

# **GB Regulatory Review: Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise**

## **Definitions and Production Rules**

### **Why are we running a Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise instead of a Call for Evidence?**

For the initial review of the Production Rules and Definitions, Defra will be conducting a Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise. This will provide targeted stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on the retained regulations.

This exercise will replace the previously planned Call for Evidence, which would have been publicly available via gov.uk. As the changes made to the definitions and production rules directly impact organic businesses, we would like to take the opportunity to seek feedback from Control Bodies, Industry Groups and organic businesses directly; before inviting wider comments on the draft regulations as part of a public consultation.

### **Will this be the only opportunity to provide feedback?**

No, this will not be the only opportunity to provide comments on the production rules and definitions. However, your feedback at this stage will help to identify areas of the regulations to retain or change and will help to shape how the production rules and definitions are developed.

### **What will the Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise cover?**

The Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise will focus on the following sections of the regulations:

Retained Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007:

- Article 2: Definitions.
- Title III: Production Rules, Articles 8-22.

Retained Commission Regulation (EC) 889/2008:

- Article 2: Definitions.
- Title II: Rules on production, preservation, processing, packaging, transport and storage of organic products, Articles 3-54.
- Annexes I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, VIIIa, IX, X and XIIIa.

### **What kind of feedback should I submit?**

We expect significant interest from stakeholders and a high volume of responses, therefore we kindly request that any feedback is specific and meaningful. This

means providing comments on specific articles of the regulations, providing clear suggestions or workable solutions, rather than simply saying something does not work, needs to change, or is missing.

We are looking for your insights into:

- Areas of the regulations which should continue to apply as currently captured.
- Areas for which specific rules or guidance are missing from the regulations.
- Areas of the regulations that could be strengthened and/or streamlined.
- Areas of the regulations that could be removed from the regulations and put into guidance documents and/or on gov.uk.

## **Timelines**

We expect to circulate the Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Control Bodies, Industry Groups and organic businesses will be given six weeks to respond.

## **What can I do before the Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise is distributed?**

You can review the definitions and production rules relevant to your business and start to capture your views on what works, what needs improving and what may be missing.

## **What happens after the Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise?**

Once we have reviewed the feedback submitted for the Targeted Stakeholder Feedback exercise; we will consider if further engagement such as stakeholder workshops or advice from the Expert Group on Organic Production will be required. If a workshop is organised for an area of the regulations that you have provided feedback on, we will invite you to participate in the workshop.

## **Will there be any further opportunities to provide feedback after this exercise is complete?**

Once the new regulations are draft, they will be subject to a full public consultation. This will be the final opportunity to provide comments.

**If you have any questions, please email the Defra Organics Team at [organics.regulatoryreview@defra.gov.uk](mailto:organics.regulatoryreview@defra.gov.uk)**