



**Soil Association Standards for Approved Inputs
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Introduction

The Soil Association standards put the principles of organic production into practice. These standards outline the requirements for the manufacture and distribution of agricultural inputs permitted for use by businesses certified under the Soil Association Organic Standards for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Guide to using these standards

The standards are listed in the column on the left. Where necessary, guidance is provided in the column on the right, with a grey background to differentiate it from the standard.

Where requirements link directly to articles in the organic regulation the standard is referenced with the relevant article in the GB and/or EU Organic Regulation.

 This symbol shows where you need to keep a record to demonstrate that you are meeting the standard. The specific requirements for the records will be detailed in the standard or guidance.

 This symbol shows where additional relevant information is provided.

Guidance provides supplementary information to the standards which explains how compliance will be assessed. It tells you where and how to provide the information required, for example through record keeping or demonstration at your inspection. The guidance may also provide examples of actions and measures to help you demonstrate compliance, and links to best practice guides and information.

1.0 General Standards for Soil Association Approved Inputs

1.1 Scope

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.1.1 Scope of the standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">The standards in this document set out the rules that apply to the production of Soil Association Approved Inputs.Products can be certified as 'Soil Association Approved' if they meet the requirements of these standards and fall within the following categories:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fertility inputs including substrates intended for use in the production of plants, seaweed, microalgae and mushrooms.Livestock feeds and supplements that are not within the scope of the organic regulations.Silage additives.Microorganisms (compost activators and soil nutrient availability enhancers).You must comply with these standards if you are involved in production of Soil Association Approved Inputs.	<p>If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification, please contact us.</p> <p>Agricultural Inputs cannot be certified as organic within the scope of the organic regulations (EC) 834/2007 or EU 2018/848. This scheme exists to identify agricultural inputs as 'approved' that are permitted for use by farms and businesses certified under (EC) 834/2007 and EU 2018/848 and meet the requirements of the Soil Association Higher Standards.</p> <p>Livestock feeds and supplements that contain organic agricultural ingredients must be certified to organic feed mill standards.</p> <p>For standards regarding organic food and drink, seed and livestock feed processing please refer to the food and drink and feed processing standards on our website.</p> <p>Some agricultural inputs may not fall within the scope of the Approved Inputs Scheme but may be verified. For more information on verified inputs visit our website here.</p>

1.2 Becoming Soil Association certified

What is this chapter about?

This chapter explains which activities require certification and how you can certify your business to the Soil Association standards.

Standards	Guidance
1.2.1 Certifying your business	For more information on verified inputs visit our website here .

<p>To become certified to these standards you must have a certification contract with Soil Association Certification Ltd and comply with all standards for your certified activity.</p> <p>Unless agreed otherwise, holding Soil Association input verification is a prerequisite to apply to the approved inputs scheme.</p>	<p>Holding Soil Association input verification is a prerequisite for application to the Approved Inputs Scheme. Unless agreed otherwise at least one of your products must hold Soil Association input verification before you apply.</p>
<p>1.2.2 Activities that require certification</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your business must be certified if you are a manufacturer, packer or brand holder of Soil Association Approved products. 2. You do not need certification if you only sell, store or distribute pre-packed Soil Association Approved products. 	<p>You are a brand holder if you place a Soil Association Approved Product on the market under your own brand.</p> <p>If you are unsure whether the activity you are carrying out requires certification, please contact us.</p>
<p>1.2.3 Approved Inputs certificate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are not allowed to sell products with the Soil Association Approved Symbol or with reference to Soil Association approval without a valid certificate that shows that your activity complies with these standards. 2. Certificates are issued once Soil Association Certification has inspected your activity and they are satisfied that your activity meets these standards. The certificate will list all your certified activities and the products you are certified to produce, process and/or sell as Soil Association Approved. 3. The certificate may be in electronic format. 	<p>Soil Association Certification will issue licensees with the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual certificate with valid from and to dates, your name, address and licence number • A Trading Schedule with your certified products, activities and status <p>Annual renewal of your licence is linked to you continuing to meet the relevant standards and payment of the relevant renewal fee. Within a year of your original application date we will send you a renewal invoice.</p>
<p>Soil Association Certification</p> <p>Since 1973 Soil Association Certification Limited (Soil Association Certification) has certified farm enterprises, foods and other products as organic. Soil Association 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 the Organic Production and Control (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.</p>	

Information

If you are interested in certifying your business, contact Soil Association Certification via:

Our website: www.soilassociation.org/certification/get-in-touch/

Email: GoOrganic@soilassociation.org

Phone: 0117 914 2406

Post: Spear House, 51 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AD

1.3 Your obligations when certified

What is this chapter about?

This chapter explains your responsibilities and obligations when certified to these standards.

Standards

1.3.1 Description of your activities

1. Before starting your enterprise, you must describe how you will comply with these standards. If you make any changes to your activity, you must inform Soil Association Certification Ltd.
2. You must include a full description of your premises, units and activities including facilities used for reception, processing, packaging, labelling and storage of products before and after any processing operations.

Guidance

To help you meet this requirement we have created an application form that outlines the information we need from you.

You will need to have documentation that describes what you do. If you have a quality management system already, make sure these points are included within it.

If you make any significant changes to your activities, you must inform the Certification Team and make sure any relevant documentation is updated. Important changes are, for example, change of location of an activity, change of ownership, or change of contact person. Another important change is alteration of certified production which means that information previously submitted about the production is no longer correct – this includes changing the supplier of an ingredient.

You must let us know if and when you plan to expand into new areas. Depending **on what you're adding or expanding, we will need to update your certificates and you may need an additional inspection or licence.**

1.3.2 Contracted operations

If you contract out your activity, in part or whole, to a third party, the information in 1.3.1 must also include:

- a) a list of the subcontractors, including their activities and any organic or organic approved certifications they hold.
- b) a written agreement by the subcontractors that their operation will comply with the control measures required as part of Soil Association Approved Input certification, and
- c) details of all the practical measures taken to ensure and demonstrate full traceability of products.

If you plan to contract out part or all of your operation, please contact the Certification Team.

The use of an unlicensed subcontractor must be covered by a signed 'Agreement between an SA-certified operator and a subcontracted **operation**' form.

1.3.3 Declaration

You must sign a declaration stating that you:

- a. have accurately described your certified enterprise and activities as referred to in 1.3.1
- b. will perform your operations according to Soil Association Approved Inputs standards rules
- c. accept any enforcements in case of non-compliance
- d. inform the buyers of loss of status of your product
- e. accept exchange of information about your operation between different certification bodies or control authorities where dual certified
- f. will inform your certification body or control authority immediately of any breaches affecting the approved status of your product or organic products received from other operators or subcontractors
- g. in the case of withdrawing certification inform the certification body or control authority without delay
- h. accept that your certification body or control authority retains your certification history for a minimum of 5 years

This is covered in the contract you sign when you apply for certification with us and the declaration you sign after every inspection.

<p>i. must inform the certification body of any changes to your activities.</p>	
<p>1.3.4 Other statutory requirements You must make sure your business and operations comply with all statutory regulations in your country.</p>	<p>This includes but is not limited to requirements concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • product composition • marketing • premises • equipment • staff facilities • general hygiene • water • transport • labour and workers, and • wildlife conservation and protection.
<p>1.3.5 Employment You must not use forced or involuntary labour or child labour that interferes with their education.</p>	<p>Note that this standard is also a requirement of laws based on several EU Directives including 94/33/EC Protection of Young People at Work, and 2011/36 Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.</p> <p>Labour management tools, such as Sedex, can be a useful way of helping to ensure that you meet this standard and identify, mitigate and manage risks in your supply chain.</p>
<p>Why?</p> <p>Organic Approved inputs which have been produced in a way that compromises the basic rights of people is counter to the principles and expectations of the organic movement and organic consumers.</p>	

<h2>1.4 Inspections</h2>	
<p>What is this chapter about? This chapter explains the certification and inspection process and details your obligations as a licensee and the obligations of Soil Association Certification Ltd during the inspection process.</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>


<p>1.4.1 Inspection visits</p> <p>1. An inspection of your certified activities must be carried out once per year. You may be subject to additional announced or unannounced inspections based on an assessment of risk.</p>	<p>We may carry out additional inspections if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you wish to add a new enterprise to your licence • you move to new premises • we receive a complaint regarding your business • we need to inspect again to make sure you have corrected non-compliances • you are selected as part of our additional inspection programme and/or our risk assessment of your operations suggests the need for this. <p>We may charge you for these additional inspections if they are needed because of non-compliances.</p>
<p>1.4.2 What happens at the inspection</p> <p>1. At your inspection Soil Association Certification will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) verify that the description of your activities provided in your declaration is accurate b) verify whether your activities are compliant with these standards, and c) compile an inspection report with any possible deficiencies and non-compliances found. <p>2. You or an appointed representative must sign the inspection declaration stating that you agree with the outcomes of the inspection and to undertake necessary corrective actions.</p>	<p>As part of closing the meeting your Inspector will explain any non-compliances found during your inspection and will ask you to sign an Inspection Declaration.</p> <p>You must respond with details of the actions you will take to address non-compliances and supply any other information requested before the deadline given. When we have received your returned corrective actions and agreed the information you have given is satisfactory, we will approve your inspection report and issue/reissue your certificate.</p>
<p>1.4.3 Access to facilities</p> <p>You must give Soil Association Certification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) access to all parts of your unit and all premises, including any non-approved production units and any storage premises for input products which it 	

<p>deems necessary in order to certify your approved activities</p> <p>b) access to accounts and relevant supporting documents which it deems necessary in order to certify your approved activities</p> <p>c) any information reasonably necessary for the purposes of certifying your approved activities, and</p> <p>d) when requested, the results of your own quality assurance programmes.</p>	
<p>1.4.4 Sampling You must allow Soil Association Certification to take samples which will be analysed for the presence of prohibited substances and checking compliance to these standards.</p>	<p>We will take samples if there is a risk that these standards have not been met or to verify that sufficient measures are in place to prevent contamination of approved products.</p>

