as a quarantine measure against harmful organisms (Commission Implementing

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				Directive (EU) 2017/1279) (1)
				Only from organic production
E938	Argon	products of plant and animal origin		
E939	Helium	products of plant and animal origin		
E941	Nitrogen	products of plant and animal origin		
E948	Oxygen	products of plant and animal origin		
E968	Erythritol	products of plant and animal origin		Only from organic production without using ion exchange technology

NI 6.5.1 Permitted processing aids

You may only use the processing aids in the table below. Many have specific conditions against them. You may only use a processing aid in line with the specific condition for its use.

*(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part IV (2.2.2)
(EC) 2021/1165 Annex V Part A Section A2*

See the glossary for the definition of a processing aid.

An example of a processing aid is vegetable oil applied to bread tins as a release agent. This has a function during baking to help get the bread out of tin but does not have a function in the final product, although residues may remain.

Conversely vegetable oil added to raisins to prevent them sticking together is not a processing aid as it is designed to have a function in the finished product. It must be declared as an ingredient.

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

[Ethanol, casein and vegetable oil requires non-GMO declaration form to be completed \(unless being used in organic form\).](#)

If a processing aid is not listed in the table below then you cannot use it.

NI 6.6.1 Non-organic agricultural ingredients

The EU considers that the ingredients below are not available in organic form, so you can use them in non-organic form in your organic **until 31st December 2023**:

Edible fruits, nuts and seeds:

1. acorns (*Quercus species*)
2. cola nuts (*Cola acuminata*)
3. gooseberries (*Ribes uva-crispa*)
4. passion fruit also known as maracujas (*Passiflora edulis*)
5. dried raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*)
6. dried redcurrants (*Ribes rubrum*).

Edible spices and herbs:

1. Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle L.*)
2. horseradish seeds (*A Armoracia rusticana*)
3. lesser galanga (*Alpina officinarum*)
4. safflower flowers (*Carthamus tinctorius*)
5. watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*).

Algae, including seaweeds, which are allowed as food ingredients.

Sugars, starches and other products from cereals and tubers:

1. fructose
2. rice paper
3. unleavened bread paper
4. starch from rice and waxy maize (not chemically modified).

Miscellaneous products:

1. pea protein (*Pisum species*)

The following organic fats and oils are widely available and must be used:

- cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*)
- coconut (*Cocos nucifera*)
- olive (*Olea europaea*)
- sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
- palm (*Elaeis guineensis*)
- rape (*Brassica napus, rapa*)
- safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*)
- sesame (*Sesamum indicum*)
- soya (*Glycine max*)

Please note that whey powder 'hersoula' refers to a particular type of whey protein. Whey powder is available as organic.

All non-organic sugars and starches and oils require non-GMO declaration form to be completed (unless being used in organic form).

Please note some of the ingredients listed in the EU regulation are now available in organic form. SA standard 6.6.2 requires organic to be used if organic is available in sufficient quantity and quality.

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2. rum, only obtained from cane sugar juice
3. kirsch prepared on the basis of fruits and flavourings as referred to in standard 6.6.4.

Animal products:

1. aquatic organisms, which have not been farmed and which are allowed in non-organic food
2. gelatin
3. whey powder 'herasoula'
4. casings.

Fats and oils:

The EU considers most fats and oils from plants are available in organic form so must be used as such. See the guidance for details of the fats and oils that are widely available as organic. Fats and oils, whether organic or non-organic, must not be chemically modified.

From January 1st 2024, you can only use the following products in non-organic form in your organic products:

1. Alga Arame (Eisenia Bicyclis), unprocessed as well as products of first-stage processing directly related to this alga
2. Alga Hijiki (Hizikia fusiforme), unprocessed as well as products of first-stage processing directly related to this alga
3. bark of the Pau d'arco tree Handroanthus impetiginosus ('lapacho')
 - only for use in Kombucha and tea mixtures
4. wild fishes and wild aquatic animals, unprocessed as well as products derived therefrom by processes
 - only from fisheries that have been certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid

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<p><u>down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, in accordance with point 3.1.3.1 (c) of Part III of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 only when not available in organic aquaculture</u></p> <p>5. <u>gelatin</u> - <u>from other sources than porcine</u></p> <p>6. <u>casings</u> - <u>from natural raw materials of animal origin or from plant origin material</u></p> <p>7. <u>milk mineral powder/liquid</u> - <u>only when used for its sensory function to replace wholly or partly sodium chloride</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2021/1165 Art. 12; Annex V Part B</i></p>	
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<p>NI 6.6.2 Natural flavourings You can use natural flavouring substances and natural flavouring preparations in organic products but only if:</p> <p>a) they are natural flavours as defined in regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 <u>that have been labelled as natural flavouring substances or natural flavouring preparations, in accordance with Article 16(2), (3) and (4) of that Regulation</u></p> <p>b) they do not contain ingredients made from or by GMOs</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 16 (1); Art 11; Annex II Part IV (2.2.2) (b)</i></p>	<p><u>Flavourings labelled according to Article 16(4) must be obtained, by at least 95%, from the source material referred to.</u> <u>For example, for a lemon flavour, 95% of the flavour must come from lemons.</u> <u>The remaining 5% could include natural substances that are labelled according to Article 16(3), so for a lemon flavour, the remaining 5% does not have to come from lemons.</u></p> <p><u>Non-organic flavourings must not exceed 5% by weight of the organic product.</u> <u>See standard 6.3.2 for how to calculate the percentage of organic ingredients in a product.</u></p>
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<p>NI 6.6.3 Organic flavourings</p> <p>1. For the production of organic flavourings all of the flavouring components and carriers of flavouring</p>	<p>The organic flavouring components must also comply with restrictions on type of flavouring as outlined in standard 6.6.2</p>
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<p>components in the flavouring must be organic</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The production of organic flavouring must meet the requirements of these standards. Only natural flavouring substances and natural flavouring preparations that comply with article 16 (2)(3)(4) of (EC) No 1334/2008 may be used in organic flavours. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art:30 (5)(a)</i></p>	<p>Up to 5% non-organic flavourings are also permitted, but must comply with restrictions on type of flavouring as outlined in standard 6.6.2</p> <p>Carriers used must be organic. Where organic version is not available up to 5% non-organic carriers may be used, but only if they are listed in section 6.6.1 of these standards.</p> <p>Only additives or processing aids listed in section 6.4 and 6.5 of these standards may be used.</p>
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<p>NI 6.6.6 Yeast</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>You may use non-organic yeast in your products, however,</u> yeast and yeast products must be calculated as ingredients of agricultural origin. Organic yeast must not be present in organic food or feed together with non-organic yeast. You must comply with all relevant parts of the processing standards. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part IV (2.2.2 (a) & 2.2.4); Annex II Part VII (1.2)</i></p>	<p>In order for a product to be labelled as organic you must not use more than 5% non-organic agricultural ingredients in your product. Non-organic yeast is included within this 5% allowance.</p> <p>You may use non-organic yeast in organic products, provided we have reviewed the GM information related to the product and we are satisfied it does not contain GM material or has not been made using GM.</p> <p>You need to include non-organic yeast in the 'agricultural ingredients' section on the product specification form you submit to the certification team.</p>
<p>NI 6.6.7 Micro-organisms and enzymes</p> <p>You may use preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes normally used in food processing, but you can only use an enzyme as an additive if it is in the list of permitted additives in standard 6.4.1. Any micro-organisms or enzymes you use must not be made from or by GMOs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art, 11; Annex II IV (2.2.2)</i></p>	<p>Micro-organisms should preferably be grown on organic substrates.</p> <p>Enzymes and micro-organisms may be used as processing aids, e.g. yeast in brewing, rennet for cheese production.</p> <p>If enzymes are to be used as additives, they must be listed in standard 6.4.1 however, there are currently no enzymes listed for use as additives. Food additives are legally defined. For general information, the EU publishes a list of food additives approved for use within the EU. If you are unsure whether</p>

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	<p>the enzyme you wish to use is classed as an additive then you can check the list here.</p> <p>See the glossary for the definition of a food additive.</p> <p>Some enzymes used as ingredients are not classed as additives, for example, there are some enzymes intended for human consumption for nutritional or digestive purposes. These may be used in organic products if they are normally used in food processing.</p> <p><u>For each micro-organism or enzyme you wish to use you will need to complete our non-GM declaration form, signed by the enzyme manufacturer, and providing supporting information as outline in the non-GM declaration form.</u></p>
<p>NI 6.6.8 Organic yeast</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To produce organic yeast, you must culture it on <u>an organic</u> substrate. <u>However, of at least 95% certified organic origin</u> if you are unable to obtain organic yeast extract or autolysate, you may add up to 5% non-organic yeast extract or autolysate to the substrate (calculated in dry matter), <u>until 31st December 2024</u>.2. When producing organic yeast, you may use drinking water, organic or non-organic salt, and preparations of micro-organisms and food enzymes normally used in food processing, however, if the enzymes you wish to use are additives, they can only be used if they are listed as an approved additive in standard 6.4.3. <u>Organic yeast shall not be present in organic food or feed together with non-organic yeast.</u>4. The processing aids in the table below are permitted for the production of yeast and yeast products. <u>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 24 (2)(c); Annex II VIII (1.3); Annex II VII (1.1) – updated by (EC) 2020/1693 Art. 1 (8)(d)</u>	<p>When all or part of a cell or tissue breaks down by self-produced enzymes, the product is called autolysate. Whilst you can use up to 5% yeast extract or autolysate, you should only do so if you cannot find it as organic. You need to be able to demonstrate that you have tried to source organic yeast extract or autolysate.</p> <p>If you use enzymes or other micro-organisms in the process of manufacturing the organic yeast, you should get them from a certified organic source, if that is available. The seed yeast that you use may be non-organic, but it must not contain or be produced using GMOs.</p> <p>If you are creating your own sourdough starter culture from scratch, use organic flour and potable water to produce it.</p> <p>If you want to use pre-existing starter cultures then you will need to send us written confirmation that you have not added anything other than flour during its life and that it does not contain any GMOs.</p> <p>The starter culture will need to be converted to organic as you split, feed and regenerate it. You can do this by adding organic flour each time that it is split</p>

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	<p>and fed, until the non-organic starter proportion is at or below 5%. Keep records to demonstrate that you have done this.</p> <p>Note - all standards governing food processing and packing apply for producing organic yeast.</p> <p><u>At the moment there are no standards for organic salt but the EU Commission plan to develop some.</u></p>
<p>NI 6.6.9 Vitamins and minerals</p> <p>You may only add vitamins, minerals, amino acids, micro-nutrients and trace elements to organic products provided that:</p> <p><u>(a) their use in food for normal consumption is 'directly legally required', in the meaning of being directly required by provisions of Union law or provisions of national law compatible with Union law, meaning the food cannot be placed at all on the market as food for normal consumption if those minerals, vitamins, amino acids or micronutrients are not added; or</u></p> <p><u>(b) as regards food placed on the market as having particular characteristics or effects in relation to health or nutrition or in relation to needs of specific groups of consumers:</u></p> <p><u>– in products referred to in points (a) and (b) of Article 1(1) of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (1) their use is authorised by that Regulation and acts adopted on the basis of Article 11(1) of that Regulation for the products concerned, or</u></p> <p><u>– in products regulated by Commission Directive 2006/125/EC (2), their use is authorised by that Directive.</u></p> <p><u>EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part IV (2.2.2(f)</u></p>	<p>For example, in the UK, the <i>Bread and Flour Regulations (1998)</i> state that iron, thiamine (vitamin B1) and nicotinic acid (vitamin B3) in a carrier of calcium carbonate must be added to flour, except wholemeal flour. This is to replace nutrients lost during the milling process.</p> <p>The <i>Spreadable Fats (Marketing Standards) (England) Regulations (1999)</i> state that vitamin A (retinol) and vitamin D (calciferol) must be added to margarine.</p> <p><u>Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 Article 1(1) (a & b) relate to infant formula & follow-on formula and processed cereal-based food & baby food:</u></p> <p><u>Commission Directive 2006/125/EC is on processed cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children</u></p> <p>Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 Organic baby foods for infants and young children - specifically organic infant formula, follow-on formula, processed organic cereal-based foods and baby foods - may be fortified by minerals, trace elements, vitamins, amino acids and micronutrients where their use is legally authorised in horizontal legislation.</p> <p>(a) infant formula and follow-on formula; (b) processed cereal-based food and baby food;</p> <p>In Europe, other fortification is controlled by the EC Regulation on the Addition of Vitamins, Minerals and Certain Other Substances to Foods (1925/2006/EC).</p>

All vitamins except thiamine requires non-GMO declaration form to be completed (unless being used in organic form).

NI 6.7.1 EU derogations

The EU Organic Regulation allows for some derogations to use non-organic agricultural ingredients where they aren't available on the market in organic form and aren't already listed in standard 6.6.1. This standard only applies to products containing 95-100% organic agricultural ingredients.

In these cases you can apply to your competent authority for a derogation to use the particular ingredients.

