



## Soil Association Organic Standards for Northern Ireland

### Summary of standards changes – document updated 26 January 2026

1. Updates to NI and NI SA Farming & Growing standards.....	2
2. Updates to NI and NI SA Food & Drink standards .....	11
3. Updates to NI SA Aquaculture standards.....	16
4. Updates to NI SA Abattoir & Slaughtering standards .....	18
5. Updates to NI SA Feed Processing standards.....	21
6. Updates to NI SA Seaweed standards .....	23
7. Standards that have no significant updates.....	24

## 1. Updates to NI and NI SA Farming & Growing standards

Standard	Description of changes	Reason for update
<b>1.16.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products</b>  (higher)	<p>The guidance text is updated as follows:</p> <p><del>This can be done with an invoice for the products including a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</del></p> <p><u>You must ensure that the invoices for paper, card and wood-pulp products you purchase include a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</u></p>	This revision is to ensure the guidance is clear.
<b>1.16.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics</b>  (higher)	<p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p><del>You must not use Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or any other chlorinated plastics unless can only be used when alternative materials are not available or are functionally unsuitable, as listed in the guidance section of this standard. that deliver a technically (or legally) required function are not available. See guidance for more details.</del></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p> <p><del>* The changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025.</del></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>You must demonstrate that you have not used these materials, for example, with a packaging specification for all materials used kept on file.</u></p> <p><b>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinyl chloride (PVC)</li> </ul>	<p>The use of chlorinated plastics is not desirable – and does not fit with organic principles – from either a health or environmental standpoint. In large quantities they can have negative effects on recycling infrastructure and render recycled plastics materials unfit for further use. Nevertheless, chlorinated plastics play a key role in maintaining product quality and acting as an oxygen barrier in some packaged products.</p> <p>In the case of coffee pod/capsules linings and lid films, licensees have faced significant challenges finding an alternative packaging format that can perform the required functions.</p> <p>Most coffee pod packaging applications are widely recycled as the core materials are either HDPE plastics or aluminium and there are widely available recycling services which is offered in many local authority recycling centres, coffee shops and retailers in a similar fashion to collections for soft plastic films.</p>

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) (applied from September 2025)</li> <li>• vinyl chloride</li> </ul> <p>The restriction on PVdC applies from September 2025. For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted</p> <p>There are some specific circumstances where we are aware that no functional alternatives to PVC <u>or chlorinated plastics</u> currently exist. For example, in cases where packaging must have adequate barrier properties to comply with food safety requirements. These must be <u>demonstrated as part of the packaging submission form</u>.</p> <p><del>As a result, you are permitted to use PVC in the following applications:-</del></p> <p><u>Packaging applications where the use of PVC or chlorinated plastics can be used:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• metal jar lids or caps (e.g. for jams, sauces and baby food),</li> <li>• tamper evident seals on jar lids or caps, and</li> <li>• <u>linings or seals of coffee capsules or pods.</u></li> </ul> <p>We will keep these exceptions under review <del>on an</del> <u>annual</u> basis as innovation for functional alternatives develops.</p>	<p>Expert advice has assured us that the chlorinated plastic lining of such packaging is such a small fraction of the overall product, it does not impede the recycling process, like larger volumes of PVC plastics can do.</p> <p>We will continue to keep this area of the standards under review.</p>
<p><b>2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Stone meal and clays</p> <p>Description, specific conditions and limits: For example, ground basalt, bentonite, perlite and vermiculite.</p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

	<p><u>Perlite, sand and vermiculite, including when heat treated, may also be used for sprouted seeds production as an inert medium as referred to in Part I, point 1.3(a), of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848'</u></p>	
<p><b>2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Carbon dioxide</u></p> <p>Description, specific conditions and limits: <u>use for enrichment of water for algae production on land in closed systems; in this case, carbon dioxide shall be of food grade</u></p> <p><u>when available, carbon dioxide shall be obtained as a by-product of other processes or from renewable sources pursuant to Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*)</u></p> <p><u>may also be used in greenhouse production</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Calcium acetate</u></p> <p>Description, specific conditions and limits: <u>only for foliar application on vegetables in greenhouses and on apple trees to prevent deficiency in calcium</u></p> <p><u>obtained from calcium carbonate of natural origin</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

