

## Approved Inputs Scheme – Farm Inputs

### The Organic Regulations

The labelling and marketing of organic products is controlled by EC Regulations (EC) No 834/2007 and (EC) No 889/2008, which define how organic food must be produced and processed. They also list the non organic materials that are permitted as farm inputs, including the use of:

- Soil conditioners and fertilising materials;
- Propagating composts;
- Pest control materials;
- Animal feed additives and preservatives;
- Animal feed vitamins and mineral mixes.

The permitted inputs and any restrictions applied to them are listed in the OF&G Organic Standards and Certification Manual (OSCM) and the suppliers of products containing these materials are recommended to obtain a copy from the OF&G office or read the relevant sections on the OF&G web site ([www.ofgorganic.org](http://www.ofgorganic.org)).

### Farm Inputs

The suppliers of the above mentioned farm inputs are not under any obligation to have their products certified by OF&G or any other organic control body. The onus is on the farmer to check whether a product is permitted in the production standards.

Some materials are subject to restrictions and where this is specified in the production standards, the producer must seek prior approval from his/her control body.

### Evaluation of Farm Inputs

OF&G has established an Approved Inputs Scheme to help farmers identify products that are permitted (or permitted with prior approval) and to give recognition to those products that are compliant with the European Organic Standards.

To participate in this scheme a business that wishes to supply a farm input product to organic farmers should complete the application form RD111 and supply a dossier containing details of the product composition (ingredient list), Safety Data Sheet and label samples.

The dossier is then evaluated by the certification office and if found to be compliant with the organic standards:

- The supplier is issued with a certificate confirming that the product is either approved for use or for restricted use;
- The product is added to a database of approved products which is published on our website;
- The supplier is able to use the relevant version of the OF&G logo on the product.

Please be aware that:

- Any changes in the formulation or production must be reported to OF&G before changes take place.
- The dossier must be renewed annually.
- Product labels or marketing literature referring to OF&G or using the OF&G logo must be approved by OF&G before use.

## **Permitted Farm Inputs**

The following materials are eligible for the Approved Inputs Scheme. Some may be restricted and require Control Body approval before use (ref: OSCM).

**Fertilisers and Soil Conditioners:** Only those materials listed in Sections 7.14 and 7.16 of the OSCM can be used as soil conditioning and fertilising inputs. These are essentially materials of plant or animal origin or non water-soluble ground rock minerals. However some water-soluble materials, such as sulphate of potash and trace elements, are permitted with prior approval where an organic alternative does not exist, and where justification for their use can be supplied by the producer. In these cases, a soil analysis is required to confirm the need for the material.

**Propagating Composts:** Propagating composts can only be composed of either organically produced plant and animal materials or, where these are not suitable or available, non-organic produced materials specified in Sections 7.14 and 7.16 of the OSCM.

**Pest Control Materials:** The materials used for pest control on an organic holding must normally be listed in Section 7.12 of the OSCM.

**Animal Feed Ingredients:** The following materials do not require inspection and certification and are eligible for the Approved Inputs Scheme:

- Permitted non-agricultural ingredients as listed in Sections 8.4.33 to 8.4.47 of the OSCM.

Animal feed mixers and compounders must be subject to the full certification programme as outlined in Technical Leaflet 206 – Guidance Notes on the Manufacture, Labelling and use of Feeds for Organic Farming.

**The Scheme does not cover Prescription Only Medicinal (POM) Veterinary Products.**

## **Genetically Modified Organisms**

Genetically modified organisms, or materials derived from them, are not permitted as inputs on organic or in-conversion holdings. Farm inputs must not be produced or derived from genetically modified organisms. Producers must obtain declarations from the suppliers of inputs confirming that the products are non-GM nor GMO-derived.

A statement to this effect on the product label will be acceptable. Alternatively, OF&G provides pro-forma non-GM declaration forms for completion by the supplier.

## Labelling Evaluated Farm Inputs

The code 'GB-ORG-02' cannot be used on any farm input product as it is specific to organic food / feed products.

As specified in the OF&G OSCM Section 4.3, where the ingredients of a certified farm input do not require the producer to seek approval before use, the approved product can be labelled with the following version of the OF&G logo and/or statement: 'Approved for Use in Organic Systems by OF&G.'



Where one or more of the ingredients require the producer to obtain approval before use, the product must be labelled with the following version of the OF&G logo and/or statement: 'Product Approved for Restricted Use in Organic Systems. Approval must be obtained before use'.



Where operators re-label products produced by other companies, the labels applied must not obscure any safety information, instructions or Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD) number and information.

## An Introduction to OF&G Ltd.

OF&G is one of Britain's largest organic control bodies. It is approved by Defra to inspect a wide variety of organic operations in the UK.

## How to have a product evaluated

### Request an Application Pack

Contact the OF&G office to request an application form and a copy of the OF&G Organic Standards and Certification Manual. The relevant sections should be studied and understood before an application is made. If you have any questions, contact the OF&G office, see contact details overleaf.

### Complete the Approved Inputs Scheme Application Form

Complete the application form and send it to the OF&G office with appropriate information and the application fee. (Please refer to the OF&G charges sheet RD258 for current fees. These are charged at application and then annually).

## **Evaluation**

The OF&G office will evaluate the products and confirm whether or not they comply with the Organic Standards. Where they are not compliant the applicant will be notified of the reasons, and they will then have an opportunity to amend the formulation and/or process. We are unfortunately unable to refund the application fee in cases where the product is not judged acceptable, (even after amendment), due to the time already spent on the evaluation.

## **Be Issued with a Certificate of Evaluation for Compliance**

Once all the above stages have been completed, the compliant products will be registered and a Certificate of Evaluation for Compliance issued. The relevant OF&G logo or logos will be provided in digital format for inclusion on product labels and advertising material. Please note however that any use of the OF&G logo needs stamped approval from the OF&G office at the proof stage and before using on a website. It is usual to send pdf copies to your allocated certification officer to obtain this approval.

**Renewal is required each year and a fee will be charged.**

**Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements**

**Statutory information is for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print**