~~This standard only applies to products containing 95-100% organic agricultural ingredients.~~

The competent authority can authorise the use of the non-organic agricultural ingredients for the production of processed organic food in Northern Ireland for a maximum of six months. That authorisation shall apply to all operators in Northern Ireland.

~~The competent authority must then inform EU member states that a derogation has been issued for that ingredient.~~

If the ingredient remains unavailable after that six months the competent authority can renew the derogation two times for a maximum of six months each. You must reapply for each renewal to the derogation. Approval may be granted provided that no EU Member State has objected by indicating, that the ingredient is available as organic in sufficient quantity.

If you are having trouble finding an agricultural ingredient in organic form, contact the certification team. We may be able to provide details of companies that will be able to supply you with what you need.

If an ingredient is not available in organic form anywhere in the EU or NI, then you may still be able to use it provided you have successfully applied for a derogation to do so.

Derogations can only be granted for agricultural ingredients. Neither certification bodies nor the competent authorities can give derogations to use additives and processing aids which are not listed as permitted in the organic regulation unless they are covered by this standard.

If you are producing juice from concentrate and unable to source an organic version of the top note, you can apply for a derogation. If the derogation is issued, the top note must be listed as a non-organic ingredient on the retail label (see standard 5.8.2).

If you are producing a less than 95% organic product you will not need to request a derogation from your competent authority for the non-organic ingredients.

Please refer to section 5.8. of these standards for further information on labelling.

How to apply for a derogation

You will need to complete a NICA non-organic ingredient application form.

Before submitting an application it is important that you ensure you have checked the EU market, not just NI suppliers and provide that evidence with your application.

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You must keep on file the record of each derogation granted.

~~If after the derogation is renewed twice the ingredient is still unavailable in organic form in sufficient quality and quantity to meet the needs of operators, the competent authority may submit a dossier to the EC for addition to the list of permitted non-organic agricultural ingredients.~~

~~*(EC) 2018/848 Art. 7 (a); Art.24 (2b); Art. 25*~~

Double check your percentage calculations to ensure they are correct and that the total percentage of organic agricultural ingredients will not exceed 5%. Please refer to our web tool for help with calculating maximum percentages. Please note some additives are included in the percentage calculations - refer to standard 6.4.2 for details.

If after the derogation is renewed twice the ingredient is still unavailable in organic form in sufficient quality and quantity to meet the needs of operators, the competent authority may submit a dossier to the EC for addition to the list of permitted non-organic agricultural ingredients.

NI 6.8 Importing

What's this chapter about?

This chapter outlines the requirements that need to be met when importing organic goods from the EU and EEA.

Standards

Guidance

NI 6.8.1 Scope

The standards in this section apply to anyone involved in importing **and exporting** organic goods or acting as the first consignee in the import of organic goods. They also apply to anyone carrying out these activities on behalf of someone else.

(EC) 848/2018 Art.2 (1)

(EC) 2406/2021 Art. 2

(EC) 2307/2021 Art.2

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

The following definitions are applicable for this chapter:

- (1) 'importer' means a natural or legal person established in the Union and subject to the control system referred to in Regulation (EU) 2018/848, who presents the consignment for release for free circulation in the Union either on its own, or through a representative;
- (2) 'operator responsible for the consignment' means, for the purposes of Article 6(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/ 2306 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2123(3), either the importer or a natural or legal person established in the Union who presents the consignment at the border control post on behalf of the importer;
- (3) 'first consignee' means a natural or legal person established in the Union and subject to the control system referred to in Regulation (EU) 2018/848 to whom the consignment is delivered by the importer after the release for free circulation and who receives it for further preparation and/or marketing;
- (4) 'consignee' means a natural or legal person established in the Union and subject to the control system referred to in Regulation (EU) 2018/848 to whom the batch obtained from the splitting of a consignment is delivered by the importer after the release for free circulation and who receives it for further preparation and/or marketing;
- (5) 'consignment' means a consignment, as defined in Article 3, point (37)*, of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council(4), of products intended to be placed on the market within the Union as organic products or in-conversion products; however, in case of organic products and in-conversion products exempted from official controls at border control posts in accordance with Commission

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Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2305(5)**, it means a quantity of products under one or more Combined Nomenclature codes, covered by a single certificate of inspection, conveyed by the same means of transport and imported from the same third country.

- (6) 'point of release for free circulation' means a point of release for free circulation where official controls on organic and in-conversion products exempted from official controls at border control posts are carried out in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2305;
- (7) 'border control post' means a border control post as defined in Article 3, point (38), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625;
- (8) 'control point' means a control point other than a border control post as referred to in Article 53(1), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625;
- (9) 'identity check' means a visual inspection to verify that the content and the labelling of a consignment, including the marks on animals, seals and means of transport, correspond to the information provided in the official certificates, official attestations and other documents accompanying it;
- (10) 'physical check' means a check on animals or goods and, as appropriate, checks on packaging, the means of transport, labelling and temperature, the sampling for analysis, testing or diagnosis and any other check necessary to verify compliance with the rules referred to in Article 1(2) of (EU) 2017/625.

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<p>NI 6.8.2 Importing products from the EU You do not need to be licensed as an importer to import bring organic or in-conversion products into Northern Ireland from within the EU, or the European Economic Area (EEA), provided those products are certified in accordance with the EU Organic Regulations. However, you will still require certification to trade, wholesale, distribute, store, break down, pack, repack, re-label or process organic product.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 50</i></p>	<p>EEA countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.</p> <p>Refer to standard 5.1.1 for details of which activities require certification.</p>
<p>NI 6.8.3 Importing products from outside the EU, NI or EEA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you wish to import products from a third country (including from GB), you will need certification in order to do so. 2. If you use a sub-contractor to import on your behalf, they will also need certification. Please refer to standard 5.4.2 for details of subcontractor certification requirements. 3. You will also need certification if you wish to export your products. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 34 (1)(3)</i></p>	<p>Importer means the natural or legal person within the EU or EEA who presents a consignment for release for free circulation into the EU or EEA, either in person, or through a representative (e.g. clearing or forwarding agent).</p> <p>The first consignee also needs to be licensed. First consignee means the natural or legal person to whom the imported consignment is delivered and who will receive it for further preparation and/or marketing.</p>
<p>NI 6.8.4 Planning and managing your importing operation</p> <p><u>1. Before you can begin importing you must provide, and keep updated as necessary, a full description of your importing enterprise, including details of:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>a) your premises</u> <u>b) your importing activities, including the locations where the products you import first enter NI or EU</u> <u>c) any other facilities you intend to use for storage of imported products before they are delivered to the first consignee.</u> 	<p>I To help you meet this requirement we provide an application form that outlines what information is required. This can be found on our website.</p> <p>If you make any significant changes to your activities, you must update your documentation and inform the certification team. 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> <p>You must let us know if and when you plan to expand into new areas. For example, if you currently store organic products and wish to start packing or</p>

d). Any storage site you use must also be subject to the certification system and be inspected by an organic certification body.
2. The first consignee, or consignee, must also provide a full description of their unit which includes details of the facilities used for reception and storage of imported goods.

(EC) 848/2018 Art. 39 (1)(d)(i)
(EC) 2307/2021 Art. 6

~~Before you can begin importing, you must write a plan with a full description of your premises, units and activities. This must include:~~

- ~~a) Your name and address~~
- ~~b) The location of premises where operations related to importing are carried out~~
- ~~c) The nature of your operations and your products.~~

~~processing them if you want to start importing products from outside the EU or if you have an abattoir and you want to start processing burgers and sausages depending on what you are adding or expanding, we may need to update your certificates and you may need an additional inspection or licence.~~

If a consignment leaves port and goes to a distribution hub or warehouse, where the consignment is split and distributed to customers, then that distribution hub/warehouse will require certification as they are acting as first consignee. First consignees must be licensed.

NI 6.8.5 Importing products from third countries

1. You may import organic products from suppliers, including exporters, certified by a certification body or control authority recognised and approved by the EU or a country which has an equivalence agreement with the EU.

Each country/certification body is approved for specific product categories, which means not all product types can be imported. See guidance for further details.

2. The exporter must be licensed.

(EC) 848/2018; Art. 35 (7); Art. 45 (1); Art. 46 (1); Art. 47; Art. 57 (1)

(EC) 2325/2021 Art. 1; Art. 2; Art. 3; Annex I; Annex II

The EU publish lists of approved countries and certification bodies and also the categories each is approved for.

Recognised third countries

These are countries whose national organic standards and control systems are recognised as equivalent to EU organic standards are known as ‘recognised third countries’.

A list of countries and approved certification bodies operating in each country can be found in (EU) 2021/2325.

These recognitions expire 31st December 2026.

The agreements will be renegotiated on the basis of trade agreements.

Countries may also be recognized under Trade Agreements.

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

Categories

You will often see categories referred to on the organic certificates for companies certified to the EU Organic Regulation. These categories indicate the products which the company is allowed to export to the EU. Below is what each category means:

- a) unprocessed plants and plant products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material;
- b) livestock and unprocessed livestock products;
- c) algae and unprocessed aquaculture products;
- d) processed agricultural products, including aquaculture products, for use as food;
- e) feed;
- f) wine;
- g) other products listed in Annex I to this Regulation or not covered by the previous categories (See standard 5.1.1 for products this applies to).

Recognised certification bodies

These are control bodies whose standards and control system have been recognised as equivalent to EU organic standards ~~are known as 'recognised certification bodies'~~. Just like recognised third countries, each certification body is approved for specific product categories. The list of these certification bodies is in (EU) 2021/2325.

These recognitions expire 31st December 2024 by which time all the control bodies must have been recognised by the European Commission (EC) as compliant with and working to 2018/848.

When obtaining certificates from suppliers certified by recognised certification bodies, you will need to check that the documents state that the supplier is

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	<p>certified to the EU Organic Regulation and that they make explicit reference to regulations 2018/848, or 834/2007 and 889/2008 - certificates issued in the EU may continue to refer to 834 & 889 until end of 2022 and certificates issued outside of EU until end of 2024. You will also need to check that the scope of the company's certification includes export.</p> <p>The list of approved certifiers occasionally changes. If you are unsure about whether a prospective supplier is certified by an approved certifier, please contact the certification team, and forward them a copy of your supplier's organic certificate.</p> <p>Compliant certification bodies These are control bodies recognised by the EU as working in compliance to 2018/848. By 31st December 2024 all control bodies must be compliant.</p> <p>There are currently no countries recognised as compliant to EU organic regulations</p>
<p>NI 6.8.6 Certificates of Inspection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issuing of Certificate of Inspection - All organic products listed in standard 5.1.1 imported from a third country (including from Great Britain), must be issued with a Certificate of Inspection (COI) by the certification body of the exporter in the third country. The COI must be issued before the consignment leaves the third country. As the importer, you must ensure you have a COI issued for each consignment. 2. Pre-Notification of arrival - For each consignment, the importer or, where appropriate, the operator responsible for the consignment, must give prior notification of the arrival of the consignment to the border control post (BCP) or the point of release for free circulation. You must complete and submit the relevant part of the COI in TRACES (normally box 20). 	<p>For the import of organic products into NI and the EU, all COIs are issued and monitored by the EC using an electronic system called TRACES NT. In NI, the EU, and the EEA (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), all importers, and all exporters in the country of origin, must register for a TRACES NT account.</p> <p>You can find out further information on our webpages here .</p> <p>In the EU and NI, it is normally the port authorities at the border control post (BCP) who are responsible for checking documentation of organic products at the port of arrival. They have the authority to stop entry of any organic products not issued with a valid COI - and the goods may be held at port or lose their organic status. The BCP checks that the information on the COI corresponds to the goods being imported, and other documents associated with the shipment e.g. the airway bill or bill of lading.</p>

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3. Partial release of a consignment - If only part of the consignment is released for free circulation, the consignment will be split into different batches before its release. In this case the importer must:
- submit an extract of the COI in TRACES for each of the batches.
 - present a finalised Common Health Entry Document (CHED) The BCP will then verify the batches and endorse the COI.
4. Release for free circulation - When consignments are released for free circulation, the importer must report the COI number in the customs declaration

(EC) 2306/2021 Art. 4 (1); Art. 6 (3) (6) (7); Art. 9
(EC) 2307/2021 Art. 3 (1); Art. 4

- All organic products imported from a third country must be accompanied by an original endorsed Certificate of Inspection (COI) issued in the third country.
- If transport documents are not available in time to fully complete the COI before the goods leave the third country, provisional information available at the time of issuing the COI may be included. Final transport documents must be included by the certification body within 10 days from the issuance of the COI and, in any case, before endorsement of the COI from the importing authority.
- The endorsed COI must accompany goods to the premises of first consignee and then must be kept by the importer for at least two years.
- The first consignee or importer (where relevant) can make a copy of the COI in order to fulfil the record keeping requirements listed in 6.8.10, provided it is printed or stamped 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 33

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

Whilst the exporter is responsible for getting the COI issued and endorsed by their certification body before the product is exported, it is the importer's responsibility to ensure that the valid COI is issued on TRACES for each consignment, and the BCP is pre-notified of arrival. Normally you need to must give notice of at least one working day before the expected arrival of the consignment. This is in addition to any other notifications required by (EU) 2017/625 Art.56. (3) (a) - Common Health Entry Document (CHED).

