

Soil Association Organic Standards for Northern Ireland

Summary of proposed changes

These proposed changes will apply only to the Soil Association organic standards for Northern Ireland. They are listed below with the changes to the existing standards and guidance displayed for reference.

We are consulting on a number of areas in the new EU Organic Regulation (EC) 2018/848 and Delegated and Implementing regulation (EU)2021/1165 that affect the Northern Ireland organic standards.

- For Farming and Growing standards:
 - We are proposing to include all additional permitted fertilisers and permitted plant protection products.
 - We are proposing higher standards for poultry and pigs.
- For Aquaculture standards, we are proposing a higher standard for treatments of salmonid species.
- For Food and Drink standards, we are proposing to include all additional permitted additives, permitted processing aids and permitted non-organic agricultural ingredients
- For Feed standards, we are proposing to include all additional permitted additives and permitted processing aids

If you have any additional views or feedback on the proposed changes, then please contact us at standards@soilassociation.org.

Key to text changes:

- ~~strikethrough~~= delete
- underlined in red = new wording
- normal text = no change

Please note that amendments to tables show only relevant updated rows.

Table of Contents

Soil Association Organic Food and Drink standards for Northern Ireland.....	2
Soil Association Organic Feed standards for Northern Ireland.....	6
Soil Association Organic Aquaculture standards for Northern Ireland (feed specific proposed change).....	8
Soil Association Organic Farming and Growing standards for Northern Ireland.....	9
Soil Association Organic Aquaculture standards for Northern Ireland.....	14

Soil Association Organic Food and Drink standards for Northern Ireland

Standards	Guidance
<p>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.</p> <p>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. <i>(EC) 2021/1165 Annex V Part A</i></p>	<p><i>Guidance not included in summary of proposed changes.</i></p>

E no.	Name	Organic foodstuffs to which it may be added	Requires non-GMO declaration form to be completed (unless used in organic form)	Specific conditions and limits
E460	Cellulose	Gelatine		

Standards	Guidance
<p>SA NI 6.5.1 Permitted processing aids You may only use the processing aids in the table below.</p>	<p><i>Guidance not included in summary of proposed changes.</i></p>

<p>Many have specific conditions against them. You may only use a processing aid in line with the specific condition for its use.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part IV (2.2.2)</i> <i>(EC) 2021/1165 Annex V Part A Section A2</i></p>		
Processing aid name	Only authorised for the processing of the following organic foodstuffs	Specific conditions and limits
Hop extract	Sugar <u>Products of plant origin</u>	<u>Only for antimicrobial purposes</u> <u>From organic production, if available</u>
Pine rosin extract	Sugar <u>Products of plant origin</u>	<u>Only for antimicrobial purposes</u> <u>From organic production, if available</u>
<u>Silicon dioxide gel or colloidal solution</u>	Products of plant origin	<u>Only for use as flow agent for cocoa in automated dispensing machines</u>

Standards	Guidance
<p>SA NI 6.6.1 Non-organic agricultural ingredients</p> <p>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 until 31st December 2023:</p> <p>Edible fruits, nuts and seeds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) <p>Edible spices and herbs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peruvian pepper (Schinus molle L.) 2. horseradish seeds (Armoracia rusticana) 3. lesser galanga (Alpina officinarum) 	<p>The following organic fats and oils are widely available and must be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>Please note that whey powder 'hersoula' refers to a particular type of whey protein. Whey powder is available as organic.</p> <p>All non-organic sugars and starches and oils require non-GMO declaration form to be completed.</p>

- ~~4. safflower flowers (Carthamus tinctorius)~~
- ~~5. watercress (Nasturtium officinale).~~

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

~~Sugars, starches and other products from cereals and tubers:~~

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

~~Miscellaneous products:~~

- ~~1. pea protein (Pisum species)~~
- ~~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. Bark of the Pau d'arco tree Handroanthus impetiginosus ('lapacho').
 - only for use in Kombucha and tea mixtures
4. Wild fishes and wild aquatic animals, unprocessed as well as products derived 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.
 - from natural raw materials of animal origin or from plant origin material.
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