<h2>1.5 Non-compliance with the standards</h2>	
<p>What is this chapter about? This chapter deals with non-compliances. A non-compliance is when an activity does not comply with these standards.</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>1.5.1 Non-compliances</p> <p>1. Where you are found not to comply with these standards, Soil Association Certification will issue you with a non-compliance. The level of sanction will be proportionate to the severity and extent of the non-compliance and the risk it poses to the integrity of the approved product. Soil Association Certification will always apply the precautionary principle when making decisions on compliance to Soil Association Approved Input standards. Depending on the severity of the non-compliance Soil Association Certification may suspend or even withdraw your licence. If your licence is suspended or withdrawn</p>	<p>At the end of the visit, your Inspector will leave you with an <i>Inspection Declaration</i> and issue any non-compliances through the certification portal. This may also ask for further information required for approval of your license.</p> <p>The different grades of sanctions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minor non-compliance • major non-compliance • critical non-compliance, or • manifest infringement. <p>You are required to respond to any actions through the certification portal before the deadline given. When the Certification Team has received your corrective</p>

<p>you must not trade products as Soil Association Approved.</p>	<p>actions and agreed that the information you have given is satisfactory they will approve the inspection report.</p> <p>Please note, the validity of your certificate is linked to payment of the annual fee, not your inspection. You will only get new certification documents after approval of your inspection and corrective actions if it was your application inspection or some information stated on the documents has changed. The expiry date remains the same.</p> <p>We may suspend or terminate your licence in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if you are in breach of your contract with us • if you do not pay your fee within the deadlines • failure of licensee to return certified sales declaration (CSD) • we are unable to arrange an inspection • an inspector is refused access to premises • an inspector is refused permission to take a sample • if you do not send the completed <i>Inspection Declaration</i>, or the information we request, within the deadlines • severe or repeated non-compliance resulting in loss of integrity of an operation, product or batch • a fraudulent activity is reported by an authority.
<p>1.5.2 Reporting non-compliances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you consider or suspect that any of your products do not meet these standards, then you must inform us immediately and either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Withdraw any reference to Soil Association Approval in relation to the product. b) Separate or identify the product and only allow it to be further processed or sold as Approved once any doubt has been eliminated and this has been agreed with us. 2. If we have a substantiated suspicion that you intend to place a product on to the market as approved which does 	<p>You must inform the Certification Team if you have any suspicion that a product may not meet these standards and stop any further sale of the product as Soil Association Approved until any doubt over its approved status can be eliminated. Suspicion can originate from a number of sources including (but not exclusively):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A positive residue detection showing contamination with a substance not permitted in organic production*. • A complaint from a reliable source. • You have not been able to verify the organic/approved status of goods you have received (see section 1.6 for further information). • Knowing that an element of the production did not meet Soil Association Approved standards.

<p>not meet these standards, we will tell you to withhold the product for a set time period whilst we investigate. Before we make this decision we will give you opportunity to comment. You will need to cooperate fully with any investigation to resolve the suspicion.</p> <p>If the suspicion is confirmed, then you must remove any reference to Soil Association Approval from the product. If the suspicion is not confirmed within the set time period, then you no longer have to withhold the product from sale.</p>	<p>An investigation will be carried out to determine if the product has met these production rules. Once this has been determined you will be informed if the product can be put back on the market as Soil Association Approved or not.</p> <p>*Note: If you receive a positive detection, but from the information you have, you believe that the product still meets these standards requirements, then you do not have to inform us of the detection. You need to have justification as to why you believed it still met these standards and keep that information on file so that we can check it at inspection if necessary. If you are unsure what action to take, please contact the technical team at sacl.notifications@soilassociation.org.</p>
<p>1.5.3 Appeals and complaints 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.</p>	<p>If you have a complaint please send details in writing to cert.complaints@soilassociation.org or telephone Client Services on 0117 987 4564.</p> <p>If you wish to appeal a certification decision please send full details to the Certification Team at cert@soilassociation.org</p>

<h2>1.6 Record keeping</h2>	
<p>What is this chapter about? This chapter details all the records that you will need to keep and have available at your inspection.</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>1.6.1 General record keeping 1. You must have a record keeping system in place which allows you to prove the approved status of your products. Your records need to cover all production stages from everything produced or bought in through to all goods sold or dispatched and must allow you to demonstrate the balance between input and output. They must also allow retrospective traceability.</p>	<p> Your records need to be sufficient for us to be able to carry out successful mass balance (input and output) and traceability exercises at your inspection. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you have bought/received sufficient material for the quantity you have sold/dispached.</p> <p>You need to have a system to keep track of procedures and records to ensure they are correct, up-to-date and effective.</p>

2. You must keep stock and financial records at your unit or premises which make it possible to verify the following information for every product:
 - a) the suppliers, sellers or exporters
 - b) the nature and quantities of approved and/or organic products delivered, including where relevant:
 - i) the nature and quantities of all materials bought and the use of such materials
 - c) the nature and quantities of approved and/or organic products held in storage
 - d) the nature, quantities, and consignees or buyers (other than final consumers) of any products which have left your unit, premises or storage facility.
3. If you do not store or physically handle approved products, you will still need to keep records of:
 - a) the nature and quantities of approved products bought and sold
 - b) the suppliers, and where different, the sellers or the exporters
 - c) the buyers, and where different, the consignees.

Your records need to include:




- check of status of goods delivered (e.g. organic, approved, permitted for use in organic)
- quantities, batch codes and invoices and delivery notes of goods received
- quantities and batch codes of ingredients used in production/packing
- quantities produced in each production/packing run
- evidence that you processed approved and non-approved products separately
- evidence that you cleaned according to these standards before production
- batch codes of goods out
- what you have sold/dispached, how much and to whom
- the approved products sale value
- annual stock takes
- any pest control treatments used

You do not have to record sales value if you do not sell the product, for example, if you store product on behalf of another licensed company and do not sell that product to anyone.

Soil Association Approved Input Licensees may receive organic goods for further manufacture and distribution as Soil Association Approved Inputs. If you are importing product categories that are within the scope of the GB Organic Regulations you may require another license please speak to our certification team for more information on this.



You need to carry out at least annual stock takes and record these (however, if you are handling a large volume of goods it may be beneficial to you to do this more frequently). These are necessary for our Inspector to have a starting point to conduct a mass balance.

	<p>It is up to you to choose a traceability code system that works for you and your products. Some companies will use a batch code system, whereas others may be able to use the best before date on a product. Please see the record keeping standards below for more information about the importance of traceability.</p> <p> Make sure that your records meet any other legally required time scales that might be specific to your products.</p>
<p>1.6.2 Verifying certification documents for organic ingredients</p> <p>1. You must verify the certification documents of suppliers for any certified organic or Soil Association Approved ingredients and check that they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> identify your supplier, cover the type or range of products you are purchasing, and are valid at the time you are making the purchase. <p>2. You must make a record of these checks.</p>	<p>A certification document will be the certificate, or in the case of Soil Association Certification licensees this includes the certificate and trading schedule. The name and address on the certificate must match the name and address of your supplier (the company you are purchasing from).</p> <p> Records of verification checks</p> <p>For products ‘approved’ by another certification body inputs scheme the specification of that product or ingredient shall be checked to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Soil Association Approved Input Standards.</p>
<p>1.6.3 Complaints register</p> <p>You must keep a complaint register for your business. This must record:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> all complaints you make or receive any response to the complaint the action(s) taken. 	<p> Keeping a record of any complaints you receive encourages transparency. It allows businesses to monitor issues and encourages good practice by ensuring there is a documented system for dealing with complaints.</p>

<h2>1.7 General labelling</h2>	
<p>What’s this chapter about?</p> <p>This section contains the labelling standards which need to be met if you wish to label your product as Soil Association Approved.</p>	

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.7.1 Using the term Soil Association Approved If you wish to refer to Soil Association Approval in relation to an agricultural input anywhere on a label, in advertising materials or commercial documents, you must meet the requirements of these standards.</p>	<p>I Labelling refers to the way in which you identify your products and show their approved status. The labelling standards apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retail packaging • bulk packaging • marketing materials, and • web content.
<p>1.7.2 Using the Soil Association Approved symbol on products</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You can only use the Soil Association symbol on approved products that meet the requirements of these standards. 2. You must reproduce the symbol from original artwork and it must appear: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) complete and upright b) in proportion to the product description c) at least 10mm in diameter. d) in black or white. e) clearly visible f) clear and legible over the whole of a background, for example if used over a photograph. <p>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, you must seek permission first.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The symbol must not appear: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) against a background that affects the legibility of the symbol b) incomplete c) at an angle d) within an extra circle either of an outline or solid colour 	<p>For more information on how to become certified to the Soil Association standards and the use of our symbol, please refer to section 1.3.</p> <p>Retailers who are exempt from being certified may sell Soil Association certified products which include the SA symbol on their labelling and make use of the Soil Association symbol in the marketing of those products provided it is clear and unambiguous as to which products the symbol applies.</p> <p>You can download the symbol pack directly from our website.</p> <p>If you are using a Soil Association certified sub-contractor to label your product they may apply the Soil Association symbol to your packaging.</p>

<p>e) in more than one colour f) with a different font or typeface</p>	
<p>1.7.3 Using the Soil Association approved symbol off-product 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 buyers as to which products the symbol applies.</p>	<p>You can download the symbol pack directly from our website.</p> <p>If you sell both Approved and non-approved, any use of the SA symbol must be clear and unambiguous as to which products it applies. Use of the symbol on email footers, invoices, websites should be accompanied by an explanatory wording e.g. "We have a range of products which meet the Soil Association standards, see our product listings for more details", and within the product listing a clear identification of products. For contract manufacturers/packers wording describing the certified service offered should be included e.g. "We offer packing of products certified to Soil Association standards".</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Why?</p> <p>The Soil Association approved symbol should only be used in relation to products or enterprises certified to these standards to avoid misleading consumers.</p>	

<h2>1.8 Making claims on your labels</h2>	
<p>What is this chapter about? The standards in this section outline the requirements relating to certain labelling claims. As well as meeting the requirements of these standards, you will need to make sure your products meet all statutory labelling legislation.</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>1.8.1 Using accurate descriptions Any reference to Soil Association on product labelling, product literature or websites must meet these standards and be approved prior to use.</p> <p>If you print artwork without our written approval and it does not comply with these standards, we may ask you to reprint it.</p>	<p>Note – our inspector may check uncertified ranges at inspection.</p> <p>You will need to be able to substantiate any claims that you make on your labels.</p> <p>You will need to seek guidance from Trading Standards on any other claims you make on your product labels.</p>