A Common Health Entry Document (CHED) is a mandatory document that must be completed on TRACES before arriving at the BCP in the EU. This is acts as prior notification and allows the BCP to carry out security checks when these goods enter the EU market:.

A CHED is needed for the following product categories:

- animals,
- products of animal origin,
- products of plant origin,
- feed and food products.

Information on the different types of CHEDs and how to complete them can be accessed on the TRACES website.

In certain cases, the competent authorities of the BCP may accept a period of prior notification of at least four hours before the expected arrival of the consignment – for example, due to transport-related logistical constraints, where it is not possible to give one working day prior notification.

The consignment will be verified by the competent authority at the BCP, or point of release for free circulation, by means of documentary checks. The competent authority may also carry out random identity checks and physical checks. They will make a record of this verification in box 30 of the COI. If satisfied, they will

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(EC) 1235/2008 Art. 13

endorse the COI and the consignment can be released for free circulation as organic (or in-conversion, if applicable).

If there are issues with the verification, the following may occur:

a) the consignment is released for free circulation as non-organic;

b) the consignment cannot be released for free circulation;

c) part of the consignment can be released for free circulation with an extract of the certificate of inspection.

We recommend that importers contact their suppliers to ensure they are aware that COIs are required and of their requirements, including that they do not ship products before a COI has been issued by their certification body.

You need to ensure that each section of the COI is endorsed by the relevant party. Port Authorities in NI and the EU may charge for endorsing COIs. Please check with the BCP at your proposed port of arrival for details of their costs.

If you are in NI, Great Britain is regarded as a third country for the duration of the Northern Ireland Protocol and certificates of inspection are required to import organic food, feed and seed product from GB to NI. For some retail packed product registered under the Authorised Traders Scheme a COI is not required see DAERA website for details. However, for products moving from NI to Great Britain, NI is within the UK and so no COI will be required.

Our webpage has details of how products are exported from GB to NI.

~~For the import of organic products into Great Britain from 3rd countries you will have to use a GB COI. You can find out more by [visiting our website](#).~~

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

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

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

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

In the UK, the Port Health Authority (PHA) is responsible for checking documentation of organic produce at the port of arrival. They have the authority to stop entry of organic product not accompanied by a valid COI and the goods may be held at port or lose their organic status. The PHA checks that the information on the COI matches with the goods being imported and other documents associated with the shipment e.g. the Airway Bill or Bill of Landing. If the information is correct they endorse the COI (they complete box 20 on the form) & the goods are allowed to enter as organic.

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

Whilst the exporter is responsible for getting the COI issued and endorsed by their certification body before the product is exported, it is the importer's responsibility to ensure that the valid COI is presented at port for each

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	<p>consignment. You need to ensure that each section of the COI is endorsed by the relevant party and that you retain the stamped originals for a minimum of two years. If you or the first consignee make a copy of the COI then it must be marked as 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'.</p> <p>Any products without original COIs may lose organic status.</p> <p>UK Port Health Authorities charge for endorsing COIs. Please check with the PHA at your proposed port of arrival for details of their costs. There will also be charges for issuing COIs. For guidance on importing and COIs visit https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/preparing-your-organic-business-for-brexite/importing-after-brexite/#CoI</p> <p>First consignee means the natural or legal person to whom the imported consignment is delivered who will receive it for further preparation and/or marketing.</p>
<p><u>NI 6.8.7 Paper Certificates of Inspection and extracts</u></p> <p><u>1. Until 31st October 2022, COIs and extracts of COIs may be issued and/or endorsed on paper after being completed in TRACES.</u></p> <p><u>2. Where a paper copy of the COI is issued it must accompany the goods to the premises of the first consignee or of the consignee.</u></p> <p><u>3. The first consignee must then verify whether the information reported in the COI corresponds to the information completed in TRACES.</u></p> <p><u>If the information relating to the number of packages in box 13 of the COI or in boxes 16 (total gross weight) and 17 (means of transport) of the COI is not completed in the paper COI, or if that information in the paper COI is different from the</u></p>	

information completed in TRACES, the first consignee must take the information in TRACES as the up-to-date version.

4. After verification the first consignee must hand sign the paper COI in box 31 and send that COI to the importer (if different from first consignee).

5. The importer must keep the paper COI for at least two years.

6. Paper extract of COI - In case of a paper extract of the COI, the consignee must:

- a) on receiving the batch, hand sign the paper extract in box 13.
- b) keep the paper extract of the COI for at least two years

7. For record keeping the first consignee or, where relevant, the importer may make a copy of the paper COI or extract of the COI. It must be marked 'COPY'.

8. In the event that TRACES, or one of its functionalities, is continuously unavailable for more than 24 hours, the control authority or control body may issue the COI in paper format with the wording 'produced during contingency'. Once TRACES, or its functionalities, become available again, the details in the paper COI and accompany documents must be uploaded to TRACES.

(EC) 2306/2021 Art. 8 (2) (3) (4); Art. 11 (1) (3) (5)

(EC) 2307/2021 Art. 8

NI 6.8.8 Receiving imported goods

1. The first consignee must check that imported products:
 - a) arrive in appropriate packaging or containers **closed in a manner** which prevents substitution **of the contents**
 - b) identify the exporter



You will also need to keep records relating to other areas of your operation, please refer to the record keeping section (5.7).

<p>c) are marked to identify the lot d) arrive with a COI e) that the COI covers the product in the consignment.</p> <p>2. Once these checks have been made, the first consignee must complete box 31 on the COI.</p> <p>3. You must keep records to demonstrate these checks have been made.</p> <p>4. <u>This is in addition to the requirements of standards Section 5.14</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 848/2018 Annex III (6) (EC) 2306/2021 Annex Part I; Annex Part II (EC) 2307/2021 Art. 4 (1)(c)</i></p>	
<p>NI 6.8.9 Special customs procedures</p> <p>1. Further preparation of a consignment at port of entry. If a consignment from a third country is assigned to customs warehousing or inward processing, <u>and undergoes (in the form of a system of suspension as provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 (3)) and undergoes some form of preparation such as packing, or change of packing; or affixing, removal and altering of labels with reference to organic production method repacking, or labelling as organic,</u> then the facility must be certified organic. Before this packing/repacking/labelling takes place, <u>the BCP must verify</u> the COI for the imported consignment must be endorsed as described in standard 6.8.7. The reference number of the customs declaration - by which the goods have been declared for the customs warehousing or inward processing procedure - shall be indicated by the importer in box 23 of the COI. <u>Once</u> the consignment has been packed/ repacked/ labelled, <u>the BCP will verify the consignment and endorse the COI must accompany the consignment and be further verified by the member states authority (in the UK this is the Port Health Authority) before they allow the</u></p>	<p>Under point 1, the operator carrying out the packaging/repacking/labelling is the first consignee, so they must make the checks required in 6.8.8, and complete box 31 of the COI.</p> <p><u>Customs warehousing is a procedure whereby non-Union goods may be stored in premises or any other location authorised by the customs authorities and under customs supervision, as referred to in Regulation (EC) 952/2013 Art. 240 (1).</u></p> <p><u>Inward processing is where non-Union goods that are undergoing usual forms of handling intended to preserve them, improve their appearance or marketable quality, or prepare them for distribution of resale, may be used in the customs territory of the Union in one or more processing operations without such goods being subject to certain charges or measures, as referred to in Regulation (EC) 952/2013 Art. 256 (1).</u></p> <p><u>If you are the importer, you must complete the extract of the COI using the details from the original COI and including details of the new batch. You must complete one for each new batch. The port authority will then check the details and endorse the extract.</u></p>

~~consignment to be released.~~

2. Splitting a consignment at port of entry.

If you wish to split a consignment from a third country, into different batches at port of entry, before the release into free circulation, this may be done under customs supervision. The consignment must first be verified and the COI endorsed under a suspensive customs procedure (as described in *Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/38*), the COI for the imported consignment must first be endorsed as described in standard 6.8.7. Once the consignment is split, the importer must submit an extract of the COI in TRACES for each of the batches resulting from the splitting. The BCP will then verify the batches and endorse the COI.

Once the consignment is released for free circulation the importer must report the number of the COI in the customs declaration for release for free circulation. an extract of the COI must be given to the member states authority, (in the UK this is the Port Health Authority), for each batch, so they can endorse it. The original extract must then accompany each batch to the consignee of the batch.

~~3. The original importer, indicated in box 11 on the original COI, must keep a copy of each endorsed extract of the COI together with the original. These copies of the endorsed extracts must be printed or stamped 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'.~~

3. When a consignee receives each batch, they must carry out the checks described in standard 6.8.89 and complete box 13 of the original extract of the COI. They must keep the original for at least 2 years

A customs declaration must cover all goods intended to be placed under a customs procedure, except for the free zone procedure, as outlined in Regulation (EC) 952/2013 Art. 158 (1).

~~A copy of the extract from the Certificate of Inspection can be found [here](#).~~

~~The extract of the COI is completed by the operator using the details from the original COI and including details of the new batch. The operator completes one for each new batch. The port authority then checks the details and completes box 13 on the extract form.~~

~~If a consignment leaves port and goes to for example, a distribution hub or warehouse, where the consignment is split and distributed to customers, then that distribution hub/warehouse will require certification as they are acting as first consignee. First consignees must be licensed~~

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<p>4. Certification is required for operations carrying out 'Further preparation of a consignment at port of entry' and 'Splitting a consignment at port of entry' as described in point 1 and 2 above.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 952/2013 Art. 240 (1); Art. 256 (3) (b)</i> <i>(EC) 2306/2021 Art. 7</i> <i>(EC) 2307/2021 Art. 4</i></p>	
<p>NI 6.8.10 Records</p> <p>1. Importers must keep records of each consignment imported. These must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and address of the first consignee (if different to the importer) b) Any details the control body or authority may reasonably require c) A valid certificate for the supplier of the imported products demonstrating the organic status of the products being imported d) Certificate of Inspection. <p>2. You must keep other records as described in Section 5.7 of these standards</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 848/2018 Art. 34 (5)</i> <i>(EC) 2307/2021 Art. 5</i> <i>(EC) 771/2021 Art. 1 (4)(b)</i></p> <p>1. Stock and financial records of the importer and first consignee must be kept separately, unless the importer is also the first consignee.</p> <p>2. Details of transport arrangements from the exporter to the first consignee and from the first consignee to further consignees must be maintained.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 83</i></p>	<p>Details of transport arrangements include shipping records (e.g. commercial invoice, packing list, bill of lading/ airway bill, phytosanitary certificate, certificate of origin etc.).</p> <p><u>COIs for your imports issued on TRACES may be accessed via your TRACES account. You can find out further information on using TRACES in our COI Guide on our webpage.</u></p> <p>If the storage facility for your organic products is licensed with another certification body, then you will need to be able to provide a copy of the inspection report for that operation.</p>

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~~3. Importers must keep records of each consignment imported. These must include:~~
~~a) The name and address of the first consignee (if different to the importer)~~
~~b) Any details the control body or authority may reasonably require~~
~~c) A valid certificate demonstrating the organic status of the products being imported~~
~~d) Certificate of Inspection.~~

~~(EC) 834/2007 Art. 32~~
~~(EC) 889/2008 Art. 84; Art. 67(2)~~

~~4. If requested, the importer should forward the information in point 3 to the control body or control authority of the first consignee.~~

~~(EC) 889/2008 Art. 84~~

~~5. Importers must be able to provide copies of the organic inspection reports of any other units or premises they use for importing.~~

~~(EC) 889/2008 Art. 85~~


NI 6.8.11 High Risk Products

Each year the European Commission makes a review of imported organic, and in-conversion products. They review the number of major, critical or repetitive non-compliances affecting the integrity of those imports. If they deem particular products originating in particular countries as having a high risk of non-compliance they can require that additional control measures are implemented in those countries, and at the point of import into the EU.

Import controls on entry into the EU (& NI), may take the form of additional documentary checks and sampling of consignments on arrival at the BCP and prior to endorsement of the COI.


