

Soil Association organic standards livestock markets

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You can search and download these standards at
www.soilassociation.org/whatwedo/organicstandards



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1 The principles of organic production and processing

1.1 Introduction

1.2 The principles of organic production

1.3 The origins of organic farming and organic standards

1.4 Where we are today

1.5 Developing the standards

1.1 Introduction

Welcome to our standards for organic processing. It contains all that you have to do to produce and sell your products as organic using the Soil Association symbol.

We have written our standards in plain English to make them as simple and clear as possible. Each standard clearly indicates how you should treat it.

What you 'should' do

These give the ideal or best organic practice. They say how you should ideally be working.

What you 'must' do

These state the actual requirements, including what you must get our permission for and what you must **not** do.

What you 'may' do

These state what you can do. We say if you need to get our permission for these or if there are other conditions. We have divided these conditions into three categories to be clear about your responsibilities when using them:

- With justification – you must be able to justify the use of certain products/practices at your inspection with evidence, such as test results, records, forms, a plan etc. For example, you record why you needed to use the product/practice.
- With our approval – we must have approved your use of certain products/practices. This may cover more than one use or it may be in your annual plan that we have approved. For example, you produce an annual plan that details the product/practice which your certification officer has approved and you have a copy available for inspection.
- With our permission – you must get our permission before each use of certain products/practices. For example, you phone your certification officer for permission every time, they may ask for further documentation.

Generally, if we do not mention a product or practice, it means we do not allow it so you must not use it. Please ask us if you are in doubt.

Text format

- We have included additional notes to help with interpretation or provide background information.
- We have identified new standards introduced since the last edition with 'New' written alongside them.
- We have identified standards where we have changed the wording or corrected a mistake with 'Revised' written alongside them.
- We use green text for paragraphs containing principles and best organic practice. These set the context for the standards that follow. They are things that you should do, or work towards, but they are not requirements.

1.2 The principles of organic production

Organic is a 'whole system' approach to farming and food production. It recognises the close interrelationships between all parts of the production system from the soil to the consumer. We have established a comprehensive set of organic principles that guide our work and our standards.

Agricultural principles

- To produce food of high quality in sufficient quantity.
- To work within natural systems and cycles throughout all levels from the soil to plants and animals.
- To maintain the long term fertility and biological activity of soils.
- To treat livestock ethically, meeting their physiological and behavioural needs.
- To respect regional, environmental, climatic and geographic differences and (appropriate) practices that have evolved in response to them.

Environmental principles

- To foster biodiversity and protect sensitive habitats and landscape features.
- To maximise use of renewable resources and recycling.
- To minimise pollution and waste.

Food processing principles

- To minimise processing, consistent with the food in question.
- To maximise information for the consumer on processing methods and ingredients.

For more detailed food processing principles see chapter 40.

Social principles

- To provide a fair and adequate quality of life, work satisfaction and working environment.
- To develop ecologically responsible production, processing and distribution chains, emphasising local systems.

From these principles the practices that form the foundations of organic farming have been established:

- encouraging biological cycles involving micro-organisms, soil fauna, plants and animals
- sustainable crop rotations
- recycling of nutrients using composted manure and vegetable waste
- cultivation techniques that enhance and protect the soil and its life
- avoiding soluble mineral fertilizers
- avoiding agrochemical pesticides, and
- animal husbandry which meets their physiological, behavioural and health needs.

1.3 The origins of organic farming and organic standards

The origins of organic farming

Three different strands contributed to the founding of organic farming.

- Rudolf Steiner delivered a series of eight lectures to a group of farmers in Austria in 1924. These lectures defined biodynamic agriculture and the Demeter symbol was created in 1927 to identify foods grown by these methods.
- Lady Eve Balfour was inspired by the work of Sir Albert Howard (on composting and agricultural health) and Sir Robert McCarrison (on diet and human health), both working in India. She started the Haughley Experiment on her farm in Suffolk researching the links between the health of soil, plants and animals within different closed systems. Based on this work she wrote *The Living Soil* in 1943 - the book that stimulated the founding of the Soil Association in 1946.
- Also in the '40s, Hans and Maria Müller together with Hans-Peter Rusch developed a natural approach to farming and soil fertility in Switzerland particularly using rock dusts.