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<p><b>2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Calcium phosphate</u></p> <p>Description, specific conditions and limits: <u>only when derived from sewage sludge ash</u></p> <p><u>only products complying with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Plant fibre mats</u></p> <p>Description, specific conditions and limits: <u>Plant-based fibres, such as hemp fibre, flax fibre, coconut fibre with no addition of any fertiliser, soil conditioner or nutrient nor additives or binders, only mechanically manufactured.</u> <u>Only for sprouted seeds production as an inert medium referred to in Part I, point 1.3(a), of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848.</u> <u>When available, materials from organic production shall be used</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Calcium and magnesium gluconate</u></p> <p>Description, specific conditions and limits: <u>derived from microbial fermentation</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

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<p><b>2.6.3 – Permitted pesticides and plant protection products</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>A new category has been created – ‘low risk active substances’ – and the following substances have been added to this category:</p> <p>Lavandulyl senecioate          Potassium hydrogen carbonate          Straight chain lepidopteran pheromones          Sheep fat          Quartz sand and silicone dioxide</p> <p>The following substances which were already permitted have been moved to this category:</p> <p>COS-OGA          Laminarin          ABE-IT 56 (components of lysate of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> strain DDSF623)          Aqueous extract from the germinated seeds of sweet <i>Lupinus albus</i>          Other low risk substances from plant or animal origin (herbicidal uses not allowed)          Cerevisane          Ferric pyrophosphate          Sodium hydrogen carbonate</p>	<p>These amendments have been made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>2.7.4 - Using non-organic seed and vegetative propagating material</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The guidance has been amended as follows.</p> <p>You do not require prior approval when sowing grass/forage/arable silage/wholecrop silage/cover crop green manure mixes that contain at least 70% (by weight) organic seeds as long as you provide details of these on the Annual Questionnaire we will send you before your inspection. <u>The same variety of seed may not be used in both organic and non-organic form within the same mix.</u></p>	<p>Clarifying guidance from Defra</p>

<p><b>3.9.5 – Exceptional production rules for tethering</b> (higher)</p>	<p>This standard is no longer needed.</p>	<p>This standard is an unnecessary duplication with the requirements outlined in NI 3.8.3 'Animals must be able to move freely'. The impact of both standards is the same.</p>
<p><b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b> (baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Single cell proteins from <i>Trichoderma viride</i> and <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></p> <p>Specific conditions and limits <u>only from non-GM strain and culture media</u></p> <p><u>not obtained from substrates with synthetic nitrogen sources</u></p> <p><u>obtained from substrates coming from organic production when used for ruminants and other herbivores</u></p> <p><u>when used, antifoaming agents shall be authorised for organic production</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b> (baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Products from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> rich in protein</u></p> <p>Specific conditions and limits <u>only from non-GM strain and culture media</u></p> <p><u>not obtained from substrates with synthetic nitrogen sources</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

	<p><u>obtained from substrates coming from organic production when used for ruminants and other herbivores</u></p> <p><u>when used, antifoaming agents shall be authorised for organic production</u></p>	
<p><b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Calcium chloride</p> <p>Specific conditions and limits: <del>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.</del></p> <p><del>Use restricted as selective application (only for individual animals in need and for a limited period)</del></p> <p><u>May only be used as “feed intended for particular nutritional purposes” defined in Article 3(2), point (o), of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 for the reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia in accordance with Part B, table entry “60”, of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/354 (*), including bolus formulation.</u></p> <p>Calcium chloride when purified from naturally occurring brine, if available.</p> <p><u>Only for dairy cows in need and for a limited period</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