[Please visit our webpage or contact the certification team for details of any current EU requirements.](#)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>(EC) 1698/2021 Art. 8</u> <u>(EC) 2306/2021 Art. 4 (2); Art. 6 (2)</u></p>	
<p><u>NI 6.8.12 Export of Organic Products</u></p> <p><u>A product may be exported from the EU and NI as an organic product and may bear the organic production logo of the European Union, provided that it complies with the EU Organic Regulation.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>(EC) 848/2018 Art. 44 (1)</u></p>	<p><u>Some countries require consignments to be accompanied by an import certificate. For example, the USA, Canada and South Korea.</u></p> <p><u>Some countries, such as Japan and South Korea, have additional requirements for imports. You can find information here.</u></p> <p><u>If you would like further information on exporting to non-EU countries, contact the processor certification team for details.</u></p>

<p><u>NI 6.9.1 Scope</u></p> <p>1. The standards in this section apply to <u>products of the wine sector as referred to in point (l) of Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013</u>. Wine made from grapes.</p> <p>2. Except where explicitly stated in this chapter you must also comply with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>EC Regulation 606/2009</i> (rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 for the categories of grapevine products, oenological practices and the applicable restrictions) and b) <i>EC Regulation 607/2009</i> (rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 for protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products). c) <u>You must comply with the rest of the general production rules laid down in these standards.</u> <u>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part VI (1.1)(1.2)</u> 	<p> It is important to read these standards in conjunction with the wine regulations, as they contain detailed requirements for wine making and labelling which must also be met. Amongst other things, the regulations include specific conditions for all the substances you can use for purposes such as regulating pH, encouraging yeast development and stabilisation, etc.</p> <p><u>Product of the wine sector listed in EC 1308/2013 Art 1(2) point (l):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grape juice (including grape must)</u> • <u>Other grape musts, other than those in fermentation or with fermentation arrested otherwise than by the addition of alcohol</u> • <u>Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines; grape must other than that of heading 2009, excluding other grape must of subheadings 2204 30 92, 2204 30 94, 2204 30 96 and 2204 30 98</u> • <u>Fresh grapes other than table grapes</u> • <u>Wine vinegar</u> • <u>Piquette</u> • <u>Wine lees</u> • <u>Grape marc</u>
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<p>NI 6.9.4 Sulphur dioxide levels Wine must not exceed the sulphur dioxide levels indicated in the table below. You must keep records to show the amount of sulphur dioxide you have used.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2021/1165 Annex V part D</i> <i>(EC) 2019/934 Part B Annex I</i></p>			
Maximum sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels			
	Wine with a residual sugar level < 2g/l	Wine with residual sugar level of 2 – 4.9g/l	Wine with sugar level of ≥5g/l
Red	100 mg/l	120 mg/l	170 mg/l
White & rosé	150 mg/l	170 mg/l	220 mg/l
Sparkling Wine	155mg/l for quality sparkling wine. 205mg/l for all other categories of sparkling wine.		
Other wines as listed in Annex IB of EC Regulation 606//2009 2019/934 Part B Annex I	The maximum sulphur dioxide content applied in accordance with Part B of Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934 shall be reduced by 30 milligrams per litre.		

<p>NI 6.9.5 Use of sulphur dioxide in exceptional conditions</p> <p>1. <u>Your competent authority may authorise the use of higher levels of sulphur dioxide up to the maximum levels outlines in Part B (4) of Annex I of (EC) 2019/934, when sanitary status of organic grapes obliges the winemaker to use more sulphur dioxide than in previous years to obtain a comparable final product.</u></p> <p>2. You can apply to your certification body to use higher levels of sulphur dioxide up to the maximum levels outlined in Annex I B of EC Regulation 606/2009. However, you can only do so if exceptional climatic conditions of a given harvest year lead to severe bacterial or fungal attacks which deteriorate the sanitary status of organic grapes in a specific geographical</p>	<p>The NI competent authority is DAERA. Please contact the certification team for information on how to make an application to DAERA.</p> <p> Records of sulphur dioxide used</p>
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<p>area which means that more sulphur dioxide than previous years is needed in order to obtain a comparable product.</p> <p>3. You must keep records to show the amount of sulphur dioxide you have used.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2020/2146 Art. 3(9)</i></p>	
<p>NI 6.9.6 Permitted oenological practices</p> <p>You may use <u>practices, processes and treatments under the following conditions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) centrifuging and filtration (with or without an inert filtering agent), <u>in accordance with point 3 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No2019/934</u>, but only with a pore size ≥ 0.2 μ mb) heat treatments up to <u>75 °C in accordance with point 2 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No2019/934</u> 70 °Cc) ion exchange resinsd) reverse osmosis. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II VI (3.3)(a)(b)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/646 Art.23</i></p>	<p>For further conditions and limits of application on the use of centrifuging and filtration, heat treatments, and ion exchange resins, refer to <i>EC Regulation 2019/934</i>.</p> <p>For conditions on using reverse osmosis refer to <i>EC Regulation 1234/2007 Annex XVa B1(b)</i>.</p>
<p>NI 6.9.7 Prohibited oenological practices</p> <p>You must not use the following processes, practices and treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) partial concentration through cooling, <u>in accordance with point (c) of Section B.1 of Part I of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013</u>b) partial dealcoholisation of wine, <u>in accordance with point 40 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009</u>c) elimination of sulphur dioxide by physical processes, <u>in accordance with point of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 2019/934</u>	

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<p>d) electro dialysis treatment to ensure the tartaric stabilisation of the wine <u>in accordance with point 10 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 2019/934</u></p> <p>e) treatment with cation exchangers to ensure the tartaric stabilisation of the wine in <u>accordance with point 13 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 2019/934.</u> <u>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II VI (3.2)</u></p>	
<p>SA NI 6.9.9 Wines produced before 1st August 2010 <u>For wines produced before 1st August 2010 you can use oenological practices processes and treatments in accordance with standards 6.9.7 and 6.9.8, including the restrictions provided for in Article 80 and Article 83(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 in Article 3, Articles 5 to 9 and Articles 11 to 14 of Regulation (EC) No 606/2009, and in the Annexes to those Regulations used before 1 August 2010, shall be permitted. (EC) 2018/848 Annex II VI (3.1)</u></p>	<p>Please refer to specific labelling requirements for these wines as outlined in 6.9.10.</p>

Standards updates specific to Feed

NI 8.2.2 Specific principles of processing of organic feed

1. In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 8.2.1, the production of processed organic feed must be based on the following specific principles:
 - a) The production of organic feed from organic feed materials, ~~except where a feed material is not available on the market in organic form.~~
 - b) The restriction of the use of feed additives and processing aids to a minimum extent and only in case of essential technological or zootechnical needs or for particular nutritional purposes.
 - c) The exclusion of substances and processing methods that might be misleading as to the true nature of the product.
 - d) The processing of feed with care, preferably with the use of biological, mechanical and physical methods.
 - e)

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 7

Only certain ingredients are permitted in non-organic form in limited quantities and only for some livestock species, refer to the standards in section 9 and 10 for more information.

SA 8.5.5 Specific rules for feed processing inspections

- ~~1. If you process organic feed you must be subject to a full physical inspection of all your premises.~~
- ~~2. At your inspection your certification body will pay particular attention to the critical control points of your activity to establish whether your surveillance and checking procedures are carried out correctly.~~
- ~~3. You may be subject to further inspections based on an evaluation of your operation's potential risk to organic integrity.~~

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 38 (2) (3)

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(EC) 2017/625 Art. 5 (1) (g) (h)
(EC) 2017/625 Art.15 (1) (2)

NI 8.9.2 Labelling requirements for feed

1. The term organic on feed labels must be:
 - a) separate from the information required for feed labelling by ~~Article 5 of Council Directive 79/373/EEC (amending Council Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs and Council Directive 96/25/EC on the circulation of feed materials) or in Article 5(1) of Council Directive 96/25/EC (on the circulation of feed materials)~~ **by regulations (EC) No 767/2009 on the labelling and marketing of feedstuff.**
 - b) presented in a colour, format or character font that does not draw more attention to it than the description or name of the feed
 - c) accompanied in the same field of vision by details of the following on a dry matter basis:
 - i. percentage of organic feed ingredients
 - ii. percentage of in-conversion feed ingredients
 - iii. percentage of non-organic feed ingredients
 - iv. percentage of feed ingredients of agricultural origin
 - d) accompanied by a list of all feed ingredients.
2. The label may be accompanied by a reference to the requirement to use feedstuffs in accordance to standards 9.1.12 and 9.1.13.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 30(2)

Link to [Council Directive 79/373/EEC](#) (~~amending Council Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs and Council Directive 96/25/EC on the circulation of feed materials).~~

Link to [Council Directive 96/25/EC](#) (~~on the circulation of feed materials).~~


[Link to regulation \(EC\) No 767/2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed, amending European Parliament and Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1831/2003 and repealing Council Directive 79/373/EEC, Commission Directive 80/511/EEC, Council Directives 82/471/EEC, 83/228/EEC, 93/74/EEC, 93/113/EC and 96/25/EC and Commission Decision 2004/217/EC](#)


Standards	Guidance
NI 9.1.1 Meeting the nutritional needs of your	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

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<p>livestock You must feed your livestock organic feed that meets their nutritional needs at all stages of their development. <u>Restricted feeding shall not be permitted in livestock production unless justified for veterinary reasons.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.4) (b)</i></p>	<p>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 our Advisory Support pages or contact Producer Support or the certification team..</p> <p>Young mammals must be fed sufficient colostrum and milk and only weaned when they are taking in sufficient quantities of solid food.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>NI 9.1.2 Force feeding is prohibited You must not force feed your livestock. Fattening practises are allowed only if they are reversible at any stage of the rearing process. <u>Fattening practices shall always respect the normal nutritional patterns for each species and the animals' welfare at each stage of the rearing process; force-feeding is forbidden.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.4) (d)</i></p>	
<p>NI 9.1.4 Feeding organic and in-conversion feed 5. 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. 6. You may feed or graze your organic or converting livestock: c) up to 100% in-conversion feed from your own holding and no more than 30% <u>25%</u> in-conversion feed, forage or grazing from another holding.</p>	<p>In conversion feed (as defined in farming and growing 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 farming and growing 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>

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<p>d) 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.</p> <p>7. 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).</p> <p>8. These percentages must be based on the annual dry matter intake of feedstuffs of plant origin.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 6 (m); 848 Annex II II (1.4)</i></p>	<p><u>Pig and poultry enterprises can use first year in-conversion land after 6 months if the conditions in farming and growing standard 3.1.7 have been met.</u></p> <p> Feed records</p>
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<p>SA 9.1.5 Feeding herbivores</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 <u>or in-conversion production units and feed operators using feed and feed material from the same region. This percentage shall be raised to 70 % as from 1 January 2024.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.9.1)</i></p>	<p> Feed records</p>
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SA 9.1.6 Feeding pigs and poultry

1. For your pigs and poultry, you must ensure that:
 - a) roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage is added to their daily ration.
 - b) at least ~~20%~~ **30%** 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.
- (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.3) (1.9.4)

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](#).


When animals are on pasture and able to forage and graze, no additional forage or roughage needs to be provided.

 Feed records

SA 9.1.7 Use of non-organic protein for pigs and poultry

1. ~~Where the competent authority has confirmed organic protein feed is not available in sufficient quantity, for pigs up to 35kg and young poultry, you may feed up to 5% non-organic protein feed. 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 **per period of 12 months on the dry matter of feed of agricultural origin** ~~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 **2026** ~~2020.~~

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.9.3) (1.9.4)

 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.


Feed records

Once we hear from the EU Commission on this exemption we will update this [page](#).

<p>NI 9.1.8 Feeding young mammals</p> <p>2. Young mammals must be fed natural, organic milk, preferably maternal milk, for a minimum period of:</p> <p>d) <u>90 days</u> 12 weeks for calves <u>and foals</u></p> <p>e) 45 days for lambs and kids</p> <p>f) 40 days for piglets.</p> <p>g) <u>42 days for kits</u></p> <p><u>Milk replacers containing chemically synthesised components or components of plant origin shall not be used during that period.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II II (1.4)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.4 (EC) 2020/464 Chapter II, Section 1, Art. 2; Section 3, Art. 9</i></p>	<p>Maternal milk is milk from the mother; natural milk is from the glands of a mammal. Natural milk can come from other species provided that it meets the nutritional and health needs of the species you are feeding it to. Milk powder is considered as natural milk as long as it only contains milk powder.</p> <p>Milk 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>
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<p>NI 9.1.9 Catastrophic circumstances</p> <p>1. <u>For the feeding of herbivores your competent authority may authorise, on a temporary basis, the reduction of the percentage, on a daily basis, of fresh or dried fodder, roughage or silage detailed in 9.1.5 provided that the animal's nutritional requirements at the various stages of its development are met.</u></p> <p>2. 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> <p>a. Exceptional weather conditions</p>	<p>In the UK, the certification team can submit a request to your competent authority on your behalf. In the UK, Defra (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
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>b. Infectious disease outbreaks c. Contamination with toxic substances d. fire</p> <p>3. Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 22</i> <i>(EC) 2020/2146 Art 3.3</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, Defra (the competent authority in the UK) 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, Defra will also require information to show the nutritional value of the current diet and details as to why it is unsatisfactory.</p> <p> Records of the use of this exception</p>
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<p>NI 9.1.11 Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 24; Annex II V</i> <i>(EC) 2021/1165 Art. 3; Art. 4; Art. IIIA; Art IIIB</i></p>	
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. NI 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 9.1.7 and 9.1.9.
Minerals	
Product or substance	Conditions of use
Sodium	Sea salt

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	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	

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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum content of 20 mg/kg NaCl calculated as ferrocyanide anion
E 551b	Colloidal silica	
E 551c	Kieselguhr (diatomaceous earth, purified)	
1m558i	Bentonite	
E 559	Kaolinitic clays, free of asbestos	
E 560	Natural mixtures of steatites 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	

