

BDA Certification

Organic Production Standards



2021

Based on, and equivalent to, the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as amended & Commission Regulations (EC) No 889/2008 and 1235/2008 as amended.

These BDA Certification Organic Production Standards apply without prejudice to other national legislation, such as provisions governing the production, preparation, marketing, labelling and control, including legislation on foodstuffs and animal nutrition.

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1. Introduction, Background and Scope of these Standards

Organic farming is a system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental practices, high levels of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources, and high animal welfare standards. Organic farmers play a dual societal role; they are meeting a consumer demand for organic products, whilst delivering public goods by contributing to the protection of the natural environment and the creation of a sustainable rural economy.

This document has been produced by the BDA Certification office for use in the certification of organic farmers and growers.

BDA Certification is a specialist certification body (CB) that offers organic and Demeter / biodynamic certification to farmers, growers, food processors and traders. Farmers and growers seeking Demeter certification must comply with the BDA Certification Organic standards (or equivalent) as a prerequisite of their Demeter certification.

These standards are based on, and are equivalent to the requirements laid down in EC Regulations 834/2007, 889/2008 and 1235/2008 as amended, which specify the regulatory requirements that must be met when food and animal feed products are described as organic.

These standards specify the requirements for:

- a) The production, preparation, storing, and marketing of organic food products for human consumption and
- b) The control and inspection arrangements for organic farmers and growers.

Processing and trading operators engaging in the preparation, storing and marketing of organic food products for human consumption and animal feedstuffs, compound feedstuffs and ingredients for feed materials and animal nutrition, should refer to the BDA Certification [Organic Standards for Processing and Importing EU Equivalent Organic Standards for Processing](#).

All certificated licensees of BDA Certification must ensure that their products conform to all relevant statutory regulations in addition to the organic regulatory requirements laid down here.

2. Principles and Objectives for Organic Production

2.1 Overall principles

Organic production shall be based on the following principles:

- (a) The appropriate design and management of biological processes based on ecological systems using natural resources which are internal to the system, by methods that:
 - (i) Use living organisms and mechanical production methods;
 - (ii) Practice land-based crop cultivation and livestock production, or practice aquaculture which complies with the principle of sustainable stewardship of fisheries;
 - (iii) Exclude the use of GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs, with the exception of veterinary medicinal products;
 - (iv) Are based on risk assessment and the use of precautionary and preventive measures;

- (b) The restriction of the use of external inputs. Where external inputs are required or the appropriate management practices and methods referred to in paragraph (a) above do not exist, these shall be limited to:
 - (i) Inputs from organic production;
 - (ii) Natural or naturally-derived substances;
 - (iii) Low solubility mineral fertilisers;
- (c) The strict limitation of the use of chemically synthesized inputs to exceptional cases, these being:
 - (i) Where the appropriate management practices do not exist; and
 - (ii) The external inputs referred to in paragraph (b) are not available on the market; or
 - (iii) Where the use of external inputs referred to in paragraph (b) contributes to unacceptable environmental impacts;

2.2 Specific Principles

In addition to the overall principles set out above, organic farming and growing is based on the following specific principles:

- a) The maintenance and enhancement of soil life and natural soil fertility, soil stability and soil biodiversity, preventing and combating soil compaction and soil erosion, and the nourishing of plants primarily through the soil ecosystem;
- b) The minimisation of the use of non-renewable resources and off-farm inputs;
- c) The recycling of wastes and by-products of plant and animal origin as input in plant and livestock production;
- d) Taking account of the local or regional ecological balance when taking production decisions;
- e) The maintenance of plant health by preventative measures, such as the choice of appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and diseases, appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests;
- f) The practice of site-adapted and land-based livestock production;
- g) The observance of a high level of animal welfare respecting species-specific needs;
- h) The production of products from organic animals that have been raised on organic holdings since birth or hatching and throughout their life;
- i) The choice of breeds having regard to the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions, their vitality, and their resistance to disease or health problems;
- j) The feeding of livestock with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients from organic farming and of natural non-agricultural substances;
- k) The application of animal husbandry practices, which enhance the immune system and strengthen the natural defence against diseases, in particular including regular exercise and access to open air areas and pastureland where appropriate;
- l) The maintenance of the biodiversity of natural aquatic ecosystems, the continuing health of the aquatic environment and the quality of surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in aquaculture production;
- m) The feeding of aquatic organisms with feed from sustainable exploitation of fisheries or with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients from organic farming and of natural non-agricultural substances.

2.3 Objectives

Organic producers should pursue the objective of establishing a sustainable management system for farming and growing that:

- a) Respects nature's systems and cycles and sustains and enhances the health of soil, water, plants and animals and the balance between them;
- b) Contributes to a high level of biological diversity;
- c) Makes responsible use of energy and the natural resources, such as water, soil, organic matter and air;
- d) Respects high animal welfare standards and in particular meets animals' species-specific behavioural needs

3. General Certification Requirements for Farmers and Growers

3.1 Responsibilities and Obligations for Farmers and Growers

Farmers and growers who would like to be certified by BDA Certification should, in the first instance, contact the BDA Certification office. They must then submit a completed application form, which includes:

- A full description of the farm and or garden
- Details of all the practical measures to be taken on the farm or garden to ensure compliance with these organic production standards
- A signed declaration by the farmer or grower to manage their holding in accordance with these production standards

An applicant may not place on the market any products labelled as organic or in conversion to organic until BDA certification has issued a valid certificate.

For a full list of licensee responsibilities and obligations, please see the BDA Certification Quality Manual which is available on our website, or on request.

3.2 Access to facilities

For the purposes of inspection and certification, BDA Certification licensees must agree to:

- Grant BDA Certification personnel access to all parts of the farm, garden or unit.
- Provide BDA Certification with any information deemed reasonably necessary for the purposes of certification, including accounts and relevant supporting documents.

3.3 Annual and Unannounced Inspections

BDA Certification carries out a physical inspection of all its licensees at least once a year.

BDA Certification also carries out additional unannounced control visits, allocated both randomly, and according to the risk of non-compliance.

3.4 Product samples for analysis

BDA Certification takes samples for detecting products not authorised for organic production or detecting production techniques not in conformity with the organic production rules. Samples will be taken from a minimum of 5% of BDA Certification licensees per year.

All samples taken for testing will be at the expense of the relevant organic farmer or grower. Please contact the BDA Certification office for more information on our testing policy.

3.5 Certification & Licensing

BDA Certification provides a Certificate to all farmers and growers who are inspected and certified and who meet the requirements laid down in these standards. The Certificate identifies the licensee, their facilities and subcontractors, the type or range of products, and the period of validity.

BDA Certification requires all of its licensed operators to:

- a) Comply with all the relevant requirements of these standards.
- b) Notify BDA Certification of any and all changes to their licensed operations to ensure their licence with BDA Certification is kept up to date and reflects the premises, processes and products certified.
- c) Not put any product on the market before it has been certified by BDA Certification and specified on the licence or schedule to the certificate.
- d) Ensure that key personnel who have responsibility for maintaining organic integrity have adequate training. Training records must be kept.
- e) Ensure that key personnel who have responsibility for maintaining integrity have access to the current issue of these Standards.
- f) Ensure that all areas of non-compliance identified at inspections and by other means are corrected within the agreed time frames which are specified by BDA Certification.
- g) Notify BDA Certification of all subcontractors that are used and their status.
- h) If supervised subcontractors are used, checklists must be filled out at each instance.

4. Conversion to Organic Production

4.1 General rules

The following rules apply to all farms or gardens on which organic production is started:

- a) The conversion period starts when BDA Certification receives the completed application from the licensee;
- b) During the conversion period all rules in these standards apply;
- c) On a holding or unit partly under organic production and partly in conversion to organic production, the operator shall keep the organically produced and in-conversion products separate and the animals separate or readily separable, and keep adequate records to show the separation;
- d) Animals and animal products produced during the conversion period shall not be marketed with the indications referring to organic until authorisation has been approved by BDA Certification

Conversion periods specific to the type of crop or animal production are defined below. The standard conversion may period may be reduced or increased.

Landless production i.e. crops grown in isolation from the soil, is not permitted, except in the specific circumstances outlined in these standards (e.g. mushroom production).

4.2 Conversion rules for plants and plant products

For plants and plant products to be considered organic, the requirements of these standards must have been applied on the holding, fields and/or parcels for a minimum conversion period as follows:

- Annual crops – organic standards applied for at least two years before sowing of crops.
- Grassland or perennial forage - organic standards applied for at least two years before harvest/grazing
- Perennial crops other than forage (e.g. orchards) – organic standards applied for at least three years before harvest

4.3 Reduced conversion periods

Where there is good evidence that the land concerned has not received any inputs prohibited for use in organic production for at least three years prior to the start of conversion, BDA Certification may decide to offer a reduced conversion period.

All requests for a reduced conversion period must be approved by BDA Certification.

In all cases there must be at least 12 months of the conversion that is subject to inspection.

Reduced conversion periods are only available to producers involved in plant production only, and exclude livestock holdings undergoing simultaneous conversion.

4.4 Extended, ineligible and exceptional conversions

Land contaminated by environmental pollution (for example from factories, heavy traffic or sewage sludge), or by residual pesticides, may render the holding ineligible for organic status or require a longer conversion period.

In some instances, BDA Certification may extend the conversion period beyond the standard period.

In the case of parcels of land which have already been converted to, or were in the process of conversion to, organic farming, and which are treated with a product not authorised for organic production, [BDA Certification](#) ~~the relevant Competent Authority~~ may shorten the reconversion period in the following two cases:

- a) Parcels treated with a product not authorised for organic production as part of a compulsory disease or pest control measure. ~~the Competent Authority~~
- b) Parcels treated with a product not authorised for organic production as part of scientific tests approved by BDA Certification.

In the cases provided for in points (a) and (b) above, the length of the conversion period shall be fixed taking into account the following factors:

- (a) The process of degradation of the product concerned shall guarantee, at the end of the conversion period, an insignificant level of residues in the soil and, in the case of a perennial crop, in the plant;
- (b) The harvest following the treatment may not be sold with reference to organic production methods.

5. Soil Management

Organic soil and plant management uses tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or increase soil organic matter, enhance soil stability and soil biodiversity, and prevent soil compaction and soil erosion.

Where the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met by measures provided for in these standards, only fertilisers and soil conditioners referred to in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 may be used in organic production and only to the extent necessary. Farmers and growers shall keep documentary evidence of the need to use these products.

Appropriate preparations of micro-organisms may be used to improve the overall condition of the soil or the availability of nutrients in the soil or in the crops.

For compost activation, appropriate plant-based preparations, including the biodynamic preparations, or preparations of microorganisms, may be used.

Hydroponic production is prohibited.

Farmers and growers must manage their soils in ways that ensure:

- a) A regular input of organic residues in the form of organic manures / compost and plant remains to maintain the level of humus, biological activity and plant nutrients (except in the case of permanent pasture).
- b) A level of microbial activity sufficient to initiate the decay of organic materials and breakdown of non-soluble minerals into simple nutrient salts capable of being absorbed by the plant roots.
- c) Conditions conducive to the continual activity of soil fauna and other soil-stabilising agents

6. Seeds & Vegetative Reproductive Materials

6.1 Organically produced seed and vegetative propagating material

If you use seeds or vegetative propagating material you must try to source organic seeds and organic vegetative propagating material. You can use seed and vegetative propagating material that you produce yourself on the organic holding.

‘Vegetative propagating material’ includes bulbs, tubers, corms, rhizomes, seed potatoes, onion sets, rootstock and scions (before grafting), rhubarb and asparagus crowns, and strawberry runners before potting up.

In order for seed and propagating material to be organic, it must come from a parent plant that has been produced in accordance with the rules laid down in these Standards for at least one generation, or, in the case of perennial crops, two growing seasons.

For a list of organic seed and organic vegetative propagating material available in the UK, please see the official database: <http://www.organicxseeds.co.uk/>

6.2 Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method

If you cannot find suitable organic seed or organic vegetative propagating material, it is possible to request a derogation to use untreated, non-organic seeds or vegetative propagating material. You must request this derogation before purchase, sowing or planting.

BDA Certification may authorise the use of non-organic untreated seed or vegetative propagating material only in the following cases:

- a) Where no variety of the required species is registered in the organicxseeds database; <http://www.organicxseeds.co.uk/>
- b) Where no supplier / merchant is able to deliver the seed or material before sowing or planting, in situations where the seed or material has been ordered in reasonable time;
- c) Where the required variety is not registered in the database, and it is demonstrated that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate
- d) Where it is justified for use in research, test in small-scale field trials or for variety conservation purposes

Any derogations that BDA Certification authorises must meet the following criteria:

- (a) The derogation shall be granted to farmers and growers for one season at a time and shall register the quantities of seed, seed potatoes or vegetative propagating materials authorised;
- (b) Non-organic seeds, seed potatoes and vegetative propagating materials must not be treated with prohibited plant protection products unless those products / treatments have been prescribed in accordance with Council Directive 2000/29/EC (16) for phytosanitary purposes by the Competent Authority.

6.3 Grass & forage seed mixes

Producers wishing to use grass seed mixtures which contain a mixture of organic and non-organic untreated seed must obtain permission for use of the non-organic percentage of such seeds in advance of any such use. This still applies even where the non-organic percentage of the mix is 30% or less.

6.4 Transplants

If you buy in transplants of annual plants (eg vegetable seedlings) you must use certified organic transplants.

If you buy in transplants of perennial plants (eg fruit trees, fruit bushes) you must try to source organic transplants. The official database of organic seed and vegetative propagating material includes some available organic transplants in the UK: <http://www.organicxseeds.co.uk/>

Perennial transplants include fruit trees, fruit bushes, vines, ornamental plants, perennial herbs, strawberry transplants.

Where it is not possible to source organic perennial transplants, you can request a derogation to bring in untreated non-organic transplants. You must request the derogation in advance of buying or planting the transplants.

All non-organic transplants must go through a **three-year** conversion period. 12 months after planting, the crop can be sold or labelled as in-conversion, and 3 years after planting the crop can be sold or labelled as organic. The status of the land is not affected.

Non-organic perennial transplants	Non-organic vegetative propagating material
<p style="text-align: center;">Three year conversion period. Derogation required</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No conversion period. Derogation required.</p>
<p>Fruit trees Fruit bushes Vines Perennial herbs Ornamental plants and hedging plants Strawberry transplants (potted up)</p>	<p>Bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes Cuttings Onion sets, seed potatoes Scions and rootstock (before grafting) Asparagus and rhubarb crowns Strawberry runners (not potted up)</p>

6.5 Record keeping requirements

You must keep records of receipts, invoices and supplier certificates for each purchase to demonstrate that you are using organic seed and organic vegetative propagating material.

You must keep copies of all approved derogations for use of non-organic seeds, non-organic vegetative propagating material, and non-organic transplants.

If you are saving your own seed, you must keep some records to demonstrate this.