However, JI Rodale in the USA actually coined the term 'organic' in 1942 when he started publishing the magazine *Organic Gardening*.

Despite their differences these founding strands shared an underlying basis:

- The concept of the farm as a living organism, an integrated whole.
- The concept of a living soil as the basis of health right up the food chain.
- The whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

So although organic farming involves and develops simple traditional agricultural practices, it is very different and involves a great deal more. Organic farming is not necessarily a low input system, as it aims to maximise the farm's own inputs. As few inputs as possible from outside the farm are used.

The origins of organic standards

Apart from Demeter, there was no formal definition or recognition of organic farming until the 1960s. The Soil Association was the first, publishing its 'standards for organically grown food' as four pages of guidelines in its magazine *Mother Earth*. The standards ended with a 'declaration of intent' for those prepared to subscribe to them.

In 1973 the Soil Association took the next step and formed the Soil Association Organic Marketing Company Limited as a wholly owned subsidiary. Initially its role was to market products grown to the Soil Association standards. However, it soon dropped marketing to concentrate on certification.

Through the '70s and early '80s the inspection element was informal and cursory, but this gradually changed as the organic method of production became more prominent. Later, to reflect this change, the company changed its name to Soil Association Certification Limited (SA Certification).

IFOAM

In 1972 Lady Eve Balfour, JI Rodale and a number of others formed the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), recognising the international nature of organic farming. Their aim was to bring together the various movements and to share information across language, cultural and geographic boundaries. It produced its first 'basic' standards (for information and education, not certification) in 1980.

Governments

By the late '80s the organic market was sufficiently strong that governments started to take an interest, wishing to protect the consumer from possible fraud. In 1987 the Minister of Agriculture announced the formation of UKROFS (UK Register of Organic Food Standards).

Its brief was to draw up a minimum UK organic standard, to register the organic certifiers including their inspectors, and to certify those wishing to by-pass the private bodies.

The EU was also looking at organic farming. Based on the IFOAM standards, it published its 'organic' regulation (no. 2092/91) in 1991. However, it was not until 1999 that livestock standards were legally included in the regulation. In 2005, the European Commission started drafting a new regulation to replace 2092/91, following the European Organic Action Plan in 2004. The new regulation came into force on 1 January 2009 and is in several parts:

- the framework 'Council' regulation no. 834/2007.
- its implementing rules, Commission regulation no. 889/2008.
- other implementing rules for aquaculture, seaweed, yeast and imports.

This official definition and control of organic farming also allowed the authorities to give financial support to organic farmers. This stimulated the significant, sometimes dramatic, growth that the organic market still enjoys.

Several countries followed the EU's lead, including the USA, Japan, Australia and many smaller nations, particularly those exporting to the big trading blocks. Thus the proliferation of national organic laws mirrors the many private organic standards that have emerged.

Partly to address this the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which sets global standards for farming and food, produced guidelines for organic farming. It used the EU regulation as its starting point. The new EU regulation now references the Codex guidelines as a measure of equivalence for imports into the EU.

IFOAM was also active. It set up the IFOAM accreditation programme in 1992 to provide an international service that would allow 'one inspection, one certification, one accreditation'.

1.4 Where we are today

European Union

The EU organic regulation is the legal basis for the control of organic farming and food processing in Europe. It contains:

- standards for crop production (including wild harvesting and seaweed)
- standards for livestock husbandry (including beekeeping and aquaculture)
- standards for processing and labeling of both foods and livestock feeds
- requirements for importing products from outside the EU, including ensuring equivalence to production within the EU
- requirements for inspection and certification of farmers, processors, wholesalers, distributors and importers
- requirements for controlling inspection and certification by national authorities, and
- procedures for amending the regulation, including developing standards for other livestock species (which are under national responsibility until then).

The EU regulation does not cover:

- processing of non-food crops such as for textiles and personal care products
- certification of inputs, and
- non-commercial production (that which is not sold).

United Kingdom Revised 2013

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the UK authority. It is responsible for:

- applying and interpreting the EU regulation in the UK
- approving and regulating the private certification bodies
- holding a register of organic producers, processors and importers, and
- assisting the European Commission in approving imports from outside the EU.

