

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT No. 119 OF 1990)

DRAFT REGISTERED “ORGANIC PRODUCTION” SYSTEM AS A MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR SALE AND EXPORT

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM IN RESPECT OF THE SALE AND EXPORT OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is hereby made known that the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards has registered the “Organic Production” System as a Management Control System in terms of the Regulations Relating to the Management Control System in Respect of the Sale of Certain Agricultural Products No.R.6634 of 19 September 2025.

Further made known is that the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards, in terms of the Regulations Relating to the Management Control System in Respect of the Sale and Export of Certain Agricultural Products No. R. 6634 of 19 September 2025 hereby inserts after Regulation 10, the following Annexure in respect of the “Applicable Minimum Standard for the Registered ‘Organic Production’ System as a Management Control System for Plant and Animal Products intended for Sale and Export”.

ANNEXURE K

THE APPLICABLE MINIMUM STANDARD FOR THE REGISTERED “ORGANIC PRODUCTION” SYSTEM AS A MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR SALE AND EXPORT

1. *Type of Agricultural Product*

- 1.1 Plant and animal products subjected to “Organic production” are a type of agricultural product regulated in terms of sections 3, 4 and 15 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 119 of 1990, and that is intended for sale and export.
- 1.2 The products covered are the following:
 - (a) Fruit
 - (b) Vegetables
 - (c) Oilseeds
 - (d) Grain
 - (e) Mushrooms
 - (f) Meat – Sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, poultry
 - (g) Eggs – poultry
 - (h) Honey
- 1.3 “Organic Production” is defined as: Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.”

2. *Farm/production/harvesting requirements*

- 2.1 A farm/production/harvesting map shall be prepared and regularly updated to reflect the current organic production operation.
- 2.2 The farm/production/harvesting map need not be scaled but the building uses must be stated and position and dimensions of all livestock buildings and pens, pastures and run areas, wild harvesting areas, fields and orchards, manure and composting areas, etc. shall be shown.

2.3 Documented plans/procedures/records/rules shall be available for organic production, including animal stocking densities and amount of products produced.

2.4 Biodiversity

- (a) Farmers/producers shall design and implement measures to maintain and improve landscape and enhance biodiversity by maintaining on-farm wildlife refuge habitats or establishing them. Such habitats may include, but are not limited to:
- (i) Extensive grassland such as moorlands, reed land or dry land.
 - (ii) Areas which are not under rotation and are not heavily manured, such as extensive pastures, meadows, extensive grassland, extensive orchards, hedges, hedgerows, edges between agriculture and forest land, groups of trees and / or bushes, and forest and woodland.
 - (iii) Fallow land or arable land.
 - (iv) Waterways, pools, springs, ditches, floodplains, wetlands, swamps and other water-rich areas which are not used for intensive agriculture.
 - (v) Plants growing in waste places, along roadsides or in rubbish.
 - (vi) Wildlife corridors that provide linkages and connectivity to native habitat.
- (b) Clearing or destruction of High Conservation Value Areas (areas that has been identified as having outstanding and critical importance due to its environmental, socioeconomic, biodiversity or landscape values) is prohibited and farming on land that has been obtained by clearing of High Conservation Value Areas in the preceding 5 years shall not be considered as being compliant.
- (c) The clearance of virgin forest (Indigenous forest, including bushveld type trees, that does not indicate bush encroachment or is not a consequence thereof) for agricultural usage is forbidden.
- (d) The producer must show a commitment to the maintenance of biodiversity and shall have a biodiversity plan if the biodiversity reserve on the farm does not reach 10% of the total area.
- (e) Virgin land and biodiversity areas may include lightly grazed fields that allow for some vegetation to flower and go to seed; forested fields (agro forestry); undisturbed forest; rocky outcrops; land seeded to annual/perennial plants that are allowed to go through flowering; fallow land as part of the rotation or otherwise; undisturbed grasslands (no mowing in the courses of a year); fence lines; indigenous and endemic trees (100m² per tree); tree lined avenues; hedges, field and stream bank tree groves; water bodies, channels, ponds, wetlands, land bordering rivers, streams, lakes; plants growing in waste places; landslips, stone windrows and heaps; dry stone walls; non-enclosed natural paths and tracks; other.