Please note that anyone who brings in organic products (including seeds) from outside the UK is classified as an importer. Everything organic from outside the UK must be accompanied by an organic certificate and will lose its status unless it is declared as organic and inspected by the Port Health Authority. If you want to bring in organic material from outside the UK, please get in touch with us to ensure that everything is done to maintain organic status.

7. Manures, Fertilisers, Supplementary Nutrients and Soil Conditioners - Management and Application

7.1 General Management

The fertility and biological activity of the soil shall be maintained and increased by multiannual crop rotations including legumes and green manure crops, and by the application of livestock manure or organic material, both preferably composted and from organic production.

7.2 Allowed Manures and Plant Wastes

Where the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met by measures provided for in these standards, only the manures, plant wastes and soil conditioners listed in Appendix 1 may be used, subject to the requirements and conditions detailed in the table.

Manures and composted manures from factory farming are prohibited. Factory farming includes systems employing zero grazing of bovines, ovines, caprines, equines; all poultry systems with the exception of organic and free range; and pigs permanently housed.

Appendix 1 is a positive list, and materials not listed, such as sewage sludge, are not permitted. Farmers and growers should contact BDA Certification if in doubt regarding any input proposed for use on organic or in-conversion land.

Farmers and growers must be able to provide documentary evidence of the need to use the product, and keep careful records of the origin, nature and use of all brought in manures and plant wastes. See paragraph 7.10 for more on record keeping.

7.3 Justification for use

The use of brought in plant wastes or animal manures from non-organic sources must be justified by farmers and growers and will require demonstrable evidence to be presented at the inspection.

- (a) Acceptable demonstrable evidence includes: The agronomic justification for bringing in the material, such as by having the soil analysed for macro-nutrients, soil type and soil organic matter.
- (b) Details of the source of the manure, including the animal species and husbandry system from which it came. Animal manures must come from a system of extensive husbandry and manures from factory farming origin are not permitted.

Brought-in manures or plant wastes from non-organic sources must not form the basis of a manuring programme, but should be used exceptionally, and as a complement, only where other means of maintaining soil health and fertility are insufficient.

These exceptional circumstances may include:

- a) small scale intensive horticultural systems or fruit growing, where it is recognised that adequate nutrition of the crops is not always possible by the methods outlined in these standards;
- b) soils which have been subject to exploitative cropping prior to conversion;
- c) light sandy soils low in organic matter and subject to nutrient leaching

7.4 Composting periods

It is recommended that brought in plant wastes and animal manures are composted on the organic/in conversion holding. Table 7.4.1 lists recommended minimum composting periods.

Table 7.4.1: Composting periods

Material from non-organic sources	Recommended composting period	Approval required by BDA Certification prior to use
Straw, FYM, stable manure, poultry manure, pig manure (but nothing from factory farming)	6 months	No
Plant wastes and by-products from food processing industries	N/A	Only products formally approved by BDA Certification or an alternative CB may be used.
Mushroom composts made from materials listed in these standards	6 months	No
Worm composts made from materials listed in these standards	None	No
Animal slurry from extensive animal husbandry systems	After aeration and / or appropriate dilution	No

7.5 Manure production limits

The total amount of livestock manure, applied on the farm or garden **may not exceed 170 kg of nitrogen per year, per hectare** of agricultural area used.

This limit shall only apply to manure deposited directly by livestock on the land, and the use of farmyard manure, dried farmyard manure and dehydrated poultry manure, composted animal excrements, including poultry manure, composted farmyard manure and liquid animal excrements.

The total annual kilograms of nitrogen produced by different types of livestock, and the maximum number of animals per hectare (equivalent to 170kg/N/ha/year) is given in Appendix 3.

Appendix 3 also gives approximate nitrogen and phosphorus content for various slurries and manures

7.6 Manure and slurry storage and application

All manure treatments, storage systems and applications must conform to statutory guidelines and requirements.

Care must be taken when spreading manure/slurry to avoid run-off and the pollution of watercourses and ground water. Attention must be paid to the capacity of the ground to absorb the manure/slurry at the time of application. When conditions appear unfavourable and pollution seems likely to occur, application must not take place. Non-composted manures may not be spread directly onto horticultural crops during the growing season.

7.7 Exporting manure to other holdings

Organic farmers and growers may establish cooperation agreements exclusively with other holdings and enterprises **which comply with the organic production rules**, with the intention of spreading surplus manure from organic production. The maximum limit as referred to in paragraph 7.5, shall be calculated on the basis of all of the organic production units involved in such a cooperation.

Careful records of export of manure must be kept. See paragraph 7.12 below on record keeping.

7.8 Fertilisers and Supplementary Nutrients

Where the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met by measures provided for in these standards, only bought in fertilisers and supplementary nutrients as detailed in Appendix 2 may be used, and only to the extent necessary. Permitted fertilisers and supplementary nutrients include animal by-products such as fish meal, wool, feather and fur; seaweed products; rock phosphate; preparations of microorganisms; calcium carbonate; and others.

Farmers and growers must keep documentary evidence of the use of any bought in fertilisers or supplementary nutrients. See paragraph 7.10 below.

7.9 Justification for use

The use of brought in fertilisers and supplementary nutrients must be justified by the operator. Farmers and growers must be able to demonstrate:

- a) The agronomic justification for bringing in the material, for example by having the soil analysed for macro-nutrients, soil type and soil organic matter.
- b) That the material is not derived from genetically modified crops or substrates. Therefore, it must be accompanied by the appropriate GM-Declaration Form.

7.10 Record keeping requirements

Farmers and growers must keep documentary evidence of the production, import, export and use of all manures, plant wastes, soil conditioners, fertilisers and supplementary nutrients, and make these records available to BDA Certification on request. Records should include:

- a) Numbers of animals on the holding to calculate nitrogen production;
- b) Details of the use of any and all manures, composts, fertilisers, and supplementary nutrients including:
 - date of application
 - type and amount of product
 - parcels of land concerned

- where relevant, storage arrangements and details of any composting undertaken
- c) Justification of the need for brought in manures, fertilisers, composts and supplementary nutrients, including soil analysis
- d) For brought in manures, composts, fertilisers, and supplementary nutrients:
 - the name and address of the supplier, and, where relevant, their organic certification documents
 - where appropriate, the product name and batch or lot number
 - description of the product, listing all ingredients/components and organic status
- e) where relevant, a declaration from the supplier stating that the product is not made by, or from, or otherwise likely to contain, genetically modified organisms
- f) For export of manure or compost
 - Name and address of destination holding, and organic certification documents of recipient
 - Date of export of manure
 - Type and quantity of manure exported

8. Environmental Management

8.0 Control of pollution of the environment

All production techniques used shall prevent or minimise any contamination of the environment.

All farm wastes shall be disposed of in accordance with statutory requirements.

8.1 Prevention of contamination of organic crops from the environment

When farmers and growers convert to organic production, they shall draw up, and subsequently maintain, the precautionary measures to be taken in order to reduce the risk of contamination by unauthorised products or substances. This is completed via the application form to BDA Certification.

In certain circumstances, such as where contamination is suspected from previous land use, or neighbouring sources, BDA Certification may require an analysis of soil and/or crops before certification can be granted.

Where organic crops are being grown adjacent to non-organically managed crops and risk of contamination through spray drift is identified, efforts must be made to provide an effective windbreak. Until such hedge or windbreak is established, the BDA Certification may require a 10-metre buffer-zone between organic crops and the source of the potential contamination, or 20-metres where adjoining sprayed orchards.

Any known or suspected contamination, including spray drift, must be notified to BDA Certification without delay.

8.2 Water

Care shall be taken to ensure that water used for irrigation is free from contamination by prohibited materials, which must be verified annually by water test if mains supply is not being used.

The washing of organic/in-conversion produce must be done in fresh potable water and not in water that has also been used for washing non-organic produce.

9. Arable and Horticultural production

9.1 Rotations - Background

The fertility and biological activity of the soil shall be maintained and increased by multiannual crop rotation including legumes and green manure crops, and by the application of livestock manure or organic material, both preferably composted, from organic production.

A multi annual rotation shall be established, except where exempted below, with the following requirements:

- (a) A balance should be achieved between fertility building and exploitative cropping;
- (b) Crops with differing root systems should be included;
- (c) A leguminous crop should be included to provide nitrogen in the soil for use by subsequent crops;
- (d) Plants with similar pest and disease susceptibility must be separated by an appropriate time interval.

The following production systems are exempted from the above rotation requirements, provided that nutrient supply, weed, pest and disease control is effected by the methods outlined in these standards:

- (a) Rotations on predominantly horticultural holdings which rely on the use of external inputs to maintain crop production are permitted provided that they are:
 - Demonstrating that they are moving towards a better balance between fertility building and exploitative management and away from a total reliance upon outside inputs;
 - Making a maximum use of legumes and green manure catch crops
- (b) Protected cropping, which includes mono-cropping or annual cropping of the same genus, excluding alliums, potatoes and brassicas;
- (c) Permanent pastures including upland habitats, and perennial crops such as orchards, vineyards and plantation crops;
- (d) Wild harvested plants growing naturally in uncultivated areas.

9.2 Seedlings, transplants & modules

Transplants (blocks, modules, sets, root stock and bud materials) must be propagated on a registered organic farm or garden in media derived from materials permitted in these Standards.

Pot plants and potted herbs, including salad crops and wheatgrass (and other grasses), but excluding grow bag production, may be produced and sold as organic provided:

- a) The seeds are organically produced - derogations for use of untreated non-organic seed are **not permitted** for pot plant, potted herb (including salad crops) and wheatgrass production, i.e. only certified organic seeds may be used.
- b) The substrate is made up of at least 50% (by fresh weight of the end product) of materials from organic farming origin i.e. permitted composted material or soil;
- c) The balance of the substrate, including additional mineral requirements, complies with the provisions of Sections 7 above (e.g. propagation composts approved by organic control bodies)
- d) Potable water must be used;
- e) The substrate provides at least 50% of their nutrient needs until the point of sale;
- f) All other relevant aspects of these standards are complied with.
- g) Slaughterhouse waste is not used.

Hydroponic production is prohibited.

9.3 Sprouted Grain Production

Sprouted grain production can be permitted provided the seeds used are certified organic seeds (no derogations for untreated non-organic seeds are permitted) and provided no nutrients or other additives are added to the

water used for sprouting purposes. Sprouted grain production is considered a processing activity and is certified under the Organic Processing Scheme of BDA Certification

10. Grassland and Forage

10.1 Background

In organic farming and gardening, the fertility and biological activity of the soil shall be maintained and increased by multiannual crop rotation including legumes and other green manure crops, and by the application of livestock manure or organic material, both preferably composted, from organic production. Permanent grassland is excluded from the requirement for crop rotations.

10.2 Separation of organic and non-organic grassland & forage

A producer may run organic and non-organic production units in the same area in the case of grassland exclusively used for grazing.

The rules for the grazing of in-conversion and organic land are given in section 15.9.

The rules for the feeding of in-conversion and organic forage are given in section 15.6.

The grazing of non-organic grassland is not permitted at any time.

10.3 Production & storage of forage

All plant production techniques used shall prevent or minimise any contribution to the contamination of the environment.

Farmers must conform to all statutory regulations when making and storing silage. Silage clamps, silos and other storage areas must be constructed and maintained to prevent pollution of watercourses and groundwater by:

- (a) Having effluent collection tanks with sufficient storage for unusually wet silage;
and/or
- (b) Being protected from water entering the system and causing an overflow.

The standards for the use of silage additives and processing aids are given in Appendix 7.

Forage may be sold as a cash crop to facilitate other organic producers. However, in cases where forage is sold for more than 2 successive years from the same land area, a soil analysis must be carried out to prove maintenance of soil fertility. The results of soil analyses must be maintained on file for audit purposes.

Management/Conversion plans which indicate forage production as the main organic enterprise on the holding are unacceptable as this practice is not sustainable.

11. Plant Care and Protection

11.1 General and recommended management practices

The prevention of damage caused by pests, diseases and weeds shall rely primarily on the choice of plant species and varieties, crop rotations, cultivation techniques, and encouragement of natural pest predators.

The following practices are recommended as best practice for general pest and disease control:

- a) The development of a balanced fertilisation programme creating fertile soils of high biological activity and providing a balanced supply of plant nutrients;
- b) The creation of a diverse ecosystem within and around the crop to encourage natural predators by:
 - i. Companion planting, under-sowing and mixed cropping;
 - ii. Leaving uncultivated field margins, hedges, windbreaks and wildlife corridors;
 - iii. Balanced rotations including green manures and companion planting to break the pest and disease cycles and provide crop diversity;
- c) The choice of crops and varieties that are well adapted to the environment, including the use of resistant varieties;
- d) The use of strategic planting dates;
- e) Good husbandry and hygiene practices within the holding to minimise the spread of pests and disease;
- f) Grafting onto resistant rootstocks.

11.2 Permitted practices

The following practices are permitted for general pest and disease control, subject to the conditions specified:

- a) Mechanical controls - using traps, barriers and sound;
- b) Sticky fly traps - only those free from non-permitted insecticides;
- c) Steam sterilisation - of buildings and equipment;
- d) Steam sterilisation or pasteurisation of soils – only in protected structures. Steam sterilisation or pasteurisation may be used with permission as a 'one off' practice to combat a particular pest problem, but will not be approved as a regular part of the husbandry system.
- e) Wetting/sticking agents for sprays - licensed products based on natural plant extracts and oils free from non-permitted additives.

11.3 Permitted Products

Where plants cannot be adequately protected from pests and diseases by measures provided for in these Standards, **only products referred to in Appendix 4 may be used**, subject to the conditions and limitations described.

For products used in traps and dispensers, except pheromone dispensers, the traps and/or dispensers, shall prevent the substances from being released into the environment and prevent contact between the substances and the crops being cultivated. The traps shall be collected after use and disposed of safely.

Farmers and growers must keep evidence of the need to use the product.

Such evidence shall indicate the reason for use of the specific measure; its source; quantity and any applicable storage arrangements.

11.4 Record keeping requirements

Farmers and growers must keep careful records of the purchase, production and use of products used to control pests and diseases in plants, and make these available to BDA certification on request.

Such records must include at least:

- a) Purchase of farm inputs:
 - name and quantity of product purchased, date purchased
- b) The use of plant protection products:
 - Reason for use of product including agronomic justification
 - date of treatment, type of product, method and location of treatment

- any other information required by current pesticide legislation
- c) Supplier information:
- For plant-based materials - declaration from supplier that product is not made from or by GMOs

12. Controlling Weeds

12.1 General Weed management

In organic farming and growing, the prevention of damage caused by pests, diseases and weeds relies primarily on the choice of species and varieties, crop rotation and cultivation techniques.