Soil Association Organic Feed standards for Northern Ireland

Standards		
NI 9.1.13 Products and substances 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)		
Feed Material	Conditions of use	
Minerals		
Phosphorus	Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate Monosodium phosphate Calcium magnesium phosphate Calcium sodium phosphate <u>Monodicalcium Phosphate</u>	
Binders and anti-caking agents		
ID no. or Functional Group	Product or substance	Conditions of use
<u>E563</u>	<u>Sepiolitic Clay</u>	
<u>1g599</u>	<u>Illite-montmorillonite-kaolinite</u>	
Substances for reduction of the contamination of feed by mycotoxins		
ID no.	Product or substance	Condition of use
<u>1m558</u>	<u>Bentonite</u>	

Standards	Guidance
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
Feed Material	

Product or substance		
Minerals		
Phosphorus	Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate Monosodium phosphate Calcium magnesium phosphate Calcium sodium phosphate <u>Monocalcium Phosphate</u>	
Binders, anti-caking agents and coagulants		
ID number or Function Group	Substance	Description/conditions for use
<u>E563</u>	<u>Sepiolitic Clay</u>	
<u>1g599</u>	<u>Illite-montmorillonite-kaolinite</u>	
<u>Substances for reduction of the contamination of feed by mycotoxins</u>		
<u>1m558</u>	<u>Bentonite</u>	
Nutritional additives		
<u>3a920</u>	<u>Betaine anhydrous</u>	<u>Only for monogastric animals. From organic production; if not available, from natural origin.</u>

Soil Association Organic Aquaculture standards for Northern Ireland (feed specific proposed change)


Standards		
NI 13.8.1 Products and substances permitted for use in aquaculture feed You may use the following feed materials or products in animal nutrition and processing aids: <div style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III(3.1.3.1)(d)(e)</i> <i>(EC) 2021/1165 Annex III(A)(B)</i></div>		
Feed material		
Product or substance		
Minerals		
Phosphorus	Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate Monosodium phosphate Calcium magnesium phosphate Calcium sodium phosphate <u>Monocalcium Phosphate</u>	
Binders, anti-caking agents and coagulants		
ID number or Function Group	Substance	Description/conditions for use
<u>E563</u>	<u>Sepiolitic Clay</u>	
<u>1g599</u>	<u>Illite-montmorillonite-kaolinite</u>	
<u>Substances for reduction of the contamination of feed by mycotoxins</u>		
<u>1m558</u>	<u>Bentonite</u>	
Nutritional additives		
<u>3a920</u>	<u>Betaine anhydrous</u>	<u>Only for monogastric animals.</u> <u>From organic production; if not available,</u> <u>from natural origin.</u>

Soil Association Organic Farming and Growing standards for Northern Ireland

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

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)
Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use	Soil Association additional conditions
Basic Substance		
<u>Magnesium hydrogen metasilicate silicate material (Talc E553b)</u>	<u>Must be of food grade</u>	
<u>ABE-IT 56 (components of lysate of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> strain DDSF623)</u>	<u>Not from GMO origin</u> <u>Not produced by using growing media of GMO origin</u>	
<u>Aqueous extract from the germinated seeds of sweet lupinus albus</u>		

Other substances		
<u>Ferric pyrophosphate</u>		
Deltamethrin	Only in traps with specific attractants against <i>Bactrocera oleae</i> , <i>Ceratitis capitata</i> , and <u><i>Rhagoletis complete</i></u>	<u>Until 31 December 2026.</u>

SA NI 3.9 Housing standards for pigs and cattle	
Standards	Guidance
SA NI 3.9.1 Housing pigs indoors 1. If you need to house your pigs indoors you must keep your sows in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period. Her movement shall only be restricted for short periods. (EU) 2018/848 Annex II Part II (1.7.2)(1.9.3.2)(d)	 A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors. You may still keep your sows in groups during the last stages of pregnancy and the suckling period.
2. <u>Sow movement must not be restricted.</u> <u>Soil Association higher standard</u>	

SA NI 3.12 Standards for poultry	
Standards	Guidance
SA NI 3.12.3 Separation between flocks a) <u>You may subdivide your house into compartments provided that each flock has its own compartment and separate outdoor area.</u> b) <u>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.</u> (EU) 2020/464 Art. 15(3) (EU) 2020/464 Art. 16(2)	<u>See standards glossary for definition of a poultry house</u>

c) 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

SA NI 3.12.6 Housing requirements for all poultry species

The buildings for all poultry species must meet the following conditions:

- (EU) 2018/848 Annex II Part II(1.9.4.4)
- (EU) 2020/464 Annex I Part IV
- (EU) 2020/464 Art. 15(5)
- (EU) 2020/464 Art. 15(2)

When calculating the internal stocking rate you must exclude the area taken up by nest boxes.