Soil Association

Founded in 1946 our mission is to research, develop and promote sustainable relationships between the soil, plants, animals, people and the biosphere, in order to produce healthy food and other products while protecting and enhancing the environment.

There are two parts to our organisation:

- the Soil Association is a membership charity that owns these standards and reviews and updates them. As an applicant or a licensee you will automatically be a member. It is therefore your organisation and you can have your say in how to run it and what standards it sets
- Soil Association Certification Limited (SA Certification) is a wholly owned subsidiary company which inspects and certifies farmers and processors to the symbol scheme using Soil Association standards.

We are 'solutions' based and bring consumers, producers and all other parts of the organic movement together in one organisation. Our structure reflects the holistic principle at the heart of organic production.

Our main activities include:

- educational campaigns reaching out to consumers, farmers and the food industry, opinion

formers and policy makers.

- policy research into targeted areas of agriculture and the links with health, environment and animal welfare.
- promoting local food and community supported agriculture.
- representing organic farmers and serving their needs through conferences, courses and demonstration farms.
- setting standards for organic production and processing, and
- certification to these standards (through SA Certification).

1.5 Developing the standards

We maintain our own standards as they are the practical expression of our guiding philosophy. We feel this is important:

- to uphold integrity, maintain trust and so safeguard your market
- to continue standards development to reflect organic principles
- to be able to react to new understanding, technical innovation or progress in the market, and also to new threats, and
- for the organic movement to own the standards - they are too precious and too important to be left only in the hands of the authorities.

We aim to review different parts of the standards in rotation so that we can focus properly on only the chosen sections.

Our standards comply with all legal requirements, in particular EU Regulations 834/2007 and 889/2008. Some areas of our standards are higher than those required by law and we also have standards for types of production not covered by the EU Regulation. These include environmental management and conservation, textiles and health and beauty care products.

Setting our standards

Our standards department is responsible for managing the standards and their development. We follow a set process:

- anyone can propose an amendment to us
- we analyse and research the changes we think are needed and, along with the proposals we receive, make recommendations to the relevant Standards Committee (however we aim to undertake more in-depth reviews of a small number of areas so will not necessarily deal with all proposals immediately)
- the Standards Committee approves (or not) the proposed changes for consultation
- if approved, we make the proposed amendments available to licensees in Certification News, to Soil Association members through Living Earth, as well as on our website and by contacting relevant stakeholders directly
- we collate your responses and submit them to the Standards Board (or possibly back to the Standards Committee if they identify issues that need further work)
- the Standards Board may revise the proposals and approves them for final authorisation by the Soil Association Council
- the Council gives its final approval
- we publish the approved changes or new standards for you to start applying after a notice period of three months.

Three bodies assist us in this process:

- Council:
 - i. Council members are trustees of the charity, elected by all Soil Association members
 - ii. it is the final authority on our standards and appoints the standards board
- Standards Board:
 - i. this consists of an independent chair, the chairs of the eight standards committees, three organic sector representatives and three lay members
 - ii. it directs the work of the standards department and appoints the standards committees
- Standards committees:
 - i. these consist of a wide range of practical, professional and scientific experts, balanced by consumer representatives and non-governmental organisations

- ii. each committee is responsible for technical evaluation of standards in its specific area.

We set all this down in formal standards-setting procedures and terms of reference - please ask us if you want a copy.

All standards committee members offer their services voluntarily and as individuals, not as representatives of companies. We gratefully acknowledge the huge contribution they make to our standards work through the time and expertise they freely give.

2 The certification process

The certification process

2.1 Soil Association Certification Limited

2.2 The Soil Association symbol

2.3 Inspection

2.4 Certification

2.1 Soil Association Certification Limited

2.1.1

Since 1973 Soil Association Certification Limited (SA Certification) has certified farm enterprises, foods and other products as organic. SA Certification is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Soil Association charity. We are registered with Defra to certify organic food production and processing under the terms of EU Regulation No. 834/2007

2.1.2

Our certification scheme is accredited to EN45011 (ISO 65) by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Our certifier code is 'GB-ORG-05'.