12.2 Recommended weed control practices

The following are recommended as best practice for controlling weeds:

- Balanced rotations, including alternation of weed-suppressing and weed-susceptible crops, and utilisation of green manures;
- Composting of manures and plant wastes, and aeration of slurry;
- Selection of varieties for vigour and weed suppression, and use of re-cleaned seed;
- Pre-sowing cultivations and stale seed bed techniques;
- Undersowing;
- Pre-germination, propagation and planting;
- Raised beds and no dig systems;
- Mulches;
- Mixed stocking and tight grazing;
- Pre-emergence and post-emergence mechanical operations, e.g. hoeing, harrowing, topping, hand weeding;
- Attention to hygiene in the field and machinery;

The following are permitted for controlling weeds, subject to the conditions specified:

- Pre-emergence and post-emergence flame weeding;
- Plastic mulches;
- Steam sterilisation or pasteurisation of soils in protected structures - may be used with permission as a 'one off' practice to combat a particular pest problem but will not be approved as a regular part of the husbandry system. A derogation is required for use of steam sterilisation.

All chemical means of controlling weeds are prohibited.

13. Mushroom production

13.1 Mushroom growing houses

Mushroom growing houses must be dedicated to organic production.

13.2 Substrates

For production of mushrooms, substrates may only be used if they are composed only of the following components:

- Farmyard manure and animal excrements from organic production
- Farmyard manure and animal excrements from non-organic production, as listed in Appendix 1., under the following conditions:

- i. Where it has been demonstrated that the product is not available organically;
- ii. And where the products do not exceed 25% of the fresh weight of the substrate before composting (excluding any added water or covering material)
- c) Products of agricultural origin, other than those referred to in point (a), from holdings producing according to organic production method;
- d) Peat not chemically treated;
- e) Wood, where possible from a certified organic or certified sustainable source, but in any case not treated with chemical products after felling;
- f) Mineral products referred to in Annex I of Regulation 889/2008
- g) Potable water
- h) Soil – any soil used should be from organic farming, and the resulting spent compost should, where possible, be returned to the same origin in order to ensure the sustainability of the system.

14. Wild Harvested Plants

14.1 Wild harvested plants

The collection of wild plants and parts thereof, growing naturally in natural areas, forests and agricultural areas is considered an organic production method provided that:

- a) Those areas have not, for a period of at least three years before the collection, received treatment with products other than those authorised for use in organic production
- b) The collection does not affect the stability of the natural habitat or the maintenance of the species in the collection area.

14.2 Documentary accounts & records

Careful records must be kept of all wild harvesting of plants. These records must be made available to BDA certification on request, and should include:

- i. date and location of each harvest
- ii. type and quantity of crop in each harvest
- iii. organic/in-conversion status of each crop
- iv. annual summary of crops harvested from each parcel of land
- v. any written evidence available from third parties to confirm the organic status of crops harvested.

15. Animal Husbandry

15.1 Specific principles relating to organic livestock production

Please refer to Section 2 for general principles relating to livestock production, including careful selection of appropriate locally-adapted breeds, maintenance of high animal welfare standards, strengthening of animals' natural immune systems, production of organic animals from birth or hatching, and feeding with exclusively organic feed.

The standards for organic livestock must be considered in the context of a whole farm, farming system or linked farms which is/are being managed organically. Farmers applying for certification for a livestock enterprise must therefore also comply with all other relevant parts of these standards.

All livestock on one and the same production unit must be managed in accordance with these standards, irrespective of their status.

Storage on the holding of input products other than those authorised under these standards is prohibited.

15.2 Origin of Livestock

15.2.1 Livestock breeding

You must choose appropriate breeds, suitable for your farming system and the local climate and landscape. You should give preference to indigenous breeds, breeds that will be healthy and resilient, and breeds that can be managed without mutilation.

For bees, preference must be given to the use of *Apis mellifera* and their local ecotypes.

You must aim to breed your own replacement stock.

Reproduction must use natural methods. Artificial insemination is allowed, but other forms of artificial reproduction, such as cloning and embryo transfer must not be used.

Reproduction must not be induced by hormone treatments or similar, except in the case of individual animals needing therapeutic veterinary treatment.

15.2.2 Bringing in organic livestock

If you need to bring in livestock for fattening, you must use organic livestock. In order to be organic, livestock must be born and raised on an organic holding.

It is not possible to turn a non-organic animal in to organic meat, except in the case of day old chicks.

If you need to bring in livestock for breeding or as replacements, you must try to source organic livestock from organic holdings. However, where there is no suitable organic stock available, there are some limited possibilities to request a derogation to bring in non-organic livestock, detailed below.

15.2.3 Bringing in non-organic mammals

Where there is no suitable organic livestock available, you can request a derogation to bring in non-organic livestock in limited situations detailed below.

You must request the derogation in advance of purchasing the livestock. These derogations have to be approved by Defra, so you should allow at least a couple of weeks for them to be processed.

When you are setting up a new herd or flock, you can request permission to bring in non-organic piglets, calves, kids or lambs.

- (a) Calves, buffalo and foals must be less than six months old;
- (b) Lambs and kids must be less than 60 days old;
- (c) Piglets must weigh less than 35 kg.

When you are renewing or expanding a herd or flock of mammals, you can request permission to bring in non-organic adult female stock. These must be nulliparous (animals that have not yet given birth). The number of adult female animals you can bring in is subject to the following restrictions per year:

- (a) Up to a maximum of 10 % of adult bovine livestock
- (b) Up to a maximum of 20 % of the adult porcine, ovine or caprine livestock
- (c) For holdings with less than 10 bovine animals, or with less than five porcine, ovine or caprine animals, any renewal shall be limited to a maximum of one animal per year.

In the following special cases, the brought-in non-organic livestock percentages referred to above may be increased up to 40%:

- (a) When a major extension to the farm is undertaken;
- (b) When a breed is changed;
- (c) When a new livestock specialisation is initiated;
- (d) When breeds are in danger of being lost to farming (according to the definition given in Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, and based on figures provided by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust) in which case animals of those breeds must not necessarily be nulliparous.

When you need a new male sire (e.g. bull, boar) for breeding purposes, you can bring in a non-organic animal if there are no suitable organic animals available. In this case, a derogation can be granted by your inspector at the time of the inspection.

15.2.4 Bringing in non-organic poultry

Where there are no suitable organic birds available, you can request a derogation to bring in non-organic poultry in the limited situations detailed below.

You must request the derogation in advance of purchasing the livestock. These derogations have to be approved by Defra, so you should allow at least a couple of weeks for them to be processed.

If you need to bring in day old chicks as layers or table birds, you can request a derogation to use non-organic day olds (up to three days old). These birds can convert to full organic status. Non-organic hatching eggs are treated the same as non-organic day old birds.

If you need to bring in pullets for egg production, you can request a derogation to use 'part-organic' pullets up to 18 weeks old. These are birds that have been raised according to the organic feed and vet requirements, but not necessarily on an organic certified holding. These birds can never have full organic status, but their eggs can be organic. This provision is currently due to expire on 31 December 2021.

15.2.5 Non-organic livestock in catastrophic circumstances

In the case of high mortality of animals or bees caused by catastrophic circumstances, Defra may temporarily authorise:

- (a) the renewal or reconstitution of the herd or flock with non-organic animals, when organically reared animals are not available;
- (b) the reconstitution of apiaries with non-organic bees, when organic apiaries are not available.

15.2.6 Record keeping requirements

You must keep records of livestock transfer documents, invoices, receipts and supplier certificates to demonstrate that the livestock you have brought in is organic.

You must keep copies of any derogations granted allowing you to bring in non-organic stock.

In the case of part organic pullets you must keep records of the declaration by the supplier of their status.

15.3 Conversion of Livestock & Livestock Products

15.3.1 Farm conversion scenarios

Animals existing on the holding at the beginning of the initial farm conversion cannot achieve full organic status. They can be recorded as 'converted breeding stock', and their milk, wool and offspring can achieve organic status.

There are two approaches to farm conversion.

In a simultaneous conversion, the land and livestock are converted at the same time.

- The livestock must be managed according to the organic standards from the day the land starts conversion.
- All the livestock on the farm must be included, unless it is agreed in advance with us that some residual stock can temporarily remain on the holding before being sold.
- The livestock must get at least 50% of their feed from the holding, and all the land used by the livestock or for their feed must be converted.

In a non-simultaneous conversion, the land starts conversion first.

- The livestock must be on gm-free feed, but they do not have to be managed to the organic standards. This means that it is possible to continue to bring in non-organic stock and to use non-organic feed.
- The livestock must start their conversion by the time the land has completed conversion.
- Livestock cannot achieve organic status before the land completes organic conversion.

15.3.2 Conversion periods for livestock

Livestock born on the holding during the conversion may be eligible for full organic status once the conversion of the land is complete.

In a simultaneous conversion, where the land and livestock are converted at the same time:

- calves born on the farm at least 12 weeks after the start of conversion have full organic status once the land has completed conversion
- lambs and piglets conceived on organic or in-conversion land have full organic status once the land has completed conversion
- organic poultry brought on to the holding during the conversion, and non-organic day old chicks brought on to the holding with a derogation during the conversion can have full organic status once the land has completed conversion
- livestock on the farm before the start of the conversion can never have full organic status – they are recorded as 'converted breeding stock' - but their milk and wool can have full organic status once the land has completed organic conversion
- poultry on the holding before the start of conversion can never have full organic status but their eggs can be fully organic once the land has completed conversion
- where organic livestock are brought on to the farm during conversion, they can only be sold as organic stock once the land has completed conversion

- where livestock eligible for full conversion are sold off the farm to another organic or in-conversion holding during the conversion, they can only be sold as organic once the land of both holdings has complete organic conversion

In a non-simultaneous conversion, where the livestock start conversion after the land:

- Calves have organic status if their mother has been managed to organic standards for at least 12 weeks before their birth.
- Piglets, lambs and kids have organic status if their mother has been managed to organic standards since their conception.
- Table birds must be managed to the organic standards for at least 10 weeks in order to have full organic status. They cannot have full organic status before the land has completed conversion.
- Laying birds must be managed to the organic standards for 6 weeks before their eggs can be organic. The 6 weeks conversion can start immediately the land conversion is completed, or earlier, but the eggs cannot be organic before the land is fully organic.
- Dairy animals must be managed to the organic standards for 6 months before their milk can be organic. The 6 month milk conversion can start immediately the land conversion is completed, or earlier, but the milk cannot be organic before the land is fully organic.
- Livestock present before the start of conversion can never have organic status, and will be recorded as 'converted breeding stock'.

Where non-organic livestock is brought on to the holding, under derogation as described in 15.2.3 and 15.2.4:

- Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs can never have organic status and will be recorded as 'converted breeding stock'. However, their milk, wool and future offspring can have organic status, as described below.
- Poultry brought in as day old chicks have full organic status after being managed to the organic standards for 10 weeks.
- Eggs from poultry brought in as part organic pullets have full organic status after the birds have been managed to the organic standards for 6 weeks. The birds themselves can never have full organic status, so must not be sold as organic meat at the end of their lives.
- Milk from dairy animals has full organic status once the animals have been managed to the organic standards for 6 months
- Wool has full organic status if shorn after the animals have been managed to the organic standards for 6 months
- Piglets, lambs and kids conceived on the holding have full organic status
- Calves have full organic status if their mother has been managed to the organic standards for at least 12 weeks before their birth

15.3.3 Reduced conversion for areas grazed by non-herbivores

The conversion period may be reduced to one year for pasturage and open-air areas used exclusively by non-herbivore species.

Pig and poultry producers wishing to graze stock on pasture subject to a 12-month reduced conversion period must notify BDA Certification in the management/conversion plan. BDA Certification will decide whether the reduced conversion can be approved following the initial inspection.

15.3.4 Documentary accounts & records

You must keep clear records of all livestock on the holding, including births, deaths, sales and transfers.

15.3.5 In conversion Livestock Management and Animal Health Plan

You must write, and update as necessary, a Livestock Management Plan, as detailed in section 15.4.3 below. Whilst in conversion the plan should include a clear record of the conversion status of all your land and livestock.

When you fill out your initial application form to start conversion with us, we will agree with you:

- Conversion start and end dates for each block of land;
- Conversion arrangement - whether in simultaneous conversion or not;
- Dates when the animals and the products may be marketed as organic.

15.4 General Management and Welfare of Livestock

15.4.1 Husbandry practices

Personnel keeping animals shall possess the necessary basic knowledge and skills as regards the health and the welfare needs of the animals.

Husbandry practices, including stocking densities, and housing conditions shall ensure that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of animals are met.

15.4.2 Farm Management Plan

As part of the initial application to BDA Certification, the licensee must draw up a full description of the unit or holding, to include:

- (a) A full description of the livestock buildings, pasturage, open air areas, etc., and, where applicable, the premises for the storage, packaging and processing of livestock, livestock products, raw materials and inputs;
- (b) A full description of the installations for the storage of livestock manure.
- (c) A plan for spreading manure, together with a full description of the areas given over to crop production;
 - (a) Where appropriate, as regards the spreading of manure, the written arrangements with other holdings complying with the provisions of the organic production rules;
 - (b) A livestock management plan for the organic-production livestock unit.

15.4.3 Livestock Management and Animal Health Plan

A detailed Livestock Management and Animal Health Plan must be developed, kept up to date and agreed with BDA Certification. The plan should cover the following areas, addressing how the standards will be met, with a focus on preventative health care:

- a) Number, type and breed of livestock;
- b) Access to pasture, paddock and grazing, to include integration with the cropping plan, parasite control, sward management, provisions for rotational or paddock grazing, reseeding where appropriate, and prevention of over-stocking;
- c) Livestock housing, including dimensions, stocking density, ventilation, bedding, manure storage etc.;
- d) Diet, nutrition and storage of feed;

- e) Preventative health care, any persistent health issues, and veterinary interventions including both alternative and allopathic treatments;
- f) Arrangements for transport and slaughter.

15.4.4 Identification of livestock

The livestock shall be identified permanently using techniques adapted to each species, individually in the case of large mammals and individually or by batch in the case of poultry and small mammals. Tagging, ear notching, tattooing and freeze branding animals are permitted for identification.

15.4.5 Stocking density

The number of livestock shall be limited with a view to minimising overgrazing, poaching of soil, erosion, or pollution caused by animals or by the spreading of their manure.

The outdoor stocking density of livestock kept on pasturage, heathland, wetland, heather and other natural or semi-natural habitats must be low enough to prevent poaching of the soil and over grazing of vegetation.

The total stocking density shall be such as not to exceed the limit of 170 kg of nitrogen per hectare/per annum of agricultural area.

15.4.6 Access to water

Where possible livestock should have access to water at all times. For animals on piped water supplies, the drinking water should be checked regularly.

15.4.7 Access to open air areas

The livestock shall have permanent access to open air areas, preferably pasture, whenever weather conditions and the state of the ground allow this, unless restrictions and obligations related to the protection of human and animal health are imposed on the basis of national or international law.

Open air areas may be partially covered.

Free range, open air exercise areas or open air runs must provide sufficient protection against rain, wind, sun and extreme temperatures, depending on local weather conditions and the breed concerned. Outwintering is acceptable where conditions permit provided that breeds are suitably hardy and/or there is adequate shelter to prevent any welfare problems.

Access to open air areas for herbivores

Herbivores shall have access to pasturage for grazing whenever conditions allow. In cases where herbivores have access to pasturage during the grazing period and where the winter-housing system gives freedom of movement to the animals, the obligation to provide open air areas during the winter months may be waived.

