

Soil Association Organic Standards for Northern Ireland Summary of standards changes – document updated 24 July 2024

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

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Updates made across all Soil Association Organic standards

Standards

SA NI 5.16.1 Scope

These standards apply to packaging of products that you introduce into the supply chain.

We define packaging as all primary (retail), secondary (grouping, display) and tertiary (transport) materials used for:

- containing
- protecting
- preserving
- handling
- storage
- delivery
- labelling
- · marketing, and
- presentation of your products.

Note - we include bulk bins but not transport pallets in this definition.

Soil Association higher standard

Guidance

This standard applies to products you process, pack or label, (including on farm), or have contract made for you, (including if you're a contracted symbol user). This standard does not apply if you purchase an already certified product (for example, a wholesaler buying an already certified product). In this case you do not have to supply information on the packaging of that purchased product.

You must make sure your packaging meets all relevant legislation relating to packaging, packaging waste and materials in contact with food.

For example, for products sold in the UK and EU such legislation would include, but is not limited to:

- 1. the <u>Defra regulations on extended producer responsibility</u> for packaging products.
- 2. the <u>European Parliament and Council Directive on Packaging and</u> Packaging Waste (94/62/EC)
- 3. the <u>European Standard for Compostable Packaging (EN13432)</u> if you are using compostable packaging.
- 4. applicable legality legislation for cellulose based materials, this means the <u>UK Timber Regulations</u>, in GB, and the <u>EU Deforestation</u> <u>Regulations</u>, in Northern Ireland and the EU.

Environmental information claims and symbols on your packaging need to be clear, truthful and accurate. In the UK, you will need to make sure your packaging conforms to the Defra Green Claims code.



These standards do not apply to outer packaging used to deliver the product to consumers via postal/courier service, such as postal bags/envelopes, boxes and other packaging materials used to protect contents.

These standards do not apply to retail bags used by licensed operators, for example, bags for loose fruit and veg used by a retailer or farmers' market.

For further information on what constitutes primary, secondary and tertiary packaging please refer to the Defra definitions of packaging class data.

To ensure that your packaging products are as widely recycled as possible we recommend using the OPRL guidelines on labelling to communicate whether products are recyclable at kerbside across the UK.

SA NI 5.16.3 Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products*

Any paper, card and pulp packaging materials from forest ecosystems must be sourced responsibly.

Soil Association higher standard

*This standard comes into effect from September 2025.

Adequate evidence of compliance with this standard is demonstration that packaging products carry certification from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

This can be done with an invoice for the products including a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC. Licensees can:

- source products which carry source FSC or PEFC certification from suppliers,
- obtain an independent FSC or PEFC chain of custody certificate,
- establish <u>FSC</u> or <u>PEFC</u> group certification with other businesses (suitable for small businesses).

See the <u>FSC website</u> and/or the <u>PEFC website</u> for more information on the certification process and to obtain approved materials.



When using recycled paper/card material your packaging must be compliant with the approved certification schemes from PEFC or FSC, for example for FSC these include 'FSC Mix' and 'FSC Recycled' labels, more information on FSC labelling is available here.

This requirement does not apply when paper/card is derived from outside of forest ecosystems, this can include from agricultural wastes and grasses such as miscanthus. Non-timber forest products (e.g. bamboo or cork) are not within the scope of this standard but we recommend FSC/PEFC certification is sought where applicable for these products.

To allow licensees to use up existing stock and source compliant products, this standard will be enforced from September 2025, but licensees should look to source compliant products at the earliest opportunity.

SA NI 5.16.4 Plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks containing phthalates*

You must **not** use plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks that contain phthalates.

Soil Association higher standard

*The changes to this standard comes into effect from September 2025.

Demonstrate that you have not used these materials, for example with a packaging specification for all materials used kept on file.

This restriction applies to all packaging products in scope. Until September 2025 the restriction applies to plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs. From September 2025, the restriction will apply to all packaging, whether in contact with foodstuffs or not.

To avoid phthalates in packaging materials we recommend:

- a. avoid PVC and use plastics that do not require plasticizers for flexibility, such as polyethylene, e.g., PET, HDPE, and LDPE.
- b. using non-phthalate-based plasticizers which are widely available on the market, see the ChemSec marketplace for more options.
- c. consider whether packaging is necessary or if there are non-



plastic alternatives.

New inputs allowed in Soil Association Organic Food and Drinks standards

Standard	ds		Guio	lance	
SA NI 6.4	SA NI 6.4.2 Permitted additives				
You may only use the additives in the table below in organic foods and according to the specific conditions against them.		Guidance not included in summary of proposed changes.			
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					
E no.	Name	Organic foodstuffs to which it may b	e	Requires non-GMO declaration	Specific conditions and
		added		form to be completed (unless	limits
				used in organic form)	
E460 Cellulose Gelatine					
E551	Silicon dioxide	dioxide For herbs and spices in dried powdere			For cocoa, only for use
	or colloidal	form			<u>in automated</u>
	solution	Flavourings and propolis			dispensing machines

Standards	Guidance
SA 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.	Guidance not included in summary of proposed changes.



	EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part IV (2.2.2)	
(I	EC) 2021/1165 Annex V Part A Section A2	
Processing aid name	Only authorised for the processing	Specific conditions and limits
	of the following organic foodstuffs	
		Only for antimicrobial purposes
Hop extract	Sugar Products of plant origin	From organic production, if available
		Only for antimicrobial purposes
Pine rosin extract	Sugar Products of plant origin	From organic production, if available

Standards	Guidance
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 products until31st 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 (Armoracia rusticana) 3. lesser galanga (Alpina officinarum) 4. safflower flowers (Carthamus tinctorius) 5. watercress (Nasturtium officinale). Algae, including seaweeds, which are allowed as food	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.
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)
- 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.

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.



- 2. Alga Hijiki (Hizikia fusiforme), unprocessed as well as products of first-stage processing directly related to this alga.
- 3. <u>Bark of the Pau d'arco tree Handroanthus impetiginosus ('lapacho').</u>
 - only for use in Kombucha and tea mixtures
- 4. Wild fishes and wild aquatic animals, unprocessed as well as products derived from 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 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.
- 5. Gelatine.
 - from other sources than porcine.
- 6. Casings.
 - <u>from natural raw materials of animal origin or from plant origin material.</u>
- 7. Milk mineral powder/liquid.
 - only when used for its sensory function to replace wholly or partly sodium chloride.

Processed organic food that were produced before 1 January 2024 with non-organic agricultural ingredients from the previous list may be placed on the market after that date until the stocks are exhausted.

(EC) 2021/1165 Art. 12; Annex V Part B



New inputs allowed in Organic Food and Drink standards

All new inputs allowed from the latest implementing regulation, (EC) 2023/2229 will go in organic standards only. Soil Association will have a consultation on the new inputs before inclusion in Soil Association's organic standards.

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 (EC) 2023/2229 Annex IV

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.

E no.	Name	Organic foodstuffs to which it may be added	Requires non-GMO declaration form to be completed (unless being used in organic form)	Specific conditions
E300	Ascorbic acid	Products of plant origin Meat products and meat preparations to which other ingredients than additives or salt have been added	X	
E322	Lecithins*	Products of plant origin Products of animal origin Milk products	X	Only from organic production
E335	Sodium tartrates	Products of plant origin	X	From 1 January 2027, only from organic production
E336	Potassium tartrates	Products of plant origin	X	From 1 January 2027, only from organic production
E337	Potassium sodium	Product of plant origin		From 1 January 2027, only



ta	artrate			from organ	ic production
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New standards in Soil Association Organic Farming and Growing standards

Standards	Guidance	
SA NI 3.9.1 Housing pigs indoors		
1. If you need to house your pigs indoors you must keep	(S) A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors.	
your sows in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy		
and during the suckling period. Her movement shall only	You may still keep your sows in groups during the last stages of	
be restricted for short periods.	pregnancy and the suckling period.	
(EU) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.7.2)(1.9.3.2)(d)		
2. You must allow sows to always move freely in their pens.		
Their movement must not be restricted.		
Call Association higher standard		
Soil Association higher standard	Mb. 2	
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This higher standard has been introduced in Northern Ireland to maintain consistency with the current regulation in GB to ensure		
V		

SA NI 3.12.2 Number of birds permitted in each flock	Under this definition 'laying hens' means laying chickens.
Each poultry <u>flock</u> must not contain more than:	
a) 3,000 birds for laying hens	A 'flock' means a group of birds that are kept together not mixing
(EC) 2020/464 Art. 15(3)	with other poultry species, and with their own dedicated indoor
	and outdoor areas.



Other poultry species includes all other laying birds and table birds.



A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors.

SA 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.

 (EU) 2020/464 Art. 15(3)
 (EU) 2020/464 Art. 16(2)
- 3. All poultry species must be separated by solid partitions from the floor to the ceiling with dedicated airspace, ventilation, food, and water.

Soil Association higher standard

See standards glossary for definition of a poultry house.

Why?

When airspace is shared across multiple flocks it presents biosecurity risks that may increase the likelihood of viral transmission from one flock to another. Physical separation of flocks with solid partitions as well as separation of food and water sources is a biosecurity risk mitigation method. Such separation can support a positive environment inside a poultry shed, reducing noise pollution in flocks that could otherwise be separated with mesh or netting.

SA NI 3.12.15 Pop-hole size and quantity

Guidance



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.