How we work

2.1.3

We inspect and certify organic farms, food manufacturers and producers of non-food items such as health and beauty products and textiles. See 'Inspection and certification process' (standard 2.4.11) for the process we follow.

If we are satisfied that the farmer, food manufacturer, producer or operator has met our standards we issue:

- an annual certificate of registration
- a trading schedule, and
- a licence to use our symbol.

2.1.4

We license every stage, from production on the farm, through processing, to distribution to the consumer.

2.2 The Soil Association symbol

2.2.1

The Soil Association symbol is the most recognised organic trademark in the UK and has gained the trust, respect and confidence of consumers and producers across the globe. The Soil Association symbol demonstrates that an organic food or non-food product meets our standards (see 2.2.2 and 2.2.3).

2.2.2

Food production includes:

- horticultural and arable crops, livestock and aquaculture
- food processing and packing, distribution, retail and catering - all the operations between farm production and consumer purchase, and
- importing organic food from outside of the EU, either for direct sale or for further manufacturing.

2.2.3

Non-food production includes:

- other products containing organic ingredients, such as health and beauty care products and textiles
- products that are used as inputs to farming and gardening systems
- sustainable forestry and manufacture of timber products (covered by the Woodmark scheme), and
- education and courses in organic agriculture, horticulture and food processing.

Using the Soil Association symbol

2.2.5

The Soil Association organic symbol is a registered certification mark (®) of Soil Association Limited.

2.2.6

We have made some changes to our symbol to improve readability and recognition for consumers. The new symbol design is available for use from January 2009 but to reduce waste (for example, packaging) the final deadline for switching to the new symbol is 1 January 2012. Until then, it is acceptable to use either symbol.

Old symbol



New symbol



2.2.7

You may only use the symbol on your products if you hold a valid certificate of registration from us. You must only use it for organic products identified on your trading schedule.

2.2.8 Revised 2013 (applies from February 2014)

You may use the symbol on company stationery, promotional literature and websites if we certify a range of your products, providing it is not misleading to the consumer as to which products the symbol applies.

2.2.9

From July 2010, you must use our symbol on the final (consumer) packaging of the products we certify except where we agree there is a good reason for not doing so.

Note – examples of exceptions we might agree are:

- where the label is so small that it would jeopardise other information required by law
- for products which are exclusively exported
- where your labelling machine cannot print a symbol (and you cannot apply the symbol in another way)
- where you are acting as a sub-contractor to a brandholder who is licensed with a different organic certification body and the brandholder requires that you do not use it.

2.2.10

Where our symbol has not been used on a brand since July 2008 you may instead use the words 'Soil Association organic'.

Note - this only applies where our symbol has not been used at all across a brand. The font size of 'Soil Association organic' must be at least that of the EU phrases 'EU agriculture' and 'non-EU agriculture'.

2.2.11

Where the words 'Soil Association organic' are used instead of our symbol, you should communicate about the value of the Soil Association organic standards in your marketing and promotional materials.

What the symbol should look like

2.2.12

You must reproduce the symbol from original artwork. Please contact your certification officer for a copy of the symbol.

2.2.13

The symbol must appear:

- complete and upright
- in proportion to the product description
- at least 10mm in diameter (example 'A')
- in black or white (examples 'B' and 'C')
- clearly visible
- clear and legible over the whole of a background, for example if used over a photograph (example 'D'), and
- no less prominent than the EU logo.

You must ask us if you wish to use the symbol at a smaller size than 10mm in diameter (for example on very small packaging) or in a colour other than black and white.



2.2.14

The symbol should be:

- on the main face of the label or packaging
- in proportion to the product description, but it works best if it is at least 12mm in diameter, and
- placed on a clear background that extends 30% beyond the area of the symbol (for example 3mm around a symbol 10mm in diameter).

2.2.15

The symbol must **not** appear:

- against a background that affects the legibility of the symbol (example 'E')
- incomplete
- at an angle
- within an extra circle either of an outline or solid colour (example 'F')
- in more than one colour (example 'G'), or
- with a different font or typeface (example 'H').

Examples of how **not** to use the symbol are shown below.



2.2.16

In addition to standards 2.2.10 - 2.2.15 you must also comply with the labelling standards in sections 3.5 (for producers) and 40.10 (for processors).