Access to open air areas for pigs

The pig enterprise must be free range and allow the pigs direct access to the soil and green food. Wallows and shade must be provided over the summer months.

Access to open air areas for poultry

Open-air areas for poultry shall be mainly covered with vegetation and be provided with protective facilities and permit fowl to have easy access to adequate numbers of drinking and feeding troughs.

Poultry shall have access to an open-air area for at least one third of their life.

In addition, when the rearing of each batch of poultry has been completed, runs shall be left empty to allow vegetation to grow back.

a) In the case of layers, at least six months after each batch;

b) In the case of table birds at least two months per year

The operator shall keep documentary evidence of the application of this period. These requirements shall not apply where poultry is not reared in batches, or is not kept in runs and is free to roam, throughout the day.

Smallholdings may be required to rest pastures for reasons of disease management, which will be determined on a case by case basis.

Waterfowl shall have access to a stream, pond, lake or a pool whenever the weather and hygienic conditions permit in order to respect their species-specific needs and animal welfare requirements. The water must be at least sufficient for the waterfowl to be able to dip their heads into it. Such water must be well maintained and managed to prevent the build-up of stagnant water and decaying vegetation, pollution and disease risk.

Poultry must have access to shelter at all times and be provided with adequate cover and protection from predators. Poultry must also be provided with shelter from extreme weather conditions such as rain, wind, sun and high temperatures.

Cover may be either natural, such as trees, shrubs and cover crops, and/or artificial such as screens and trailers. Cover should be provided in a way that encourages ranging behaviour and ensures maximum use of the pasture provided.

Where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of national or international law, they shall permanently have access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material in order to meet their ethological needs.

15.4.8 Poultry age at slaughter

To prevent the use of intensive rearing methods, poultry shall either be reared until they reach a minimum age or else shall come from slow-growing poultry strains. Where slow-growing poultry strains are not used by the operator the following minimum age at slaughter shall be:

(a) 81 days for chickens;

(b) 150 days for capons;

(c) 49 days for Peking ducks;

(d) 70 days for female Muscovy ducks;

(e) 84 days for male Muscovy ducks;

(f) 92 days for Mallard ducks;

(g) 94 days for guinea fowl;

(h) 140 days for male turkeys and roasting geese;

(i) 100 days for female turkeys.

15.4.9 Mutilations & operations on animals

Any suffering, including mutilation, shall be kept to a minimum during the entire life of the animal, including at the time of slaughter.

Operations such as attaching elastic bands to the tails of sheep, tail-docking, cutting of teeth, trimming of beaks and dehorning shall not be carried out routinely in organic farming. However, some of these operations may be authorised by BDA Certification, for reasons of safety or if they are intended to improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock on a case-by-case basis.

Any suffering to the animals shall be reduced to a minimum by applying adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia and by carrying out the operation only at the most appropriate age by qualified personnel. Mutilation such as clipping the wings of queen bees and removing antlers in velvet is prohibited.

Physical castration is allowed in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production practices but only where any suffering to the animals shall be reduced to a minimum by applying adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia and by carrying out the operation only at the most appropriate age by qualified personnel.

Under the conditions outlined above, BDA Certification can authorize tail docking of sheep, disbudding, dehorning and physical castration, through an annual derogation submitted as part of the annual inspection paperwork.

15.4.10 Livestock movement records

Livestock movement records shall be kept. Such records shall provide a full description of the herd or flock management system comprising at least the following information regarding animals arriving at the holding:

- a) Origin
- b) Species, identification, numbers and ages
- c) Date of arrival
- d) Source and copy of organic licence of supplier (must verify commencement date of conversion for operators less than 3 years in a Certification Scheme)
- e) Status and date when organic status may be achieved;
- f) Veterinary history and quarantine measures taken;
- g) With regard to livestock leaving the holding or animals lost:
 - (i) Species, number of head and age,
 - (ii) Identification mark;
 - (iii) Status;
 - (iv) Destination (name and address);
 - (v) Weight in the case of slaughter;
 - (vi) Details of any animals lost and reasons.

15.5 Livestock Housing

15.5.1 General livestock housing rules

Insulation, heating and ventilation of the building shall ensure that air circulation, dust level, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentration, are kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals. The building shall permit plentiful natural ventilation and light to enter.

Housing for livestock shall not be mandatory in areas with appropriate climatic conditions to enable animals to live outdoors.

The stocking density in buildings shall provide for the comfort, the well-being and the species specific needs of the animals which, in particular, shall depend on the species, the breed and the age of the animals. It shall also take account of the behavioural needs of the animals, which depend in particular on the size of the group and the animals' sex. The density shall ensure the animals' welfare by providing them with sufficient space to stand naturally, lie down easily, turn round, groom themselves, assume all natural postures and make all natural movements such as stretching and wing flapping.

The minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas, and other characteristics of housing for different species and categories of animals, are laid down in Appendix 5.

Building materials treated with paints or preservatives which are toxic to animals must not be in reach of livestock.

The use of livestock housing and handling facilities on a conventional holding (off-farm) requires the prior approval of BDA Certification. The lease should be for a minimum 5-year period. Such housing (including slurry facilities) must be cleaned as specified in these standards before any such leasing takes place. Proper segregation/separation must be maintained at all times. Organic stock must never mix with non-organic animals nor graze non-organic land.

15.5.2 Bedding materials in livestock housing

The housing shall be provided with a comfortable, clean and dry laying/rest area of sufficient size, consisting of a solid construction which is not slatted. Ample dry bedding strewn with litter material shall be provided in the rest area. The litter shall comprise straw or other suitable natural material.

The following bedding materials are permitted:

- (a) Straw from organic and non-organic sources, including materials such as bean haulm, and rushes;
- (b) Sawdust and wood shavings/chips from untreated wood;
- (c) Bedded rubber mats and mattresses with an additional layer of litter material on top e.g. straw;
- (d) Concrete and sand cubicle bases with a bedding layer on top.

Cubicles must be clean and dry and sufficiently well bedded to give comfortable conditions at all times. Concrete based cubicles are allowed provided that they are fitted with deep layered bedding or other cushioned bedding materials.

15.5.3 Specific housing conditions for mammals

Livestock housing shall have smooth, but not slippery floors. At least half of the indoor surface area shall be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction.

Tethering or isolation of livestock shall be prohibited, unless for individual animals for a limited period of time, and in so far as this is justified for safety, welfare or veterinary reasons.

Housing conditions for bulls

Bulls over one-year-old shall have access to pasturage or an open-air area.

Breeding bulls over one year may be housed. If housed, breeding bulls must have access to pasturage or an open-air exercise area of a minimum of 30m². The required open-air area may include open yards or situations where the bull is running with cows in housing facilities which include at least one open side (this can include housing with an A shaped roof which has an open passage). When housed alone, it is recommended bulls are in sight of other animals. Safety precautions when handling such animals must be observed.

Housing conditions for calves

The housing of calves in individual boxes shall be forbidden after the age of one week.

Calf boxes must be constructed so that each calf can see and hear other calves and can get up, lie down and turn around without difficulty.

If housed, calves must have access to good quality straw, hay or silage and fresh, clean water.

Fattening/finishing adult bovines indoors

The final fattening phase of adult bovines for meat production may take place indoors, provided that this indoors period does not exceed one fifth of their lifetime and in any case for a maximum period of three months.

Use of cubicles for housing

If used, cubicles must be of optimum size for the animals on the holding with regard to welfare.

At least 3m² per individual animal must be allowed for dairy cows and larger animals, with lesser areas for smaller animals. Animals must have free access to cubicles and must have an adequate lounging area. Cubicles must be clean and dry and bedded at all times.

Housing conditions for pigs

Sows shall be kept in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period.

Fattening pigs, gilts or sows shall be kept in evenly sized and stable groups. Bullying must be avoided in group-housed dry sows/gilts particularly at feeding.

Piglets shall not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages.

If not fed ad-lib feed, there must be enough trough space for all pigs to feed at once.

Exercise areas shall permit dunging and rooting by porcine animals. For the purposes of rooting different substrates can be used.

15.5.4 Specific housing conditions for poultry

Poultry shall not be kept in cages.

Buildings for all poultry shall meet the following conditions:

(a) At least one third of the floor area shall be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction, and covered with a litter material such as straw, wood shavings or sand;

(b) In poultry houses for laying hens, a sufficiently large part of the floor area available to the hens shall be available for the collection of bird droppings;

(c) They shall have perches of a size and number commensurate with the size of the group and of the birds as detailed in Appendix 5

(d) They shall have exit/entry pop-holes of a size adequate for the birds, and these pop-holes shall have a combined length of at least 4 m per 100 m² area of the house available to the birds;

(e) Each poultry house shall not contain more than:

(i) 4800 chickens,

(ii) 3000 laying hens,

(iii) 5200 guinea fowl,

(iv) 4000 female Muscovy or Peking ducks or 3,200 male Muscovy or Peking ducks or other ducks,

(v) 2500 capons, geese or turkeys;

(f) The total usable area of poultry houses for **meat production** on any single unit, shall not exceed 1600 m²;

(g) Poultry houses shall be constructed in a manner allowing all birds easy access to open air area;

Natural light may be supplemented by artificial means to provide a maximum of 16 hours light per day with a continuous nocturnal rest period without artificial light of at least eight hours.

Buildings shall be emptied of livestock between each batch of poultry reared. The buildings and fittings shall be cleaned and disinfected during this time.

Litter must be replenished regularly and kept in a dry and friable condition suitable for scratching and dust bathing.

15.5.5 Cleaning and disinfection of livestock housing

Housing, pens, equipment and utensils shall be properly cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease carrying organisms. Faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt feed shall be removed as often as necessary to minimise smell and to avoid attracting insects or rodents.

Only products listed in Appendix 8 may be used for cleaning and disinfection of livestock buildings installations and utensils.

15.6 Livestock Diets

15.6.1 Feed meeting animals' nutritional requirements

Livestock shall be fed with organic feed that meets the animal's nutritional requirements at the various stages of its development.

With the exception of bees, livestock shall have permanent access to pasture or roughage.

Any feed materials used or processed in organic production shall not have been processed with the aid of chemically synthesised solvents.

Growth promoters and synthetic amino-acids shall not be used.

Rearing systems for herbivores are to be based on maximum use of grazing pasturage according to the availability of pastures in the different periods of the year. At least 60 % of the dry matter in daily rations of weaned herbivores shall consist of roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage. A reduction to 50 % for animals in dairy production for a maximum period of three months in early lactation is allowed.

Roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage shall be added to the daily ration for pigs and poultry.

All poultry must have access to insoluble grit

The keeping of livestock in conditions, or on a diet, which may encourage anaemia, is prohibited.

Fattening practices shall be reversible at any stage of the rearing process. Force-feeding is forbidden.

15.6.2 Milk as a livestock feed

All young mammals shall be fed on natural milk, preferably maternal milk, for a minimum period of three months for bovines, 45 days for sheep and goats, and 40 days for pigs.

Natural milk is defined as fresh whole milk or dried whole or skimmed milk and must be organically certified.

A product containing milk protein and vegetable oil made into a product that looks like milk cannot be accepted as natural milk and cannot therefore be used in the first three months of life for bovine animals. While certain milk replacers on the market can be certified as organic, such organically certified milk replacers cannot be fed to bovines in the first three months of life, or first 45 days for sheep and goats and 40 days for pigs. The only exception to this would be in a specific emergency situation, which is catered for within the veterinary section of the standards.

Artificial teat rearing is preferred to bucket rearing. Care must be taken during the pre-ruminating phase to ensure effective digestion. Care should be taken to ensure that the milk is fed at the correct temperature. Where maternal milk is not available, organic colostrum may be fed. Cow's colostrum may contain antibodies damaging to sheep and should be tested for this before being given to orphan lambs or kids. Where it is not possible to feed calves, kids or lambs with maternal or other natural organic milk and they are fed with non-organic milk or milk replacer (e.g. lamlac) for more than 72 hours, these animals must lose their organic or in-conversion status. They can reconvert only as breeding stock and can never be sold as organic meat.

15.6.3 Feed from own holding or from other organic holdings

Operators shall primarily obtain feed for livestock from the holding where the animals are kept or from other organic holdings in the same region;

In the case of herbivores, except during the period each year when the animals are under transhumance, at least 50 % of the feed shall come from the farm unit itself or in case this is not feasible, be produced in cooperation with other organic farms primarily in the same region.

15.6.4 Use of in-conversion feed

A part of the ration may contain feed from holdings which are in conversion to organic farming.

Up to 30% of the feedstuffs (calculated on an annual dry matter basis) may comprise in-conversion feedstuffs. When the in-conversion feedstuffs come from a unit of the holding itself, this percentage may be increased to 100%.

Up to 20% of the total feedstuffs fed to livestock may originate from the grazing or harvesting of permanent pastures, perennial forage parcels or protein crops, sown under organic management on lands in their first year of conversion, provided that they are part of the holding itself and have not been part of an organic production unit of that holding in the last five years.

When both in-conversion feedstuffs and feedstuffs from first year conversion are being used, the total combined percentage of such feedstuffs shall not exceed the maximum percentages above.

The % calculations specified above must be applied to individual animals or to a feeding group where they all receive the same rations.

15.6.5 Use of non-organic feed

Non-organic feed materials from plant origin, feed materials from animal and mineral origin, feed additives, certain products used in animal nutrition and processing aids may be used only if they have been authorised for use in organic production, as listed in Appendix 6 and in Appendix 7.

As there is a recognised shortage of organic protein available for feeding to pigs and poultry, it is acceptable to feed non-organic protein to pigs and poultry, up to a total of 5% of the feed ration. (Most commercial pig and poultry feed contains up to 5% non-organic protein within the feed ingredients). This provision is currently due to expire on 31 December 2020.

In the case of catastrophic circumstances leading to non-availability of organic feed, BDA Certification may authorise the use of non-organic feed in specific areas for limited periods of time. Non-organic feedstuffs may only be used where organic feedstuff are unavailable and under derogation from BDA Certification. The farmer shall keep documentary evidence of the need for the use of this provision.

Non-organic spices, herbs, and molasses may be used, provided that their organic form is not available; they are produced or prepared without chemical solvents; and their use is limited to 1 % of the feed ration of a given species.

Non-organic feed materials of mineral origin may be used as listed in Appendix 6.

Products from sustainable fisheries may be used, provided that they are produced or prepared without chemical solvents; and their use is restricted to non-herbivores (i.e. pigs and poultry).

Salt as sea salt and coarse rock salt may be used.

15.6.6 Feed in catastrophic circumstances

BDA Certification may authorise, on a temporary basis:

(a) The use of non-organic feedstuffs for a limited period and in relation to a specific area by individual operators, when forage production is lost or when restrictions are imposed, in particular as a result of exceptional meteorological conditions, the outbreak of infectious diseases, the contamination with toxic substances, or as a consequence of fires;

(b) The feeding of bees with organic honey, organic sugar or organic sugar syrup in case of long lasting exceptional weather conditions or catastrophic circumstances, which hamper the nectar or honeydew production.