1. Your labels must:
 - a. clearly and accurately describe the product.
 - b. comply with all relevant legislation.

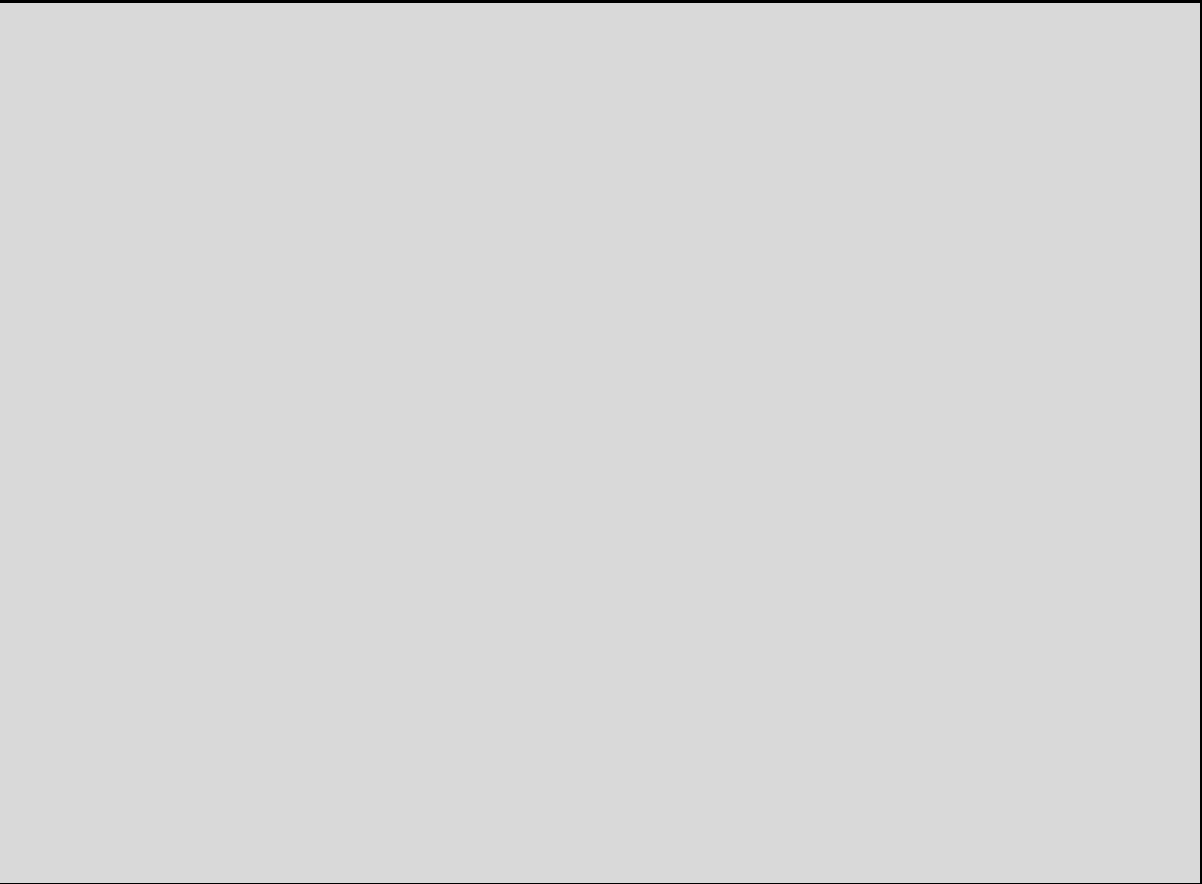
2. **You may use the word 'organic'** in your product label or marketing literature to refer to its intended use, provided that it does not imply that the product itself is organic.

3. **If including any reference to 'organic' in your generic branding,** it must be clearly distinct from any actual product names so as not to mislead consumers that the products themselves are organic.

4. The font type and size must be sufficiently different so that **any product range description using the 'organic' wording is** clearly distinct from the product description itself.

5. If a product is restricted to a particular use in our standards, it must be clearly labelled as such.

6. If you produce certified and uncertified products, you must ensure that your packaging and branding are sufficiently distinguished (for example by colour, design or wording) to prevent confusion.



1.9 Preserving integrity

What is the chapter about?

The standards in this section cover which substances are prohibited and what you need to do to prevent contamination.

Standards

Guidance

1.9.1 Reducing the risk of contamination

You must identify any risk of contamination to your approved products by any unauthorised or prohibited substances and ensure measures are in place to reduce the risk of contamination. When new risks are identified, you must review the measures you have in place and ensure they remain appropriate. The risks identified and the measures in place must be documented.

Examples of risks include:

Environmental

- Contamination from nearby non-approved processing or storage areas.

Management

- Insufficient separation, clean down or procedures when carrying out non-approved production including equipment, processing, storage, packaging and transport.
- Cleaning materials insufficiently rinsed off product contact surfaces.
- Ineffective identification of approved and non-approved products at all times.
- Insufficient staff training and ongoing management to ensure procedures are being followed correctly.
- Insufficient pest management.

Risk products

- Chemical or GM contamination from non-approved inputs.
- Using risk ingredients – they may be a risk depending on what they are or where they come from. For example, some ingredients like maize and soya from countries like USA, Brazil, Argentina and Canada have a higher risk of being contaminated by GMOs.
- **Herbicides such as Aminopyralid's can cause** residual contamination in composts and manures which in turn can damage crops and contaminate land and soil. It is your responsibility to assess and mitigate these risks of contamination.

Boiler chemicals - If you use boiler chemicals to treat water in boilers be aware that some chemicals are volatile and carry over in the steam and could contaminate approved product. For example, amines are designed to be carried into pipes with the steam to reduce corrosion. These should not be used where steam will be in direct contact with approved product or on product contact surfaces. Some boiler additives do not carry over with the steam, these include: mineral acids (usually phosphoric), polyphosphates, sodium hexametaphosphate, sodium bisulphate, sodium polyacrylate, sodium

	<p>hydroxide, sulphite oxygen scavengers.</p> <p>You must document how you manage approved product integrity.</p> <p>Where residue testing is carried out we recommend it is carried out by a laboratory accredited to the ISO 17025 standard. If possible, the actual test method should also be accredited to ISO 17025 or equivalent.</p> <p>Staff training is an important way to ensure that risk of contamination is minimised. Ensure that all new staff are adequately trained and that all staff are trained as and when changes are made to the Soil Association standards and your own operational procedures.</p>
<p>1.9.2 Genetic modification</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Products labelled as consisting of or made from GMOs must never be described as Soil Association Approved. 2. You must not use GMOs or products made from or by GMOs or their derivatives. You must be able to demonstrate that any ingredients used in the production of Soil Association Approved products do not contain any GMOs or their derivatives. 3. For products that are not food or feed, or products that could be produced by GMOs you will need to get confirmation from your suppliers, in the form of a non-GM declaration, that the products supplied have not been produced from or by GMOs. 	<p>In the UK and EU, if a product contains GMOs or their derivatives then it must be labelled as such, so the regulation allows labels to be relied upon as evidence to indicate whether food contains GMOs or their derivatives. This would apply to products such as agricultural crops, like maize and soya, or their derivatives like lecithin or starch. However, Directive 2001/18/EC, Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 and Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 do not extend to the use of ingredients produced by genetically modified micro-organisms. For example, enzymes and vitamins. This means that it cannot be automatically assumed that a product complies with the specific GMO requirements. For this reason, we require a completed GMO declaration for all products that may be a GM risk.</p> <p>Our GMO declaration form explains which additives, processing aids and ingredients are GMO risks. The Certification Team can also confirm any other ingredients which are a GMO risk.</p> <p>Please note: The GMO declaration expires 12 months from the date signed. Supporting information must be dated within 12 months of sending to SA Certification. If older than 12 months, you must check with the supplier that the statement is still valid and provide evidence of this to SA Certification.</p>

Why?

GM ingredients have no place in organic farming systems. In order to provide additional assurance that Soil Association certified products and ingredients do not contain GM, we require suppliers of risk products and ingredients to provide additional verification to prove their non-GM status.

Standards

1.9.3 Nanoparticles

1. Soil Association Approved products must **not** contain or consist of engineered nanoparticles.
2. This standard does not apply to incidental nanoparticles.

Guidance

Incidental nanoparticles not prohibited by this standard include:

- Substances that are incidental by-products of other manufacturing processes (such as milling or homogenisation).
- Naturally occurring nanoparticles, for example, from volcanic eruptions, in wood smoke or sea spray.

The definition of manufactured nanoparticles reflects the definition of nanomaterials in the Food Information for Consumers regulation 1169/2011.

Examples of products that we know may contain manufactured nanoparticles and that are commercially available include titanium dioxide and zinc oxide used in health and beauty products. The manufactured nanoparticle versions of these products are transparent.

Why?

Nanomaterials may introduce new or heightened risks of toxicity, which are currently little understood. The possible effects of these nanomaterials on the environment, human and animal health are currently unknown.

Nanotechnology involves the manipulation of materials and the creation of structures and systems at the scale of atoms and molecules. This can be either through simple physical processes or by specific engineering.

Nanomaterials include:

- nanoparticles and nanoemulsions
- nanostructures including nanocapsules, nanotubes, fullerenes (buckyballs), quantum dots and nanowires.

The properties of nanomaterials can differ significantly from those at larger scales because quantum effects start to occur at the nanoscale. These differences may be in chemical reactivity and biological activity, solubility and mobility, colour and transparency, among others.

These are examples of known and developing uses of nanotechnology:


- food additives, such as for flavouring, enhanced absorption of nutrients or modifying texture

- in health and beauty products, such as in transparent mineral sunscreens and make-up products
- in packaging, including quantum dots for traceability, UV light filters, nanoclays as gas barriers and carbon nanotubes to alter strength-to-weight ratio
- medicinal, such as drug delivery, DNA vaccines and advanced therapies
- environmental, such as soil remediation
- pesticides, such as pesticide delivery in nanoemulsions, and
- textiles, such as stain and water resistant coatings

1.10 Cleaning

What is this chapter about?

The standards in this section which cleaning products and measures are permitted for different activities in order to minimise the use of chemical substances and risk of contamination.