2.5 Soil and water

- (a) Producers shall take measures to prevent erosion and minimize loss of topsoil. Such measures may include, but are not limited to: minimal tillage, contour ploughing, crop selection, maintenance of soil plant cover and other management practices that conserve soil.
- (b) Land preparation by burning vegetation or crop residues is prohibited (exceptions may be granted in cases where burning is used to suppress the spread of disease, to stimulate seed germination).
- (c) Producers shall return nutrients, organic matter and other resources removed from the soil through harvesting by the recycling, regeneration and addition of organic materials and nutrients.
- (d) Stocking densities and grazing shall not degrade land or pollute water resources.
- (e) Producers shall prevent or remedy soil and water salinization where these pose a problem.
- (f) Producers shall not deplete nor excessively exploit water resources and where possible, recycle rainwater and monitor water extraction.

2.6 Prohibited technologies

- (a) The introduction of genetically engineered organisms or their derivatives is prohibited. This shall include animals, seed, propagation material, feed, and farm inputs such as fertilizers, soil conditioners, or crop protection materials, but shall exclude vaccines.
- (b) Producers shall not use ingredients, additives or processing aids derived from genetically engineered organisms.
- (c) Inputs, processing aids and ingredients shall be traced back one step in the biological chain to the direct source organism (the specific plant, animal, or microbe that produces a given input

or ingredient) from which they are produced to verify that they are not derived from genetically engineered organisms.

- (d) The use of genetically engineered organisms is not permitted in any production activity on the farm, including farms with split production.
- (e) The use of nanomaterials (substances deliberately produced to be in the nanoscale range (approximately 1-300 nm) because of specific properties, but exclude food processing such as homogenization, milling, churning, and freezing, and naturally occurring particles in the nanoscale range) is prohibited, including in packaging and product contact surfaces.

2.7 Wild harvesting

- (a) Products shall only be derived from a sustainable growing environment and not harvested at a rate that exceeds the sustainable yield of the ecosystem, or threatens the existence of plant, fungal or animal species, including those not directly exploited.
- (b) Products shall only be harvested from clearly defined uncontaminated areas where prohibited substances have not been applied.
- (c) The harvest area shall be at an appropriate distance from conventional farming or other pollution sources in order to avoid contamination.
- (d) Harvest planning shall include the impacts of collectors not involved in the organic scheme.

2.8 Split production

- (a) If the whole farm is not converted (split production) the organic and conventional parts of the farm shall be clearly and continuously separated.
- (b) Simultaneous production of the same products is only permitted where clear and continuous and verifiable separation of all operations and products is possible, such as using different species and cultivars.
- (c) Organic and conventional units in split production must be physically, financially and operationally separated.
- (d) The producer shall demonstrate continuous efforts towards bringing the entire farm under organic management, such as increasing the size of the organic operation relative to the conventional.

2.9 Storage

- (a) Prohibited materials shall not be stored where organic products are grown and handled.

3. ***Crop production***

3.1 Seed and planting material

- (a) Producers should give preference to organic varieties and seed and planting material from organic breeding programs, when available.
- (b) When organic seed and planting materials are not available in sufficient quantity or quality, in-conversion materials may be used.
- (c) When none of these are available, conventional materials may be used provided that they have not been treated with not permitted postharvest pesticides.
- (d) Where post-harvest chemical treatment is prescribed by law for phytosanitary purposes, treated seed and plant material may be used.
- (e) Seeds and plant materials shall be propagated under organic management for one generation, in the case of annuals, and for perennials, two growing periods, or 18 months, whichever is the longer, before being regarded as organic seed and plant material.
- (f) Propagation may be based on generative propagation (seeds) as well as vegetative propagation derived from various plant organs e.g. tubers, bulbs, layer, cut and graft shoots, rhizomes (meristem culture subject to point 9 below may be allowed).
- (g) All multiplication practices (the growing on of seed stock or plant material to increase supply for future planting) on the farm shall be under organic management.
- (h) Developing organic varieties shall be from genetic material that has not been contaminated by products of genetic engineering (e.g., ionizing radiation; transfer of isolated DNA, RNA, or proteins).