Upon approval by BDA Certification the individual operators shall keep documentary evidence of the use of the above exceptions

15.6.7 Products and substances permitted in animal feed

Non-organic feed materials of plant, animal, mineral and microbial origin may be used in organic production only if they are listed in Appendix 6, and subject to the restrictions described in Appendix 6.

15.6.8 Feed additives and certain substances used in animal nutrition

Feed additives, certain products used in animal nutrition, and processing aids may be used in organic production only if they are listed in Appendix 7 and the restrictions laid down therein are complied with.

Mineral deficiencies must be identified and treatments justified within the health and welfare plan, together with plans to reduce their use where possible. Justification may take the form of forage, blood or soil analysis or a letter from a vet detailing evidence of previous problems with specific mineral deficiencies.

Straight mineral licks free from additives are permitted. Mineral licks containing molasses may be used, with prior permission from BDA Certification.

15.6.9 GMO Declaration

All conventional feedstuffs, feed additives and processing aids must be free from GMOs; in this regard food or feed which is not labelled GM can be used. Inputs other than food or feed must be accompanied by a GM-free declaration. A model declaration is available from BDA Certification on request.

15.6.10 Record keeping for livestock feed

The Livestock Management and Animal Health Plan required in paragraph 15.4.3 must be drawn up and maintained by the farmer to address the above requirements regarding animal feed.

The licensee must keep records of feedstuff for each class of stock, including

- a) Type of feed or feed supplement;
- b) Proportions of various ingredients of rations (organic, in-conversion, non-organic) on a dry matter basis;
- c) Periods of access to free-range areas;
- d) Periods of transhumance where restrictions apply;
- e) Sources of all ingredients (including brought-in feeds and farm grown feeds), for brought in feeds, records must be kept including quantities, supplier, certificate and schedule
- f) Source and composition of compound feedstuffs;
- g) Non-GM declarations for non-organic straight feeds used in pig and poultry feeds.

15.7 Animal Health and Veterinary Treatments

15.7.1 Disease Prevention

Disease prevention shall be based on breed and strain selection, husbandry management practices, high quality feed and exercise, appropriate stocking density and adequate and appropriate housing maintained in hygienic conditions.

The use of chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics for preventive treatment is prohibited. The use of immunological veterinary medicines (vaccines) is allowed.

The use of substances to promote growth or production (including antibiotics, coccidiostats and other artificial aids for growth promotion purposes) and the use of hormones or similar substances to control reproduction or for other purposes (e.g. induction or synchronisation of oestrus), is prohibited.

Where livestock is obtained from non-organic units, special measures such as screening tests or quarantine periods may apply, depending on local circumstances.

The standards relating to the prevention of disease by the cleaning and hygiene of livestock housing can be found in paragraph 15.5.5.

15.7.2 Veterinary treatment

Where, despite preventive measures to ensure animal health, animals become sick or injured, they shall be treated immediately to avoid suffering to the animal, if necessary in isolation and in suitable housing.

15.7.3 Complementary therapies

Phytotherapeutic, homeopathic products, trace elements and products listed in Appendix 7 shall be used in preference to chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary treatment or antibiotics, provided that their therapeutic effect is effective for the species of animal, and the condition for which the treatment is intended.

15.7.4 Conventional veterinary treatments

If the use of measures referred to above is not effective in combating illness or injury, and if treatment is essential to avoid suffering or distress of the animal, chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics may be used under the responsibility of a vet.

Treatments related to the protection of human and animal health imposed on the basis of national or international law shall be allowed.

Where an animal or group of animals receive more than three courses of treatments with chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics (excluding vaccinations, treatments for parasites and compulsory eradication schemes) within 12 months, or more than one course of treatment if their productive lifecycle is less than one year, the livestock concerned, or produce derived from them, may not be sold as organic products. The livestock shall undergo the conversion periods laid down in paragraph 15.3.1 above. 'A course of treatment' means all necessary measures taken to restore the animal to health following a particular disease episode.

Antibiotics

The use of antibiotics is restricted to clinical cases and only where no other remedy would be effective, or after major trauma as a result of surgery or accident.

Hormones

The therapeutic use of hormones is permitted only in the following situations:

- (a) Hormones may be administered to an individual animal only as a form of therapeutic veterinary treatment, subject to the withdrawal periods specified;
- (b) Natural prostaglandin or corticosteroid administered by a veterinary surgeon in the rare case of the need to induce parturition for veterinary reasons;
- (c) Hormone treatments for specific disorders where no alternative and effective treatment is available to restore the animal to full health (e.g. on anoestrus cows).

Organophosphates

Organophosphate based compounds may not be used

Vaccines

Vaccination is permitted only in cases where there is a known disease risk on a farm or neighbouring land which cannot be controlled by any other means and which has been confirmed in writing by the vet and specified in the Health Plan.

The simplest vaccine should be used for the disease to be treated; where required, more complex vaccines may be used. Single, two in one or four in one vaccines are preferred to more complex vaccines unless such cover is specifically required. Vaccine choice and use should be agreed with the nominated vet to ensure adequate disease protection during the conversion phase with, where possible, progressive reductions in use as the organic unit becomes established.

Anaesthetics

Anaesthetics must be used to prevent suffering as advised by a veterinary surgeon and required by law.

Mineral injections and boluses

In addition to use as a feed additive, trace elements and minerals may be given by injection or bolus where justified by known farm deficiencies and justified in the Health Plan.

15.7.5 Storage of veterinary medicines

The storage of allopathic veterinary medicinal products and antibiotics is permitted on holdings provided that they have been prescribed by a vet, that they are stored in a supervised location.

15.7.6 Withdrawal periods after use of veterinary medicines

The withdrawal period between the last administration of an allopathic veterinary medicinal product to an animal under normal conditions of use, and the production of organically produced foodstuffs from such animals, is to be twice the legal withdrawal period, or in a case in which this period is not specified, 48 hours.

15.7.7 Mutilations & operations on animals

All mutilations such as tail docking, castration and dehorning are subject to the requirements of paragraph 15.4.9.

15.7.8 Animal Health Plan

The Livestock Management and Animal Health Plan required in paragraph 15.4.3 must be drawn up and maintained by the farmer to address the above requirements. This should be done in partnership with either a vet or an organic advisor during and after conversion, to develop and operate an organic livestock system which conforms to these standards.

The plan must ensure the development of a pattern of health building and disease control measures appropriate to the particular circumstances of the individual farm and allow for the evolution of a farming system progressively less dependent on allopathic veterinary medicinal products.

15.7.9 Veterinary treatment records

Careful records must be kept of the use of all medicines and veterinary products, to verify that withdrawal periods and maximum number of treatments have been adhered to.

These should include:

- a. Identity of the animal(s) treated;
- b. Details of the diagnosis;
- c. Method of treatment and veterinary prescription for veterinary care with reasons;
- d. Name of the product, active ingredients, quantities used and type of treatment;
- e. Dates of the start and end of the treatment;
- f. Name of the person who administered the product;
- g. Supplier of the product;
- h. Date of purchase of veterinary product;
- i. Quantity purchased;
- j. The statutory and organic withdrawal periods applying before livestock products can be marketed labelled as organic and the earliest date for sale of the animal or products.

15.8 Handling and Transportation of Live Animals & Birds

15.8.1 General rules on handling and transportation of live animals and birds

The duration of transport of livestock shall be minimised.

Loading and unloading of animals shall be carried out without the use of any type of electrical stimulation to coerce the animals. The use of allopathic tranquillisers, prior to or during transport, is prohibited.

When animals, including birds, are transported they must be handled with proper care and concern for their welfare. They must also be handled in accordance with all relevant legislation.

During the making up of loads, loading of vehicles, during transit and on unloading, the animals must be handled in conditions that minimise stress and avoid the likelihood of injury. In this regard care should be taken to:

- (a) Ensure that the operations are carried out by experienced staff in a relaxed manner;
- (b) Avoid the mixing of animals from different social groups;
- (c) Avoid the use of unnecessary physical force on animals;
- (d) Ensure that correctly designed and maintained handling facilities are provided at the points of loading and unloading;
- (e) Ensure that the vehicles are adequately ventilated throughout the journey;

Vehicles used for transporting animals must be suitable for the purpose and be properly equipped and maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Except where animals are transported in successive loads within the holding the vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected between loads.

It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that the vehicles in which his/her livestock are to be transported are clean and fit for the purpose.

Vehicles must be driven with care, avoiding high speeds, sudden starting or stopping or rapid cornering, in order to avoid damage or injury to the animals.

Any suffering, including mutilation, shall be kept to a minimum during the entire life of the animal, including at the time of slaughter.

15.8.2 Transportation of Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Deer and Pigs

Only fit animals may be transported (unless under veterinary supervision) and they must be presented in a clean and rested condition. Feeding hay 12 hours prior to transport will help keep animals clean during transport.

15.8.3 Transportation of Poultry

Only fit birds may be transported; those which are unfit should be treated without delay or killed as quickly as possible using approved humane slaughter methods

During transit, each bird should have sufficient space to rest and stand up without restriction, they should be protected from undue fluctuations in temperature, humidity and air pressure and sheltered from extremes of weather

During loading, unloading and during the period while awaiting slaughter, the birds must be protected from the elements.

15.9 Separation of Organic & Non-organic Livestock

15.9.1 Separation of organic & non-organic livestock units on the farm

A holding may be split up into clearly separated units which are not all managed under organic production.

Where not all units of a holding are used for organic production, the farmer shall keep the land, animals, and products used for, or produced by, the organic units separate from those used for, or produced by, the non-organic units.

Any non-organic livestock on the holding must be

- a different species from organic livestock on the holding

- reared in separate buildings and fields not used by organic livestock

Where a licensee operates a non-organic holding or farming enterprise in addition to the organic/conversion holding, there must be physical, financial and operational separation between the holdings or farming enterprises.

'Physical separation' means geographically distinct blocks of land with separate LPIS numbers (where applicable). A mosaic of organic and non-organic fields may be unacceptable but the two 'holdings' can be adjoining each other, provided they are separated by a physical barrier (e.g. stockproof hedge or fence) – to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

'Financial separation' means that separate books need to be kept and invoices will need to be clearly identifiable for each holding.

'Operational separation' means that the management of the holdings must be distinct, and demonstrate separate financial and operational procedures and records. Shared cultivation equipment would be acceptable but adequate separation must be demonstrated for feed, milling and mixing machinery, as well as milking parlour and housing facilities.

15.9.2 Horses and other 'pets' on the holding

Horses and other livestock kept as pets, working animals, therapeutic animals or purely for home consumption ('pets') may be kept on the organic holding. Such 'pets' cannot be the sole or main activity on the holding.

The following conditions also apply:

- Pet livestock must be recorded in the annual questionnaire, and are subject to inspection.
- Pet livestock must be included in the calculation of the stocking rate. Keeping of pets must not compromise the quality of soils, sward etc. on the holding
- As far as possible pets should be kept according to the standards. Feed should preferably be organic, and must be GM free.
- Pet livestock must be included in the animal health plan. Avermectin wormers should be avoided as far as possible. If treatment with avermectins is necessary, for 48 hours after treatment all manure from treated animals should be carefully collected and composted
- Pet livestock must be easily identifiable and must be recorded on the certificate as non-organic. Neither they nor their products can be sold as organic.
- Pet livestock cannot be of the same species as certified livestock kept on the holding

Equines cannot be certified as organic, even if kept to the standards

15.9.3 Grazing of organic/in-conversion land by non-organic stock

Non-organic livestock may use organic pasturage for a maximum of 120 days per calendar year, provided that such animals come from an extensive farming system and that organic animals are not present at the same time on that pasture.

Licensees will be required in the first instance to source organic animals for grazing purposes. Where these are unavailable, the operator will be required to justify the grazing of non-organic animals.

The grazing of non-organic livestock on organic or in-conversion pasture is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The grazing is for pasture management or disease control purposes;
- (b) The period does not exceed 120 days per calendar year;
- (c) Such animals come from extensive farming systems
- (d) Organic animals are not present on this pasturage at the same time;

- (e) Withdrawal periods for medications must be observed as specified in paragraph 15.7.6 of these standards;
- (f) Such animals must be treated as specified in these standards whilst they remain on the land;
- (g) Such animals and their by-products may not be sold as organic;
- (h) Animals grazing organic/in-conversion land may not be fed any feedstuffs possibly containing genetically modified organisms or derivatives thereof whilst grazing this land;
- (i) A grazing agreement is drawn up between the organic producer and the owner of the livestock stipulating the specific conditions pertaining to such grazing;

Records must be kept of any grazing by non-organic stock under the 120-day rule, including:

- (i) Dates of entry and exit;
- (ii) Grazing records for the land grazed;
- (iii) Organic/non-organic status of the animals

15.9.4 Grazing common land shared with non-organic livestock

Organic livestock shall be kept separate from other livestock. However, grazing of common land by organic animals and of organic land by non-organic animals is permitted under certain restrictive conditions as described below.

Organic animals may be grazed on common land, providing that:

- (a) The land has not been treated with products not authorised for organic production for at least three years;
- (b) Any non-organic animals which use the land concerned are derived from an extensive farming system
- (c) Any livestock products from organic animals, whilst using this land, shall not be regarded as being from organic production, unless adequate segregation from non-organic animals can be proved.
- (d) A producer who wants to graze organic and/or simultaneously converting animals on commonage must demonstrate the following before the first use of the common land:
 - (i) That stock are clearly identified (e.g. using ear tags)
 - (ii) That organic livestock do not freely mix with non-organic livestock of the same species. This will require a hefted flock or herd that stays within its own area.
 - (iii) The land does not receive any prohibited inputs, which must be verified by all shareholders;
 - (iv) Any supplementary feeding that organic stock have access to must comply with the standards;
 - (v) The number/names of all shareholders must be declared;
 - (vi) The number of active users and their status (i.e. conventional/in-conversion/organic) must be declared;
 - (vii) Stocking rates must be declared for the land area in question;

Commonage is not registered as 'organic' but has its own status and category.

Producers who wish to use commonage must complete a specific template which is available from BDA Certification.

15.9.5 Non organic livestock on educational and research facilities

BDA Certification may authorise holdings carrying out agricultural research or formal education to rear organic and non-organic livestock of the same species, where the following conditions are met:

(a) Appropriate measures, notified in advance to BDA Certification, have been taken in order to guarantee the permanent separation between livestock, livestock products, manure and feedstuffs of each of the units;

(b) The producer informs BDA Certification in advance of any delivery or selling of the livestock or livestock products;

(c) The operator informs BDA Certification of the exact quantities produced in the units together with all characteristics permitting the identification of the products and confirms that the measures taken to separate the products have been applied.

15.9.6 Livestock Management Plan

The Livestock Management Plan required in paragraph 15.4.3 must be drawn up and maintained by the farmer to address the above requirements regarding the separation of organic and non-organic livestock and the practical measures to maintain physical, financial and operational separation.