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.10.1 Cleaning measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must have suitable cleaning measures in place to prevent contamination and maintain the integrity of your products throughout production, processing and storage. 2. You must monitor your cleaning measures to make sure they are effective and keep records to show that you have done this. 3. If you process or store both non-approved and approved at the same site, you must ensure approved processing or storage is only carried out once suitable cleaning of the equipment and/or storage area(s) has been carried out. 	<p>Your cleaning procedures must detail how you clean handling equipment, storage areas and equipment used for approved production. Explain how you limit the risk of contamination of approved product from microbial contaminants, from cleaning chemicals, non-permitted substances and from non-approved products and ingredients.</p> <p> You will need to ensure your staff, or contractors using their own equipment, are trained to carry out effective cleaning to prevent contamination of your approved products.</p> <p>Your cleaning procedures need to be clear and need to set out what will be cleaned, how, with what frequency (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly or annually), who is responsible, what chemicals and equipment needs to be used and details of the final rinse of approved product contact surfaces with potable water (where appropriate).</p> <p>Records of cleaning measures</p>

Cleaning chemicals

Sanitizers containing quaternary ammonium compounds or QACs/QUATs, such as Benzalkonium Chloride (BAC) or Didecyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride (DDAC) are difficult to remove from surfaces, and if not adequately rinsed will result in residues in the approved product. Brand names include Deosan, Detsan, Foamsan, Quatsan.

Non-dedicated equipment

Where non-dedicated equipment or storage is used you must be able to demonstrate that the cleaning carried out before it is used for approved products is effective. This may require sampling or swabbing for analysis to demonstrate that the procedures you have in place are effective.

If you process or store non-approved you will need to have a system for checking that cleaning has been undertaken and that it is effective to remove residues of non-approved material and/or previous production. This could involve visual inspection, micro-biological testing, testing to ensure sanitisers have been removed from organic food contact surfaces, ATP testing.

Bleed runs and purges

If you process approved product on equipment that you cannot fully clean by taking apart or CIP, you need to use a bleed run or purge to remove residues of non-approved product. Detail in your procedures how you validate that any purge is sufficient to remove residues that may contaminate approved products.


When you carry out a bleed run or purge of equipment, you need to calculate how much approved product needs to go through the system to remove all residue of non-approved product. This amount needs to be stipulated in your cleaning procedure and you need to record when you do bleed runs along with the quantities of purge material you have used. This figure will be used when carrying out your mass balance calculation (see record keeping standards – 1.6).

Monitoring your cleaning measures

	You will need to have a system for checking that cleaning has been undertaken and that it is effective to remove residues of non-approved material and/or previous production. This could involve visual inspection, micro-biological testing, testing to ensure sanitisers have been removed from approved input contact surfaces, ATP testing.
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1.11 Pest control

What is this chapter about?
 The standards in this section detail how pests are controlled in and around facilities where you carry out approved activities. Pest control in approved production and storage areas should prevent birds, rodents, insects or other pests contaminating approved inputs or spreading disease. Pest control should aim, in the first instance, to prevent infestation rather than depend on treatments.

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.11.1 Preventing contamination by pests and pest control products</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> You must design and operate your buildings and controls to reduce the risk of contamination by pests. You must ensure when implementing preventative measures in approved areas that you take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of contamination of approved products. 	<p>Your procedures must include the measures you have in place to reduce the risk of contamination by pests. This should include measures to prevent and control wild birds, rodents and insects from getting into your buildings such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flyscreens pheromones in traps and dispensers, for monitoring pest levels or as attractants and sexual behaviour disrupters effective covers of waste bins sealing gaps and entry points.
<p>1.11.2 Treating infestations in approved products or areas used for approved products</p> <p>If you find an infestation in approved products, on sacks or containers, in areas used for handling/storing approved products or in areas not used for approved products, you must only use pest control methods which do not contaminate the approved product.</p>	<p> If you use pest control methods, you will need to keep records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what pests you have found what chemicals, methods and equipment you used on them who did the treatment, when and which area or equipment was treated, and what precautions you took to prevent contamination of organic products. <p>For example, if you need to use pyrethrum as a spray or fog to control insects you must:</p>

- remove all approved products from the area to be treated
- not put approved products back into the treated area for at least 24 hours after the treatment
- you will clean all product contact surfaces in the area, (using methods allowed in Soil Association approved inputs standards), after the treatment and before you process or store approved product there again
- provide evidence that these measures were undertaken.

Please note that some products have a long residual activity and must only be used in such a manner that the residues will not contaminate the approved product. For example, if you plan to use products that migrate easily, or have longer residual activity such as synthetic pyrethroids, organo-phosphorous, carbamate or organo-chlorine compounds then you must describe the additional safeguards you will put in place to prevent migration or contamination. Your pest control contractor can advise you on this.

Rodenticides must only be used in tamper-proof bait stations and in places where there is no risk of contaminating products.


If you use pest control treatments in areas not used for approved production or storage, you must still assess the risk of contamination and take appropriate preventative measures.

You should make your pest control contractor aware that your unit is handling Soil Association Approved products and that you must comply with pest control procedures in section 1.11 of these standards.

Control methods on approved products

Control methods which are appropriate for use on approved products include:

- carbon dioxide or nitrogen
- freezing and heating
- vacuum treatment

	<p>Control methods in approved areas</p> <p>Control methods which are appropriate for use in approved areas include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • desiccant dusts such as diatomaceous earth and amorphous silica, preferably from naturally occurring sources • electric flying insect control units, with shatterproof tubes that are positioned and cleaned correctly • tamper resistant bait stations that contain legally approved pesticides • sticky boards for insects • humane electronic rodent repellents such as floor mats
<p>1.11.3 Using rodent glue boards</p> <p>1. You may only use glue boards for rodents as a last resort and you must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide evidence to show that other methods of trapping have failed or are not appropriate, before you use the glue boards; b) use them according to industry best practice; c) check rodent glue boards at least once every 12 hours including at weekends and Bank Holidays, as required by the <i>Pest Management Alliance</i> code of practice, and d) keep a record of each check. 	<p>Glue boards should only be used as a last resort and you will need permission from the Certification Team before using them. You will need to let us know what measures you have already tried, such as bait stations and proofing the unit.</p> <p> Records of checks</p> <p>Glue boards should not be viewed as a permanent solution to a pest problem. The Certification Team is able to give you permission to use glue boards but only for short periods of time to allow you to deal with a pest issue. Your pest controller will be able to make recommendations for how many trappings will be required.</p> <p>This standard applies to the whole licensed unit. However, we recognise that in some cases you may not have ownership or control over the whole site – e.g. if you are renting a room in a storage facility. In these cases you must make all efforts possible to create a dialogue with the building manager and/or the pest control company responsible for the site to ensure that you are consulted prior to use of glue boards, or other pest control measures which could affect your organic status, such as fogging.</p> <p>See the Code of Practice on the Humane Use of Rodent Glue Boards for more information.</p>


	The use of rodent glue boards is prohibited in Wales by The Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 . In England the Glue Trap (Offences) Act 2022 will prohibit the use, unless the glue trap is set by a pest controller granted a license by the Secretary of State as outlined in the legislation, and will likely take effect mid-2024.
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Why?

In order to protect public health within high-risk environments, the use of rodent glue boards remains an important last option when all other control methods have been considered and deemed ineffective. However, their use does raise serious animal welfare concerns. This standard ensures that glue boards are only used as a last resort and only by persons who have been given adequate training and are competent in the effective and humane use of this technique.



1.12 Transport, dispatch and receipt of goods

What is this chapter about?
This section details all the standards that need to be met for the transport, dispatch and receipt of approved products.

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.12.1 Collection of products and transport to preparation units If you are collecting certified approved or organic and non-approved products at the same time, you must have measures in place to prevent any possible mixing or exchanges and you must be able to clearly identify the certified products. Your collection records need to indicate the collection days, hours, collection circuit and the time and date when products were received.</p>	<p>Collection records</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>1.12.2 Labelling & transporting products 1. If you send an approved product to another company, including retailers, wholesalers and other licensees for further processing, packing or re-labelling then you must: a) ensure it is transported in a way that would prevent substitution.</p>	<p>For additional requirements for labelling of retail packed products, please refer to section 1.7.</p> <p>If your product is not prepacked for retail, or it goes on for further processing, you can put ingredient information either on the label, or on a document with the product provided it can be clearly linked with the product.</p>

<p>b) label it clearly, either on the product or on accompanying documentation undeniably linked to it so that the recipient can easily identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the product and its approved status (ii) the name and address of the operator, and, if different, the seller or owner of the product <p>2. You must include the words 'Soil Association Approved' or the Soil Association symbol on the packaging of products certified according to Soil Association Approved Inputs Standards.</p>	<p> Records of transportation of loose approved products.</p> <p>However you choose to transport your products, you will need to make sure you have minimised the risk of contamination or substitution with non-approved products by using clear labelling and separation.</p>
<p>1.12.3 Receiving approved products and organic ingredients</p> <p>When you receive an approved product or organic ingredients you must check, upon delivery, that the product is labelled according to standard 5.14.2 above and packed appropriately so that it cannot be mistaken or mixed up with other products. You must crosscheck that the label on the product matches the information on the accompanying documents and provide an account of how you check goods upon receipt.</p>	<p>When receiving goods from other units or operators you need to have a system in place for checking the approved or organic status of the products and have records to show these checks are always made.</p> <p> Please see the record keeping standards (1.6) for details of the information you will need to record.</p> <p>If you cannot be sure about the approved or organic status of a delivery, for example if information is missing or incorrect, you will need to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get written confirmation from the supplier • send it back • sell it as non-approved • use it in non-approved products.

<h2>1.13 Storage of products</h2>	
<p>What is this chapter about? This section details the standards for storing and handling approved products.</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>

<p>1.13.1 General separation You must manage your approved product storage areas and containers in such a way to avoid any mixing with or contamination from products or substances that we do not allow in these standards. Your approved storage areas, containers and products must be clearly identifiable at all times.</p>	<p>Demonstrate that your approved products are clearly identified and separated from areas used for other purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly identify the room, area, or racking to show that it is for storing approved products • identify all approved materials clearly to avoid accidental contamination • have sufficient space or barriers around the approved storage area to stop accidental contamination • dedicate and identify bins and containers as Soil Association approved • prevent contamination by birds, insects and vermin • clean the stores regularly so that there are no residues which could contaminate approved products or encourage pests. <p>Also refer to the 'preserving integrity' section, for details of contamination, and products and substances we do not allow.</p> <p> Describe in your procedures how you avoid any mixing or contamination from products or substances not permitted in these standards.</p>
<p>1.13.2 Handling and separating approved and non-approved products 1. When you use the same equipment and premises to store and handle both approved and non-approved products you must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) minimise the risk of mixing approved products with other products and foodstuffs by clearly identifying and separating them during the production process, and b) effectively clean equipment and storage areas used to handle or store non-approved products before handling or storing approved products. 	<p>Also refer to the 'preserving integrity' (section 1.9) for details of contamination and products and substances we do not allow.</p>
<p>1.14 Packaging – Recommended Best Practice</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>1.14.1 Scope These standards in section 1.14 are <u>recommendations</u> that</p>	<p> Packaging legislation</p>

<p>apply to packaging of products that you introduce into the supply chain.</p> <p>We define packaging as all primary (retail), secondary (grouping, display) and tertiary (transport) materials used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • containing • protecting • preserving • handling • storage • delivery • labelling • marketing, and • presentation of your products. <p>Note - we include bulk bins but not transport pallets in this definition.</p>	<p>You must make sure your packaging meets all relevant legislation relating to packaging and packaging waste.</p> <p>To ensure that your packaging products are as widely recycled as possible we recommend using the OPRL guidelines on labelling to communicate whether products are recyclable at kerbside across the UK.</p>
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Why?