Every pop-hole must be of a size adequate for the birds. (EU) 2020/464 Art. 15(1)

(EU) 2020/464 Art.4(2)(b)

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 4m 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.

Soil Association higher standard

Why?

Pop-hole provision is an important part of encouraging regular use of range in poultry flocks. Providing the same pop-hole provision from the poultry house into a veranda as from the poultry house direct to the range can reduce the risk that a veranda becomes a barrier to range use.

SA NI 3.12.17 Range quality and cover

- 1. The range must be of a suitable design and actively managed to encourage birds outside and to promote full and extensive use of the range. The minimum outdoor space required for the flock must be available within the distances set out in the guidance below.
- 2. Your range of shelters must provide adequate protection from the inclement weather and overhead predators.
- 3. Natural cover must be provided at an area equal to at least 5% of the area available to your poultry.

The distance between shelters or natural cover should be no more than 20 metres to promote full range use. For trees this can be calculated from the outer most branch of a tree. New trees should be planted no more than 30 metres apart, trunk to trunk.

Natural cover may include trees, perennial shrubs, bushes, hedgerows, or cover crops, such as artichokes, kale, millet, fodder rape and corn. To be included as part of the 5% requirement, natural cover must be accessible to the poultry. Long grass does not count towards your natural cover provision because it does not encourage birds to range and can cause harm if eaten.

Not all natural cover has to provide actual overhead protection, but it must encourage range use by providing refuge for the birds. For example, it can include brashings from trees or hedges.



- a) If the natural cover does not provide cover all year round or if the natural cover is immature, you must provide supplementary cover during the period in which sufficient cover is not provided.
- 4. At least one area of natural cover or shelter must be available within 20m of the popholes.
- Points 2 -4 above apply for laying chickens, meat chickens, turkeys and guinea fowl.
 They do not apply to geese and ducks.
 Soil Association higher standard

If you use deciduous trees or other forms of natural cover that only provide shelter for part of the year, you must provide supplementary cover or shelter. The supplementary shelter can be artificial, for example arcs, or natural, for example piles of brashings. The supplementary cover must make up the 5% natural cover requirement when the natural cover is not providing shelter.

Narrow ranges which require birds to walk long distances to access a portion of the range do not encourage good use of the range. The minimum outdoor space required for the flock must be available within the following distance from the house:

- 120m for layers, turkeys, geese and guinea fowl
- 50m for table chickens and ducks

Any additional space provided on the range may extend further than this limit and does not need to be included when calculating your 5% natural cover requirement. If geese or ducks are walked out to pasture, narrow paddocks or fields may be appropriate.



A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors

The Sourcing Annex has been updated to reflect the changes in standards 3.12.3 and 3.12.17.

New inputs allowed in Soil Association Organic Farming and Growing standards

SA NI 2.5.2 Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients

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

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Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, condition for use	Soil Association additional
		conditions
		Conditions
Recovered struvite and precipitated	Products must meet the requirements laid down in Regulation	
phosphate salts	(EU) 2019/1009	
	Animal manure as source material must not be from factory	
	farming origin	
Potassium chloride (muriate of potash)	Only of natural origin	

SA 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)

		LC) 2010/040 AII. 24(1a)
Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use	Soil Association
		additional
		conditions
Basic Substance		
Magnesium hydrogen metasilicate	Must be of food grade	
silicate material (Talc E553b)		
ABE-IT 56 (components of lysate of	Not from GMO origin	
Saccharomyces cerevisiae strain	Not produced by using growing media of GMO origin	
DDSF623)		
Aqueous extract from the germinated		
seeds of sweet lupinus albus		
Other substances		
Ferric pyrophosphate		
Deltamethrin	Only in traps with specific attractants against <i>Bactrocera oleae</i> ,	Not licensed for
	Ceratitis capitata, and <u>Rhagoletis complete</u>	use in Northern
		<u>Ireland.</u>



New inputs allowed in Organic Farming and Growing standards

All new inputs allowed from the latest implementing regulation, (EC) 2023/2229 will go in organic standards only. Soil Association will have a consultation on the new inputs before inclusion in Soil Association's organic standards.

NI 2.5.2 Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients		
	(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I	
	(EC) 2021/1165 Art. 2	
	(EC) 2021/1165 Annex II	
	(EC) 2023/2229 Annex II	
Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use	
Composted or fermented mixture of household waste	Product obtained from source separated household waste, which has	
(Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and	been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas	
of the Council)	<u>production.</u>	
	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.	
<u>Selenium salts</u>	Only in case of deficiency in the soils used for animal rearing, and/or	
	grazing or for the production of feed crops	

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) (EC) 2023/2229 Annex I

	<u> </u>
Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
Basic substances	



Other low risk substances from plant or animal	Herbicidal uses not allowed	
<u>origin</u>		
Other Substances		
Sodium hydrogen carbonate		

NI 3.10.12 Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed.