15.9.7 Livestock movement records

The licensee must provide a full description of the herd or flock management system comprising at least the following information, including species, numbers and identification of animals on the holding; details of use of any common grazing or transhumance.

16. Bees and Honey Production

16.1 Management of beekeeping units for the purpose of pollination

For the purpose of pollination actions an operator may run organic and non-organic beekeeping units on the same holding, provided that all the requirements of the organic production rules are fulfilled, with the exception of the provisions for the siting of the apiaries. In that case the non-organic product cannot be sold as organic.

The operator shall keep documentary evidence of the use of this provision

16.2 Use of non-organic beeswax

In the case of new installations or during the conversion period, non-organic beeswax may be used only:

- (a) Where beeswax from organic beekeeping is not available on the market;
- (b) Where it is proven free of contamination by substances not authorised for organic production; and
- (c) Provided that it comes from the cap.

16.3 Origin of organic bees

Preference shall be given to the use of *Apis mellifera* and their local ecotypes.

Apiaries must be constituted by means of the division of colonies or the acquisition of swarms or hives from organic units.

For the renovation of apiaries, 10 % per year of the queen bees and swarms may be replaced by non-organic queen bees and swarms in the organic production unit provided that the queen bees and swarms are placed in hives with combs or comb foundations coming from organic production units.

The replacement of the queen bees involving the killing of the old queen is permitted.

BDA Certification may authorise on a temporary basis, in case of high mortality of bees caused by health or catastrophic circumstances, the reconstitution of the apiaries with non-organic bees, when organic apiaries are not available.

16.4 Conversion

Beekeeping products can be sold with references to the organic production method only when the organic production rules have been complied with for at least one year. Existing hives can be converted and the honey marketed as organic after a period of 12-months under full organic management according to these standards.

The conversion period for apiaries does not apply in the case of application of paragraph 16.3 (10% non-organic bees) above.

During the conversion period the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping.

16.5 Siting of apiaries

Apiaries shall be placed in areas which ensure nectar and pollen sources consisting essentially of organically produced crops or, as appropriate, of spontaneous vegetation or non-organically managed forests or crops that are only treated with low environmental impact methods. Apiaries shall be kept at sufficient distance from sources that may lead to the contamination of beekeeping products or to the poor health of the bees.

The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods ~~equivalent to those as described in Article 36 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (12) or in Article 22 of Council Regulation 1257/1999~~ which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic. The above mentioned requirements do not apply where flowering is not taking place, or the hives are dormant.

~~The Competent Authority~~ BDA Certification may designate regions or areas where beekeeping complying with organic production rules is not practicable.

The beekeeper must provide BDA Certification with:

- (a) A map on an appropriate scale identifying the location of apiaries and the details of their foraging;
- (b) Documentary evidence demonstrating that the areas accessible to the colonies meet the conditions required in these standards.

16.6 Welfare

The destruction of bees in the combs as a method associated with the harvesting of beekeeping products is prohibited

Mutilation such as clipping the wings of queen bees is prohibited.

The use of chemical synthetic repellents is prohibited during honey extractions operations.

The use of brood combs is prohibited for honey extraction.

16.7 Housing

Hives and materials used in beekeeping shall be mainly made of natural materials, presenting no risk of contamination to the environment or the apiculture products.

The bees wax for new foundations shall come from organic production units.

Only natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils can be used in the hives.

16.8 Feed

At the end of the production season hives shall be left with sufficient reserves of honey and pollen to survive the winter.

The feeding of bee colonies shall only be permitted where the survival of the hives is endangered due to climatic conditions and only between the last honey harvest and 15 days before the start of the next nectar or honeydew flow period. Feeding shall be with organic honey, organic sugar syrup, or organic sugar.

16.8.1 Feed in catastrophic circumstances

~~The Competent Authority~~ [BDA Certification](#) may authorise on a temporary basis the feeding of bees with organic honey, organic sugar or organic sugar syrup in case of long lasting exceptional weather conditions or catastrophic circumstances, which hamper the nectar or honeydew production.

16.9 Disease prevention and veterinary treatments

For the purposes of protecting frames, hives and combs, in particular from pests, only rodenticides (to be used only in traps), and appropriate products listed in Appendix 4, are permitted.

Physical treatments for disinfection of apiaries such as steam or direct flame are permitted.

The practice of destroying the male brood is permitted only to isolate the infestation of *Varroa destructor*.

If despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately and, if necessary, the colonies can be placed in isolation apiaries.

Veterinary medicinal products may be used in organic beekeeping in so far as the corresponding use is authorised in the UK.

Formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid and oxalic acid as well as menthol, thymol, eucalyptol or camphor may be used in cases of infestation with *Varroa destructor*. The use of allopathic chemically synthesised veterinary medicinal products for preventative treatments is prohibited.

If a treatment is applied with chemically synthesized allopathic products, during such a period, the colonies treated shall be placed in isolation apiaries and all the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping. Subsequently, the conversion period of one year will apply to those colonies.

Bees treated shall be clearly identified by hive.

Whenever veterinary medicinal products are used, BDA Certification must be notified before products are marketed as organically produced.

16.10 Documentary records & accounts

Beekeepers must keep careful records of location of apiaries, forage areas for bees, use of veterinary products, origin and transport of bees, and any use of organic feeds.

17. Harvesting, Storage, Transport and Packing

The licensee shall draw up and maintain a simple plan detailing the precautionary measures and cleaning measures to be taken in order to reduce the risk of contamination of organic products by unauthorised products or substances. Any post-harvest contamination must be reported to BDA Certification immediately.

Any storage, handling, drying, packing and labelling of products carried out on the holding must comply with BDA Certification's processing standards. See in particular section 5 of the BDA Certification Organic Processing Standards.

17.1 Drying

Crops may be dried by indirect heated air or by other suitable means including direct-fired propane, diesel and paraffin fuelled dryers, but they must not be contaminated by the combustion products of the fuel used. A regular maintenance programme must be established to ensure full combustion when in use. Only commercial grade oil may be used for drying of grain and feed.

17.2 Environment and equipment for food handling

Environment and buildings should be suitable for handling food and feed, kept clean and tidy, comply with all the relevant statutory requirements and protect organic goods from contamination and deterioration. Equipment must be suitable, maintained and calibrated regularly.

17.3 Statutory requirements

All businesses that prepare, produce or sell food are required to register with their local council. Evidence that contact has been made with the local council should be available at inspection. Documentary evidence is required for all statutory requirements (egg inspectorates, meat hygiene etc.). If required by any external organisation, a HACCP must be in place and its use documented.

17.4 Storage

All products should be stored in a way that avoids contamination and mixing. All materials should be clearly labelled and identifiable at all times. Organic products should be kept separate in space or time from non-organic.

17.5 Hygiene and cleaning

Products for cleaning and disinfection in organic production shall be used only if they have been authorised for use in organic production – see Appendix 8. Suitable cleaning routines should be put in place to protect organic products from contamination, this includes a final water wash (drinking water) after any chemicals are used. Cleaning must be documented (including cleaning procedures, frequency, methods and materials, final rinse, verification that cleaning has been carried out.)

Cleaning chemicals must be properly labelled and kept away from preparation and storage areas. Facilities must be available for employees to maintain high standards of personal hygiene.

17.6 Pest prevention and control

Documentation should be available of what is in place to prevent contamination by pests and contamination by pest control. Preventative measures against pests should be put in place and documented.

Storage areas should be left empty for an appropriate period of time prior to use to act as a disease and insect break.

If an external pest control is used, it must be by an approved contractor.

If pest control is done in house, the person responsible should be trained and bait station sites, treatments and activity must be recorded.

Documentation must include: person or organisation responsible, substances used, method of application, dates of treatment, monitoring of pest activity and materials used, plan of baiting sites.

When prevention fails, organic products must be protected from direct contact with controlled substances. Any use of controlled substances needs permission from BDA certification **in advance** of use. When fumigation is necessary (and permission has been obtained) organic products cannot be present and at least twice the recommended dispersal time must be allowed. (Please see Appendix 8 for allowed and controlled pest control procedures and substances.)

17.7 Transport

Records of all transport must be kept (delivery invoices) which include the quantity and status of the products. Organic goods must be kept separate from non-organic goods, so that there is no risk of substitution, mixing or contamination.

Transport of bulk products (such as milk, grain or feed) that is also used for conventional products can only be done in clean bulk containers and the previous three loads should be checked so that bulk loads are protected from contamination. These checks should be recorded and records available at inspection.

17.8 Packing

Any packaging should be of food-grade quality and should avoid contamination. Packaging should be stored off the floor, away from walls and ceilings in clean hygienic conditions.

18. Identification & Labelling of Unprocessed Agricultural Products

Licensees shall ensure that organic products are transported to other units, including wholesalers and retailers, only in appropriate packaging, containers or vehicles closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damage of the seal and provided with a label stating:

- (a) The name and address of the licensee;
- (b) The name of the product, accompanied by a reference to the organic production method;
- (c) The name 'BDA Certification' or our Control Body code.

This information may be included in the dispatch documents as long as the documents are undeniably linked to the batch.

19. Prohibition on the use of Genetically Modified Organisms

GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs shall not be used as food, feed, processing aids, plant protection products, fertilisers, soil conditioners, seeds, vegetative propagating material, micro-organisms or animals in organic production.

For food and feed, licensees may rely on the labels accompanying a product or any other accompanying document concerning the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms.

All non-organic non-feed or non-food products purchased from third parties must be accompanied by a label or statement from the vendor confirming that the products supplied have not been produced from or by GMOs.

20. Approved Products and Substances for Organic Producers

The Commission of the EU has authorised for use in organic production a restricted list of products and substances which may be used in organic farming for the following purposes:

- (a) As fertilisers and soil conditioners; (See Appendix 1 and 2)
- (b) As plant protection products; (See Appendix 4)
- (c) As non-organic feed materials from plant origin, feed material from animal and mineral origin, and certain substances used in animal nutrition; (See Appendix 6)
- (d) As feed additives and processing aids (See Appendix 7);
- (e) As products for cleaning and disinfection of ponds, cages, buildings and installations for animal production (See Appendix 8)
- (f) As products for cleaning and disinfection of buildings and installations used for plant production, including storage on an agricultural holding)

Products and substances contained in the restricted list may only be used in so far as the corresponding use is authorised in general agriculture in the UK.

The authorisation of the products and substances referred to in these lists is subject to the following general and specific criteria which shall be evaluated as a whole:

- (a) Their use is necessary for sustained production and essential for its intended use;
- (b) All products and substances shall be of plant, animal, microbial or mineral origin except where products or substances from such sources are not available in sufficient quantities or qualities or if alternatives are not available;
- (c) In the case of products referred to in (a), the following shall apply:
 - (i) Their use is essential for the control of a harmful organism or a particular disease for which other biological, physical or breeding alternatives or cultivation practices or other effective management practices are not available;
 - (ii) If products are not of plant, animal, microbial or mineral origin and are not identical to their natural form, they may be authorised only if their conditions for use preclude any direct contact with the edible parts of the crop;
- (d) In the case of products referred to in (b), their use is essential for obtaining or maintaining the fertility of the soil or to fulfil specific nutrition requirements of crops, or specific soil-conditioning purposes;
- (e) In the case of products referred to in (c) and (d), the following shall apply:
 - (i) They are necessary to maintain animal health, animal welfare and vitality and contribute to an appropriate diet fulfilling the physiological and behavioural needs of the species concerned or it would be impossible to produce or preserve such feed without having recourse to such substances;
 - (ii) Feed of mineral origin, trace elements, vitamins or provitamins shall be of natural origin. In case these substances are unavailable, chemically well-defined analogic substances may be authorised for use in organic production.

21. Exchange of Information

Upon a request duly justified by the necessity to guarantee that a product has been produced in accordance with organic standards, ~~the competent authorities~~, BDA Certification and other organic control bodies shall exchange relevant information on the results of their controls with ~~other competent authorities~~ relevant authorities, and control bodies. They may also exchange such information on their own initiative.

22. Certification & Control Arrangements for Producers

22.1 Control arrangements and undertaking by the operator

When a licensee applies to join BDA Certification, the licensee shall draw up and maintain:

- a) A full description of the unit and/or premises and/or activity;
- b) A list of the practical measures to be taken at the level of the unit and/or premises and/or activity to ensure compliance with the organic production rules;
- c) A list of the precautionary measures to be taken in order to reduce the risk of contamination by unauthorised products or substances, and the cleaning measures to be taken in storage places and throughout the operator's production chain.

Where appropriate, the description and measures provided for above may be part of a quality system as set up by the operator.

The full description of the unit referred to above shall be drawn up even where the operator limits his or her activity to the collection of wild plants.

22.2 General requirements for an organic holding

All complaints should be recorded, investigated and resolved. Records should be available at inspection.

A procedure must be in place to recall any products that do not meet organic requirements. This must include notification of customers and BDA Certification.

Records need to be kept to enable traceability. At a minimum this includes: invoice number/date, delivery number, use by a date or batch number (for anything brought in).

Mass Balance – records must enable quantities of goods brought in to be reconciled with the quantities of final products that are sold.

BDA Certification must be notified of any tests carried out. Records of any testing must be kept. BDA certification must be notified immediately if a positive test (above 0.1% for any prohibited substance) is received.

22.3 Annual return

At each annual inspection, the licensee shall complete a questionnaire and field activity record, detailing production of any crops and any livestock present on the holding.

22.4 Simultaneous production of organic and non-organic products by the same operator

Where a licensee runs several production units in the same area, the units producing non-organic products, together with storage premises for farm input products, shall also be subject to the general and the specific control requirements.

Storage on the registered organic unit of input products prohibited under these standards is strictly prohibited.

22.5 Control requirements for livestock and livestock products

22.5.1 Farm management plan

When the licensee applies to join BDA Certification, the full description of the unit referred to in section 15.4.2 shall include:

- a) A full description of the livestock buildings, pasturage, open air areas, etc., and, where applicable, the premises for the storage, packaging and processing of livestock, livestock products, raw materials and input. This must include a farmyard sketch which must be updated annually if appropriate;
- b) A full description of the installations for the storage of livestock manure.

The practical measures shall include:

- a) A plan for spreading manure, together with a full description of the areas given over to crop production;
- b) Where appropriate, as regards the spreading of manure, the written arrangements with other holdings complying with the provisions of the organic production rules; a management plan for the organic-production livestock unit

The conversion of the holding must take place according to a clear and progressive plan that covers all aspects relevant to these standards and must be updated as necessary. The plan farm management plan must be designed to:

- a) Convert physically separate and identifiable units of land sufficient to permit organic production to be developed and sustained. The inclusion of con-acre is predicated on the understanding that the specific land areas subject to the con-acre agreement will be made available to the operator for a minimum of 5 years.
- b) Result in a financially separate enterprise with its own accounts and record-keeping system complying with the record keeping requirements
- c) Ensure that the whole area of a livestock production unit used for animal feed complies with these standards.

