

Evaluation Scheme – Farm inputs

Propagating Composts, Soil Conditioners, Fertilisers,
Pest Control Materials and Animal Feedstuffs and Additives



Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements
Statutory information is for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print

The Organic Regulations

The labelling and marketing of Organic products is controlled by an EC Regulation (2092/91 EEC), which defines how organic food must be produced and processed. It also lists the conventional 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 Organic Farmers & Growers Control Manual 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.organicfarmers.org.uk).

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 certification 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 a derogation from his/her certification body.

Evaluation of Farm Inputs

OF&G has established an Evaluation Scheme to help farmers identify products that are permitted (or permitted with derogations) and to give recognition to those products that are compliant with the Defra 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 Defra 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 we use to advise farmers and which we are planning to publish on our website
- The supplier is able to use a modified version of the OF&G logo on the product (as shown on this page)

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.

Permitted Farm Inputs

The following materials are eligible for the Evaluation Scheme. Some may be restricted and require Certification Body approval before use (ref: OF&G Control Manual)

Fertilisers and Soil Conditioners: Only those materials listed in sections 7.14 and 7.16 of the OF&G Control Manual 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 by derogation 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, conventionally produced materials specified in sections 7.14 and 7.16 of the OF&G Control Manual.

Pest Control Materials: The materials used for pest control on an organic holding must normally be listed in section 7.12 of the OF&G Control Manual.

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

- Permitted non-organic feed materials of agricultural origin as listed in section 8.4.30 of the OF&G Control Manual.
- Permitted feed materials from animal origin as listed in sections 8.4.31 to 8.4.35 of the OF&G Control Manual.
- Permitted non-agricultural ingredients as listed in sections 8.4.36 to 8.4.53 of the OF&G Control Manual

Animal feed mixers and compounders must be subject to the full certification programme as outlined in Technical Leaflet 206 – Guidance Notes for the Manufacture and Labelling of Compound Animal Feeds

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 'Organic Certification UK2' cannot be used on any farm input products as it is specific to organic food/feed products.

As specified in the OF&G Control Manual Section 4.3, where the ingredients of a certified farm input do not require the producer to seek a derogation 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 Organic Farmers & Growers'.



Where one or more of the ingredients require the producer to obtain a derogation 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. A Derogation 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 Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd.

Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd (OF&G) is one of Britain's largest organic certification 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

Ring the OF&G office to request an application form and a copy of the OF&G Standards if not enclosed. The relevant chapters should be studied and understood before an application is made. If there are any questions, contact the OF&G certification office, see below.

Complete the Evaluation Scheme Application Form

Complete the application form and send it to the certification office with appropriate information and the application fee. (Please refer to the OF&G charges sheet RD15 for current fees. These are charged at application and then annually)

Evaluation

The certification 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 then has 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), because of the time we will already have committed to its evaluation.

Be Issued with a Certificate of Evaluation

Once all the above stages have been completed, the compliant products will be registered and a Certificate of Evaluation issued. The relevant OF&G logo or logos will be provided in digital format for inclusion on product labels and advertising material.

Re-registration is required each year.

Further Information

For an information pack and further guidance please contact the OF&G Office.

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