3.2 Conversion period

- (a) Crops shall be propagated and grown on organic farms and thus a conversion period is required between the start of organic management and the acceptance of plant products as organic
- (b) All the requirements of this standard shall be met for the duration of the conversion period.
- (c) The start of the conversion period shall be calculated from the date that an application has been received and agreed upon.
- (d) Retroactive application may be considered on the basis of sound evidence of full application of the standard.
- (e) The agreed upon application date may be the date of either the closest spring or autumn to avoid the conversion anniversary occurring during the harvest season.
- (f) The length of the conversion period shall be at least:
 - (i) 12 months before sowing or planting in the case of annual production.
 - (ii) 12 months before grazing or harvest for pastures and meadows.
 - (iii) 18 months before harvest for other perennials.
 - (iv) 36 months for land where inputs not permitted have been used.
- (g) The periods above can run concurrently.
- (h) Plant products may be used or sold as “in-conversion” provided that they have completed a minimum 12 - month conversion period.

3.3 Soil fertility

- (a) Crop rotation (practice of alternating the species or families of annual and/or biennial crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern) for annual crops shall be established to manage pressure from pests, weeds and diseases and to maintain soil fertility.
- (b) Crop rotation shall include soil-improving plants such as green manure (a crop that is specifically grown and crushed or incorporated into the soil for the purpose of soil improvement), and may include spontaneous crops, plants or weeds, legumes or deep rooting plants.
- (c) For orchards and plantations, there shall be managed floor cover and diversity or non-crop related plantings.
- (d) The fertility program should be based on material of microbial, plant or animal origin, such as green manure, compost or mulch, obtained through the following sources in this order of priority:
 - (i) Organically produced on the farm.
 - (ii) Of organic quality, obtained from the surrounding farms or natural environment.
 - (iii) Other inputs (listed under point (o) below) exceptionally allowed only as a necessary complement when other fertility building techniques have been applied and are insufficient.
- (e) Maintenance of soil fertility may not rely solely on off-farm inputs.
- (f) Nutrients and fertility products should be applied in a way that does not harm soil, water, and biodiversity such as:
 - (i) Significant accumulation of heavy metals or phosphorus in the soil.
 - (ii) Significant contribution to the nutrient enrichment of water bodies.
 - (iii) Unbalanced nutrient supply as compared to the nutrient needs.
- (g) Soil carbon content shall be maintained or improved over time.
- (h) The use of human excrement is prohibited.
- (i) Minerals shall only be used to addressing long-term fertility needs together with other techniques such as organic matter additions, green manures, crop rotations and nitrogen fixation by plants and use shall be justified by appropriate soil and leaf analysis or diagnosis.
- (j) Minerals shall be applied in the form in which they are naturally composed and extracted and shall not be rendered more soluble by chemical treatment.
- (k) Chilean nitrate and all synthetic fertilizers, including urea, are prohibited.
- (l) The production of plants shall be soil-based and hydroponic systems are prohibited. “Soil-based” means that apart from the propagation or seedling stages, a plant must spend its life in the soil.
- (m) For herbs, flowers and ornamentals sold in pots, containing permitted growing media, to the final consumer, can be allowed.
- (n) The removal of soil from the farm is prohibited.
- (o) Fertilizers and soil conditioners of plant and animal origin allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Farmyard manure, slurry and urine shall not constitute the main source of nitrogen.