By the time the livestock operation achieves organic status, all pasture (for grazing and forage) and other land (producing other feeds for the stock) on the unit must be either organic or in-conversion. However, separate units of the holding may be converted over a longer period of time.

22.5.2 Identification of livestock

The livestock shall be identified permanently using techniques adapted to each species, individually in the case of large mammals and individually or by batch in the case of poultry and small mammals.

22.5.3 Control arrangements for veterinary medicinal products for livestock

Whenever veterinary medicinal products are used, the information according to the section of these standards on veterinary treatments is to be declared to the buyer before the livestock or livestock products are marketed

as organically produced. Livestock treated shall be clearly identified, individually in the case of large animals; individually, or by batch, or by hive, in the case of poultry, small animals and bees.

It is therefore a non-compliance for an organic producer to sell an organic animal without supplying the documentary evidence of veterinary history at the time of sale. Likewise, it is a non-compliance for an organic purchaser to buy an organic animal without receiving the documentary evidence of veterinary history at the time of purchase.

With regard to veterinary treatment, where the operator has any doubt in relation to the organic status of the animal, BDA Certification should be contacted in advance of any sale/purchase for clarification.

22.6 Control arrangements for beekeeping

A map on an appropriate scale listing the location of hives shall be provided to the BDA Certification by the beekeeper. The beekeeper shall provide the BDA Certification with appropriate documentation and evidence, including suitable analyses if necessary, that the areas accessible to their colonies meet the conditions required in these Standards.

The following information shall be entered in the register of the apiary with regard to the use of feeding: type of product, dates, quantities and hives where it is used.

Whenever veterinary medicinal products are to be used, the type of product, including the indication of the active pharmacological substance, together with details of the diagnosis, the posology (*dosage and dosage rate appropriate to the condition*), the method of administration, the duration of the treatment and the legal withdrawal period shall be recorded clearly and declared to BDA Certification before the products are marketed as organically produced.

The zone where the apiary is situated shall be registered together with the identification of the hives. BDA Certification shall be informed of the moving of apiaries by a deadline agreed in advance.

Particular care shall be taken to ensure adequate extraction, processing and storage of beekeeping products. All the measures to comply with this requirement shall be recorded. The removals of the supers and the honey extraction operations shall be entered in the register of the apiary.

23. On-Farm Processing

23.1 On Farm Processing

Processing or packing operations may take place on the holding as part of the licensed production process where the activities are:

- limited to processing or packing the operator's own agricultural products (an inclusion of up to 10% brought in organic produce is acceptable).
- limited to a turnover of no more than £10,000 per annum
- limited to 'simple processing' such as packing, milling, slaughter, meat cutting

The simple on farm processing operation will be inspected as part of the farm inspection and specified on the certification documents.

23.2 General processing requirements

Organic products should be kept separate in time and space from non-organic products during processing (there must be cleaning between non-organic and organic runs). Cleaning should be documented.

It should be documented how organic goods are kept separate from non-organic goods.

A flow diagram should be in place to identify processing stages from raw materials to finished product (should include stages of separation, processing, temperature and processing practice).

23.3 Composition

All single ingredient and multi-ingredient products must be approved by the office with a recipe and label. All ingredients that can be organic must be organic.

Multi Ingredient Product Specification (MIPS) and Single Ingredient Product Specification (SIPS) forms must be completed:

- For each new product that requires certification (along with an up to date supplier certificate).
- Each time there is a recipe change or a new supplier is used – again with an up to date supplier certificate.
- If the product is rebranded with a new name.

23.4 Labelling

All labels with reference to organic must be approved by the office in draft form before they are used. Labels must clearly and accurately describe the product. Labels must have the name and contact details of the certified organisation that has produced the food.

To label food as organic it must be certified by an accredited organic certification body. The requirements for products to be labelled as organic are as follows:

- At least 95% of the agricultural ingredients are certified organic.
- The other ingredients (including allowed additives) can only come from the approved list in Annex IX of the BDA Organic Processing Standards.
- Water, salt and other minerals are not declared as being organic.
- The label must clearly state which ingredients are organic as distinct from any approved non-organic.
- They should be listed in descending order of quantity.
- If it is not a certified product, there should be no indication in the descriptive text that misleads the consumer into thinking it is organic (e.g. using the phrase ‘made with organic ingredients’)
- The labels should also comply with UK Statutory requirements. We recommend getting your labels checked by your local Trading Standards Office before printing. The most recent requirements can be found here: (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/food-labelling-giving-food-information-to-consumers>)

23.4.1 Labels for UK market only

- The use of BDA Certification logo is optional.
- Mandatory use of BDA Certification code GB-ORG-06 and UK statement of agricultural origin.



GB-ORG-06

UK / non UK Agriculture

23.4.2 Labelling for both EU & UK markets

- The EU Organic logo must be used on all products that are certified organic and placed on the EU market.
- Products labelled in this option will be acceptable for both the EU & UK markets.
- Mandatory use of BDA Certification code GB-ORG-06 and **both** UK and EU statement of agricultural origin.



GB-ORG-06

UK/ non UK Agriculture

EU/ Non EU Agriculture

The EU organic logo will be optional on organic products produced in GB. However, if the logo is used the organic product must meet the EU organic rules, including labelling requirements. This includes the BDA Certification code GB-ORG-06 and EU statement of agricultural origin being placed in the same visual area of the logo.

When using the EU organic logo and 98% of the product is produced in a specific country, then a single statement of agricultural origin can meet both the UK and EU requirements, for example “UK Agriculture” or “Scottish Agriculture”.

When using the EU organic logo and **less than** 98% of the product is produced in a specific country, the label must include **both** the GB statement of agricultural origin (‘UK’ or ‘Non-UK Agriculture’) and the EU statement of agricultural origin (‘EU’ or ‘Non-EU Agriculture’) separately.

EU statements of agricultural origin

EU Agriculture

Non EU Agriculture

EU/ Non EU Agriculture

UK statements of agricultural origin

UK Agriculture

Non UK Agriculture

UK/ Non UK Agriculture

23.5 Separate processing license

Where a processing or packing operation goes beyond the limits outlined in 23.1 above, or includes any of the factors below, the operation must be separately registered as a processing operation.

- use of more than 10% brought in produce
- parallel packing or processing of organic and non-organic produce
- ‘complex’ processing (jams, cordials, cheese, sausage making etc.)
- turnover of more than £10,000 per annum

Please check with BDA Certification if you are unsure what sort of processing license you may need.

24. Summary of Record Keeping Requirements for Producers

24.1 Plant production records

Plant production records shall be kept and made available to BDA Certification on request. Such records shall provide at least the following information:

- a) The use of fertiliser: date of application, type and amount of fertiliser, parcels concerned, justification for use;
- b) The use of plant protection products: reason and date of treatment, type of product, method of treatment, areas treated, justification for use;
- c) Purchase of farm inputs: date, type and amount of purchased product;
- d) Harvest: date, type and amount of organic or in conversion crop production;
- e) The annual schedule of production of crop products, giving a breakdown by parcel.

24.2 Livestock records

Livestock records shall be kept and made available to BDA Certification on request. Such records shall provide a full description of the herd or flock management system, comprising at least the following information:

- a) Animals arriving at the holding: origin and date of arrival, conversion period, identification mark and veterinary record;
- b) Livestock leaving the holding: age, number of head, weight in the event of slaughter, identification mark and destination;
- c) Details of any animals lost and reasons;
- d) Feed: type, including feed supplements, proportions of various ingredients of rations and periods of access to free-range areas, periods of transhumance where restrictions apply;
- e) Disease prevention and treatment and veterinary care: date of treatment, details of the diagnosis, the type of treatment product, the indication of the active pharmacological substances involved, method of treatment, dosage, and veterinary prescription for veterinary care with reasons and withdrawal periods applying before livestock products can be marketed labelled as organic.

24.3 Financial & stock records

Financial and stock records must be kept for the holding, including organic, in-conversion and non-organic units, including:

- a) Input records: details of the nature, quantities and suppliers of all agricultural products purchased;
- b) Output records - details of the nature, quantities and consignees of all agricultural products sold and quantities sold directly to the final customer;
- c) Stock level records: as appropriate the stock levels for raw materials and finished products at least quarterly.

25. Separation of Organic & Non-organic Crops

25.1 General rules on separation of organic and non-organic crops

The entire agricultural holding shall be managed in compliance with the requirements applicable to organic production.

However, a holding may be split up into clearly separated units which are not all managed under organic production, if the conditions below are met:

- a) As regards plants, different varieties that can be easily differentiated shall be involved.

- b) Where not all units of a holding are used for organic production, the operator shall keep the land, animals, and products used for, or produced by, the organic units separate from those used for, or produced by, the non-organic units and keep adequate records to show the separation.
- c) In the case of organic plant and livestock production units, storage of input products other than those authorised under these Standards is prohibited in the production unit.
- d) In the case of the production of perennial crops, which require a cultivation period of at least three years, where varieties cannot be easily differentiated, the following conditions must be met:
 - i. The production in question forms part of a management/conversion plan which provides for the beginning of the conversion of the last part of the area concerned to organic production in the shortest possible period, and complete conversion within a maximum of five years
 - ii. Appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the permanent separation of the products obtained from each unit concerned;
 - iii. BDA Certification is notified of the harvest of each of the products concerned at least 48 hours in advance;
 - iv. Upon completion of the harvest, the producer informs BDA Certification of the exact quantities harvested on the units concerned and of the measures applied to separate the products;
 - v. The Management/Conversion Plan and the control measures referred to have been approved annually by ~~the Competent Authority~~BDA Certification .
- e) In the case of areas intended for agricultural research or formal education agreed by ~~the Competent Authority~~BDA taking Certification, the same conditions as set out in points (ii)(iii)(iv) and the relevant part of point (v) above must be met;
- f) In the case of production of seed, vegetative propagating material and transplants, the same conditions as set out in points (ii)(iii)(iv) and the relevant part of point (v) above must be met.
- g) In the case of grassland, it must be exclusively used for grazing

25.2 Documentary Accounts & Records

Where an operator runs several production units in the same area, the records for the units producing non-organic crops, together with storage premises for farm input products, shall also be subject to the general and the specific control requirements laid down in these Standards. The records for the non-organic unit must be available to BDA Certification.

Appendix 1: Permitted manures and plant wastes brought in from non-organic sources

Where the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met by measures provided for in these standards, only the manures, plant wastes and soil conditioners listed below may be used, subject to the requirements and conditions detailed in the table. This is a positive list, and materials not listed are not permitted.

Manures and composted manures from factory farming are prohibited. Factory farming includes systems employing zero grazing of bovines, ovines, caprines, equines; all poultry systems with the exception of organic and free range; and pigs permanently housed.

Compound products or products containing only materials listed	Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use	Documentary Evidence required to substantiate use
Animal excrements, including farmyard or stable manure, composted animal excrements, and composted or dried poultry manure	Product comprising animal excrements and possibly vegetable matter (animal bedding). Factory farming origin forbidden.	Reason for use; source; quantity; status; storage arrangements
Liquid animal excrements (slurry)	Use after controlled fermentation and/or appropriate dilution. Factory farming origin forbidden	Reason for use; source; quantity; status; storage arrangements
Commercial propagation compost	Only those which have been approved by an EU approved organic certification body	
Peat	Use limited to horticulture (market gardening, floriculture, arboriculture, nursery)	Reason for use; source; quantity; status
Mushroom culture wastes	The initial composition of the substrate shall be limited to products listed in this table	Reason for use; source; quantity; status; storage arrangements
Dejecta of worms (vermicompost) and insects		Reason for use; source; quantity; status;
Guano		Reason for use; source; quantity; status;
Composted or fermented mixture of household waste	Product obtained from source separated household waste containing only plant and animal wastes and submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production, under a state-approved system. (Maximum concentrations in mg/kg of dry matter: cadmium: 0.7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): not detectable)	Reason for use; source; quantity; status;
Composted or fermented mixture of vegetable matter	Product obtained from composting or from anaerobic fermentation for biogas production	Reason for use; source; quantity; status;
Sawdust and woodchips; composted bark	Wood not chemically treated after felling	Reason for use; source; quantity; status;

Appendix 2: Permitted fertilisers and supplementary nutrients

Where the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met by measures provided for in these standards, only bought in fertilisers and supplementary nutrients as detailed below may be used, and only to the extent necessary. Permitted fertilisers and supplementary nutrients include animal by-products such as fish meal, wool, feather and fur; plant products and by products; seaweed products; rock phosphate; preparations of microorganisms; calcium carbonate; and others.

Compound products or products containing only materials listed	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use	Documentary evidence required to substantiate use
Products or by-products of animal origin: fish meal; feather, hair and chiquette meal; wool; fur; hair; dairy products	Maximum concentration in mg/kg of dry matter of chromium: not detectable. Not to be applied to edible part of crop.	Reason for use; soil analysis (if appropriate); source; quantity; storage arrangements
Products and by-products of plant origin for fertilizers	Examples: oilseed cake meal, cocoa husks, malt culms	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Wood ash	Wood not chemically treated after felling. Includes biochar.	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Hydrolysed proteins of plant origin		Reason for use; source; quantity
Seaweeds and seaweed products	As far as directly obtained by: (i) physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding (ii) extraction with water or aqueous acid and/or alkaline solution (iii) fermentation	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Soft ground rock phosphate	Cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P ₂ O ₅	Reason for use; soil analysis; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Aluminium-calcium phosphate	Cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P ₂ O ₅ Use limited to basic soils (pH > 7.5)	Reason for use; soil analysis; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Basic slag		Reason for use; soil analysis; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Crude potassium salt or kainit		Reason for use; soil analysis; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Potassium sulphate, possibly containing magnesium salt	Product obtained from crude potassium salt by a physical extraction process.	Reason for use; soil analysis; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Stillage and stillage extract	Ammonium stillage excluded	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements

Calcium carbonate (chalk, marl, ground limestone, Breton ameliorant, phosphate chalk)	Only of natural origin	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Magnesium and calcium carbonate	Only of natural origin e.g. magnesian chalk, ground magnesium, limestone	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Magnesium sulphate (kieserite)	Only of natural origin	Reason for use; soil analysis; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Calcium chloride solution	Foliar treatment of apple trees, after identification of deficit of calcium	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Calcium sulphate (gypsum)		Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Industrial lime from sugar production	By-product of sugar production from sugar beet	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Industrial lime from vacuum salt production	By-product of the vacuum salt production from brine found in mountains	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Elemental sulphur		Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Trace elements	Inorganic micronutrients	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Sodium chloride	Only mined salt	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Stone meal and clays		Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Leonardite	Raw organic sediment rich in humic acids. Only if obtained as a by-product of mining activities	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Xylite	Only if obtained as a by-product of mining activities (e.g. by-product of brown coal mining)	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Chitin	Polysaccharide obtained from the shell of crustaceans. Only if obtained from sustainable fisheries or organic aquaculture.	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Organic rich sediment from fresh water bodies formed under exclusion of oxygen (e.g. sapropel)	Only organic sediments that are by-products of fresh water body management or extracted from former freshwater areas When applicable, extraction should be done in a way to cause minimal impact on the aquatic system Only sediments derived from sources free from contaminations of pesticides,	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements

	<p>persistent organic pollutants and petrol like substances.</p> <p>Maximum concentrations in mg/kg of dry matter: cadmium: 0,7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0,4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): not detectable</p>	
Appropriate preparations of micro-organisms	May be used to improve the overall condition of the soil or the availability of nutrients in the soil or in the crops.	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Appropriate plant-based preparations or preparations of microorganisms	May be used to improve the overall condition of the soil or the availability of nutrients in the soil or in the crops.	Reason for use; source; quantity; storage arrangements
Biodynamic preparations		Source; quantity; storage arrangements.