The production, use and disposal of packaging can have a big impact on the environment and human health. We believe that approved products should be packaged in ways that reduce the negative impacts of packaging. This fits with the principles of protecting the environment and biodiversity that underpin organic food and farming and meets consumer expectations of Soil Association Approved products.

1.14.2 Chlorine bleached paper or cardboard – Recommendation

If you use corrugate, bleached paper or cardboard, it should be totally chlorine free (TCF) or elemental chlorine free (ECF). Recycled paper must be process chlorine free (PCF).

Why?

The use of chlorine bleaching has a high environmental impact and its manufacture can result in the release of toxic chemicals such as dioxins and other pollutants.

1.14.3 Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products - Recommendation

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

We recommend that packaging products carry certification from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

See the [FSC website](#) and/or the [PEFC website](#) for more information on the certification process and to obtain approved materials.

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

This recommendation does not apply when paper/card is derived from outside of forest ecosystems, this can include from agricultural wastes and grasses such as miscanthus.

Why?

Forests are fundamental in responding to the challenges we face, and to ensure a sustainable future. They regulate ecosystems, protect biodiversity, support livelihoods and help stabilise the climate. Paper packaging makes up more than half of the paper and pulp used in Europe, and this is projected to rise as many look to transition away from plastic packaging. Ensuring that products are deforestation-free is a core goal for the organic movement.

1.14.4 Plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks containing phthalates - Recommendation

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

To avoid phthalates in packaging materials we recommend:

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

Why?

Phthalates are a group of chemicals used as a plasticizer in the manufacture of many plastics, giving flexibility to more brittle materials.

Phthalates can have a negative impact on human and environmental health, including endocrine disruption in humans and effects on reproduction in all studied animal groups. They are not chemically bound to the material to which they are added meaning they can continuously leach into food products as a food contact material or into the environment.

1.14.5 PVC and other chlorinated plastics - Recommendation

You should not use polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or any other chlorinated plastics unless alternative materials are not available or are functionally unsuitable, as listed in the guidance section of this standard.

This recommendation applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:

- polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
- polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC)
- vinyl chloride

There are some specific circumstances where we are aware that no functional alternatives to PVC currently exist. We should keep these exceptions under review on an annual basis as innovation for functional alternatives develops.

Why?

The production, use and disposal of PVC are associated with a range of environmental and human health issues. PVC often contains additives which are added to improve flexibility and plasticity, including phthalates. PVC can also contain other toxic substances such as chlorinated paraffins, organic tin compounds and alkyl phenols. Chlorinated plastic materials are very difficult to recycle and can act as a contaminant when added to other plastic recycling systems, rendering output materials unfit for use. Chlorinated plastic materials can also have corrosive effects on recycling machinery.

The environmental hazards of PVC go beyond those associated with other plastics. Some of today's most worrying environmental contaminants are released during the production of PVC or its feedstocks and during the disposal of PVC products.

1.14.6 Non-GM packaging - Recommendation

You should not use packaging materials or substances that contain, have been derived from, or manufactured using genetically modified organisms or genetically engineered enzymes, unless alternative materials are not available, or not possible to verify as indicated in the guidance section of this standard.

You should seek non-GM sources of packaging materials. This applies to all materials derived from plant-based sources, including:

- polylactic acid (PLA)
- polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA)
- polybutylene succinate (PBS)
- different starch blends.

To mitigate the risk of GM source material in packaging products we recommend you request product specification lists for any compostable or biodegradable packaging products. Biopolymers are often made from natural sugar sources derived from crops such as maize and sugarcane, which are both considered GM risk crops. When sourcing materials it is important to request

	<p>confirmation from your supplier of the source crop material and whether it is from a country where GM crops are permitted.</p> <p>Adequate demonstration of non-GM for packaging materials includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw materials from certified organic production • Non-GMO Project certification (more info here) • IP or PCR testing results for the raw materials
<p>Why?</p> <p>Genetic modification is counter to the principles and practice of organic food and farming. Whilst most packaging derived from GM materials no longer contain GM DNA, they are still derived from raw materials which have been genetically modified. Considering the increased global demand for plant-based plastic materials and future projections for growth in the sector, there is a risk that packaging may become a significant driver of GM agriculture.</p>	
<p>1.14.7 Oxo-degradable Plastics – Recommendation You should not use oxo-degradable plastics.</p>	<p>Oxo-degradable plastics are not bio-based or compostable plastics; they are conventional plastics with ‘pro-degradant’ additives that accelerate the fragmentation process. To avoid oxo-degradable packaging products we recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of recyclable plastic formats such as LDPE, or, • use of certified compostable plastics (see ‘Packaging Scope’ for more guidance) <p>For more information and evidence on oxo-degradable plastics see this statement from the New Plastics Economy Initiative.</p>
<p>Why?</p> <p>Oxo-degradable plastics are considered a ‘problematic plastic’ owing to their environmental impacts. They contribute to microplastic pollution as they are conventional plastics that fragment by design and are not suited for long-term reuse, recycling at scale or composting. They can undermine recycling systems when captured.</p>	
<p>1.14.8 Polystyrene - Recommendation You should not use polystyrene plastics in primary packaging materials.</p>	<p>This recommendation includes all types of polystyrene plastics, these include Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Extruded polystyrene (XPS). They are defined as Type 6 plastics (PS) and can be in rigid or film forms as well as the more common expanded foam.</p>

	<p>This recommendation is limited to primary product packaging, that is packaging contained in a single sales unit to customers. It does not apply to polystyrene used in a business-to-business supply chain where there is greater opportunity for reuse and recycling. For more information on what constitutes primary packaging see Defra definitions of packaging class data.</p>
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Why?

Polystyrene is considered a 'problematic plastic' owing to its negative impact on the environment and human health. Polystyrene is made using the chemical styrene, which has been linked to cancers and nervous-system effects. It is not readily recycled and is persistent in the environment once disposed of. It is a consistent component of marine and coastal litter, breaking up into smaller pieces and releasing toxins, presenting hazards to marine species.

1.14.9 PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) - Recommendation
 You should not use per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemical substances in your packaging products.

You should demonstrate that your products have not used PFAS chemicals in their manufacture, for example with a packaging specification for all materials used kept on file, if you use the following materials:

- greaseproof or water-resistant paper packaging (e.g., bread / pastry bags),
- baking paper or cake cases,
- takeaway pizza boxes and card clamshells,
- butter and cheese papers,


There are PFAS-free market ready alternatives to all these applications and/or opportunities to consider reusable or removal options. For alternatives, please review the [ChemSec marketplace](#).


Why?

PFAS are a group of chemicals known as 'forever chemicals' because they are extremely persistent in the environment. PFAS have been shown to disrupt hormone systems in animals and are classed as endocrine disruptors. Studies have shown links between PFAS exposure and a wide range of human health concerns including cancer, immune system disorders and fertility problems.

1.15 General manufacturing

What is this chapter about?
 This chapter covers the basic requirements that must be met by all licensees involved in manufacturing approved products.

Standards	Guidance
<p>1.15.1 Ensuring manufacturing integrity To ensure integrity you must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have procedures to maintain the integrity of your products, from buying raw materials to goods out, and which also ensure that non-approved products are not produced or sold as Soil Association Approved. 2. Always work to the principles of good manufacturing practice for your sector. 	<p>Your procedures need to cover all the critical processing steps in the manufacture of your products. This includes making sure staff are fully trained for the tasks they carry out and understand the importance of maintaining product integrity.</p> <p> Please also refer to the standards on preserving product integrity (1.9), cleaning (1.10) and record keeping (1.6) as these are all related to ensuring Soil Association Approved integrity.</p> <p>There are a number of quality management standards that can provide manufacturing businesses with guidelines for best practice quality control and record keeping, such as ISO 9000. It is not a requirement of Soil Association certification to sign up to this or other schemes, however should you wish to develop your quality management system further, these schemes can provide support and independent auditing.</p>
<p>1.15.2 General production methods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved Inputs must be produced with care and preferably with the use of biological, mechanical and physical methods. 2. Use of permitted additives, non-organic ingredients, micronutrients and processing aids must be kept to a minimum and only used where necessary. 3. Substances and processing methods which could mislead consumers about the true nature of a product must not be used. 	
<p>1.15.3 Contracted operations If you contract out your approved activity, in part or whole, to a third party, the information in 1.3.1 must also include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a list of the subcontractors, including their activities and the certification body or authority that they are certified by 	<p>If you plan to contract out part or all of your operation, please contact the Certification Team.</p>

<p>b) a written agreement by the subcontractors that their operation will comply with the control measures required as part of Soil Association Approved Input certification, and</p> <p>c) details of all the practical measures taken to ensure and demonstrate full traceability of products.</p>	
<p>1.15.4 Processing approved and non-approved If you process approved and non-approved products, either using the same equipment or at the same site, you must:</p> <p>a) assess the risk of contamination and mixtures or exchanges, and put in place controls to avoid those risks</p> <p>b) process and store approved products separately, in time or space, from non-approved products</p> <p>c) ensure that the cleaning of your facilities and equipment is sufficient to remove residues of non-approved product before you start processing</p> <p>d) finish the whole run of approved products before you start to process non-approved products</p> <p>e) keep a record of all approved and non-approved operations and the quantities processed.</p>	<p> Also refer to storage (1.13), cleaning (1.10), preserving product integrity (1.9), and record keeping (1.6) sections.</p> <p>There are many ways in which you can ensure separation of approved and non-approved at your facility. As each business is unique it is your responsibility to ensure you have systems and procedures in place that are right for you and your business.</p> <p>Some businesses may have dedicated approved production days, following a thorough clean down of equipment, whereas others may judge it best to carry out approved product processing first thing in the morning followed by non-approved product production. The important thing is that you manage risk in a way that is appropriate for your operation.</p>
<p>1.15.3 Oil palm products* You may use products of the oil palm tree <i>elaeis guineensis</i>. However, the oil palm products must hold certification to a standard that is recognised by the Soil Association for verifying the protection of High Conservation Values.</p> <p>This requirement applies to single-ingredient oil palm products you (or your subcontractor) purchase and sell/repack or further process. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palm oil • Palm kernel oil 	<p>Oil palm products you purchase that are certified to Soil Association standards will already have been verified as meeting this requirement. Oil palm products you purchase that are not certified to Soil Association organic standards will need to hold an additional certification.</p> <p>Certifications recognised as meeting this requirement include these RSPO standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard** • RSPO Principles & Criteria Certification Standard** • RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard** <p>Certificate validity must be checked on the RSPO website: https://rspo.org</p>

- Palm derivatives, such as palm olein, palm stearin or E422 glycerol (palm)/ glycerine (palm).