(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 (EC) 2023/2229 Annex III

Feed Material	Feed Material Conditions for use	
Product or sub	stance	
Algal oil		Oil obtained by extraction from microalgae through fermentation Growing medium for the fermentation process must not be of GMO origin and should be from organic raw materials, if available
Propylene glycol	; [1,2-propanediol]; [propane-1,2-diol]	 restricted to use in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/354 as feed intended for particular nutritional purposes: reduction of the risk of ketosis on dairy cows, ewes and goats use restricted to selective application (only to individual animals in need and for a limited period)
Calcium	Calcareous marine shells Maerl Lithotamn Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate Calcium chloride	 Calcium chloride – conditions of use: restricted to use in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/354 as feed intended for particular nutritional purposes: reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia on dairy cows. Use restricted as selective application (only for individual animals in need and for a limited period)



		Calcium chloride when purified from naturally occurring brine, if available	
Trace elements			
ID no. or Functional	Product or Substance	Conditions of use	
Group			
3b101	Iron(II) carbonate (siderite)		
3b103	Iron(II) sulphate monohydrate		
25104	Iron(II) sulphate heptahydrate		
3b104	Iron(II) chelate of protein hydrolysates		
<u>3b107</u>	<u>Iron dextran 10%</u>	From organic soy production, if available	
<u>3b110</u>		Restricted to use in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU)	
		2020/354 as feed intended for particular nutritional pruposes:	
		compensation for insufficient iron availability after birth	
		Only for suckling piglets Growth medium for the fermentation process for dextran must be	
		of non-GMO origin	
		Use restricted to selective application	
		(only for piglets in need and for a limited period)	
3b402	Copper(II) carbonate dihydroxy monohydrate		
3b404	Copper(II) oxide		
3b405	Copper(II) sulphate, pentahydrate		
<u>3b407</u>	Copper (II) chelate of protein hydrolysates	From organic soy production, if available	



3b409	Dicopper chloride trihydroxide(TBCC)	
3b502	Manganese (II) oxide	
3b503	Manganous sulfate, monohydrate	
<u>3b505</u>	Manganese chelates of protein hydrolysates	From organic soy production, if available
3b603	Zinc oxide	
3b604	Zinc sulphate heptahydrate	
3b605	Zinc sulphate monohydrate	
3b609	Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate(TBZC)	
<u>3b612</u>	Zinc chelate of protein hydrolysates	From organic soy production, if available
3b701	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	
3b801	Sodium selenite	
3b802	Coated granulated selenite	
3b803	Sodium selenate	
3b810	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated	
<u>3b810i</u>	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	

New higher standards in Soil Association Organic Aquaculture standards

SA NI 13.2.8 Prohibiting the use of species listed as 'threatened' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*

For animals listed as 'threatened' on the IUCN Red List of endangered species, the authorisation to use wild-caught specimens as breeding stock or the collection of wild caught juveniles for on-growing may only be granted in the context of conservation programmes recognised by the relevant public authority in charge of the conservation effort and approved by the Soil Association.

*This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024.

Soil Association higher standard (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III(3.1.2.1)(d)(e) <u>Lumpsuckers are listed as Near Threatened at time of writing.</u>

Why?

The removal of threatened species from the wild for use in aquaculture cannot be viewed as sustainable and in line with organic principals. Therefore their use in Soil Association certified sites will not be permitted.



SA NI 13.4.3 Organic production of salmonids in fresh water Includes: Brown trout, Rainbow trout, American brook trout, salmon, charr, grayling, American lake trout (or grey trout), huchen.	
Production system	On-growing farm systems must be fed from open systems. The flow rate must ensure a minimum of 60% oxygen saturation for stock and must ensure their comfort and the elimination of farming effluent.
Maximum stocking density	Salmonid species not listed below: 15 kg/m³ Salmon: 20 kg/m³ Brown trout and rainbow trout: 25 kg/m³ Arctic charr: 25 kg/m³ (EC) 2020/464 Annex II
Mortality reporting requirement*	 Where the level of fish mortality exceeds the threshold figures shown below, this must be recorded and reported to Soil Association Certification within 72 hours.
*This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024.	



*Please contact the Soil Association for the reporting requirements for other salmonid species.

Why?

The Soil Association recognises that mass mortality events can occur for several reasons. Soil Association must be kept informed of any events to ensure that avoidable deaths are not occurring on certified sites, effective controls are in place and the site is suitable for production.