<p><b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Calcium propionate</u></p> <p>Specific conditions and limits: <u>may only be used as “feed intended for particular nutritional purposes” defined in Article 3(2), point (o), of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 for the reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia in accordance with Part B, table entry “60”, of the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2020/354, including bolus formulation</u></p> <p><u>only for dairy cows in need and for a limited period’</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p><u>Calcium stearate</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Lecithins</u></p> <p><u>Specific conditions and limits: derived from organic raw material from 1 January 2027, only from organic production’</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

	<del>Use restricted to aquaculture feed only</del>	
<b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b>  (baseline)	The standard is updated as follows:  Name: <u>Iron (II) fumarate</u>  Specific conditions and limits: <u>may only be used as “feed intended for particular nutritional purposes” defined in Article 3(2), point (o), of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 for compensation of insufficient iron availability after birth in accordance with Part B, table entry “64”, of the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2020/354</u>  <u>only for suckling piglets in need and for a limited period</u>	This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973
<b>3.10.12 – Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</b>  (baseline)	The standard is updated as follows:  Name: <u>Ethanol</u>  Specific conditions and limits: <u>to be used only as extraction solvent for the production of protein meals and only when protein meals from mechanical extraction are not available in sufficient quantities</u>  <u>only from fermentation if available</u>  <u>only from organic production if available</u>	This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973

## 2. Updates to NI and NI SA Food & Drink standards

Standard	Description of changes	Reason for update
5.16.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products  (higher)	<p>The guidance text is updated as follows:</p> <p><del>This can be done with an invoice for the products including a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</del></p> <p><u>You must ensure that the invoices for paper, card and wood-pulp products you purchase include a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</u></p>	This revision is to ensure the guidance is clear.
5.16.5 PVC and other chlorinated plastics  (higher)	<p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p><del>You must not use Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or any other chlorinated plastics unless can only be used when alternative materials are not available or are functionally unsuitable, as listed in the guidance section of this standard. that deliver a technically (or legally) required function are not available. See guidance for more details.</del></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p> <p><del>* The changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025.</del></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>You must demonstrate that you have not used these materials, for example, with a packaging specification for all materials used kept on file.</u></p> <p><b>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinyl chloride (PVC)</li> </ul>	<p>The use of chlorinated plastics is not desirable – and does not fit with organic principles – from either a health or environmental standpoint. In large quantities they can have negative effects on recycling infrastructure and render recycled plastics materials unfit for further use. Nevertheless, chlorinated plastics play a key role in maintaining product quality and acting as an oxygen barrier in some packaged products.</p> <p>In the case of coffee pod/capsules linings and lid films, licensees have faced significant challenges finding an alternative packaging format that can perform the required functions.</p> <p>Most coffee pod packaging applications are widely recycled as the core materials are either HDPE plastics or aluminium and there are widely available recycling services which is offered in many local authority recycling centres, coffee shops and retailers in a similar fashion to collections for soft plastic films.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) (applied from September 2025)</li> <li>• vinyl chloride</li> </ul> <p>The restriction on PVdC applies from September 2025. For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted</p> <p>There are some specific circumstances where we are aware that no functional alternatives to PVC <u>or chlorinated plastics</u> currently exist. For example, in cases where packaging must have adequate barrier properties to comply with food safety requirements. These must be <u>demonstrated as part of the packaging submission form</u>.</p> <p><del>As a result, you are permitted to use PVC in the following applications:-</del></p> <p><u>Packaging applications where the use of PVC or chlorinated plastics can be used:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• metal jar lids or caps (e.g. for jams, sauces and baby food),</li> <li>• tamper evident seals on jar lids or caps, and</li> <li>• <u>linings or seals of coffee capsules or pods.</u></li> </ul> <p>We will keep these exceptions under review <del>on an</del> annual basis as innovation for functional alternatives develops.</p>	<p>Expert advice has assured us that the chlorinated plastic lining of such packaging is such a small fraction of the overall product, it does not impede the recycling process, like larger volumes of PVC plastics can do.</p> <p>We will continue to keep this area of the standards under review.</p>
<p><b>6.4.1* – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The separate lists of food additives and food processing aids are merged into one table.</p>	<p>This amendment is made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