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Sensory additives		
ID no.	Product or substance	Conditions of use
ex2b	Flavouring compounds	Only extracts from agricultural products
	<i>Castanea sativa</i> 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, or • If synthetic vitamins are used only those identical to vitamins derived from agricultural products may be used for monogastric and aquaculture animals <p>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 NI this must be approved by the competent authority.</p>
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	

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

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)	
3b502	Manganese (II) oxide	
3b503	Manganous sulfate, monohydrate	
3b603	Zinc oxide	
3b604	Zinc sulphate heptahydrate	
3b605	Zinc sulphate monohydrate	
3b609		

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate (TBZC)	
3b701	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	
3b801 3b802 3b803	Sodium selenite Coated granulated selenite Sodium selenate	
3b810	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated	
3b811	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R397, inactivated	
3b812	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3399, inactivated	
3b813	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R646, inactivated	
3b817	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R645, 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

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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
	<p>Guidance</p> <p>The source must be independently certified as sustainable, such as by the Marine Stewardship Council.</p>
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
	<p>Guidance</p> <p>If you use non-organic spices, herbs or molasses you must demonstrate that the organic form is not available.</p>

NI 10 Specific standards for feeding aquaculture animals

NI 10.1 Feeding fish, crustaceans and echinoderms

Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 10.1.1 Feeding priorities (all species)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must feed your aquaculture animals with feed that meets the animals' nutritional requirements at the various stages of their development. 2. You must design your feeding regimes to prioritise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) animal health and welfare b) the production of high quality aquaculture products including nutritional composition c) low environmental impact. <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II III (3.1.3)(a)(b)</i></p>	<p>At inspection you will need to demonstrate how you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor fish health, and • manage quantities of feed used to prevent waste. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note, if you are purchasing feed that is produced in GB you must make sure they meet the requirement of these standards due to differences between GB and EU organic regulations.
<p>NI 10.1.2 Feeding priorities for carnivorous aquaculture species</p>	<p>You can choose from the above sources of feed in order to meet the animals' nutritional requirements at the various stages of their development, but where possible they must be used in order of preference.</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

- You must source feed for carnivorous aquaculture animals with the following priorities:
- a) organic feed products of aquaculture origin
 - b) fish meal and fish oil from organic aquaculture trimmings
 - c) fish meal and fish oil and ingredients of fish origin derived from trimmings of fish already caught for human consumption in sustainable fisheries certified as sustainable.
 - d) feed products derived from whole fish caught in fisheries certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
 - e) organic feed materials of plant or animal origin

~~The feed ration may comprise a maximum of 60% organic plant produce.~~

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II III (3.1.3)

(EC) 2018/848 by 2020/427 Art. 15.2 (a); Ann I (3) (b)

For operators in NI, NICA (the competent authority) has provided additional guidance on the sustainability criteria for whole fish. The certification team can provide you with a copy on request.

NI 10.1.5 Feeding freshwater species

1. In the grow-out stages, the following species must be fed feed which is naturally available in ponds and lakes:
 - a) carp and associated species in polyculture systems (perch, pike, catfish, coregonids and sturgeon)
 - b) Penaeid shrimp and freshwater prawns (Macrobrachium spp.)
 - c) tropical freshwater fish – milkfish, tilapia and Siamese catfish (Pangasius spp.)
2. When natural feed is not available in sufficient quantity, you may feed seaweed or organic feed of plant origin, preferably grown on the holding.

<p>3. Where you are supplementary feeding Penaeid shrimp in this way, you may feed a maximum of 25% fishmeal and 10% fish oil derived from sustainable fisheries <u>certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.</u></p> <p>4. You may also supplement the diets of Penaeid shrimp <u>and freshwater prawns</u> with organic cholesterol <u>both in the grow-out stage and in earlier life stages in nurseries and hatcheries.</u> Where organic cholesterol is not available, you may use non-organic cholesterol derived from wool, shellfish or other sources.</p> <p>5. When you are supplementary feeding Siamese catfish (Pangasium spp.) in this way you may include a maximum of 10% fishmeal or fish oil derived from sustainable fisheries.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II III (3.1.3)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Δ by 2021/716 Art. 15.2 (b); ; (EC) 2018/848 Art.15(2)(d); Annex II III (3.1.3.4)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 10.1.6 Permitted feed for juveniles <u>The larvae shall feed on the natural plankton developing in the tank, supplemented as appropriate by externally produced phytoplankton and zooplankton.</u> In the larval rearing of organic juveniles, non-organic phytoplankton and zooplankton may be used as feed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Δ by 2020/427 Annex II III (3.1.2)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/427 Art. 15.2 (d); Annex I (3) (a)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 10.2 Aquaculture feeds</p>
<p>What is this chapter about?</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

The following standards are taken out of the Soil Association aquaculture standards which details which additives and minerals are permitted in organic aquaculture feeds and the conditions of their use.

Standards	Guidance
<p>SA NI 10.2.1 Permitted feed minerals You may use the following feed materials of mineral origin in organic aquaculture feeds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calcareous marine shells 2. Calcium gluconate 3. Calcium carbonate 4. Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate 5. Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate 6. Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia) 7. Magnesium sulphate 8. Magnesium chloride 9. Magnesium carbonate 10. Calcium magnesium phosphate 11. Magnesium phosphate 12. Monosodium phosphate 13. Calcium sodium phosphate 14. Sodium chloride 15. Sodium bicarbonate 16. Sodium carbonate 17. Sodium sulphate 18. Potassium chloride <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II III (3.1.3) EC) 834/2007 Art. 15d(iii, iv)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25m (1), Annex V (1)</i></p>	

NI 10.2.1 Permitted feed additives
 You may use the following feed additives or products in animal nutrition and processing aids:

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II III (3.1.3)

<u>Feed Material</u>	
<u>Product or substance</u>	<u>Conditions of use</u>
<p><u>Non-organic feed materials of plant or animal origin, or fermentation (by-products) from micro-organisms, the cells of which have been inactivated or killed:</u></p> <p>a) <u>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</u> b) <u>Saccharomyces carlsbergensis</u></p>	
<p><u>Meal, oil and other feed materials of fish or other aquatic animals origin</u></p>	<p><u>provided that they are obtained from fisheries that have been certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013</u></p> <p><u>provided that they are produced or prepared without chemically synthesised solvents</u></p> <p><u>their use is authorised only to non-herbivores livestock</u></p> <p><u>the use of fish protein hydrolysate is authorised only for young non-herbivores livestock</u></p>
<p><u>Meal, oil and other feed materials of fish, mollusc or crustacean origin</u></p>	<p><u>for carnivorous aquaculture animals</u></p> <p><u>from fisheries that have been certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.</u></p> <p><u>derived from trimmings of fish, crustaceans or molluscs already caught for human</u></p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

		<u>consumption in accordance with standard 13.7.2.</u>
<u>Fishmeal and fish oil</u>		<p><u>In the grow-out phase, for fish in inland waters, penaeid shrimps and freshwater prawns and tropical freshwater fish</u></p> <p><u>from fisheries that have been certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, in accordance with standard 13.7.5.</u></p> <p><u>only where natural feed in ponds and lake is not available in sufficient quantities, maximum 25 % of fishmeal and 10 % of fish oil in the feed ration of penaeid shrimps and freshwater prawns (Macrobrachium spp.) and maximum 10 % of fishmeal or fish oil in the feed ration of siamese catfish (Pangasius spp.).</u></p>
<u>Minerals</u>		
<u>Sodium</u>	<u>Sea salt</u> <u>Coarse rock salt</u> <u>Sodium chloride</u> <u>Sodium bicarbonate</u> <u>Sodium carbonate</u> <u>Sodium sulphate</u>	
<u>Potassium</u>	<u>Potassium chloride</u>	
<u>Calcium</u>	<u>Calcareous marine shells</u> <u>Calcium gluconate</u> <u>Calcium carbonate</u>	
<u>Phosphorus</u>	<u>Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate</u> <u>Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate</u> <u>Monosodium phosphate</u> <u>Calcium magnesium phosphate</u>	

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

	Calcium sodium phosphate	
Magnesium	Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia) Magnesium sulphate Magnesium chloride Magnesium carbonate Magnesium phosphate	
ID number or Functional Group	Substance	Description/conditions for use
Preservatives		
E200	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		
1bE306(i)	Tocopherol extracts from vegetable oils	
1bE306(ii)	Tocopherol-rich extracts from vegetable oils (delta rich)	
Emulsifying and stabilising agents, thickeners and gelling agents		
1c322 & 1c322i	Lecithins	Only if derived from organic raw material Use restricted to aquaculture animal feed
Binders, anti-caking agents and coagulants		
E412	Guar gum	
E 535	Sodium ferrocyanide	Maximum content of 20 mg/kg NaCl calculated as ferrocyanide anion

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

E 551b	Colloidal silica	
E 551c	Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth, purified)	
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, [All species]	
E 599	Perlite	
Sensory additives		
ex2a	Astaxanthin flavouring compounds	Only extracts from agricultural products. only when derived from organic sources, such as organic crustacean shells only in the feed ration for salmon and trout within the limit of their physiological needs if no astaxanthin derived from organic sources are available, astaxanthin from natural sources may be used such as Astaxanthin-rich Phaffia rhodozymb
<u>ex2b</u>	<u>Flavouring compounds</u> <i>Castanea sativa</i> Mill.: Chestnut extract	<u>Only extracts from agricultural products</u>
Nutritional additives		
3a	Vitamins and provitamins	Derived from agricultural products

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

		If derived synthetically, only those identical to vitamins derived from agricultural products may be used for aquaculture animals.
Trace elements		
ID number or Functional Group	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	
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)	

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

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 3b802 3b803 3b810 3b811 3b812 3b813 3b817	Sodium selenite Coated granulated selenite Sodium selenate Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R397, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3399, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R646, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R645, inactivated	
Zootechnical additives		
4a, 4b, 4c and 4d	Enzymes and micro-organisms in the category of "Zootechnical additives"	

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

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Standards updates specific to Aquaculture


NI 12.2.2 Specific principles for organic aquaculture

In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 12.2.1, organic aquaculture production must be based on the following specific principles:

1. ~~The observance of a high level of animal welfare respecting species-specific needs~~
 1. The production of products of organic livestock from animals that have been raised on organic holdings since birth or hatching and throughout their life
 2. The continuing health of the aquatic environment and the quality of surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
 3. Feeding of aquatic organisms with feed from sustainably ~~exploited~~ **exploitation of fisheries in accordance with** as defined by ~~Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 Art 3 Regulation 2371/2002 Conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under Common Fisheries Policy,~~ or with organic feed **composed of** ~~made of~~ agricultural ingredients **resulting** from organic **production, including organic aquaculture,** and **of** natural non-agricultural substances.
 4. **the minimisation of the use of non-renewable resources and off-farm inputs**
 5. **the recycling of wastes and by-products of plant and animal origin as inputs in plant and livestock production**
 6. **taking account of the local or regional ecological balance when taking production decisions**
 7. **the use of seeds and animals with a high degree of genetic diversity, disease resistance and longevity**
 8. **the maintenance of plant health by preventative measures, such as appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests**