SA NI 13.4.4 Salmonids in sea water Includes: Salmon, brown trout, rainbow trout.	
Maximum stocking density	10 kg/m³ in net pens
	(EC) 2020/464 Annex II
Mortality recording and reporting requirement*	Where the level of fish mortality exceeds the threshold figures shown below, this must be recorded and reported to Soil Association Certification within 72 hours. Atlantic Salmon* Site weight average under 750g:
	 maximum weekly mortality 1.5%, Maximum 5-week rolling mortality 6% Site weight average greater than 750g: maximum weekly mortality 1%, Maximum 5-week rolling mortality 4%
	2. Mortality levels exceeding these limits must be investigated without delay and a plan approved by Soil Association Certification, detailing how you will address and reduce the number of mortalities. Soil Association higher standard



*This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024.

* Please contact the Soil Association for the reporting requirements for other salmonid species.

Why?

The Soil Association recognises that mass mortality events can occur for several reasons. Soil Association must be kept informed of any events to ensure that avoidable deaths are not occurring on certified sites, effective controls are in place and the site is suitable for production.

SA NI 13.5.3 Humane harvest and slaughter

1. 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. You must take into account harvest sizes, species and production sites when considering optimal slaughter methods.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 15 1b (vi)

(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25h (5)

2. You must inform your certification body prior to slaughter. You must include details of animals to be slaughtered, location and slaughter method. *

Soil Association Higher Standard

*This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024.

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 an appropriate sized priest, must be available in the killing facility.

We will refer to the <u>FAWC Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Fish at the Time of Killing</u> 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). If you contract out your slaughter operations, in part or whole, to a third party you must comply with the requirements set out in standard 12.4.2. SA NI 13.5.4 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)* Cameras should be positioned in such a way to clearly show all areas of CCTV must be used at farmed fish slaughter sites, slaughter where welfare issues could occur. with recordings saved for at least 90 days and made available for reviewing on request. Soil Association higher standard *This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024. Why?

Slaughter of livestock most be assessed each year. We will review harvest dates and plan our annual inspections accordingly. Where we cannot witness a harvest on the day we will review footage to assess the slaughter.

SA NI 13.9.3 Sea lice monitoring and sea lice plan*

1. You must assess and document your infestation rates of sea lice regularly. *

*Sampling may be suspended for a short period to protect animal welfare and in line with exemptions detailed in national legislation. The reasons for this must be recorded in writing and be agreed in partnership with local authorities. Soil Association must be informed promptly.



- 2. To protect wild salmonids, leading up to and during defined sensitive periods you must take regular samples. Samples must be taken at least once every 14 days.
- 3. Your Aquaculture Management Plan must include all necessary measures taken to reduce the risk of sea lice to wild salmonids before and during sensitivity periods.

 Where possible this must be written in coordination with local organisations and public authorities.
- 4. Where sea lice levels exceed thresholds established in your farming area, you must inform the Soil Association within 14 days of sample date. You must provide evidence of what action is taken to reduce levels.

Soil Association higher standard

<u>Sea lice sensitivity period is to run from 1st February to 30th June.</u>

Sea lice are defined as both Lepeopthierus salmonis and episodic occurrences of Caligus spp.

Why?

The control of sea lice is a universal challenge of the salmon industry and threatens wild salmon stocks. The Soil Association must be able to effectively monitor sea lice controls and have insight on what is happening at a farm level.

SA NI 13.12.1 Aquaculture sites conversion periods

*This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024.

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

Soil Association higher standard

*This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024.

The conversion of aquaculture facilities may take place when the site is stocked and being managed to organic standards. with aquaculture animals present. However, the origin of these animals must meet the requirements set out in standards 13.2. Currently in GB there is no allowance for non-organic juveniles to be brought onto a holding for on growing or for existing non-organic animals to convert. This allows the animals and the site to convert to organic production simultaneously



Requests for a reduced conversion period must be submitted to the Certification Team who will seek approval from the competent authority.

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

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

Why?

A core principle of organic production is that the livestock has been kept to full organic standards for the duration of its life. This standard is in place to ensure that Soil Association fish are organic from start to finish.

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	3 months
molluscs	

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

Annex II - Cleaner fish in organic aquaculture production*

The use of cleaner fish species is restricted to wild caught and hatchery reared Wrasse (Labridae spp.), and wild caught and hatchery reared Lumpfish (Cyclopteridae spp.).

Soil Association higher standard

*This standard comes into effect 1st October 2024.

Why?

The use of cleaner fish is an approved method for the control of ectoparasites in organic aquaculture in order to reduce the reliance on chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicines. The Soil Association believes that for these animals to be used in organic production they must be protected by species-specific standards.

1. Use of cleaner fish in organic production

The use of cleaner fish in Soil Association organic aquaculture production must meet the requirements established in these standards and be approved by Soil Association Certification.

Soil Association higher standard (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part II(3.1)

2. Origin of cleaner fish

Cleaner fish must be provided with a sufficient number and suitable type of shelters. These shelters must not be situated within the feeding zone of the primary species.