2.2.17

A version of the 'Soil Association organic' symbol is available in Welsh.



The EU organic logo

2.2.18

You must display the EU organic logo on your labels of packaged organic products. You may continue to market products that were produced, packed and labelled before 1 July 2010 without the EU organic logo, new certifier code or new 'country of origin' requirements until these stocks run out.

Our certifier code

2.2.19

You may continue to place products on the market using existing packaging without the EU organic logo, new certifier code or new 'country of origin' requirements until 1 July 2012.

Thereafter your labels of packaged organic products that are placed on the market must also include the EU organic logo. Your certifier code must be placed in the same visual field as the logo. The place of farming should be placed immediately below the certifier code. The text should align with the left edge of the EU organic logo. For full guidance please refer to http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en and standards 3.5.8 and 3.5.9 (for producers), standards 40.10.9 to 40.10.14 (for processors).

2.2.20

The EU organic logo is published for use in green as shown below. The reference for single colour printing is Pantone 376, or if you print using four colour process, 50% cyan, 100% yellow. Where colour is not possible you may use black and white. It may also be possible to use other colours as described in standard 2.2.20. Please refer to http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/logo_en for full details on how to use the EU organic logo.



2.2.21 Revised 2013 (applies from October 2013)

The EU organic logo must:

- appear at least 9mm high and 13.5mm wide, or
- appear 6mm high for very small packages, and
- have a proportional height to width ratio of 1:1.5

2.2.22

The EU organic logo may appear:

- anywhere on your packaging, providing it is easily visible, clearly legible and indelible
- in negative, if the background of your packaging is dark
- in the single colour of your packaging if you are only able to print one colour
- with an outer line around it to improve how it stands out on coloured backgrounds
- in conjunction with other logos and text referring to organic, providing this does not overlap, obscure or change the logo.

2.2.23

Our certifier code is 'GB-ORG-05'; it must appear in the same visual field as the EU organic logo. This certifier code will replace the old certifier code 'GB organic certification 5'. You should use the new certifier code on any new packaging from 1 July 2010. You may use labels displaying our old certifier code until 1 July 2012. Please refer to sections 3.5 (for producers) and 40.10 (for processors), for when to use 'GB-ORG-05'.

The approved product symbol

2.2.24

You may use the approved product symbol (which replaces the certified product symbol from January 2009) on non-organic products such as salt and agricultural inputs certified under our approved products scheme. You may **not** use the Soil Association organic symbol on these products. Please ask us if you would like further information on this scheme.



2.3 Inspection

2.3.1

Our inspectors check your operation to make sure that it meets our standards. The inspector will give you an inspection report.

We will draw up an action summary form (either at inspection or we will send it to you afterwards). This lists areas that do not comply with the standards and asks how you will correct them.

We may impose sanctions depending on the severity of the weakness. We grade these as:

- minor non-compliance
- major non-compliance
- critical non-compliance, or
- manifest infringement.

We may also ask for extra information to complete the approval process.

2.3.2

You must complete the action summary form with the actions you will take to comply with the standards, and return it to us with any other information we request before the deadline we give you.

When we have received your completed form and agreed that the information you have given is satisfactory we will approve the action summary form.

We will then issue your licence if you are an applicant or continue it if you are a licensee.

We may suspend or even terminate your licence if you do not send the completed form, or the information we request, within the deadlines. If your licence is suspended you must **not** trade as organic.

Additional inspections

2.3.3

We may do extra inspections throughout the year if:

- you wish to add a new enterprise to your licence
- you move to new premises
- we receive a complaint regarding your business
- you are selected as part of our spot inspection programme
- we need to inspect again to make sure you have corrected non-compliances, or
- our risk assessment of your operations suggests the need for this.

These may be announced or unannounced. We may charge you for these inspections. UKAS or Defra inspectors may accompany our inspectors.

Defra may also inspect you as part of their surveillance of our inspection procedures.

2.3.4

If you are an international group licensee you must comply with section 8.3 of IFOAM 'Norms for Organic Production and Processing'. Please refer to www.ifoam.org.

2.4 Certification

2.4.1

You must have available the current Soil Association standards relevant to your organic enterprises.