- (ii) Additional nitrogen from conventional intensive livestock production systems cannot be used without prior permission and the need for use thereof shall be motivated.
- (iii) Coming from extensive livestock farming (i.e. Farming that corresponds to at least the stocking densities as indicated in these standards and includes the prescribed run area requirements for the animals the number of animals per ha corresponding to 170 kg of Nitrogen per year/hectare), and it shall be composted.
- (iv) Manure from factory farming origin is prohibited (i.e. Industrial management systems that are heavily reliant on veterinary and feed inputs not permitted in organic agriculture and/or where the animals are hindered from moving freely around 360°, or kept in isolation or deprived from litter and thus include animals kept in batteries or fattening of chickens with more than 25kg weight/m²).
- (v) Guano.
- (vi) Vermicastings (the nutrient-rich excrement left behind by earthworms after they digest organic matter).
- (vii) Blood meal, meat meal, bone, bone meal.
- (x) Hoof and horn meal, feather meal, fish and shell products, wool, hide, fur, hair, dairy products.
- (xi) Biodegradable processing by-products, plant or animal origin, e.g., by-products of food, feed, oilseed, brewery, distillery.
- (xii) Crop residues and plant materials, mulch, green manure, straw.
- (xiii) Wood, bark, sawdust, wood shavings, wood ash, wood charcoal (if not chemically treated).
- (xiv) Seaweed and seaweed products As far as obtained by physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding, extraction with water or potassium hydroxide and fermentation.
- (xv) Peat (prohibited for soil conditioning) Excluding synthetic additives; permitted only in horticulture (floriculture, nursery plants, potting mixes).
- (xvi) Plant preparations and extracts.
- (xvii) Spent mushroom waste, humus from worms and insects.
- (xviii) Urban composts and household wastes from separated sources which are monitored for contamination. Maximum concentrations in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of dry matter:
 - (aa) cadmium: 0,7
 - (bb) copper: 70
 - (cc) nickel: 25
 - (dd) lead: 45
 - (ee) zinc: 200
 - (ff) mercury: 0,4
 - (gg) chromium (total): 70
 - (hh) chromium (VI): 0
- (p) Fertilizers of mineral origin allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Calcareous and magnesium amendments: Limestone, gypsum, marl, maerl, chalk, sugar beet lime.
 - (ii) Calcium chloride.
 - (iii) Magnesium rock, kieserite and Epsom salt (magnesium sulphate).
 - (iv) Other non-synthetic calcareous and magnesium amendments.
 - (v) Clay (e.g., bentonite, perlite, vermiculite, zeolite).
 - (vi) Mineral potassium (e.g., sulphate of potash, muriate of potash, kainite, sylvanite, patentkali) obtained by physical procedures but not enriched by chemical processes.
 - (vii) Phosphates in non-synthetic form (e.g., rock phosphate, colloidal phosphate, apatite) with Cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P₂O₅.
 - (viii) Pulverized rock, stone meal, crushed stone.
 - (ix) Sodium chloride.
 - (x) Sulphur.
 - (xi) Trace elements, e.g.: boric acid, sodium borate, calcium borate, borethanolamin, cobalt-acetate, cobaltsulphate, copper oxide, copper sulphate, copper hydroxide, copper silicate, copper carbonate, copper citrate, ferric oxide, ferric sulphate, ferrous sulphate, iron citrate, iron sulphate, or iron tartrate manganous oxide, manganese sulphate and manganese carbonate, selenic acid, selenic acid, sodium molybdate, molybdic oxide zinc carbonate, zinc oxide, zinc silicate, and zinc sulphate: Provided

- that the use is restricted to cases where soil/plant nutrient deficiency is documented by soil or tissue testing or diagnosed by an independent expert.
- (xii) Micronutrients in either chloride or nitrate forms are prohibited.
- (xiii) Micronutrients may not be used as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant.