Soil Association higher standard

Your aquaculture management plan must demonstrate how you meet the requirements for the management of cleaner fish set out in these standards.

Efficacy of the cleaner fish must be monitored and demonstrated; this is most important for species of wrasse other than ballan, such as goldsinny and cuckoo.

The use of cleaner fish species will only be approved if they comply with the definition of 'locally grown species'. 'locally grown species' means aquaculture species which are neither alien nor locally absent species within the meaning of points (6) and (7), respectively, of Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 (7), as well as the species listed in Annex IV to that Regulation'.

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	The use of cleaner fish from wild fisheries is a temporary
	allowance and will be kept under review.
3. Cleaner fish husbandry, health and welfare	In your aquaculture management plan demonstrate how you
	meet the requirements of these standards.
Cleaner fish must be provided with a sufficient number and	-
suitable type of shelters. These shelters must be situated	We will refer to the Animal Welfare Committee's Update to the
within the feeding zone of the primary species.	2014 FAWC Opinion on the welfare of farmed fish at the time
	of killing for appropriate practice.
Soil Association higher standard	The design and many and of consultant and contains
	The design and management of your aquaculture system must minimise stress on cleaner fish species. Particular
	attention should be paid to feed withdrawal, crowding and
	separation.
	<u>separation.</u>
	The cleaning maintenance and suitability of the shelter
	should be covered in your VHWP.
4. Cleaner fish treatments	Method of separation must be explained in your VHWP. The
	success of recapture should be recorded.
If a health problem arises, cleaner fish must be treated.	
Cleaner fish must be separated from the primary species	
before they can be treated with chemically synthesised	
allopathic veterinary treatments.	
Cail Association binks water dand	
Soil Association higher standard	
5. Feeding cleaner fish	
1. Cleaner fish must be fed supplementary feed	
throughout the entire production cycle that is suitable	
for the nutritional requirement for the species at all	
stages of their development.	



 Attention must be paid to climatic and aquatic conditions and feeding adjusted accordingly to ensure the nutritional requirements of cleaner fish are met. Supplementary feed must be introduced in such a way that it is not available to other species. Cleaner fish must be fed organic feed when available. Soil Association higher standard	
 Humane slaughter You must only use slaughter techniques that render fish immediately unconscious and insensible to pain. You must take into account harvest sizes, species and production sites when considering optimal slaughter methods. Cleaner fish must not be released into the natural environment at the end of the production cycle. Cleaner fish mortalities must be properly recycled. Soil Association higher standard	We will refer to the update to the 2014 FAWC Opinion on the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing for appropriate practice. Please refer to standard 13.5.3 for more information on human slaughter. Pharmaceutical methods of slaughter should take account of dosage, exposure time, size and weight of fish, water temperature and other relevant factors to ensure a rapid and effective kill. Any holding tanks for live cleaner fish or bycatch (whether to be returned to site or euthanised) at harvest must have their water quality parameters regularly monitored and recorded. The welfare of the fish must not be compromised when separating from harvest stock. No fish must be left to die in air.
 7. Record Keeping 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: a) The species and number of fish 	



- b) The origin and date of arrival
- c) Mortality
- d) Feed
- e) <u>Use of veterinary medicines</u>

The Soil Association must be informed of any mass mortality events.

Soil Association higher standard

New inputs allowed in Soil Association Organic Aquaculture standards

Standards			
NI 13.8.1 Products and substances permitted for use in aquaculture feed			
You may use the following feed materia	als or products in animal	nutrition and processing	aids:
			(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III(3.1.3.1)(d)(e
			(EC) 2021/1165 Annex III(A)(B))
Feed material			
Product or substance			
Minerals			
Phosphorus		Defluorinated monocal	lciumphosphate
		Defluorinated dicalciur	mphosphate
		Monosodium phospha	te
		Calcium magnesium p	hosphate
Calcium sodium phosph		phate	
		Monodicalcium Phospl	<u>hate</u>
Binders, anti-caking agents and coag	ulants		
ID number or Function Group	Substance		Description/conditions for use
<u>E563</u>	Sepiolitic Clay		



<u>1g599</u>	Illite-montmorillonite-kaolinite	
Substances for reduction of the	contamination of feed by mycotoxins	
<u>1m558</u>	<u>Bentonite</u>	
Nutritional additives		,
<u>3a920</u>	Betaine anhydrous	Only for monogastric animals. From organic production; if not available, from natural origin.