2.4.2

You must comply with all relevant standards for each enterprise or product shown on your trading schedule.

2.4.3

If you suspect or know a product you have produced, or another operator has supplied to you, does not comply with these standards, you must stop trading it and tell us immediately.

2.4.4

You may sell, or process for other companies to sell, only those products listed on your valid trading schedule.

2.4.5

If you sell direct to the public you must display your certificate of registration in a prominent place at the point of sale for consumers to see. You must also have your most up-to-date trading schedule available if consumers wish to see it.

2.4.6

If you wish to use our symbol, the wording 'GB-ORG-05' or reference to SA Certification or Soil Association on your product, it must be licensed by us. For the application process see standard 2.4.11.

2.4.7

Once we license you we will send you a new certificate of registration every 12 months. This is subject to you paying us your annual certification fees and showing by your annual inspection that you are continuing to meet our standards.

2.4.8

If you are a producer we calculate your fee each year primarily based on the area of your organically managed land.

2.4.9

If you are licensed under our processor certification scheme we will ask you each year to provide your total organic sales, which we use to help calculate your fees.

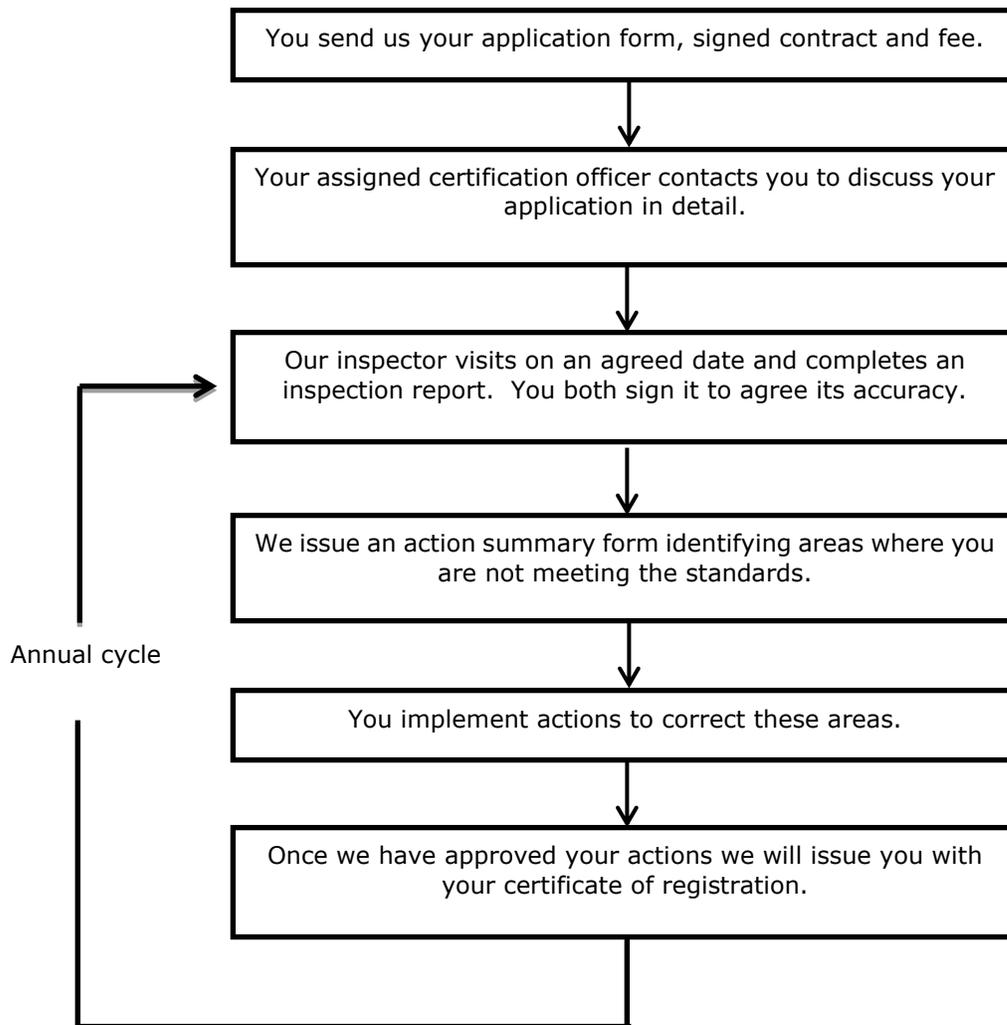
Complaints

2.4.10

We appreciate there may be occasions when you wish to make a formal complaint to us. This could be regarding service, standards, policy, another licensee or an unlicensed company. We have formal complaints and appeals procedures which are available on request. You can make a complaint in writing, by email or by telephone.