If you move batches between housing systems, you must make every effort to ensure that both systems are similar to minimise stress on the birds.

For guidance on the appropriate number of birds that is equivalent to total maximum liveweight, please speak to your Certification Officer.

A sourcing requirement applies for SA processors.

	Indoor area (net area available to animals, excluding veranda)		
	Perch	Nest	No animals/m ²
Laying hens and dual purpose strains raised for meat and egg production	18 cm/bird	7 birds per individual nest box, or 120cm ² per bird in communal nests	6
Table chickens <u>and poulardes</u>	Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both providing minimum 5 cm perch/bird or minimum 25 cm ² raised sitting level/bird		In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m ²
			In mobile housing**: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m ²
Capons and poulardes	Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both providing minimum 5 cm perch/bird or minimum 25 cm ² raised sitting level/bird		In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m ²
			In mobile housing**: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m ²

	Indoor area (net area available to animals)	
Turkeys	Any combination of perches or raised sitting levels or both providing minimum 10 cm perch/bird or minimum 100 cm ² raised sitting level/bird	In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m²
		In mobile housing**: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m²
Ducks	40 cm/bird (only for Muscovy ducks) <i>Soil Association higher standard</i>	In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m²
		In mobile housing**: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m²
Geese		In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m²
		In mobile housing**: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m²
Guinea fowl	20 cm /bird <i>Soil Association higher standard</i>	In fixed housing: 10, with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m²
		In mobile housing**: 16, with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m²

**only in mobile housing not exceeding 150m² floor space that is moved regularly during the production cycle, and at least between each batch of poultry, to ensure the availability of vegetation to the birds.

Why?

Muscovy ducks, unlike other domestic ducks, have not descended from the wild mallard and have long claws which allow them to perch and they will roost in trees in the wild. Guinea fowl are also strongly motivated to perch. It is therefore important to provide these species with perches to give them the opportunity to exhibit their behavioural needs.

SA NI 3.12.15 Pop-hole size and quantity

1. Pop-holes to the outdoor range must have a combined length of at least 4m per 100m² of the minimum usable area of the poultry house.
2. 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)

3. 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

SA NI 3.13 Additional standards for pullet rearing and broiler roosters

Standards	Guidance
<p>SA NI 3.13.3 Outdoor stocking density</p> <p>The maximum outdoor stocking rate must not exceed 3,333 2,500 birds per hectare (4m 3m²/bird).</p> <p><i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p>	

SA NI 3.13.6 Number of birds permitted in each house

You must not have more than ~~3,060~~ **3,060** pullets in a flock.

Soil Association higher standard

Soil Association Organic Aquaculture standards for Northern Ireland

SA NI 13.10.3 Parasite treatments

1. ~~With the exclusion of compulsory control schemes operated by national authorities, you may use parasite treatments to a maximum of two courses per year. However, if the production cycle is less than 18 months you may use parasite treatments one course per year.~~
2. With the exclusion of compulsory control schemes operated by national authorities, you may use parasite treatments to a maximum of two courses per year. However, if the production cycle is less than 18 months you may only use parasite treatments once per year. For the production of Atlantic salmon with a production cycle of less than 18 months you may only treat with parasite treatments for one course per year. For all other species you may only use one course of treatment where the production cycle is less than 12 months.
3. A maximum of four parasite treatments is allowed in the production cycle for aquaculture animals.
4. You must give preference to the use of cleaner fish for biological control of ectoparasites or freshwater, marine water and sodium chloride solutions. The use of parasite treatments, other than through compulsory control schemes operated by Member States, shall be limited as follows:

Soil Association higher standard

(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.4.1)(3.1.4.2)(e)

You must obtain prior approval from your Certification Officer for all parasite treatments on each occasion.

Identification, treatment and prevention of parasites can be detailed in your aquaculture management plan.

Check with local agencies whether you need permission to use cleaner fish and outline how you ensure their welfare in your aquaculture management plan.

Annex I – fertilisers and nutrients

The following substances can only be used for fish in inland waters as described in standard 13.4.8

Sodium nitrate

Only for algae production on land in closed systems