New inputs allowed in Soil Association Organic Feed standards

NI 9.1.13 Products and substances permitted	for use in livestock f	eed		
_			(EC) 2018/848 Art. 24; Annex II V	
		(EC) Z	2021/1165 Art. 3; Art. 4; Annex III(A); Annex III(B)	
Feed Material		Conditions of use		
Minerals				
Phosphorus		Defluorinated mon	nocalciumphosphate	
		Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate		
		Monosodium phosphate		
		Calcium magnesium phosphate		
		Calcium sodium ph	•	
		Monodicalcium Ph	<u>osphate</u>	
Binders and anti-caking agents				
ID no. or Functional Group	Product or substance		Conditions of use	
<u>E563</u>	Sepiolitic Clay			
<u>1g599</u>	Illite-montmorillonite-kaolinite			
Substances for reduction of the contamination	on of feed by mycotox	<u>cins</u>	•	
ID no.	Product or substance		Condition of use	
<u>1m558</u>	<u>Bentonite</u>			



II 10.2.1 Permitted feed additives 'ou may use the following feed additives or products in animal nutrition and processing aids:			a older
You may use the following feed additiv	es or products in animai i	nutrition and processing	galds: (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III(3.1.3) (EC) 2021/1165 Art. 3; (EC) 2021/1165 Art. 4 (EC) 2021/1165 Annex III Part A (EC) 2021/1165 Annex III Part B
Feed Material			
Product or substance			
Minerals			
Phosphorus		Defluorinated monoca Defluorinated dicalciu Monosodium phospha Calcium magnesium p Calcium sodium phosp Monodicalcium Phosp	mphosphate te hosphate phate
Binders, anti-caking agents and coag	ulants		
ID number or Function Group	Substance		Description/conditions for use
E563	Sepiolitic Clay		
1g599	Illite-montmorillonite-kaolinite		
Substances for reduction of the contamination of feed by mycotoxins			
<u>1m558</u>	<u>Bentonite</u>		
Nutritional additives			
<u>3a920</u>	Betaine anhydrous		Only for monogastric animals. From organic production; if not available, from natural origin.

New inputs allowed in the Organic Feed standards

All new inputs allowed from the latest implementing regulation, (EC) 2023/2229 will go in organic standards only. Soil Association will have a consultation on the new inputs before inclusion in Soil Association's organic standards.



NI 9.1.11 Products and substance permitted for use in livestock feed

(EC) 2018/848 Art. 24; Annex II V (EC) 2021/1165 Art. 3; Art. 4; Annex III(A); Annex III(B) <u>(EC) 2023/2229 Annex III</u>

Feed Material		Conditions for use
		Conditions for use
Product or substance		
<u>Algal oil</u>		Oil obtained by extraction from microalgae through fermentation
		Growing medium for the fermentation process must not be of GMO origin
		and should be from organic raw materials, if available
Propylene glycol; [1,2-pro	ppanediol]; [propane-1,2-diol]	restricted to use in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU)
		2020/354 as feed intended for particular nutritional purposes: reduction of
		the risk of ketosis
		on dairy cows, ewes and goats
		use restricted to selective application (only to individual animals in need
		and for a limited period)
Calcium	Calcareous marine shells	<u>Calcium chloride – conditions of use:</u>
	Maerl	 restricted to use in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU)
	Lithotamn	2020/354 as feed intended for particular nutritional purposes: reduction of
	Calcium gluconate	the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia on dairy cows.
	Calcium carbonate	Use restricted as selective application (only for individual animals in need)
	<u>Calcium chloride</u>	and for a limited period)
		Calcium chloride when purified from naturally occurring brine, if
		available
Trace elements		
ID no. or Functional	Product or Substance	Conditions of use
Group		
3b101	Iron(II) carbonate (siderite)	
3b103	Iron(II) sulphate	
	monohydrate	
3b104		



	Iron(II) sulphate	
	heptahydrate	
<u>3b107</u>	Tieptarryarate	From organic soy production, if available
<u>30107</u>		<u>From organic soy production, ir available</u>
	Iron(II) chelate of protein	
	<u>hydrolysates</u>	
3b110		Restricted to use in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/354
	Iron dextran 10%	as feed intended for particular nutritional pruposes: compensation for
		insufficient iron availability after birth
		Only for suckling piglets
		<u> </u>
		Growth medium for the fermentation process for dextran must be of non-
		GMO origin
		<u>Use restricted to selective application</u>
		(only for piglets in need and for a limited period)
3b402	Copper(II) carbonate	
00102	dihydroxy monohydrate	
	diriyaroxy monoriyarate	
3b404	Copper(II) oxide	
3b405	Copper(II) sulphate,	
	pentahydrate	
<u>3b407</u>	Copper (II) chelate of protein	From organic soy production, if available
<u>30407</u>		From organic soy production, if available
	<u>hydrolysates</u>	
3b409	Dicopper chloride	
	trihydroxide(TBCC)	
3b502	Manganese (II) oxide	
0.002	manganoso (II) Oxido	
25502	Maragarana	
3b503	Manganous sulfate,	
	monohydrate	
<u>3b505</u>	Manganese chelates of	From organic soy production, if available
	protein hydrolysates	
	<u> protentriyarerysates</u>	