3.4 Pest, disease and weed control

- (a) The organic production system shall include biological, cultural and mechanical mechanisms to manage pests, weeds and diseases. These include:
 - (i) Use of appropriate species and varieties.
 - (ii) Rotation programs, intercropping and companion planting.
 - (iii) Mechanical cultivation.
 - (iv) Provision of favourable habitat for natural predators, such as hedges, nesting sites and ecological buffer zones with original vegetation to house pest predators.
 - (v) Natural enemies may include the release of predators and parasites.
 - (vi) Mulching (applying organic material to surface of the soil) and mowing.
 - (vii) Grazing by animals.
 - (viii) On-farm preparations from local plants, animals and micro-organisms.
 - (ix) Maintain fertile soils with high biological activity,
- (b) Physical methods for pest, disease and weed management are permitted, including the application of heat.
- (c) Thermal sterilization of soils is prohibited, i.e. non-selective heat treatment of the soil to differing depths to kill soil fauna and flora..
- (d) In case farmers need to use commercial formulated inputs, preference should be given to formulations approved for use in organic agriculture.
- (e) When the measures in point (a) are not sufficient, pest, disease and weed management substances permitted under points (f) to (j) may be used.
- (f) Crop protectants of plant and animal origin allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Algal, seaweed and seaweed products As far as obtained by physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding, extraction with water or potassium hydroxide and fermentation.
 - (ii) Animal preparations and oils.
 - (iii) Beeswax.
 - (iv) Chitin nematicides (natural origin) and not processed by acid hydrolysis.
 - (v) Coffee grounds.
 - (vii) Corn gluten meal.
 - (viii) Dairy products (e.g., milk, casein).
 - (ix) Gelatine.
 - (x) Lecithin (unbleached).
 - (xi) Natural fermented acids (e.g., vinegar).
 - (xii) Neem oil (*Azadirachta indica*), cold pressed, unrefined, concentration of Azadirachtin not to exceed 3000 ppm.
 - (xiii) Plant oils (e.g. mint oil, pine oil, and caraway oil) as insecticide, acaricide, fungicide and sprout inhibitor.
 - (xiv) Plant preparations.
 - (xv) Plant based repellents.
 - (xvi) Propolis.
 - (xvii) Pyrethrum (*Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*) provided that the synergist Piperonyl butoxide is prohibited.
 - (xviii) Quassia (*Quassia amara*).
 - (xix) Rotenone root powder (*Derris elliptica*, *Lonchocarpus spp.* *Tephrosia spp.*), not near waterways and subject to approval.
 - (xx) Ryania (*Ryania speciosa*).
 - (xxi) Sabadilla.
- (g) Crop protectants of mineral origin allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Calcium chloride.
 - (ii) Clay (e.g., bentonite, perlite, vermiculite, zeolite).
 - (iii) Copper salts (e.g., copper sulphate, copper hydroxide, copper oxychloride, copper octanoate): Provided that a max 6 kg Cu/ha per year, on a rolling average basis.
 - (iv) Diatomaceous earth.

- (v) Light mineral oils (paraffinic).
- (vi) Calcium polysulfide (Lime sulphur).
- (vii) Potassium bicarbonate.
- (viii) Calcium hydroxide (hydrated lime) - for application on aerial plant parts only.
- (ix) Silicates (e.g., diatomaceous earth, sodium silicates, quartz).
- (x) Sodium bicarbonate.
- (xi) Sulphur.
- (h) Microorganism crop protectants allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Fungal preparations (e.g., *Metarhizium*, *Trichoderma*).
 - (ii) Bacterial preparations (e.g., *Bacillus thuringiensis*, Spinosad).
 - (iii) Effective Microorganisms.
 - (iv) Korean Natural Farming preparations, Biofertilizers, and other naturally derived preparations.
 - (v) Viral preparations (e.g., granulosis virus).
 - (vi) Release of parasites, predators and sterilized insects.
- (i) Other methods of crop protectants allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Biodynamic preparations (Biodynamic agriculture is a holistic method of natural farming that works with cosmic and earthly rhythms and where plants and animals are integrated and biodiversity is encouraged.).
 - (ii) Carbon dioxide, but shall not be the result of burning fuel solely to produce carbon dioxide (must be a by-product of other processes).
 - (iii) Ethyl alcohol.
 - (iv) Homeopathic and Ayurvedic (Traditional Indian system of medicine) preparations.
 - (v) Iron phosphates (for use as molluscicide).
 - (vi) Sea salt and salty water.
 - (vii) Soft soap (potassium soap).
- (j) Traps, barriers and repellents allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Physical methods (e.g., chromatic traps, mechanical traps).
 - (ii) Mulches, nets.
 - (iii) Pheromones in traps and dispensers only.