<p>9. <u>the production of products of organic livestock from animals that have been raised on organic holdings since birth or hatching and throughout their life</u></p> <p>10. <u>the choice of breeds having regard to a high degree of genetic diversity, the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions, their breeding value, their longevity, their vitality and their resistance to disease or health problems</u></p> <p>11. <u>the feeding of livestock with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients from organic farming and of natural non-agricultural substances</u></p> <p>12. <u>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</u></p> <p>13. <u>avoiding any endangerment of species of conservation interest that might arise from organic production.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 6</i></p>	
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<p>12.5.5 Specific requirements for inspecting bivalve mollusc production</p> <p>You must inform your certification body when maximum bivalve biomass production occurs so that inspection visits can take place before or during this period.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 79(c)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 12.8.4 Specific aquaculture animal production records</p> <p>You must keep records in the form of a register which is available at all times on the premises of your holding. These records must provide the following information:</p> <p>a) the origin, <u>identifying the animals/batches of animal's date of arrival, the quantities, the organic or non-</u></p>	<p> Records of aquaculture animal production</p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p><u>organic status</u> and conversion period of animals arriving at the holding</p> <p>b) the number of lots, the age, weight and destination of animals leaving the holding</p> <p>c) records of escapes of fish <u>and action shall be taken to reduce the impact on the local ecosystem</u></p> <p>d) for fish, the type and quantity of feed and in the case of carp and related species, a documentary record of the use of additional feed</p> <p>e) veterinary treatments giving details of the purpose, date of application, method of application, type of product and withdrawal period</p> <p>f) disease prevention measures giving details of fallowing, cleaning and water treatment.</p> <p>g) <u>Operators shall keep records of monitoring and maintenance measures concerning animal welfare and water quality.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II III (3.1.2.4)(3.1.3.5)(3.1.4.3)(3.1.5.3), amended by 2021/1691 Annex (3)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 13.1.5 Mangroves <u>The destruction of mangroves is not permitted in organic aquaculture production.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (1.4)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 13.2.4 Using non-organic aquaculture animals</p>	<p>To support the organic sector and produce your stock in line with organic principles, use organic aquaculture animals when they are available. If you</p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>1. When organic aquaculture animals are not available, you may bring wild caught or non-organic stock to improve the genetics of your stock or for breeding purposes. <u>On approval from the competent authority, wild-caught or non-organic aquaculture animals may be brought onto the holding to improve the genetic suitability of stock. This will only be approved if there are no suitable organic stock available and appropriate justification is provided.</u> You must keep these animals under organic management for at least three months before they are used for breeding.</p> <p>2. <u>For animals that are on the IUCN Red List of endangered species, the authorisation to use wild-caught specimens will only be granted for breeding programmes that are in association with official conservation projects recognised by the relevant public body in charge of the conservation effort.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art.15 (1); Annex II part III (3.1.2.1)(a)(d)</i> <i>(EC) 2021/1691 Annex (3)(a)</i></p>	<p>need to use non-organic or wild caught aquaculture animals (see standard 13.2.4), demonstrate the lack of availability of organic animals by providing us with evidence that you have contacted suppliers within a suitable geographic area.</p> <p>At inspection we will check records that demonstrate compliance with any derogation authorised under this standard.</p>
<p>NI 13.2.5 Collection of wild aquaculture juveniles You may only collect wild aquaculture juveniles for on-growing in the following circumstances:</p> <p>a) As natural influx of fish or crustacean larvae and juveniles when filling ponds, containment systems and enclosures B) European glass eel, provided that an approved eel management plan is in place for the location and only whilst artificial reproduction of eel remains unsolved.</p> <p>b) The collection of <u>species of wild fry of species or crustacean larvae</u> other than European eel for on-growing in traditional extensive aquaculture in wetlands, such as brackish water ponds, tidal areas and coastal lagoons, closed by levees and banks, that are <u>not on the IUCN Red List of endangered species in</u></p>	<p>At inspection we will check records that demonstrate compliance with any derogation authorised under this standard.</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p><u>extensive aquaculture farming inside wetlands, such as brackish water ponds, tidal areas and costal lagoons</u> provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the restocking is in line with management measures approved by the relevant authorities to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the species ii. the fish are fed exclusively with feed naturally available in the environment. <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.2.1)(e)</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.2.6 On-growing <u>Only when</u> organic juveniles are not available <u>may you seek a derogation to</u> you may bring in non-organic juveniles for on-growing. <u>A derogation will be granted to a maximum of 50 % for juveniles of species that were not developed as organic in the European Union or Northern Ireland by 1 January 2022.</u> At least the last two thirds of the production cycle must be under organic management. <u>Such a derogation may be granted for a maximum period of two years and shall not be renewable.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.2.1)</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.2.7 Producing organic and non-organic aquaculture animals <u>You may rear both organic and non-organic stock of the same species provided there is clear and effective separation between the production sites or units. Such separation measures shall be based on the natural situation, separate water distribution systems, distances, the tidal flow, and the upstream and the downstream location of the organic production unit.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 9 (7); Annex II Part III (1.2)</i></p> <p>1. Your competent authority may permit hatcheries and nurseries to rear both organic and non-organic juveniles in the same holding, provided there is clear physical separation</p>	<p> You will need to demonstrate adequate separation in order for your control body to consider requests to permit organic and non-organic production units on the same holding. You will need to make sure there is no risk of contamination from your non-organic production.</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>between the units and they use separate water distribution systems.</p> <p>2. In the case of grow-out production your competent authority may permit organic and non-organic grow-out production on the same holding provided:</p> <p>a) the animals are in different production phases and</p> <p>b) different handling periods are implemented.</p>	
<p>SA NI 13.2.7 Replacing stock in cases of high mortality</p> <p>1. When there is high mortality of aquaculture animals caused by the following circumstances*, you may bring in non-organic stock when organically reared animals are not available. You must keep these animals under organic management for at least the latter two thirds of the duration of the production cycle. Your competent authority must authorise this.</p> <p>Applicable circumstances:</p> <p>a) natural disasters</p> <p>b) adverse climate events</p> <p>c) sudden water quality and quantity changes for which the operator is not responsible</p> <p>d) diseases in aquaculture, failure or destruction of production facilities for which the operator is not responsible.</p> <p><u>In the case of high mortality caused by catastrophic circumstances, with the approval of the competent authority, you may bring in non-organic stock provided that there are no organic animals available and at least the latter two thirds of the production cycle is under organic management.</u></p> <p>Upon approval by the competent authority you must keep documentary evidence of the use of this exception.</p> <p><u>(EC) 2018/848 Art.22; (EC) 2020/2146 Art. 3 (8)</u></p>	<p>Your competent authority will recognise a catastrophic event as conditions derived from an 'adverse climatic event', 'animal diseases', an 'environmental incident', a 'natural disaster' or a 'catastrophic event' as well as any comparable situation as defined by EC 1305/2013.</p> <p>In the case of a 'natural disaster' this will be quantified as the loss of 30% of relevant agricultural potential or 20% of the relevant forest potential.</p> <p>Your certification officer can submit a request to the competent authority on your behalf. This permission needs to be in place before any action takes place.</p>

NI 13.3 Aquaculture husbandry	
Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 13.3.1 Meeting the needs of your aquaculture animals</p> <p>1. The developmental, physiological and behavioural needs of your aquaculture animals must be met through <u>the husbandry environment that provides:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) husbandry practices b) feeding c) design of installations d) stocking densities and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>water quality stocking densities, and sufficient space for their welfare and appropriate stocking densities.</u> b) <u>good water quality with an adequate flow and exchange rate, sufficient oxygen levels and keeping a low level of metabolites.</u> c) <u>temperature and light conditions in accordance with the requirements of the species and having regard to the geographic location.</u> <p>2. Staff keeping aquatic animals must have the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their health and welfare needs.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.5.3) (3.1.6.1)</i></p>	<p>In your aquaculture management plan demonstrate how you monitor each of the parameters above to ensure the welfare needs of your animals are met. This standard applies to all species under your management including, for example, cleaner fish.</p> <p>Adhere to relevant animal welfare legislation in your country of production.</p>
<p>NI 13.3.3 Holding facility design</p> <p>1. You must design the holding facilities to cater for the species-specific needs of the aquaculture animals so that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have sufficient space for their wellbeing b) are kept in water of good quality with <u>an adequate flow and exchange rate</u>, sufficient oxygen levels, and <u>a low level of metabolites</u>; 	<p>Species-specific stocking densities are shown in section 13.4. You must be able to demonstrate that you have considered the species-specific needs of the animals.</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>2. are kept in appropriate temperature and light conditions. For freshwater fish, the bottom of the holding facilities must be as close as possible to natural conditions.</p> <p>3. For carp, the holding facilities must be natural earth.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.5.3) amended by 2021/1691 Annex (1.3) (g)</i></p>	
<p>13.4.2 Stocking densities for different species</p> <p>Your stocking densities must not exceed the maximum levels set out below.</p> <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25(f) (2) & Annex XIII (a)</i></p>	<p>Stocking densities are calculated per individual net pen containment unit (e.g. net pen or tank). Show how you plan, measure and monitor stocking density in your aquaculture management plan.</p> <p><u>For the purpose of calculating stocking density in net pen containment systems the measurements provided in the net manufacture's specification for the useable volume of the net will be used.</u></p> <p>stocking density' means the live weight of aquaculture animals per cubic metre of water at any time during the grow-out phase and, in the case of flatfish and shrimp, the weight per square metre of surface.</p>

<p>NI 13.4.5 Cod, other Gadidae, sea bass, sea bream, meagre, turbot, red porgy, red drum and other Sparidae, and spinefeet</p>		
<p>Production system</p>	<p>In open water containment systems (net pens/cages) with minimum sea current speed to provide optimum fish welfare, or in open systems on land.</p>	
<p><u>Juvenile production</u></p>	<p><u>The larval rearing of marine fish shall preferably be in extensive low input systems, such as the mesocosm or large volume rearing. The initial stocking density shall be 20 eggs or larvae per litre. During the larval stage the tank shall have a minimum volume of 20m³.</u></p>	
<p>Maximum stocking density</p>	<p>For fish other than turbot: 15 kg/m³ For turbot: 25 kg/m²</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II part III (3.1.2.3); (EC) 2020/464 Annex II</i></p>	

NI 13.4.8 Fish in inland waters

Species concerned: Carp family (Cyprinidae) and other associated species in the context of polyculture, including perch, pike, catfish, coregonids, sturgeon. Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) in monoculture.

- Fishponds must be fully drained periodically
- Lakes must be devoted exclusively to organic production, including the growing of crops on dry areas.
- The fishery capture area must be a suitable size to provide optimal comfort for the fish and equipped with a clean water inlet.
- The fish must be stored in clean water after harvest.
- You may only use organic and mineral fertilisers in the ponds which are listed in Annex I, with a maximum application of 20 kg nitrogen/ha.
- You must not use treatments involving synthetic chemicals for the control of hydrophytes or plant coverage present in production waters.
- Areas of natural vegetation shall be maintained around inland water units as a buffer zone for external land areas not in organic aquaculture production.
- If you operate a polyculture system for your grow-out production, you must comply with these standards for all other species in the lake.
- The total production of species in polyculture is limited to 1500 kg of fish per hectare per year.
- The maximum stocking density for perch in monoculture is 20kg/m³.

The frequency of drainage will depend on the type of pond, water flow, stocking rates and fish management. You need to demonstrate that the frequency will be sufficient to ensure good water quality, fish health and welfare. You can detail justification for the frequency of drainage in your aquaculture management plan.

Record – records on the application of fertilisers will be checked at inspection

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

[\(EC\) 2020/464 Annex II](#)
[\(EC\) 2018/848 Annex II III \(3.1.5.3\) amended by \(EC\) 2021/1691](#)
[Annex I.3 \(g\)](#)

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

NI 13.5.2 Humane harvest and slaughter

Suffering of aquaculture animals, including at slaughter, must be kept to a minimum. You must only use slaughter techniques that render fish immediately unconscious and insensible to pain. Handling prior to slaughter must be performed in a way that avoids injury whilst keeping any suffering or stress to a minimum. You must take into account harvest sizes, species and production sites when considering optimal slaughter methods.

[\(EC\) 2018/848 Annex II Part III \(3.1.6.7\) \(3.1.6.9\)](#)

Transfer of fish to the killing facility should be by a method and at an appropriate rate to avoid stress and injury but also to prevent delay prior to killing.

All farmed fish must be stunned before killing, whether or not death accompanies the stun (as in stun/kill methods) or follows a short time after the stun but before the fish has the time to regain consciousness.

For killing procedures that require it, the time from removal of the fish from water to unconsciousness and killing should be kept to a minimum. Emergency killing, including where automated stunning or other methods fail, should not be by methods considered inhumane at other times. A backup method of manual stunning, such as a priest, must be available in the killing facility.

We will refer to the [FAWC Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Fish at the Time of Killing](#) for appropriate practice.

The following methods of harvest and slaughter do not meet this standard:

- ice, except for warm water shrimp
- carbon dioxide
- suffocation, leaving stock to die in the open air
- exsanguination without stunning
- operating a rolling harvest where you starve all fish in the holding facility and selectively grade a number for slaughter on a repeated basis
- starving stock to modify carcass weight or quality (body composition).

NI 13.6.3 Rearing on land

1. For land-based rearing units with flow-through systems it must be possible to monitor and control the flow rate and quality of in-flowing and out-flowing water.

Your records for this will be checked at inspection.

