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| **Demeter and BDA Organic Certification** |
| USE OF COMMON GRAZING DEROGATION REQUEST FORM |

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| **Date of Request** |  | **Approved on:** | |
| **Contact Person** |  |  | |
| **Farm/Business Name** |  | **Registration No** |  |

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| Please refer to the Organic and Demeter standards (relevant sections copied below) when completing your derogation request, and feel free to attach further information or use additional pages where necessary. |

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| **Derogation request**  Include name/area of common land to be used, number and species of animals to be grazed, period for which you hope to use the common land |  |

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| **Reason for request**  Justification for use of common land, with supporting information about how you will meet the standards with regards other graziers, supplementary feed, hefted flock etc |  |

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| **Certification Officer Comments** |  |

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| **Expiry/review date** |  |

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| **Certification Officer Signature** |  |

**Requirements of the standards on common grazing**

**BDA Organic Production Standards**

**15.9.4 Grazing common land shared with non-organic livestock**

Organic livestock must be kept separate from other livestock. However, grazing of common land by 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

**Demeter Labelling, Production and Processing Standards**

**6.3.6.5 Common grazing land**

Animals from Demeter enterprises may be kept on common grazing land if the pasture has not been managed conventionally for at least three years and if the other conventional animals on the common land are from extensive conventional management. No conventional fodder supplements may be fed.

* Milk may be certified Demeter when the animals return to Demeter compliant feeding.
* Meat may be certified Demeter when the animals are kept for at least half of their lifetime according to this standard.

Common land can only be used with an approved derogation from Demeter UK (APP 16: see Appendix 7).