3.5 Contamination control

- (a) The producer shall monitor crops, soil, water, and inputs for risks of contamination by prohibited substances and environmental contaminants.
- (b) Barriers and buffer zones (a clearly defined and identifiable boundary area bordering an organic production site that is established to limit contamination) may be used to avoid potential contamination of crops as follows:
 - (i) Buffer zones shall be at least 8 m wide.
 - (ii) Permanent hedgerows or windbreaks, artificial windbreaks, permanent roads and other physical barriers may be used as buffer zones.
 - (iii) Crops grown in buffer zones shall not be considered organic.
- (c) Crops shall be protected from crosspollination from genetic modified crops using isolation distances.
- (d) Fence posts or wood treated with prohibited substances are prohibited, provided that recycling of existing fence posts treated with prohibited substances within the operation is permitted.
- (e) Equipment from conventional farming systems shall be thoroughly cleaned of potentially contaminating materials before being used on organically managed areas.
- (f) For synthetic structure coverings, mulches, fleeces, insect netting and silage wrapping, only products based on polyethylene and polypropylene or other polycarbonates, and biodegradable materials (e.g., starch based), are permitted, it shall be removed from the soil after use and shall not be burned on the farmland.

3.6 Protected crops (the growing of crops under forms of constructed or man-made protection such as greenhouses, polytunnels, plastic roofs, nets, fleece, or cloches (domes)).

- (a) Artificial light is only allowed for plant propagation and as a complement to sunlight to extend the day length to a maximum of 16 hours.
- (b) Technologies that reduce energy consumption should be used for artificial light, heating, cooling, ventilation, humidity and other climate control.