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)


<p>2. At least ten five percent of the perimeter (land-water interface) of land-based rearing units must have natural vegetation.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.5.5)</i></p>	
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<p>NI 13.7 Feeding fish, crustaceans and echinoderms</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>13.7.1 Feeding priorities (all species)</p> <p>1. You must feed your aquaculture animals with feed that meets the animals' nutritional requirements at the various stages of their development.</p> <p>2. You must design your feeding regimes to prioritise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) animal health and welfare b) the production of high quality aquaculture products including nutritional composition c) low environmental impact. <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.3.1) (a) (b)</i></p>	<p>At inspection you will need to demonstrate how you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor fish health, and • manage quantities of feed used to prevent waste. <p><u>Please note, if you are purchasing feed that is produced in GB you must make sure they meet the requirement of these standards due to differences between GB and EU organic regulations.</u></p>
<p>NI 13.7.2 Feeding priorities for carnivorous aquaculture species</p> <p>You must source feed for carnivorous aquaculture animals with the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) organic feed products of aquaculture origin b) fish meal and fish oil from organic aquaculture trimmings c) fish meal and fish oil and ingredients of fish origin derived from trimmings of fish already caught for human consumption in sustainable fisheries certified as sustainable. d) organic feed materials of plant or animal origin d) feed products derived from whole fish caught in fisheries certified as sustainable under a scheme 	<p>You can choose from the above sources of feed in order to meet the animals' nutritional requirements at the various stages of their development, but where possible they must be used in order of preference.</p> <p>For operators in NL, NICA the UK, DEFRA (the competent authority) has provided additional guidance on the sustainability criteria for whole fish. We can provide you with a copy on request.</p>

<p>recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.</p> <p>e) organic feed materials of plant or animal origin</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.3.1) (c); (3.1.3.5); (3.1.3.3) amended by (EC) 2020/427 Annex (3)(b)</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.7.5 Feeding freshwater species</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the grow-out stages, the following species must be fed feed which is naturally available in ponds and lakes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) carp and associated species in polyculture systems (perch, pike, catfish, coregonids and sturgeon) b) Penaeid shrimp and freshwater prawns (Macrobrachium spp.) c) tropical freshwater fish – milkfish, tilapia and Siamese catfish (Pangasius spp.) 2. When natural feed is not available in sufficient quantity, you may feed seaweed or organic feed of plant origin, preferably grown on the holding. 3. Where you are supplementary feeding Penaeid shrimp in this way, you may feed a maximum of 25% fishmeal and 10% fish oil derived from sustainable fisheries certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. 4. You may also supplement the diets of Penaeid shrimp and freshwater prawns with organic cholesterol both in the grow-out stage and in earlier life stages in nurseries and hatcheries. Where organic cholesterol is not available, you may use non-organic cholesterol derived from wool, shellfish or other sources. 5. When you are supplementary feeding Siamese catfish (Pangasium spp.) in this way you may include a maximum 	<p>R For species reared in ponds and lakes, keep records of the need to use feed other than that which is naturally occurring in the environment.</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>of 10% fishmeal or fish oil derived from sustainable fisheries. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Art.15(2)(d); Annex II Part III (3.1.3.4)</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.7.6 Permitted feed for juveniles In the larval rearing of organic juveniles, non-organic phytoplankton and zooplankton may be used as feed. <u>The larvae shall feed on the natural plankton developing in the tank, supplemented as appropriate by externally produced phytoplankton and zooplankton.</u> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.2.3) amended by (EC) 2020/427</i></p>	

<p>NI 13.9.2 Disease prevention</p> <p>1. The design and management of your organic aquaculture system must rely primarily on preventive measures of disease control. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) appropriate siting b) optimal design of the holdings c) the application of good husbandry and management practices d) regular cleaning and disinfection of premises e) high quality feed f) appropriate stocking density, and g) breed and strain selection h) <u>good water quality, flow and exchange rate.</u> 	<p> In your aquaculture management plan detail information on design and management of your organic aquaculture system in relation to prevention of disease.</p>
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<p>2. The use of immunological veterinary medicines is allowed. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.4.1) (a) (b) (3.1.4.3)</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.9.3 Following Your control body will determine whether following is necessary and the appropriate duration if so. In open water containment systems at sea, following must take place after each production cycle. Following is also recommended for production systems using tanks, fish ponds and cages. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.4.1) (g)</i></p>	<p>You must be able to demonstrate that the duration of your following period will be sufficient to ensure good water quality and fish health and welfare. This will depend on site characteristics and management of the whole production area including water exchange and health and disease history.</p>

<p>13.10.1 Disease treatment</p> <p>1. If despite the preventative measures you have put in place to protect animal health, a health problem arises, you may use the following veterinary treatments in order of preference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> homoeopathic remedies plants and plant extracts (not those with anaesthetic effects) trace elements, metals, natural immunostimulants or authorised probiotics. <p>2. Where these treatments are inappropriate or will not be effective to avoid suffering to the aquaculture animals, allopathic treatment must be used (see standard below). <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25t (1), Art. 79b(e)</i></p>	<p>R Provide details in your aquaculture management plan of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identification of the relevant disease/infection present on the holding types of treatment used and method of application date of application and length of treatment statutory and organic withdrawal period, and monitoring of effectiveness of treatment. <p>The withdrawal periods are set out in standard 13.10.4.</p> <p><u>Ongoing dosing with allopathic veterinary medicines for a disease that is endemic in the water at the site cannot be regarded as one treatment. Where a dose is given to treat an occurrence of the disease that successfully treats the animals, further dosing to treat reoccurrence of the same disease must be regarded as separate treatments. Dosing after episodes that make the fish more susceptible to the disease, such as after vaccination or handling, must be regarded as separate treatments. If dosing is not effective at treating an episode of disease, requiring additional dosing, on an ongoing basis, this would not be regarded as appropriate treatment as it would not be effectively treating the disease. Appropriate and effective treatment must be given to fish where preventative measures have not been successful to prevent health and welfare</u></p>
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	<p><u>implications with the fish, even if this may lead to the loss of organic status to the group being treated.</u></p> <p><u>Organic production must be based on the design and management of your aquaculture operations to prevent disease and promote the health of your livestock. Your aquaculture management plan and veterinary records must make the occurrence of a single treatment course clear and provide evidence for adapting management to prevent the need for further treatments</u></p>
<p>13.10.2 Allopathic treatment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allopathic treatment must be used immediately when no other method of treatment can prevent animal suffering or when required by compulsory eradication schemes. Routine prophylactic treatment with synthetic drugs is prohibited. 2. Allopathic drug treatments can be used for a maximum of two treatments per year, with the exception of vaccines. However, if the production cycle is less than one year duration, you may treat your stock with only one allopathic treatment. 3. If you have to treat your aquaculture animals with any veterinary medicinal product you must inform your certification body or your national control authority before you market the animals as organic. 4. You must not sell aquaculture animals as organic if they have received more treatments than is permitted in these organic standards. 5. You must treat your animals if required by your national authority for the protection of human and animal health. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 15 (1)(f) (ii)(iii)(iv); Art. 25t (2)(5), Art. 79b(e) 	<p><u>A year period is counted as a rolling 12 months from the date of the first treatment. Health records must clearly identify treatment dates and periods across the lifecycle of the animal.</u></p>
<p>NI 13.10.3 Parasite treatments</p>	<p>You must obtain prior approval from your Certification Officer for all parasite treatments on each occasion.</p>

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<p>1. With the exclusion of compulsory control schemes operated by national authorities, you may use parasite treatments to a maximum of two courses twice per year. However, if the production cycle is less than 18 months you may use parasite treatments one course once per year.</p> <p>2. You must give preference to the use of cleaner fish for biological control of ectoparasites or freshwater, marine water and sodium chloride solutions. <u>The use of parasite treatments, other than through compulsory control schemes operated by Member States, shall be limited as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>for salmon, to maximum two courses of treatment twice per year, or to one course of treatment once per year where the production cycle is less than 18 months;</u> ii. <u>for all species, other than salmon, two courses of treatment per year, or to one course of treatment per year where the production cycle is less than 12 months;</u> iii. <u>for all species, to no more than four courses of treatment in total, regardless of the length of the production cycle of the species;</u> <p><u>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.4.1) (3.1.4.2) (e) amended by 2021/716 Annex (2)(b)</u></p>	<p>Identification, treatment and prevention of parasites can be detailed in your aquaculture management plan.</p> <p>Check with local agencies whether you need permission to use cleaner fish and outline how you ensure their welfare in your aquaculture management plan.</p>
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NI 13.11 Transport	
Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 13.11.1 Live fish</p> <p>1. If you transport live fish you must ensure that welfare of the fish is maintained <u>and the duration of the transport is kept to a minimum.</u> This includes:</p>	<p>R In your aquaculture management plan demonstrate how animals are transported and how you monitor to ensure good welfare is maintained. At inspection, we may check your records of oxygen levels, temperature, transport times, stocking densities and cleaning.</p>

Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)

<p>a) Transporting the fish in suitable tanks with clean water which meets their physiological needs in terms of temperature and dissolved oxygen.</p> <p>b) Thoroughly clean, disinfect and rinse tanks before transport of organic fish and fish products.</p> <p>c) Taking precautions to reduce stress. During transport, the density must not reach a level which is detrimental to the species.</p> <p>2. You must keep records to demonstrate compliance with these transport requirements.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.6.6) (4.1.4.2,4.3,4.4)</i></p>	
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NI 13.12 Conversion periods	
Standards	Guidance
<p>NI 13.12.1 Aquaculture conversion periods</p> <p>The following conversion periods for production units must be applied for the following types of aquaculture facilities including the existing aquaculture animals.</p>	<p>Defra, the competent authority in the UK, has confirmed that the conversion of the production unit can take place when the site is stocked and being managed to organic standards. This allows the animals and the site to convert to organic production simultaneously. Requests for a reduced conversion period must be submitted to your Certification Officer who will seek approval from the competent authority.</p> <p>The conversion period cannot begin until your application has been approved.</p> <p>Your application will be assessed via an application review stage. The application review will cover a full assessment of your application documentation and management plans. This review will ensure that we have assessed that organic certification is appropriate for your operation, and that you are able to meet the organic standards. We estimate that the application review will take 6 weeks to complete, this is based on submission of all the required information. This timeframe may vary depending on the scope of the application.</p>

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Type of facility	Conversion period
Facilities that cannot be drained, cleaned and disinfected	24 months
Facilities that have been drained or fallowed	12 months
Facilities that have been drained, cleaned and disinfected	6 months
Open water facilities including those farming bivalve molluscs	3 months

Your conversion period may be reduced if you can demonstrate that your facilities were not treated or exposed to products not allowed in these organic standards before the start of your conversion period. You must have documented evidence of this and your competent authority must approve any reduction.

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.1)

<p>NI 13.13.2 Growing area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You may establish a bivalve production unit in the same area of water as organic finfish and seaweed farming, also including gastropod molluscs such as periwinkles, in a polyculture system. 2. Your growing area must be of high ecological status quality and must be in waters which meet the Criteria for Class A or Class B areas as defined in article 18 (6)(8) of Regulationn (EU) 2017/625 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627. as defined in Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 3. Your bivalve production unit must be delimited by posts, floats or other clear markers and must be restrained by net bags, cages or other man-made means as appropriate. 4. Organic shellfish farms must minimise risks to species of conservation interest. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.3.2)(b)</i></p>	<p>Please see section 13.1 for guidance on suitable site selection.</p>
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Summary of changes – Organic Standards for Northern Ireland (baseline EU 848)


<p>NI 13.13.5 Sourcing of seed</p> <p>1. <u>With permission from the competent authority</u> you may use wild seed from outside the boundaries of the production unit if permitted by local legislation and if it causes no significant damage to the environment, but the seed must come from:</p> <p>a) settlement beds which are unlikely to survive the winter or are surplus to requirements, or</p> <p>b) natural settlement of shellfish seed on collectors.</p> <p>2. You must keep records of how, where and when wild seed was collected to allow traceability back to the collection area.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.2.1)</i></p>	
<p>13.13.6 Non-organic bivalve seed</p> <p>You may use seed from non-organic bivalve shellfish hatcheries until 31 December 2016, but this must be between 0% - 50% of your total seed requirements.</p> <p>Note – this standard is being reviewed by the EU Commission and is likely to be updated. There has been no update in 2018.</p> <p><i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25e</i></p>	<p>The EU Commission has not published an update to this standard (as of April 2019) therefore there is currently no ability to use seed from non-organic bivalve shellfish hatcheries.</p>
<p>NI 13.13.6 Cupped oyster</p> <p>For the cupped oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>) you must preferably use stock which is selectively bred to reduce spawning in the wild.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.2.1) (b)</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.13.7 Bivalve management</p> <p>1. Your stocking densities must not be above those used for non-organic shellfish in the locality. You must make adjustments to sorting, thinning and stocking density according to the biomass and to ensure animal welfare and high product quality.</p>	<p>Include details of how you manage biofouling organisms in your aquaculture management plan.</p>

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<p>2. You must remove biofouling organisms by physical means or by hand and where appropriate return them to the sea away from shellfish farms.</p> <p>3. You may treat shellfish once during the production cycle with a lime solution to control competing fouling organisms.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.2.4) (a) (b)</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.13.8 Cultivation</p> <p>1. You may use long-lines, rafts, bottom culture, net bags, cages, trays, lantern nets, bouchot poles and other containment systems.</p> <p>2. You may only cultivate bivalves on the sea bed where it will not cause significant environmental impact at the collection or growing sites.</p> <p>3. You must provide evidence of minimal environmental impact through a survey and report on the site and surrounding area to your certification body or the national control authority. The report must be added as a separate chapter to your sustainability management plan.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.2.4) (a) (b)</i> <i>(EC) 2020/464 Art, 22</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.13.9 Specific cultivation rules for mussels</p> <p>For mussel cultivation on rafts the number of drop-ropes must not exceed 1/m² of surface area. The maximum drop-rope length must not exceed 20 metres.</p> <p>You must not thin-out drop-ropes during the production cycle, however you may sub-divide drop-ropes without increasing stocking density at the outset.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2020/464 Annex II Part IX</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.13.10 Specific cultivation rules for oysters</p> <p>You must meet the standard for mussel cultivation above (13.13.10).</p> <p>Additionally:</p>	

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<p>a) If you use cultivation in bags on trestles these must be set out to avoid the formation of a total barrier along the shoreline.</p> <p>b) You must position the oysters carefully on the beds in relation to tidal flow, in order to optimise production.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.2.5)</i> <i>EC) 2020/464 Art. 22</i></p>	
<p>NI 13.13.11 Conversion and fallowing for bivalve mollusc production</p> <p>You do not have to fallow sites for bivalve mollusc production.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.4.1) (g)</i></p>	<p>Please refer to standard 13.12 for conversion periods for bivalve molluscs.</p>

<p>NI 13.14.5 Products for cleaning and disinfection for aquaculture animals and seaweed production</p> <p>1. You may only use products which contain the following active substances, for cleaning and disinfection of equipment and facilities in the absence of aquaculture animals (*):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ozone b) sodium hypochlorite c) calcium hypochlorite d) calcium hydroxide e) calcium oxide f) caustic soda *** g) alcohol h) potassium permanganate *** i) tea seed cake made of natural camelia seed only for shrimp production*** j) mixtures of potassium peroxomonosulphate and sodium chloride producing hypochlorous acid. 	<p> Your cleaning procedures must document what techniques and products you use.</p>
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2. You may use only products which contain the following active substances, for cleaning and disinfection of equipment and facilities in the presence and absence of aquaculture animals (**):
- a) limestone (calcium carbonate) for pH control
 - b) dolomite for pH correction (use restricted to shrimp production)
 - c) sodium chloride
 - d) hydrogen peroxide
 - e) sodium percarbonate ***
 - f) organic acids (acetic acid, lactic acid, citric acid)
 - g) humic acid ***
 - h) peroxyacetic acids***
 - i) peracetic and peroctanoic acid
 - j) iodophores (only in the presence of eggs).