<p><b>6.4.1 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Buffered vinegar</u></p> <p>Use as an additive: <u>products of plant and animal origin</u></p> <p><u>only from organic production</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>6.4.1 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Gellan gum</p> <p>Use as an additive: Products of plant and animal origin</p> <p>From organic production, applicable as of <del>1 January 2023</del> <u>if available</u></p> <p>Only high-acyl form</p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>6.4.1 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Pea protein</u></p> <p>Use as a processing aid <u>Use for clarification of fruit juices and fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead</u></p> <p><u>From organic production if available</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>6.4.1 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 –</b></p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name:</p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

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<p><b>Permitted processing aids</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p><u>Potato protein</u></p> <p>Use as a processing aid  <u>Use for clarification of fruit juices and fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead</u></p> <p><u>From organic production if available</u></p>	
<p><b>6.6.9 – Vitamins and minerals*</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p> <p>*Occurs across multiple standards documents, so precise numbering may vary.</p>	<p>The guidance text is updated as follows:</p> <p><del>For example, in the UK, the Bread and Flour Regulations (1998) 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.</del></p> <p><u>For example, in the UK, the Bread and Flour Regulations (amended 2024) require that iron, niacin, thiamine (vitamin B1), nicotinic acid (vitamin B3), folic acid and calcium carbonate must be added to flour, with the exception of wholemeal flour or flour produced by small mills (as defined in the Bread and Flour (Amendment) Regulations 2024). Small mills falling under the definition may not fortify organic flour as it is not legally required for them to do so.</u></p>	<p>This addition is due to a change in UK regulation.</p>
<p><b>6.8.8 – Organic yeast</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name:  <u>Fermentation activators</u></p> <p>Primary yeast</p> <p>Specific conditions and limits</p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>

	<p><u>nutrients from yeast extract or autolysate</u></p> <p><u>up to 5 % of the substrate calculated in weight of dry matter</u></p>	
<p><b>6.9.3 – Additives and processing aids</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Yeasts for wine production</p> <p>References to Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934: <u>Part A, Table 2, point 1.11</u> Part A, Table 2, point 9.1</p> <p>Specific conditions and limit <u>For the individual yeast strains, organic if available</u></p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>6.9.3 – Additives and processing aids</b></p> <p>(baseline)</p>	<p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Lactic acid bacteria</p> <p>References to Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934: <u>Part A, Table 2, point 1.12</u> Part A, Table 2, point 9.2</p>	<p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p>
<p><b>6.10.1 – Products and ingredients certified to other organic standards</b></p> <p>(higher)</p>	<p>The guidance text is updated as follows:</p> <p>For <u>products or</u> ingredients where SA has extra sourcing requirements (detailed in the Sourcing Organic Ingredients Annex), you <del>will need to</del> <u>must</u> update your specification <u>and obtain our approval prior to use if: your suppliers change or if</u></p>	<p>This revision is to ensure equivalence checks aren't missed.</p>

	your supplier's ingredients/products are no longer certified to SA Standards and seek our approval prior to use.	
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### 3. Updates to NI SA Aquaculture standards

Standard	Description of changes	Reason for update
10.2.1 – Permitted feed additives  (higher)	<p><b>Name:</b> Lecithins</p> <p><b>Specific conditions and limits:</b>  derived from organic raw material  from 1 January 2027, only from organic production'  <u>Use restricted to aquaculture feed only</u></p>	This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973
13.20.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products  (higher)	<p>The guidance text is updated as follows:</p> <p><del>This can be done with an invoice for the products including a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</del></p> <p><u>You must ensure that the invoices for paper, card and wood-pulp products you purchase include a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</u></p>	This revision is to ensure the guidance is clear.
13.20.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics  (higher)	<p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p><del>You must not use Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or any other chlorinated plastics unless can only be used when alternative materials are not available or are functionally unsuitable, as listed in the guidance</del></p>	The use of chlorinated plastics is not desirable – and does not fit with organic principles – from either a health or environmental standpoint. In large quantities they can have negative effects on recycling infrastructure and render recycled plastics materials unfit for further use. Nevertheless,