Inspection and certification process

2.4.11



16 Livestock Markets

Standards you must read with this chapter:

Chapter 1. The principles of organic production and processing

Chapter 2. The certification process

Livestock markets

16.1 Introduction

16.2 General requirements

16.3 Application

16.4 Inspection

16.5 Before the sale

16.6 The sale

16.7 Handling of livestock and animal welfare

16.8 Record keeping

16.9 Delivery, collection and transport

16.1 Introduction

16.1.1

These standards set out the requirements for livestock markets to handle organic livestock. It describes what you must do to ensure the same high standards of animal welfare and traceability that we expect on organic farms.

16.1.2

These standards cover seasonal catalogued sales of:

- organic store sheep and cattle
- organic breeding sheep and cattle, and
- collection centres for finished organic stock being moved out of a region.

16.2 General requirements

16.2.1

You should manage the livestock with special care for their welfare and health. You should also satisfy the animals' behavioural needs, and not merely avoid cruelty. The Farm Animal Welfare Council refers to this as 'positive animal welfare'.

16.2.2

You must nominate a member of staff at the market who:

- is responsible for making sure that these standards are complied with
- must be familiar with organic principles, and
- must be present when we inspect the market.

16.2.3

You must manage the sale of organic livestock so that you:

- can trace organic animals, using documentation, from arrival on the site to leaving, (this applies to sold and unsold animals)
- ensure organic animals do not come into contact with non-organic animals
- keep the market premises clean and hygienic, and
- minimise stress and maintain high standards of animal welfare through careful handling and well designed pens and lairage.

16.3 Application

16.3.1

When you apply to us for certification, you must provide a market management plan which must include:

- a diagram of the livestock market premises showing:
 - i. loading/unloading areas
 - ii. handling areas and facilities, and
 - iii. pens and lairage

- a management plan for the organic sale detailing:
 - i. how you will keep organic and non-organic animals separate, (especially if they use the same loading and unloading bays, corridors, pens, lairage and sale ring)
 - ii. how you will provide water to the animals in pens and lairage (see standards 16.6.9 and 16.6.10), and
 - iii. how you will minimise the number of times you move livestock around the market premises for the sale.

16.4 Inspection

16.4.1

We will inspect your market premises and operations at the first sale in which there are organic livestock and we will carry out inspections annually thereafter on sale days for as long as we license you.

16.4.2

At the first inspection of the livestock market our inspector will ask you to sign a report to acknowledge actions you need to take to comply with the standards.

16.4.3

In addition to announced annual inspections, we may inspect the market premises without prior warning at any time, for instance if we are concerned that you are not complying with the standards. We may charge you for these inspections, depending upon the outcome of the inspection.

16.5 Before the sale

16.5.1

You must check the organic status of stock being entered for sale before the sale day. You must ask vendors to send you, with their entry form:

- a livestock transfer document, and
- a trading schedule listing the category of organic stock entered for sale.

Note - we have livestock transfer documents that you can send to your customers with their entry form. Please ask us for copies.

16.5.2

A minimum of one week before the sale date you must send us the sale catalogue (or equivalent) which must list:

- the certification body (for example SA Certification) and the licence number of each vendor, and
- the organic status of the stock entered for sale.

16.6 The sale

16.6.1

During its life an organic animal should only attend any market once.

16.6.2

The farmer, or another competent person known to the stock, should herd their animals through the market and be present in the ring with the animals.

16.6.3

You should sell animals from their pens, however you may sell them through the sale ring.

16.6.4

The sale of organic animals should be the first sale of the day at the market.

16.6.5

With our permission, you may hold sales of organic animals after other sales on the same day.