The use of these substances must comply with relevant EU and national provisions as referred to in Article 16(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, and in particular with [Regulation \(EU\) No 528/2012](#) and [Directive 2001/82/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council.

() Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (OJ L 167, 27.6.2012, p. 1)*

*(**) Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal product (OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, P. 1).*

() must not be used as a biocide (EC) 2021/1165 annex IV part A (1) (2); part D***

Standards updates specific to Seaweed

NI 14.2 Objectives and principles of organic seaweed production	
Standards	Guidance
<p>Your an organic 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 at all levels, from the soil to plants and animals and contribute to the protection of the environment and the climate. 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. 	

10. To foster biodiversity and protect sensitive habitats and landscape features, such as natural heritage sites.
11. To minimise pollution and waste, substantially contributing to a non-toxic environment.
- ~~12.11.~~ To use preventative and precautionary measures and risk assessment when appropriate.
- ~~13.12.~~ To exclude the use of GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs with the exception of veterinary medicinal products.
- ~~14. To sustainably use products from fisheries.~~
14. Encouraging short distribution channels and local production.
15. Encouraging the preservation of rare and native breeds in danger of extinction.
16. Contributing to the development and use of plant genetic material adapted to the specific needs and objectives of organic agriculture, including the use of organic heterogeneous material and varieties suitable for organic production.
17. Fostering the development of organic plant breeding activities in order to contribute to favourable economic perspectives of the organic sector.
18. Ensuring the integrity of organic production at all stages of the production, processing and distribution of food and feed.
19. The exclusion from the whole organic food chain of animal cloning, rearing artificially induced polyploid animals, and ionising radiation

EC) 2018/848 Art. 4; Art. 5
(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I (1.9.2)
(EC) 2018/848 Art. 24 (5)

<p>NI 14.2.2 Specific principles for aquaculture</p> <p>In addition to the overall organic principles set out in standard 14.2.1, organic aquaculture production must be based on the following specific principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The continuing health of the aquatic environment and the quality of surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems 2. <u>The minimisation of the use of non-renewable resources and off-farm inputs</u> 3. <u>The recycling of wastes and by-products of plant and animal origin as inputs in plant and livestock production</u> 4. <u>Taking account of the local or regional ecological balance when taking production decisions</u> 5. <u>The use of seeds and animals with a high degree of genetic diversity, disease resistance and longevity</u> 6. <u>The maintenance of plant health by preventative measures, such as appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests</u> 7. <u>Avoiding any endangerment of species of conservation interest that might arise from organic production.</u> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Art. 6</i></p>	
<p>NI 14.3.3 Organic certificate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. You are not allowed to sell products with the Soil Association symbol or with reference to organic or in-conversion without a valid certificate that shows that your activity complies with these organic standards. 5. Certificates are issued once Soil Association Certification has inspected your organic activity and they are satisfied that your activity meets organic standards. The certificate 	<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.

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will list all your certified activities and the crops, livestock and/or products you are certified to produce, process and/or sell as organic.

6. The certificate may be in electronic format.
7. You are not entitled to obtain a certificate from more than one control body for the same category of products in the same country. This includes at different stages of production, preparation and distribution.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 35 (1) (2) (4); Art. 39

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.

The categories are as follows (2018/848 Article 35.7)

- a) unprocessed plants and plant products, including seeds and other plant reproductive material;
- b) livestock and unprocessed livestock products;
- c) algae and unprocessed aquaculture products;
- d) processed agricultural products, including aquaculture products, for use as food;
- e) feed;
- f) wine;
- g) other products listed in Annex I to this Regulation or not covered by the previous categories.

Examples:

An egg producer who also packs eggs, or a grower who also packs the produce could not have certification with 2 different CBs. This because both the production and the packing would be classed as category A products (unprocessed).

NI 14.6.3 Investigation into positive residue detections

If your product has a positive residue detection for a substance not authorised for use in organic production we will carry out an investigation to determine:

- a) if products or substances not authorised in organic production have been used
- b) if sufficient precautionary measures have not been taken
- c) if sufficient measures following previous requests from certification body have not been taken.

You will be given the opportunity to comment on the investigation and you may be required to take corrective measure to avoid future contamination.

EC) 2018/848 Art.29 (1)(2)(3)(4)

NI 14.10.2 Declaring ingredient origin

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'

1.When 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:

- a) in the same visual field as the EU organic logo;
- b) below the certifier code, and
- c) no more prominent than the sales description.

4. ~~You can replace '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.~~

2.The word 'Agriculture' may be replaced by 'Aquaculture' where appropriate.

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 32 (1) (2)

The declaration should be placed directly underneath the certifier code.

If the EU logo is used the declaration needs to be in the same visual field as the EU logo.

NI 15.1.4 Products for cleaning and disinfection and biocide for aquaculture animals and seaweed production

You may only use products which contain the following active substances, for cleaning and disinfection of equipment and facilities **in the absence of aquaculture animals**:


1. ozone
2. sodium hypochlorite
3. calcium hypochlorite
4. calcium hydroxide
5. calcium oxide
6. caustic soda***
7. alcohol
8. copper sulphate: only until 31 December 2015
9. potassium permanganate***
10. tea seed cake made of natural camelia seed only for shrimp production***
11. mixtures of potassium peroxomonosulphate and sodium chloride producing hypochlorous acid.

You may use only products which contain the following active substances, for cleaning and disinfection of equipment and facilities **in the presence and absence of aquaculture animals (**)**:

1. limestone (calcium carbonate) for pH control
2. dolomite for pH correction (use restricted to shrimp production)
3. sodium chloride
4. hydrogen peroxide
5. sodium percarbonate***
6. organic acids (acetic acid, lactic acid, citric acid)
7. humic acid***
8. peroxyacetic acids***
9. peracetic and peroctanoic acid
10. iodophores (only in the presence of eggs).

Your cleaning procedures must document what techniques and products you use.

<p>The use of these substances must comply with relevant EU and national provisions as referred to in <i>Article 16(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007</i>, and in particular with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 and Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2021/1165 Annex IV</i></p> <p>(*) Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (OJ L 167, 27.6.2012, p. 1)</p> <p>(**) Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal product (OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, P. 1).</p> <p>*** must not be used as a biocide</p>	
<p>NI 15.5.1 Site suitability for farming and collection of wild seaweed</p> <p>Your production units and/or collection areas must be sited in locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>that are suitable from a health point of view and are of high ecological status as defined by Directive 2000/60/EC, or are of equivalent quality to areas that meet the criteria for Class A or Class B areas as defined in Article 18(8) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (laying down specific rules for the controls on animal products for human consumption)</u> that meet the criteria for Class A or Class B areas as defined in Annex II of Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 (laying down specific rules for the controls on animal products for human consumption) 2. are free from contamination by substances not permitted in organic production 3. are free from pollution or pollutants that would affect the organic integrity of the product. 	<p>When you start your aquaculture operation, or when you add new sites, we will require details of the assessments you have made. Demonstrate that the water quality meets this standard.</p> <p>Defra ,the competent authority in the UK, will provide further guidance. We expect it to reflect the criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality assessment could be based on the Bathing Water Directive which is available from the Environment Agency website. • This should include details of neighbouring operations and an assessment of the contamination risk these pose and how this will be minimised. <p><i>Where there is no data available you should use other methods to assess your water quality. This should be based on risks and may require analysis depending on the nature of those risks. Water testing may be required.</i></p>

<p>4. where the cultivation or collection of seaweed does not affect the stability of the natural environment ecosystem or existing species within it.</p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III</i></p>	
<p>NI 15.6.3 Sustainable harvesting of wild seaweed</p> <p>1. You must harvest wild seaweed without significant impact on the aquatic environment.</p> <p>2. You must put in place measures that ensure seaweed regeneration, taking into account:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> harvesting technique minimum sizes minimum ages reproductive cycles or size of remaining seaweed. <p>3. You must keep records that demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the history of harvesting activity for each species in named beds that the seaweed harvested is wild seaweed and that it is harvested according to these standards that where you harvest seaweed from a shared or common harvest area, the total harvest complies with these standards. <p>4. Your records of harvest estimates and sources of potential pollution must provide evidence that you are managing the harvesting areas sustainably with no long term impact.</p> <p>5. <u>Where you are harvesting from a shared documentary evidence produced by the relevant authority designated by the Member State concerned shall be available showing that the total collection complies with this Regulation.</u></p> <p><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (2.2.1) (b); (2.4.2); (2.4.3); (2.4.4)</i></p>	<p> You must be able to demonstrate how you manage and monitor the sustainability of your operation. You need to provide a map of the harvest area and keep records of the species you harvest.</p>

15.6.7 Seaweed cleaning and drying

1. ~~If your final product is fresh seaweed you must only flush it with seawater.~~
2. ~~If your final product is dehydrated seaweed you may also use potable water for flushing, and salt may be used for moisture removal.~~
3. ~~You must not use direct flames for drying seaweed.~~
4. ~~If you use ropes or other equipment when drying seaweed, they must be free from anti-fouling treatments and cleaning or disinfection substances, except those listed in standard 15.1.4~~

(EC 889.2008 Art.29a)

Standards updates specific to Abattoir & Slaughtering

NI 19.2.1 Transport and handling

1. Any suffering, pain and distress shall be avoided and shall be kept to a minimum.
~~You must minimise any stress and suffering during handling and transport.~~
2. The duration of transport must be minimised.
3. You must ~~not tranquilise~~ not use allopathic tranquilisers on any of your livestock before or during transport.
4. The loading and unloading of animals shall be carried out without the use of any type of electrical or other painful stimulation to coerce the animals
(EC) 2018/848 Ch Art 14; Art 14.3; Annex II Part II)

The welfare of animals in transport is the responsibility of the producer, or the haulier as a sub-contractor of the producer. Once they enter the curtilage of the slaughterhouse, welfare becomes the joint responsibility of the producer and the slaughterhouse. After unloading, their welfare is the responsibility of the slaughterhouse.

A planned arrival system will ensure that the animals are unloaded as soon as they arrive at the abattoir. You should be able to demonstrate that you liaise with farmers and transporters to make sure the animals leave the farm and arrive at the abattoir on time. You should aim to keep the waiting time as short as possible.



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

The export out of the UK 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.

NI 19.3.1 Separating and identifying organic livestock

1. Organic livestock must be kept separate from other livestock.
2. You must not tether or isolate livestock unless it is for a limited period of time, and in so far as this is justified for ~~safety, welfare or~~ veterinary reasons. The isolation of livestock may only be authorised, and only for a limited period, where workers' safety is compromised or for animal welfare reasons.
(EC) 2018/848 Art 14.3; Annex II Part II; Annex III (7.4) (a)

In the lairage you will need to label pens holding organic animals to show that the animals are organic. You must not mix organic and non-organic animals in the same pen or in the slaughter area.

If animals have been delivered together they should be penned in their social groups. Horned cattle are **not** necessarily fractious and therefore it may be better to keep them in their identified social groups with sufficient extra space.

NI 19.6.2 General production methods

1. You may only use techniques for processing organic food that is in line with the specific principles for organic production as well as the requirements of these standards.
2. Organic food must be produced with care and preferably with the use of biological, mechanical and physical methods.
3. Use of permitted food additives, non-organic ingredients, micronutrients and processing aids must be kept to a minimum and only used where necessary.
4. Substances and processing methods which could mislead consumers about the true nature of a product must not be used.

EC 2018/848 Art. 7; Annex II Part IV (1.6)

If you further process meat, refer to the food and drink standards for details of permitted non-organic ingredients, processing aids and additives.