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	<p><del>section of this standard that deliver a technically (or legally) required function are not available. See guidance for more details.</del></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p> <p><del>* The changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025.</del></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>You must</u> demonstrate that you have not used these materials, for example, with a packaging specification for all materials used kept on file.</p> <p><b>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics</b> which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinyl chloride (PVC)</li> <li>• polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) (applied from September 2025)</li> <li>• vinyl chloride</li> </ul> <p><del>The restriction on PVdC applies from September 2025.</del> For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted</p> <p>There are some specific circumstances where we are aware that no functional alternatives to PVC <u>or chlorinated plastics</u> currently exist. For example, in cases where packaging must have adequate barrier properties to comply with food safety requirements. These must be <u>demonstrated as part of the packaging submission form.</u></p> <p><del>As a result, you are permitted to use PVC in the following applications:-</del></p> <p><u>Packaging applications where the use of PVC or chlorinated plastics can be used:</u></p>	<p>chlorinated plastics play a key role in maintaining product quality and acting as an oxygen barrier in some packaged products.</p> <p>In the case of coffee pod/capsules linings and lid films, licensees have faced significant challenges finding an alternative packaging format that can perform the required functions.</p> <p>Most coffee pod packaging applications are widely recycled as the core materials are either HDPE plastics or aluminium and there are widely available recycling services which is offered in many local authority recycling centres, coffee shops and retailers in a similar fashion to collections for soft plastic films.</p> <p>Expert advice has assured us that the chlorinated plastic lining of such packaging is such a small fraction of the overall product, it does not impede the recycling process, like larger volumes of PVC plastics can do.</p> <p>We will continue to keep this area of the standards under review.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• metal jar lids or caps (e.g. for jams, sauces and baby food),</li> <li>• tamper evident seals on jar lids or caps, and</li> <li>• <u>linings or seals of coffee capsules or pods.</u></li> </ul> <p>We will keep these exceptions under review <del>on an</del> <u>annual basis</u> as innovation for functional alternatives develops.</p>	
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#### 4. Updates to NI SA Abattoir & Slaughtering standards

Standard	Description of changes	Reason for update
18.8.2 - Meat stamp  (higher)	<p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>Once your operation is certified, you <del>will</del> <u>may</u> <u>request</u> to be issued with a meat stamp for stamping organic carcasses, sides, quarters and primals. <u>The use of a meat stamp is optional.</u></p> <p><u>If using a meat stamp you must:</u></p> <p>a) <del>name the people who are allowed to apply the stamp</del></p> <p><u>a) ensure anyone applying the stamp has been trained to understand how it can be used and maintain training records to demonstrate this.</u></p> <p>b) <u>only</u> apply the 'Soil Association Organic <u>symbol</u>' stamp to carcasses of animals which are Soil Association certified or those approved as produced to standards equivalent to Soil Association <u>Organic</u> standards. <u>See guidance for more details.</u></p> <p>c) <del>apply an</del> <u>the</u> 'Organic' stamp to carcasses which are certified as organic, but which are <b>not</b> Soil Association organic certified. <u>See guidance for more details.</u></p>	<p>In response to feedback from licensees, we consulted on whether or not to continue requiring the use of an SA organic meat stamp. Some abattoirs and processors told us that the SA and/or organic meat stamp was a final point of pride in their organic brand, and that it provided a quick visual confirmation that all other checks had already taken place.</p> <p>We are therefore offering the use of both SA symbol and Organic meat stamps as an optional higher standard. We have also amended the name from Soil Association Organic stamp to Soil Association Symbol stamp to try and further differentiate the two stamps.</p>