16.6.6

For the sale you must:

- arrange the collection period or sale to minimise the time animals spend in the market
- ensure that the purchaser (or the owner if they remain unsold) removes their animals as soon as possible on the day of sale
- supply the purchaser with the livestock transfer document and a copy of the vendors' valid organic certificates before they leave the market premises, and
- ensure that organic animals are removed from the market within 12 hours of the end of the sale. We will remove the organic status of the animals if they stay at the market for any longer.

16.6.7

You must **not** sell the following animals through a certified livestock market:

- cattle over 6 months in-calf
- in-lamb ewes over 3 months in-lamb
- calves under 12 weeks old without dams
- lambs under 45 days old without ewes.

Sale pens

16.6.8

You must:

- provide enough space for all animals in a pen to lie down simultaneously
- have identified the stocking densities that allow for all animals to lie down simultaneously, and

- provide adequate straw (organic or non-organic) or sawdust as bedding in the sale pens.

16.6.9

You must offer the animals water on a regular basis whilst in the sale pens. You must:

- offer the animals water within one hour of arriving at the market premises
- offer the animals water at least once every four hours during the day, and
- increase the frequency of providing water during hot weather.

16.6.10

You must:

- clean and disinfect lairage facilities before use
- bed with fresh bedding for the organic stock
- keep organic and non-organic stock separate, and
- have water available to the livestock at all times.

16.7 Handling of livestock and animal welfare

16.7.1

The farmer, or owner of the livestock, is ultimately responsible for the welfare of their animals going through the sale until they leave the market premises.

16.7.2

The health and welfare of animals is fundamental to managing organic livestock. You must:

- avoid cruelty, and
- meet the needs of the animals by handling and transporting them with proper care and attention.

16.7.3

You must always look after the health and well-being of the animals going through the market premises so that they enjoy the 'five freedoms'– freedom from:

- i. malnutrition
- ii. physical discomfort and extremes of temperature
- iii. injury and disease
- iv. fear and distress
- v. unnecessary restrictions of behaviour.

16.7.4

You must handle all livestock with proper care and concern for their welfare and in accordance with all relevant legislation and Defra Codes of Recommendation for the Welfare of Livestock.

16.7.5

You must ensure incoming organic animals are healthy and show no signs of disease or infection.

16.7.6

You must provide properly designed handling facilities, including the points of loading and unloading, and maintain them in a good state of repair.

Note - where you need to use races and hurdles to move animals, they should be of a solid construction.

16.7.7

You may only carry a stick whilst handling animals as an extension of your arm and for self defence.

16.7.8

You must **not** hit animals with a stick or any other implement. We will withdraw your certification if you use sticks or other implements to hit livestock.

16.8 Record keeping

16.8.1

You must keep precise and up-to-date records so that you can demonstrate the integrity of the organic livestock that have gone through the market. You and we must be able to trace:

- the holding of origin, type and quantity of all organic livestock delivered to the market
- the type, quantities and purchasers of all organic livestock sold, and
- the type and quantity of livestock that left the market unsold.

16.8.2

Your records must show that you have complied with these standards. You must keep them for at least five years.

16.8.3

We may withhold your certification if we are concerned that your records cannot demonstrate that you have followed these standards.

16.8.4

You must keep a complaints register detailing all complaints you have received or issued, the responses given and any action you have taken.

16.9 Delivery, collection and transport

16.9.1

When you are sorting animals for unloading, loading and transportation, you must:

- use experienced staff
- make sure the staff handle the animals in a relaxed manner and in a way that minimises stress and avoids injury
- avoid the mixing of animals from different social groups, and
- make sure the animals are fit for transport.

16.9.2

You must **not** use unnecessary physical force on the animals, including electric goads.

16.9.3

You must **not** give the animals any allopathic tranquillisers prior to transport.

16.9.4

Although you may not be responsible for the vehicles used for transporting organic animals, you must check them and inform the owner or haulier if you find they are:

- inadequately ventilated
- inadequately bedded
- loaded so they are overcrowded
- loaded so that organic and non-organic livestock are mixed together, and
- likely to exceed eight hours transport time from start to finish (including loading and unloading).