This requirement does not apply to:

- multi-ingredient products that you (or your subcontractor) purchase, that may contain oil palm ingredients.
- additives (for example, tocopherol/ E306 tocopherol-rich extract), flavourings, solvents or processing aids
- Cleaning products you use.

**** Only RSPO product certified to the 'Identity Preserved' (IP) or 'Segregated' (SG) supply chain models are recognised. If your supplier's certificate lists IP or SG, but also lists other supply chain models (for example Mass Balance), you will need to obtain written confirmation from your supplier that each consignment of product you are buying is certified IP or SG.**

Certifications to these standards are also recognised:

- Fair For Life
- Bio Suisse

Purchasing products or ingredients certified to the above sustainability standards will not, of itself, entitle you to make any claims relating to those standards. If you wish to make claims, you will need to contact the bodies above for further information on their requirements.

Some products, such as glycerine or 'vegetable' oils, may be derived either from the oil palm or from other plants, such as soybean. Products not derived from the oil palm tree do not need to hold an additional certification. You will be expected to demonstrate this.

If your supplier changes, you will need to update your specification and seek our approval prior to use.

Why?

Expansion of agriculture globally has resulted in the destruction of millions of hectares of forests and other natural or important ecosystems to make way for farming, with negative impacts on biodiversity, climate and indigenous peoples. This requirement adds an additional safeguard for high-risk ingredients.

2.0 Fertilisers and soil conditioners

2.1 The use of fertilisers and soil conditioners

What is this chapter about?


This section covers standards for the fertilisers and soil conditioners that you can use in Soil Association Approved products and their conditions for use in organic systems.

Standards	Guidance
<p>2.2.1 The use of fertilisers and soil conditioners is restricted</p> <p>The use of these products is subject to the specific conditions in the table below. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.9.3) (1.9.8), (EC) 2018/848 Art. 24 (1b), (EC) 2018/848 Art. 9 (3), (EU) 2021/1165 Art. 2, (EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(d)(e); Art. 16(1)(b), (EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(1)</i></p> <p>The products in the table below may only be used if they are authorised for your intended use in your country. <i>(EU) 2018/848 Art. 24, (EU) 2021/1165 Art. 2, (EC) 2018/848 Art. 9 (3), (EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)</i></p> <p>Where seaweed is cultivated on land using external nutrient sources you may only use nutrients of plant or mineral origin as listed in 2.2.2 <i>(EC) 834 Art. 13 (2)(c)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 6d</i></p>	

2.2.2 Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients
(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(1); Annex I, (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I, (EC) 2021/1165 Art. 2; Annex II

Name of product	Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use
Farmyard manure (FYM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-organic manure must not be from factory farming origin (defined below) or contain GM ingredients. • Liquid animal manure must undergo controlled fermentation and/or appropriate dilution before use.

	<p>Guidance</p> <p>Preferably from Soil Association or other organically certified systems and preferably composted. You must retain information on the source, including the animal species and the husbandry system it comes from.</p> <p>If you use non-organic manure, the following sources meet this standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poultry manure and deep litter from the following egg producing systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ free range ◦ deep litter systems which have a maximum stocking density of 7 birds/ m² ◦ deep litter rearing systems which have a maximum stocking density of 20kg/m² • Poultry manure and deep litter from free range, traditional free range and extensive indoor barn reared meat producing systems which have a maximum stocking density of 30kg/m² • Manure from straw-based pig production systems, not including indoor tethered sow breeding units • Manure from cattle systems where cattle have access to pasture for at least part of the year. <p>Animals from all these systems must be able to freely turn through 360° for the majority or all of their life-cycle and must not be kept permanently in the dark.</p>
Name of product	Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use
Composted or fermented mixture of household waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product obtained from source separated household waste, which has been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production. • Only vegetable and animal household waste • Only when produced in a closed and monitored collection system, accepted by the Member State <p>The concentrations of heavy metals in mg/kg of dry matter must not exceed: cadmium: 0.7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): not detectable.</p>
Mushroom compost	This must be initially made from products permitted in this table.
Dejecta of worms (vermicompost) and insects	Where relevant in accordance with Regulation (EC) N° 1069/2009
Composted or fermented mixture of vegetable matter	Composts obtained from mixtures of vegetable matter which has been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production.
Biogas digestate containing animal by-products co-digested with material of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-products of animal origin (including by-products from wild animals) of category 3 and digestive tract content of category 2 (categories 2 and 3 as defined in Regulation (EC) No

<p>plant or animal origin as listed in this table</p>	<p>1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council). Animal by-products must not be from factory farming origin. The processing must have been done in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 142/2011.</p> <p>Not to be applied to edible parts of the crop.</p> <p>Guidance</p> <p>Biogas digestate has high nitrogen availability, so is only suitable for situations where nitrogen loss can be controlled, e.g. application in spring when the crop is actively growing.</p>
<p>Products or by-products of animal origin as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood meal • Hoof meal • Horn meal • Feather meal • Bone meal or degelatinised bone meal • Fish meal • Meat meal • Hair and 'chiquette' meal • Wool • Fur • Hair • Dairy products • Hydrolysed proteins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrolysed proteins must not be applied on edible parts of the crop. <p>For furs the maximum level of chromium (VI) must not be greater than: not detectable.</p> <p>Guidance</p> <p> You should use products sourced from organic or extensive farming systems where possible.</p> <p>The Soil Association will continue to review the use of animal products with the aim of permitting only animal products sourced from organic or extensive systems in the future. If you are aware of any research or developments in this area please contact a member of the Standards Team: standards@soilassociation.org</p> <p>Non-animal based alternatives to these inputs, such as composts, farmyard manure or soft ground rock phosphate, may be suitable to treat your nutrient deficiency.</p> <p>Animal products typically have readily available nitrogen and are suitable only for situations where nitrogen loss can be controlled.</p>
<p>Products and by-products of plant origin</p>	<p>For example oilseed cake meal, cocoa husks, malt culms.</p>
<p>Hydrolysed proteins of plant origin</p>	
<p>Seaweeds and seaweed products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For products which have been through the following processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding, (ii) extraction with water or aqueous acid and/or alkaline solution, or (iii) fermentation • Only from organic or collected in a sustainable way in accordance with point 2.4 of Part III of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848

	You must not use calcified seaweed, lithothamne or maerl if extracted from the sea.
Sawdust and wood chips, composted bark and wood ash	The wood must not have been chemically treated after felling.
Leonardite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw organic sediment rich in humic acids. • Only if it is obtained as a by-product of mining activities.
Organic rich sediment from fresh water bodies formed under exclusion of oxygen (e.g. sapropel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only organic sediments that are by-products of fresh water body management or extracted from former freshwater areas. • When applicable, extraction methods should cause minimal impact on the aquatic system. • Only sediments derived from sources free from contaminations of pesticides, persistent organic pollutants and petrol-like substances. <p>The concentrations of heavy metals in mg/kg of dry matter must not exceed: cadmium: 0.7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): not detectable.</p>
Chitin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The polysaccharide obtained from the shell of crustaceans. <p>Only if obtained from organic aquaculture or sustainable fisheries, as defined in Article 3e of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002.</p>
Soft ground rock phosphate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product as specified in the relevant section of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 <p>Subject to the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009</p>
Aluminium-calcium phosphate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product as specified in the relevant section of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 • Subject to the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 <p>Use only allowed where the soil pH is greater than 7.5.</p>
Basic slag (Thomas Phosphates or Thomas Slag)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product as specified in the relevant section of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 <p>Subject to the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009</p>
Crude potassium salt or kainit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product as specified in the relevant section of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 <p>Subject to the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009</p>
Potassium sulphate, possibly containing magnesium salt	Product obtained from crude potassium salt by a physical extraction process, possibly containing magnesium salts.
Stillage and stillage extract	Ammonium stillage excluded.

Calcium carbonate	Only of natural origin, for example chalk, marl, ground limestone, Breton ameliorant, phosphate chalk.
Mollusc waste	Only from sustainable fisheries, as defined in Article 4 (1) (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 or organic aquaculture Guidance You should also comply with Animal By-Product Regulations, for example in the UK .
Egg shells	Must not be of factory farming origin. Guidance You should also comply with Animal By-Product Regulations, for example in the UK .
Magnesium and calcium carbonate	Only of natural origin, for example magnesium chalk, ground magnesium limestone.
Magnesium sulphate	Only of natural origin, for example kieserite.
Calcium chloride solution	Foliar treatment of apple trees, after identification of a calcium deficiency
Calcium sulphate (gypsum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only of natural origin. • Product as specified in the relevant section of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 Subject to the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009
Industrial lime	Only as a by-product of sugar production from sugar beet or sugar cane, or vacuum salt production from brine found in mountains.
Elemental sulphur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products as specified in Annex I D.3 of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. Subject to the relevant limits for contaminants set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009
Trace elements/ Inorganic Micronutrient Fertilisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the inorganic micronutrients listed in Annex I, part E of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. Subject to the requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009
Sodium chloride	
Stone meal and clays	For example ground basalt, bentonite, perlite and vermiculite.
Humic and fulvic acids	Only if obtained by inorganic salts/solutions excluding ammonium salts; or obtained from drinking water purification.
Xylite	Only if obtained as a by-product of mining activities (e.g. by-product of brown coal mining)
Biochar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pyrolysis product made from a wide variety of organic materials of plant origin and applied as a soil conditioner. • Only from plant materials, untreated or treated with products listed in standard 2.6.3. Maximum value of 4 mg polycyclic aromatic hydro-carbons (PAHs) per kg dry matter (DM).