	<p>d) apply the meat stamp to all such primals as soon as possible after slaughter, and  <i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p> <p>e) only use colours in accordance with article 2(8) of directive 94/36/EC.  <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 27(1)(d)</i></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p>We have two types of meat stamp available a <del>Soil Association organic stamp, and an organic stamp.</del> <u>One featuring the 'Soil Association Organic symbol', or one with the wording 'Organic'.</u> <u>You may use the stamp as part of your operating procedures and/or for organic marketing purposes.</u> <u>You must make the stamp's purpose clear in the relevant procedural and training documents.</u></p> <p>The 'Organic' stamp <del>must</del> <u>can</u> be used when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you have performed a contract kill for an <del>organic producer</del> <u>organic farm</u> who is not <del>Soil Association certified</del> certified to Soil Association organic standards</li> </ul> <p>The 'Soil Association organic <u>symbol</u>' stamp <del>must</del> <u>can only</u> be used when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you have performed a contract kill for <del>an Soil Association certified organic producer</del> <u>livestock produced on a Soil Association organic certified farm</u></li> <li>• when you have purchased livestock from the producer and are selling the <del>meat carcass</del> (there are exceptions for pigs, see below for further guidance on this)</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>you have purchased pigs certified to other organic standards, the supplier has been approved by us as meeting SA Sourcing Requirements and is listed on your 'SA-Accepted Products' schedule.</u></li> <li>• <u>If you have any questions please contact the certification team.</u></li> </ul> <p><del>• when you have purchased livestock farmed to Soil Association or equivalent standards from the producer and are selling the meat on. (there are exception for pigs, see below for further guidance one this)</del></p> <p><del>If you have purchased pigs from a producer who is not certified to Soil Association standards, then you cannot use the Soil Association meat stamp on the carcasses until Soil Association Certification have been able to confirm that the animals in question have been raised to Soil Association or equivalent standards. Please contact the Certification Team for more information.</del></p> <p><del>The meat stamp can be applied as follows:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Beef sides - each hind quarter and fore quarter</del></li> <li><del>• Sheep carcasses - on both hind legs</del></li> <li><del>• Pork carcasses - on both hind legs</del></li> <li><del>• Where part carcasses are supplied - each cut.</del></li> </ul> <p><del>Meat stamps cannot need to be applied to poultry, but information to ensure traceability should be on the packaging or despatch documentation.</del></p> <p><del>Why?</del></p> <p><del>We require the use of Meat stamps can contribute towards they are a clear and easy method of identifying and tracing organic carcasses through</del></p>	
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	processing and storage. <u>They must be used in conjunction with all requirements outlined in standard 18.7 Record keeping.</u>	
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## 5. Updates to NI SA Feed Processing standards

Standard	Description of changes	Reason for update
8.16.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products  (higher)	<p>The guidance text is updated as follows:</p> <p><del>This can be done with an invoice for the products including a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</del></p> <p><u>You must ensure that the invoices for paper, card and wood-pulp products you purchase include a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</u></p>	This revision is to ensure the guidance is clear.
8.16.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics  (higher)	<p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p><del>You must not use Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or any other chlorinated plastics unless can only be used when alternative materials are not available or are functionally unsuitable, as listed in the guidance section of this standard. that deliver a technically (or legally) required function are not available. See guidance for more details.</del></p> <p><i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p> <p><del>* The changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025.</del></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p>	<p>The use of chlorinated plastics is not desirable – and does not fit with organic principles – from either a health or environmental standpoint. In large quantities they can have negative effects on recycling infrastructure and render recycled plastics materials unfit for further use. Nevertheless, chlorinated plastics play a key role in maintaining product quality and acting as an oxygen barrier in some packaged products.</p> <p>In the case of coffee pod/capsules linings and lid films, licensees have faced significant challenges finding an alternative packaging format that can perform the required functions.</p> <p>Most coffee pod packaging applications are widely recycled as the core materials are either HDPE</p>