Note: Only bought-in propagation composts which have been approved by an organic certification body on the EU listing of approved organic certification bodies may be used.

Appendix 3: Calculating manure and nitrogen production and usage

Table 1: Annual kilograms of Nitrogen produced, by species

Class or Species	Kg/N /year per animal	Maximum number of animals per ha equivalent to 170kg N/ha/year
Equines over six months old	85	2
Bovine animals less than one year old	24	7
Bovine animals from one to two years old	57	3
Bovine animals more than two years old, except dairy cows	65	2.6
Dairy cows	85	2
Female breeding rabbits	1.7	100
Mountain ewes plus lambs, and rams	7	24.3
Lowland ewes plus lambs, and rams	13	13.1
Goats	9	19
Piglets	2.3	74
Breeding Sows	35	4.9
Pigs for fattening	9.2	18.5
Other Pigs	12.14	14
Table chickens	0.24	708
Laying Hens	0.56	303.5
Turkeys	1	170

Table 2: Amount of nutrient contained in 1m³ of slurry

Livestock type	Total Nitrogen (Kg)	Total Phosphorous (Kg)
Cattle	5.0	0.8
Pig	4.2	0.8
Sheep	10.2	1.5
Poultry – layers 30% DM	13.7	2.9

(For the purposes of calculation, assume 1m³ =1000 litres = 1 tonne)

Table 3: Approximate amount of nutrients contained in 1 tonne of organic fertilisers other than slurry

Livestock type	Total Nitrogen (Kg)	Total Phosphorous (Kg)
Poultry manure		
a. Broilers / Deep litter	11.0	6.0
b. Layers 55% DM	23.0	5.5
c. Turkeys	28.0	13.8
Cattle manure	3.5	0.9
Farmyard manure	4.5	1.2
Spent mushroom compost	8	2.5
PAS 100 green waste compost	8	3.5
Dairy processing residues and other products not listed above	To be based on certified analysis provided by the supplier	To be based on certified analysis provided by the supplier

Appendix 4: Permitted products for control of pests and diseases on plants

Where plants cannot be adequately protected from pests and diseases by measures provided for in these Standards, only products referred to below may be used, subject to the conditions and limitations described in the table.

For products used in traps and dispensers, except pheromone dispensers, the traps and/or dispensers shall prevent the substances from being released into the environment and prevent contact between the substances and the crops being cultivated. The traps shall be collected after use and disposed of safely.

Farmers and growers must keep evidence of the need to use the product. Such evidence shall indicate the reason for use of the specific measure; its source; quantity and any applicable storage arrangements.

Permitted products for control of pests and diseases on plants

Products marked with * can only be used with permission from BDA certification – a derogation required in advance of use

Name	Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use
Plant and animal products	
Azadirachtin (neem)	Insecticide extracted from <i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Neem tree)
Beeswax	Pruning agent
Hydrolysed proteins excluding gelatine	Attractant, only in authorised applications in combination with other appropriate products of this list
Laminarin	Only from organically grown or sustainably harvested kelp
Plant oils	Insecticide, acaricide, fungicide and sprout inhibitor. For example mint oil, pine oil, caraway oil. Not as herbicide.
Pyrethrins	Insecticide, extracted from <i>Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium</i>
Quassia	Insecticide, repellent, extracted from <i>Quassia amara</i>
Basic substances	Foodstuffs of plant or animal origin, not to be used as herbicides
Microorganisms and products of microorganisms	
Micro-organisms	Bacteria, viruses and fungi. Includes nematodes against slugs and <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> against caterpillars. Not from GMO origin
Spinosad	Insecticide produced by microorganisms. Only to be used where measures are taken to minimise risk to key parasitoids
Other substances	
Aluminium silicate (kaolin)	
Calcium hydroxide	Fungicide. Only to be used in fruit trees, including nurseries, to control <i>Nectria Galligena</i>
Carbon dioxide	
* Copper in the form of copper hydroxide, copper oxychloride, (tribasic) copper sulphate, cuprous oxide, copper octanoate	Fungicide: Up to 6kg copper per ha per year. For perennial crops the 6kg copper limit may be exceeded in a given year provided that the average annual quantity actually used over a 5-year

	period consisting of that and of the 4 preceding years does not exceed 6 kg per ha per year. Derogation required.
Ethylene	
Fatty acids	Not as herbicide
Ferric phosphate	Preparations to be surface-spread between plants
Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth)	
Lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide)	Fungicide, insecticide, acaricide
Paraffin oil	Insecticide, acaricide
Potassium hydrogen carbonate (aka potassium bicarbonate)	Fungicide
Quartz sand	Repellent
* Sulphur	Fungicide: acaricide, repellent. Derogation required.

Appendix 5: Minimum requirements for animal housing

The way that you care for livestock, including stocking densities and housing conditions, must ensure that the needs of the animals are met. **Housing for livestock is not required at all if the climate, soils and landscape allow livestock to live outdoors all year round. Suitable natural shelter must be available.**

The stocking density in buildings must provide for the comfort, wellbeing and species specific needs of the animals. In particular you must ensure that your stock have space to stand naturally, lie down easily, turn round, groom themselves, assume all natural postures, and make all natural movements such as stretching and wing flapping.

Minimum housing areas for cattle, sheep, goats and pigs

	Indoors area (net area available to animals)		Outdoors area (eg exercise area)	Total area (combined indoor and outdoor)
	Live weight minimum (kg)	M ² /head	M ² / head	M ² / head
For cattle, sheep and goats grazing on pasture during the summer, it is only necessary to provide the minimum indoor housing area; the requirement for an outdoors area in winter can be waived.				
Breeding and fattening cattle	Up to 100	1.5	1.1	2.6
	Up to 200	2.5	1.9	4.4
	Up to 350	4	3	7.0
	Over 350	5 (min 1m ² /100 kg)	3.7 (min 0.75m ² /100 kg)	8.7
Dairy cows		6	4.5	10.5
Bulls for breeding		10	30	40
Sheep and Goats		1.5 per sheep/goat	2.5	4.0
		0.35 lamb/kid	0.5	0.85
For pigs housed at any time both the indoor and outdoor areas must be provided				
Farrowing Sows with piglets up to 40 days old		7.5 per sow	2.5	10
Fattening pigs	Up to 50	0.8	0.6	1.4
	Up to 85	1.1	0.8	1.9
	Up to 110	1.3	1	2.3
	Over 110	1.5	1.2	2.7
Piglets	Over 40 days old and up to 30 kg	0.6	0.4	1.0
Breeding Pigs		2.5 for sows 6 for boars. <i>If pens are used for natural service: 10 m²</i>	1.9 for sows 8.0 for boars.	4.4 for sows 14 for boars

Minimum and maximum housing requirements for poultry

	Minimum indoors area (net area available to birds)			Minimum outdoors area Area available in rotation/head. In all cases the limit of 170kg of N/ha/year must not be exceeded.
	No poultry/m ²	cm perch/per bird	nest	
Laying hens	6	18	7 laying hens per nest or if common nest 120 cm ² /bird	4m ²
Fattening poultry (in fixed housing)	10 with a maximum of 21kg liveweight/m ²	20 (for guinea fowl only)		4m ² broilers and guinea fowl 4.5m ² ducks 10m ² turkey 15m ² geese
Fattening poultry (in mobile housing)	16 in mobile poultry houses, with a maximum of 30kg liveweight/m ²			2.5m ²
To qualify as mobile, the housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - must be moved to fresh ground, at a minimum, after each batch of birds - have a maximum 150m² floor space 				

Appendix 6: Permitted substances in animal feed

Non-organic feed materials from plant origin, feed materials from animal and mineral origin, feed additives, certain products used in animal nutrition and processing aids may be used only if they have been authorised for use in organic production, as listed here and in Appendix 7.

Only the following substances may be used in the processing of organic feed, and feeding organic animals:

- a) non-organic feed materials of plant or animal origin in the case of catastrophic circumstances leading to non-availability of organic feed; only if they are produced or prepared without chemical solvents; and only with prior permission from ~~the Competent Authority~~[BDA Certification](#).
- b) non-organic spices, herbs, and molasses, provided that their organic form is not available; they are produced or prepared without chemical solvents; and their use is limited to 1 % of the feed ration of a given species, calculated annually as a percentage of the dry matter of feed from agricultural origin
- c) organic feed materials of animal origin
- d) feed materials of mineral origin that are listed below
- e) products from sustainable fisheries, provided that they are produced or prepared without chemical solvents; their use is restricted to non-herbivores; and the use of fish protein hydrolysate is restricted solely to young animals
- f) salt as sea salt, coarse rock salt
- g) feed additives listed in Appendix 7
- h) other feed materials listed below

Non organic feed materials of mineral origin

Calcareous marine shells

Maerl

Lithotamn

Calcium gluconate and Calcium carbonate

Defluorinated monocalciumphosphate and dicalciumphosphate

Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia)

Magnesium sulphate

Magnesium chloride

Magnesium carbonate

Calcium magnesium phosphate

Magnesium phosphate

Monosodium phosphate

Calcium sodium phosphate

Sodium chloride

Sodium carbonate, bicarbonate and sulphate

Potassium chloride

Other feed materials

Fermentation (by-)products from microorganisms the cells of which have been inactivated or killed

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

Saccharomyces carlsbergiensis

Appendix 7: Feed additives and certain substances used in animal nutrition

Feed additives, certain products used in animal nutrition and processing aids may be used in organic production only if they are listed below ~~and the restrictions laid down therein are complied with.~~
~~Additives listed must have been approved under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on additives for use in animal nutrition.~~

1.1 Nutritional additives

(a) Vitamins:

Vitamins derived from agricultural origin

Synthetic vitamins identical to natural vitamins for monogastric animals

Synthetic vitamins A, D, and E identical to natural vitamins for ruminants with prior authorisation of the Member States based on the assessment of the possibility for organic ruminants to obtain the necessary quantities of the said vitamins through their feed rations.

(b) Trace elements

E1 Iron:

Ferrous (II) carbonate

Ferrous (II) sulphate monohydrate and/or heptahydrate

Ferric (III) oxide;

E2 Iodine:

Calcium iodate, anhydrous

Calcium iodate, hexahydrate

Potassium iodide;

E3 Cobalt:

Cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate

Cobalt(II) carbonate

Cobalt(II) carbonate hydroxide (2:3) monohydrate

Cobalt(II) sulphate heptahydrate

E4 Copper:

Basic cupric carbonate, monohydrate

Cupric oxide

Cupric sulphate, pentahydrate

Dicopper chloride trihydroxide

E5 Manganese:

Manganous (II) carbonate

Manganous oxide and Manganic oxide

Manganous (II) sulfate, monohydrate;

E6 Zinc:

Zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate

Zinc oxide

Zinc sulphate mono- and/or heptahydrate;

E7 Molybdenum:

Sodium molybdate;

E8 Selenium:

Sodium selenate

Sodium selenite

Selenised yeast, inactivated

1.2. Zoo-technical additives:

Enzymes and micro-organisms

1.3. Technological additives:

(a) Preservatives

E200 Sorbic acid

E236 Formic acid

E237 Sodium formate

E260 Acetic acid

E270 Lactic acid

E280 Propionic acid

E330 Citric acid

(b) Antioxidant substances:

Tocopherol extracts from vegetable oils

(c) Binders and anti-caking agents:

E 535 Sodium ferrocyanide (Maximum dose rate of 20 mg/kg NaCl calculated as ferrocyanide anion.)

E551b Colloidal silica

E551c Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth)

E558 Bentonite

E559 Kaolinitic clays, free of asbestos

E560 Natural mixtures of stearites and chlorite

E561 Vermiculite

E562 Sepiolite

E 566 Natrolite-Phonolite

1g568 Clinoptilolite of sedimentary origin

E599 Perlite

(d) Silage additives:

Enzymes and micro-organisms can be used as silage additives - only permitted when weather conditions do not allow for adequate fermentation

(e) Emulsifying and stabilising agents

Lecithin of organic sources (use restricted to feed for aquaculture).

Appendix 8: Products for cleaning, disinfection and pest control

Products approved for cleaning and disinfection of buildings and installations for livestock production:

Potassium and sodium soap
Water and steam
Milk of lime
Lime
Quicklime
Sodium hypochlorite (e.g. as liquid bleach)
Caustic soda
Caustic potash
Hydrogen peroxide
Natural essences of plants
Citric, peracetic acid, formic, lactic, oxalic and acetic acid
Alcohol
Nitric acid (dairy equipment)
Phosphoric acid (dairy equipment)
Formaldehyde
Cleaning and disinfection products for teats and milking facilities
Sodium carbonate

Permitted treatments for pest prevention and control:

- Freezing, heating, vacuuming, nitrogen and carbon dioxide
- Physical and mechanical barriers,
- Sound, light and electrical barriers (including UV electrical insect killers, electric fencing and electrical barriers against rodents)
- Legally approved rodenticides (where there is no risk of contamination)
- Pheromone traps and sticky boards (not containing pesticides), sticky boards for insect monitoring only.
- Desiccant dust from naturally occurring sources (where there is no risk of contamination)

Restricted treatments (only to be used with permission after a problem has been identified)

- Synthetic pyrethroids (only for enclosed and sealed units or band application around entrances and external apertures)
- Ozone – under restricted use in stores, not for treating products
- Natural pyrethrins, as a surface spray or fog, organic products must be removed before and kept away for 24 hours after treatment, only to be returned after ventilation and washing of surfaces.

Appendix 9: Derogations

Derogation is required for the practices or situations listed below, and as indicated.

Key

- * approval from the inspector at the time of inspection
- ** derogation in advance from BDA Certification officer
- *** derogation in advance from Defra (via BDA Certification)

Plant production

- ** Use of non-organic seeds or vegetative propagating material
- ** Parallel production of organic and non-organic perennials on holding
- ** Use of copper or sulphur

Livestock husbandry

- ** Use of community pasture or common land
- *** Brought in non-organic livestock (except male sires)
- * Brought in non-organic male sires (bulls, boars etc for breeding only)
- *** Brought in non-organic day old chicks and pullets
- ** Castration, tail docking etc (via annual questionnaire, as in livestock health plan)
- ** Non-simultaneous conversion of land and livestock (as in application report)
- *** Use of synthetic vitamins A, D, E for ruminants
- *** Use of non-organic feed
- *** Parallel production of organic and non-organic livestock on education or research facility

General

- ** Extended conversion time
- *** Reduced conversion time