Standards	Guidance
<p>2.2.3 The use of calcified seaweed is prohibited You must not use calcified seaweed, lithothamne or maerl as a fertiliser, soil conditioner or nutrient in approved products.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Why?</p> <p>Calcified seaweed, lithothamne and maerl refer to a group of coralline algae, primarily of the species <i>Phymatolithon calcateum</i> and <i>Lithothamnion corallioides</i>. Calcified seaweed beds are relatively scarce and are important habitats which hold impressive levels of biodiversity, harbouring many rare and commercially valuable species. Owing to their extremely slow growth rate, calcified seaweed beds are very fragile and cannot sustain even limited extraction without deterioration.</p> <p>Commercial extraction from the sea has already led to the destruction of several beds in Europe and current levels of protection provided are unlikely to prevent further destruction and deterioration. We therefore prohibit the use of calcified seaweed extracted from the sea under Soil Association standards.</p>	
Standards	Guidance
<p>2.2.4 The use of peat is prohibited You may not use peat in Soil Association Approved Inputs</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Why?</p> <p>Peat is a precious resource that can take thousands of years to form. Peatlands are important habitats for a wide range of species and play a key role in preventing floods and storing carbon. The extraction and burning of peat releases large amounts of carbon dioxide which contributes to global warming. We believe it is important to protect our peatlands and are supporting the development of reliable alternatives to peat for all propagation purposes.</p>	
<p>2.2.5 The use of guano is prohibited You must not use guano in approved products.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Why?</p> <p>Guano harvesting can have very negative impacts on bat and bird colonies. Birds and bats are extremely sensitive to disturbance and guano harvesting practices have resulted in the loss of millions of bats, birds and their associated species.</p>	

<p>2.2.6 Micro-organisms You may use appropriate preparations of micro-organisms in approved products to enhance nutrient availability. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.9.6)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(4)</i></p>	<p>The product must be authorised for use in your country for the intended purpose and must not be GMO or derived from GMOs.</p>
<p>2.2.7 Compost activators For compost activation you may use compost activators made from microbial and plant extracts in approved products. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.9.7)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 3(5)</i></p>	<p>The product must be authorised for use in your country for the intended purpose and must not be a GMO or derived from GMOs.</p>
<p>2.2.8 Biodynamic preparations You may use biodynamic preparations in approved products. <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(1.9.9)</i> <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 12(c)</i></p>	<p>Refer to the Demeter biodynamic standards for information on biodynamic preparations. Any animal by-products used must meet these standards.</p>
<p>2.2.9 Requirements for processing aids and additives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This standard applies to Fertility inputs including substrates intended for use in the production of plants, seaweed, microalgae and mushrooms, silage additives and microorganisms (compost activators and soil nutrient availability enhancers). 2. You must use processing aids and additives only in ways allowed by the law and by these standards. 3. You may use in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Products listed in section 2.5.2 of these standards. b. Products listed in Annex 1 table A of these standards. c. Food-grade products (not necessarily organic) – you must demonstrate this at application. d. Processing aids and additives which meet the requirements of the Annex 1 table B. <p>You must demonstrate that the options not used are not suitable.</p>	<p>A processing aid is any substance that is intentionally used in the processing of a product but does not perform any technical function in the final product. Processing aids may result in unintentional but practically unavoidable residues in the final product, provided that this does not provide any technological effect.</p> <p>An example of a processing aid is a buffer salt used to aid in the growth of a microbial culture for use in a microbial inoculant.</p> <p>An additive is any substance not normally used as an active ingredient in a product of its kind, that is intentionally added for a technological purpose in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packaging, transport or storage of the final product. Additives may be reasonably expected to become a component of the final product, either directly or indirectly.</p> <p>An example of an additive is a preservative used to maintain quality and safety of organic liquid fertilisers in transport or storage.</p>

<p>2.2.10 Soil-based production</p> <p>Substates intended for plants (including salad cress) sold direct to consumers still in their pots as described in SA GB/NI 2.7.10 can be approved if they meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the substrate is made of at least 51% (by fresh weight of the end product) of materials from organic farming origin b) no more than 49% of the substrate is made up of non-organic manure and compost which meets standard 2.5.2 c) the substrate provides more than 50% of their nutrient needs, until the point of sale d) you make sure the substrate is biologically active e) you do not use peat or slaughterhouse wastes, and f) you do not use soil from organic farms. 	<p>The intended use of the substrate must be described on its packaging/ label.</p>
<p>2.2.11 Substrates for mushroom production</p> <p>1. You may only use the following ingredients in approved substrates for mushroom production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) manure from organic production b) other products of agricultural origin produced according to organic production methods c) wood which has not been chemically treated after felling d) mineral products permitted in standard 2.2.2. e) water and soil. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(2.1)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 6</i> <i>EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(2.1)</i></p>	<p>You may use in-conversion products produced to organic standards.</p>

<p>2.2.12 Using non-organic manure in mushroom substrate</p> <p>1. You may only use non-organic manure in the substrate if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> manure from an organic farm is not available, and non-organic manure does not exceed 25% of the substrate. <p>2. The percentage must be calculated as the fresh weight, before composting, of all components except the casing and any added water.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(2.1) (a)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 6(a)(ii)</i> <i>(EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part I(2.1) (a)(ii)</i></p>	<p>You must be able to demonstrate that organic manure is not available. For example, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing correspondence with local organic producers who may be able to supply you with manure evidence of advertising for organic manure. <p>We recognise that the principle of returning organic manures to organic land often means that organic manures are not readily available.</p>
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3.0 Approved Livestock and Aquaculture Feeds

3.1 Feed Supplements

What is this chapter about?

This section includes which additives and minerals are permitted in approved organic feeds and the conditions of their use.

Standards	Guidance
<p>3.1.1 Use of additional products and substances in feed and feed supplements</p> <p>1. You may only use the products and substances in standard 3.1.3 below in approved livestock feeds and supplements if they are necessary to maintain animal health, welfare and vitality and to contribute to an appropriate diet which fulfils the physiological and behavioural needs of the organic animals, or if it is impossible to produce or preserve feed without them. Their use is subject to the specific conditions in the table.</p>	<p>The products you use should target the nutritional needs as closely as possible and must be used in compliance with the conditions set in the table below.</p> <p>Boluses may be approved if the components are listed in 3.1.3 with the exclusion of the metal ballast.</p> <p>Livestock feeds and supplements that contain organic agricultural ingredients must be certified to organic feed mill standards.</p> <p>All products must also be authorised under Regulation (EC) 1831/2003, with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organic feed materials of animal origin

<p>2. You may use the feed materials, additives and products listed in 3.10.14 in organic aquaculture feeds.</p> <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 15d(iii, iv), (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.3.1)(d)(e), (EC) 2021/1165 Annex III(A)(B)</i></p> <p>3. The products in the table below may only be used if they are authorised for your intended use in your country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-organic feed materials of plant or animal origin, or fermentation (by-products) from micro-organisms, the cells of which have been inactivated or killed • feed materials of mineral origin • products from sustainable fisheries • non-organic spices, herbs and molasses
<p>3.1.2 Feeding priorities for carnivorous aquaculture species</p> <p>1. Feed for carnivorous aquaculture animals must be sourced with the following priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) organic feed products of aquaculture origin b) fish meal and fish oil from organic aquaculture trimmings c) fish meal and fish oil and ingredients of fish origin derived from trimmings of fish already caught for human consumption in sustainable fisheries d) organic feed materials of plant or animal origin e) feed products derived from whole fish caught in fisheries certified as sustainable under a scheme recognised by the competent authority in line with the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council. <p><i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 15d(ii), (EC) 889/2008 Art. 25k(1)(2)(3); Art. 79b (d), (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III(3.1.3.1)(c)(3.1.3.5)(3.1.3.3)</i></p>	<p>In GB, Defra (the competent authority) has provided additional guidance on the sustainability criteria for whole fish. We can provide you with a copy on request.</p> <p>In Northern-Ireland, NICA (the competent authority) has provided additional guidance on the sustainability criteria for whole fish. We can provide you with a copy on request.</p> <p>Only feed materials falling into category c and e can be certified under these standards as Soil Association Approved. Feed products containing organic ingredients can be certified under our standards for feed processing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Association Organic Standards for Great Britain - Feed processing • Soil Association Organic Standards for Northern Ireland - Feed processing
<p>3.1.3 Feeding priorities for carnivorous aquaculture species</p> <p>Fertilisers used to feed algae for fish in inland waters as described in the aquaculture standards SA NI 13.4.8 and SA GB</p>	

13.4.8 must be listed in 2.2.2 of this standards document. (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III(3.1.5.3), (EC) 2020/464 Annex II, (EC) 889/2008 Annex XIIIa	
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Standards

3.1.3 Products and substances permitted for use in livestock and aquaculture feed. (EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)(c)(d), (EC) 889/2008 Art. 22; Annex V; Annex VI, (EC) 2018/848 Art 24 (1) (c) (d), (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part V (2.3), (EC) 2018/848 Article 24 (3) (e) (iv), (EU)2021/1165 Art (3) (4), (EC) 2021/1165 Annex III B

Feed Material

Product or substance	Conditions of use
Organic feed materials of animal origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are restrictions on what animal by-products you can feed to different animal species. UK guidance is available here