Zinc sulphate heptahydrate			
Zinc sulphate monohydrate Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate(TBZC) Zinc chelate of protein hydrolysates Sodium molybdate dihydrate Sodium selenite Coated granulated selenite Sodium selenate Sod	3b603	Zinc oxide	
Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate(TBZC) Sb612 Zinc chelate of protein hydrolysates From organic soy production, if available hydrolysates	3b604	Zinc sulphate heptahydrate	
monohydrate(TBZC) Zinc chelate of protein hydrolysates 3b701 Sodium molybdate dihydrate 3b801 Sodium selenite Coated granulated selenite Sodium selenate 3b810 Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b810 Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b811 Selenised yeast, Selenised yeast,	3b605	Zinc sulphate monohydrate	
hydrolysates 3b701 Sodium molybdate dihydrate 3b801 Sodium selenite Coated granulated selenite 3b802 Sodium selenate 3b810 Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b810i Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b811 Selenised yeast, Salenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated	3b609		
3b801 3b802 3b803 Sodium selenite Coated granulated selenite Sodium selenate Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b810i Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated	<u>3b612</u>		From organic soy production, if available
3b801 3b802 3b803 Sodium selenite Coated granulated selenite Sodium selenate Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b810i Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated	3b701	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	
3b802 3b803 Coated granulated selenite Sodium selenate Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Selenised yeast,			
3b803 Sodium selenate 3b810 Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b810i Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated 3b811 Selenised yeast,		Coated granulated selenite	
3b810 Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast,	3b803		
Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast,			
Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated Selenised yeast,	3b810	Saccharomyces cerevisiae	
J	<u>3b810i</u>	Saccharomyces cerevisiae	
NCYC R397, inactivated	3b811	Saccharomyces cerevisiae	
Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3399, inactivated	3b812	Saccharomyces cerevisiae	
3b813	3b813		



	▼ ·	
	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R646, inactivated	
_,		
3b817		
	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R645, inactivated	

NI 10.2.1 Permitted feed additives

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

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III(3.1.3) (EC) 2021/1165 Art. 3; (EC) 2021/1165 Art. 4 (EC) 2021/1165 Annex III Part A (EC) 2021/1165 Annex III Part B (EC) 2023/2229 Annex III

Feed Material		Conditions for use
Product or substar	nce	
Algal oil		Oil obtained by extraction from microalgae through fermentation Growing medium for the fermentation process must not be of GMO origin and should be from organic raw materials, if available
Calcium	Calcareous marine shells Maerl Lithotamn Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate Calcium chloride	 Calcium chloride – conditions of use: restricted to use in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/354 as feed intended for particular nutritional purposes: reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia on dairy cows. Use restricted as selective application (only for individual animals in need and for a limited period) Calcium chloride when purified from naturally occurring brine, if available
Trace elements		

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ID no. or Functional	Product or Substance	Conditions of use
Group		
3b101	Iron(II) carbonate (siderite)	
38101		
01.100		
3b103	Iron(II) sulphate	
	monohydrate	
	Iron(II) sulphate	
3b104	heptahydrate	
	Iron(II) chelate of protein	From organic covered votion if available
2b107		From organic soy production, if available
<u>3b107</u>	<u>hydrolysates</u>	
3b402	Copper(II) carbonate	
	dihydroxy monohydrate	
3b404	Copper(II) oxide	
3b405	Copper(II) sulphate,	
36 100	pentahydrate	
	peritarryarate	
01.407		
<u>3b407</u>	Copper (II) chelate of protein	From organic soy production, if available
	<u>hydrolysates</u>	
3b409	Dicopper chloride	
	trihydroxide(TBCC)	
3b502	Manganese (II) oxide	
3b503	Manganous sulfate,	
30303		
	monohydrate	
<u>3b505</u>	Manganese chelates of	From organic soy production, if available
	<u>protein hydrolysates</u>	
3b603	Zinc oxide	



	•	
3b604	Zinc sulphate heptahydrate	
3b605	Zinc sulphate monohydrate	
3b609	Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate(TBZC)	
<u>3b612</u>	Zinc chelate of protein hydrolysates	From organic soy production, if available
3b701	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	
3b801	Sodium selenite	
3b802	Coated granulated selenite	
3b803	Sodium selenate	
30003	Sourdin Selenate	
3b810	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae CNCM I-3060, inactivated	
<u>3b810i</u>	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		



3b817	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R646, inactivated	
	Selenised yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae NCYC R645, inactivated	

New inputs allowed in Soil Association Organic Seaweed Annex I – fertilisers and nutrients

Name – Compound products of products containing only materials		Soil Association additional conditions
Sodium Nitrate	Only for algae production on land in closed systems	

Ends