	<p><u>You must</u> demonstrate that you have not used these materials, for example, with a packaging specification for all materials used kept on file.</p> <p>This <b>restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics</b> which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinyl chloride (PVC)</li> <li>• polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) (applied from September 2025)</li> <li>• vinyl chloride</li> </ul> <p><del>The restriction on PVdC applies from September 2025.</del> For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted</p> <p>There are some specific circumstances where we are aware that no functional alternatives to PVC <u>or chlorinated plastics</u> currently exist. For example, in cases where packaging must have adequate barrier properties to comply with food safety requirements. These must be <u>demonstrated as part of the packaging submission form.</u></p> <p><del>As a result, you are permitted to use PVC in the following applications:-</del></p> <p><u>Packaging applications where the use of PVC or chlorinated plastics can be used:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• metal jar lids or caps (e.g. for jams, sauces and baby food),</li> <li>• tamper evident seals on jar lids or caps, and</li> <li>• <u>linings or seals of coffee capsules or pods.</u></li> </ul> <p>We will keep these exceptions under review <del>on an</del> <u>annual</u> basis as innovation for functional alternatives develops.</p>	<p>plastics or aluminium and there are widely available recycling services which is offered in many local authority recycling centres, coffee shops and retailers in a similar fashion to collections for soft plastic films.</p> <p>Expert advice has assured us that the chlorinated plastic lining of such packaging is such a small fraction of the overall product, it does not impede the recycling process, like larger volumes of PVC plastics can do.</p> <p>We will continue to keep this area of the standards under review.</p>
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## 6. Updates to NI SA Seaweed standards

Standard	Description of changes	Reason for update
<b>15.5.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products</b>  (higher)	<p>The guidance text is updated as follows:</p> <p><del>This can be done with an invoice for the products including a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</del></p> <p><u>You must ensure that the invoices for paper, card and wood-pulp products you purchase include a valid chain of custody claim from FSC or PEFC.</u></p>	This revision is to ensure the guidance is clear.
<b>15.5.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics</b>  (higher)	<p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p><del>You must not use Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or any other chlorinated plastics unless can only be used when alternative materials are not available or are functionally unsuitable, as listed in the guidance section of this standard. that deliver a technically (or legally) required function are not available. See guidance for more details.</del></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p> <p><del>* The changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025.</del></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>You must</u> demonstrate that you have not used these materials, for example, with a packaging specification for all materials used kept on file.</p> <p><b>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinyl chloride (PVC)</li> </ul>	<p>The use of chlorinated plastics is not desirable – and does not fit with organic principles – from either a health or environmental standpoint. In large quantities they can have negative effects on recycling infrastructure and render recycled plastics materials unfit for further use. Nevertheless, chlorinated plastics play a key role in maintaining product quality and acting as an oxygen barrier in some packaged products.</p> <p>In the case of coffee pod/capsules linings and lid films, licensees have faced significant challenges finding an alternative packaging format that can perform the required functions.</p> <p>Most coffee pod packaging applications are widely recycled as the core materials are either HDPE plastics or aluminium and there are widely available recycling services which is offered in many local authority recycling centres, coffee shops and retailers in a similar fashion to collections for soft plastic films.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) (applied from September 2025)</li> <li>• vinyl chloride</li> </ul> <p><del>The restriction on PVdC applies from September 2025.</del> For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted</p> <p>There are some specific circumstances where we are aware that no functional alternatives to PVC <u>or chlorinated plastics</u> currently exist. For example, in cases where packaging must have adequate barrier properties to comply with food safety requirements. These must be <u>demonstrated as part of the packaging submission form.</u></p> <p><del>As a result, you are permitted to use PVC in the following applications:-</del></p> <p><u>Packaging applications where the use of PVC or chlorinated plastics can be used:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• metal jar lids or caps (e.g. for jams, sauces and baby food),</li> <li>• tamper evident seals on jar lids or caps, and</li> <li>• <u>linings or seals of coffee capsules or pods.</u></li> </ul> <p>We will keep these exceptions under review <del>on an</del> annual basis as innovation for functional alternatives develops.</p>	<p>Expert advice has assured us that the chlorinated plastic lining of such packaging is such a small fraction of the overall product, it does not impede the recycling process, like larger volumes of PVC plastics can do.</p> <p>We will continue to keep this area of the standards under review.</p>
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## 7. Standards that have no significant updates

There are no updates to the following standards:

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



- Health & Beauty
- Textiles
- SA Approved & Verified Inputs

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