Minerals

Product or substance	Conditions of use										
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sodium</td> <td>Sea salt Coarse rock salt Sodium chloride Sodium bicarbonate Sodium carbonate Sodium sulphate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Potassium</td> <td>Potassium chloride</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calcium</td> <td>Calcareous marine shells Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phosphorus</td> <td>Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate Monosodium phosphate Calcium magnesium phosphate Calcium sodium phosphate Monosodium phosphate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Magnesium</td> <td>Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia) Magnesium sulphate</td> </tr> </table>	Sodium	Sea salt Coarse rock salt Sodium chloride Sodium bicarbonate Sodium carbonate Sodium sulphate	Potassium	Potassium chloride	Calcium	Calcareous marine shells Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate	Phosphorus	Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate Monosodium phosphate Calcium magnesium phosphate Calcium sodium phosphate Monosodium phosphate	Magnesium	Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia) Magnesium sulphate	
Sodium	Sea salt Coarse rock salt Sodium chloride Sodium bicarbonate Sodium carbonate Sodium sulphate										
Potassium	Potassium chloride										
Calcium	Calcareous marine shells Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate										
Phosphorus	Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate Defluorinated dicalciumphosphate Monosodium phosphate Calcium magnesium phosphate Calcium sodium phosphate Monosodium phosphate										
Magnesium	Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia) Magnesium sulphate										

	Magnesium chloride Magnesium carbonate Magnesium phosphate	
Preservatives		
Functional Group	Product or substance	Conditions of use
E 200	Sorbic acid	
E 236	Formic acid	
E 237	Sodium formate	
E 260	Acetic acid	
E 270	Lactic acid	
E 280	Propionic acid	
E 330	Citric acid	
Antioxidants		
ID no. or Functional Group	Product or substance	Conditions of use
1b306(i)	Tocopherol extracts from vegetable oils	
1b306(ii)	Tocopherol-rich extracts from vegetable oils (delta rich)	
Binders and anti-caking agents		
ID no. or Functional Group	Product or substance	Conditions of use
E412	Guar gum	
E 535	Sodium ferrocyanide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum dose rate of 20 mg/kg NaCl calculated as ferrocyanide anion
E 551b	Colloidal silica	
E 551c	Kieselguhr (diatomaceous earth, purified)	
1m558i	Bentonite	
E 559	Kaolinitic clays, free of asbestos	
E 560	Natural mixtures of stearites and chlorite	
E 561	Vermiculite	
E 562	Sepiolite	

E 566	Natrolite-Phonolite	
1g568	Clinoptilolite of sedimentary origin	
E 599	Perlite	
Silage additives		
ID no.	Product or substance	Conditions of use
1k	Enzymes and micro-organisms	Use restricted to production of silage when weather conditions do not allow for adequate fermentation
1k237	Sodium formate	
1k280	Propionic acid	
1k281	Sodium propionate	
Sensory additives		
ID no.	Product or substance	Conditions of use
2b	Flavouring compounds	Only extracts from agricultural products
2b	Castanea sativa Mill.: Chestnut extract	
Nutritional additives		
ID no.	Product or substance	Conditions of use
3a	Vitamins and provitamins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only if derived from agricultural products, or • If synthetic vitamins are used only those identical to vitamins derived from agricultural products may be used for monogastric and aquaculture animals
3a920	Betaine anhydrous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for monogastric animals. • Only from natural origin and when available from organic origin.
<p>Guidance</p> <p>There is a risk of production from GM beet and you must be able to demonstrate that betaine anhydrous is not from a GM source as per standard 1.11.2.</p>		
Trace elements		
ID no. or Functional Group	Product or substance	Conditions of use
E1 Iron	Iron(II) carbonate (siderite) Iron(II) sulphate monohydrate Iron(II) sulphate heptahydrate	
3b101		
3b103		

3b104		
3b201	Potassium iodide	
3b202	Calcium iodate, anhydrous	
3b203	Coated granulated calcium iodate anhydrous	
3b301	Cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate	
3b302	Cobalt(II) carbonate	
3b303	Cobalt(II) carbonate hydroxide (2:3) monohydrate	
3b304	Coated granulated cobalt(II) carbonate	
3b305	Cobalt(II) sulphate heptahydrate	
3b402	Copper(II) carbonate dihydroxy monohydrate	
3b404	Copper (II) oxide	
3b405	Copper (II) sulphate, pentahydrate	
3b409	Dicopper chloride trihydroxide (TBCC)	
3b502	Manganese (II) oxide	
3b503	manganous sulfate, monohydrate	
3b603	zinc oxide	
3b604	zinc sulphate heptahydrate	
3b605	Zinc sulphate monohydrate	

3b609	Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate (TBZC)	
3b701	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	
3b801	Sodium selenite	
3b8.10, 3b8.11, 3b8.12, 3b813 and 3b817	Selenised yeast inactivated	
Zootechnical additives		
ID no. or Functional Group	Product or substance	Conditions of use
4a, 4b, 4c and 4d	Enzymes and micro-organisms in the category of "Zootechnical additives"	
Product or substance		Conditions of use
Products from sustainable fisheries,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only when they are produced without chemical solvents their use is restricted to non-herbivores the use of fish protein hydrolysate is restricted solely to young animals
		Guidance
		The source must be independently certified as sustainable, such as by the Marine Stewardship Council.
Non-organic spices, herbs and molasses provided that:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only when organic is not available must be produced or prepared without chemical solvents, and use is limited to 1% of the feed ration of a given species calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feed from agricultural origin
		Guidance
		If you use non-organic spices, herbs or molasses you must demonstrate that the organic form is not available.

Standards	Guidance
3.1.4 Use of calcified seaweed is prohibited	

<p>You must not use calcified seaweed, lithothamne or maerl when extracted from the sea in approved products.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Why?</p> <p>Calcified seaweed, lithothamne and maerl refer to a group of coralline, primarily of the species <i>Phymatolithon calcareum</i> and <i>Lithothamnion corallioides</i>. Calcified seaweed beds are relatively scarce and are important habitats which hold impressive levels of biodiversity, harbouring many rare and commercially valuable species. Owing to their extremely slow growth rate, calcified seaweed beds are very fragile and cannot sustain even limited extraction without deterioration.</p> <p>Commercial extraction from the sea has already led to the destruction of several beds in Europe and current levels of protection provided are unlikely to prevent further destruction and deterioration. We therefore prohibit the use of calcified seaweed when extracted from the sea in Soil Association organic standards.</p>	
<p>Standards</p>	<p>Guidance</p>
<p>3.1.5 Synthetic amino-acids You must not use synthetic amino-acids in approved products. <i>(EC) 834/2007 Art. 14(d)(v)</i></p>	
<p>3.1.6 Permitted feed for aquaculture juveniles Non-organic phytoplankton and zooplankton may be used in approved products used as feed to supplements for the larval rearing of organic juveniles. <i>(EC) 889/2008 Art. 25(a), (EC) 2018/848 Annex II Part III (3.1.2.3)</i></p>	

[Annex 1](#)

Table A – Processing Aids and Additives Permitted Under Standard 2.2.9 (3. b.)

E no.	Name	Additional Requirements
E170	Calcium Carbonate	
E220	Sulphur dioxide	
E224	Potassium metabisulphite	
E223	Sodium metabisulphite	
E250	Sodium nitrite	
E252	Potassium nitrate (saltpetre)	
E270	Lactic acid	Non-GM Declaration Required
E290	Carbon dioxide	
E296	Malic acid	Non-GM Declaration Required
E300	Ascorbic acid	Non-GM Declaration Required
E301	Sodium ascorbate	Non-GM Declaration Required
E306	Tocopherol rich extract (Vit E)	Non-GM Declaration Required
E322	Lecithins	Non-GM Declaration Required

E325	Sodium lactate	Non-GM Declaration Required
E330	Citric acid	Non-GM Declaration Required
E331	Sodium citrates	Non-GM Declaration Required
E333	Calcium citrates	Non-GM Declaration Required
E334	Tartaric acid (L(+)-)	Non-GM Declaration Required
E335	Sodium tartrates	Non-GM Declaration Required
E336	Potassium tartrates	Non-GM Declaration Required
E341 (i)	Monocalcium Phosphate	
E392	Extracts of rosemary	
E400	Alginic acid	
E401	Sodium alginate	
E402	Potassium alginate	
E406	Agar	
E407	Carrageenan	
E410	Locust bean gum	
E412	Guar gum	
E414	Arabic gum	

E415	Xanthan gum	Non-GM Declaration Required
E417	Tara gum powder	
E418	Gellan gum	
E422	Glycerol	Non-GM Declaration Required
E440 (i)	Pectin (non-amidated)	Non-GM Declaration Required
E464	Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose	Non-GM Declaration Required
E500	Sodium carbonate	
E501	Potassium Carbonates	
E503	Ammonium Carbonates	
E504	Magnesium carbonates	
E509	Calcium chloride	
E516	Calcium sulphate	
E524	Sodium hydroxide	
E551	Silicon dioxide gel or colloidal solution	
E553b	Talc	
E901	Beeswax	
E903	Carnauba wax	

E938	Argon	
E939	Helium	
E941	Nitrogen	
E948	Oxygen	
E968	Erythritol	Non-GM Declaration Required
	Calcium Chloride	
	Calcium carbonate	
	Calcium hydroxide	
	Calcium sulphate	
	Magnesium chloride (or nigari)	
	L(+) lactic acid from fermentation	Non-GM Declaration Required
	Sulphuric acid	
	Hydrochloric acid	
	Ammonium hydroxide	
	Hydrogen peroxide	
	Ethanol	Non-GM Declaration Required
	Tannic acid	

	Egg white albumen	
	Casein	Non-GM Declaration Required
	Gelatin	
	Vegetable oils	Non-GM Declaration Required
	Silicon dioxide gel or colloidal solution	
	Activated carbon	
	Cellulose	Non-GM Declaration Required
	Diammonium phosphate	As a processing aid or microorganism nutrient only
	Thiamin hydrochloride	
	Acetic acid/vinegar	Non-GM Declaration Required

Table B – processing aids and additives permitted under standard 2.2.9 (3. d.)

Non-persistent, non-bioaccumulative and non-toxic products.

Allowed are substances/preparations that meet the following requirements:

Toxicity (LC50, EC50, IC50) > 1 mg/l and Biodegradability > 95%

Aquatic Toxicity (LC50, EC50, IC50) > 10 mg/l and Biodegradability > 70% (or 60% depending on test below)

With regards to Aquatic Toxicity: performing fish and daphnia tests to determine unknown LC50/ EC50 values for Soil Association Approved Inputs Certification is not allowed. Instead, the use of calculation from available data based on indirect alternatives methods and in vitro tests must be used.

Accepted methods for biodegradability:

1. OECD 301A (ISO 7827) or OECD 301E, percentage of degradation > 70%
2. OECD 301B (ISO 9439), OECD 301C, OECD 301D (ISO 10707), OECD 301F (ISO 9408) or OECD 310 (ISO 14593) meet a percentage degradation > 60%