4. Animal production

4.1 Housing and environment

- (a) Landless animal husbandry systems are prohibited (must have land for pasture, supply of feed and disposal of manure & effluent).
- (b) The producer shall ensure that the environment, the facilities, stocking density and flock/herd size provides for the behavioural needs of the animals such as:
 - (i) Sufficient free movement and opportunity to express normal patterns of behaviour applicable to the type of animal.
 - (ii) Space to stand naturally, lie down easily, move around freely, groom themselves, sleep and nest comfortably, as well as assume all natural postures and movements such as stretching etc.
 - (iii) Sufficient fresh air, water, feed, thermal comfort and natural daylight, to satisfy the needs of the animals.
 - (iv) Access to shelter and protection from sunlight, temperature, rain, mud and wind adequate to reduce animal stress.
 - (v) Provision of suitable materials and areas for exploratory and foraging behaviours.
 - (vi) Animals shall be protected from predation by wild and feral animals.
 - (vii) Where animals require bedding, adequate natural materials are provided and bedding materials that are normally consumed by the animals shall be organic.
- (c) All animals shall have unrestricted and daily access to pasture with vegetation. Whenever it is not possible to allow free movement of animals all year round (due to for example disease, climate, animal theft), animals may be kept indoor or corralled for a limited period of the year or of the day, provided that the animals shall still have sufficient free movement to express normal behaviour, stand naturally, lie down easily, move around and groom themselves – refer to point (g) below regarding sufficient area (i.e. indoor and run).
- (d) Herd animals shall not be kept in isolation from other animals of the same species provided that the isolation of male animals, sick animals and those about to give birth is allowed.
- (e) Construction materials and equipment that might significantly harm animal health shall not be used.
- (f) Stocking densities shall not exceed to 170 kg N/ha/year and is equivalent to the following number of animals per hectare (100mX100m):
 - (i) Equines over six months old - 2
 - (ii) Calves for fattening - 5
 - (iii) Other bovine animals less than one year old - 5
 - (iv) Male bovine animals from one to less than two years old - 3,3
 - (v) Female bovine animals from one to less than two years old - 3,3
 - (vi) Male bovine animals two years old or over - 2
 - (vii) Breeding heifers - 2,5
 - (viii) Heifers for fattening - 2,5
 - (ix) Dairy cows - 2
 - (x) Cull dairy cows - 2
 - (xi) Other cows - 2,5
 - (xii) Ewes - 13,3
 - (xiii) Goats - 13,3
 - (xiv) Piglets - 74
 - (xv) Breeding sows - 6,5
 - (xvi) Pigs for fattening - 14
 - (xvii) Other pigs - 14
 - (xviii) Table/broiler chickens - 580
 - (xix) Laying hens - 230
- (g) Sufficient area (i.e. indoor and run) for animals (excluding pastures):
 - (i) Breeding and fattening Bovine and Equidae:
 - (aa) Up to 100 kg - 1.5 m²/head (run area – 1.1 m²/head)
 - (bb) Up to 200 kg - 2.5 m²/head (run area – 1.9 m²/head)
 - (cc) Up to 350 kg - 4.0 m²/head (run area – 3.0 m²/head)
 - (dd) Over 350 kg – 5.0 m²/head (run area – 3.7 m²/head)
 - (ii) Dairy cows – 6.0 m²/head (run area – 4.5 m²/head)
 - (iii) Bulls for breeding – 10 m²/head (run area – 30 m²/head)
 - (iv) Sheep and goats - 1.5 m²/head (run area – 2.5 m²/head)

- (v) Lamb/kid - 0.35 m²/head (run area – 0.5 m²/head)
- (vi) Farrowing sows with piglets up to 40 days - 7.5 m²/head (run area – 2.5 m²/head)
- (vii) Fattening pigs:
 - (aa) Up to 50 kg - 0.8 m²/head (run area – 0.6 m²/head)
 - (bb) Up to 85 kg - 1.1 m²/head (run area – 0.8 m²/head)
 - (cc) Up to 100 kg - 1.3 m²/head (run area – 1.0 m²/head)
- (viii) Piglets over 40 days up to 30 kg - 0.6 m²/head (run area – 0.4 m²/head)
- (ix) Brood pigs:
 - (aa) Female – 2.5 m²/head (run area – 1.9 m²/head)
 - (bb) Male – 6.0 m²/head (run area – 8.0 m²/head)

4.2 Pest control

- (a) Producers shall manage pests and diseases using the following methods according to these priorities:
 - (i) Preventative methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat and access to facilities.
 - (ii) Mechanical, physical and biological methods.
 - (iii) Substances (other than synthetic pesticides) used in traps.
 - (iv) Substances listed in point 4.8(h) below.

4.3 Specific requirements

- (a) Poultry:
 - (i) Poultry shall have unrestricted access to a pasture area that is adequately fenced off to ensure that the birds are kept safe from predators. Free range run areas must be at least 1.25 times the coop house area.
 - (ii) Poultry houses/buildings must have exit/entry pop-holes of a combined length of at least 4 m per 100 m² of the house/building.
 - (iii) Water fowl shall have access to a stream, pond or lake
 - (iv) Hail nets may be installed across all pasture areas to protect the poultry from hail, falling branches and predators.
 - (v) The pasture area must be mainly covered with living vegetation (at least 50%) to allow for natural foraging of insects and plants.
 - (vi) The pasture must include shade (at a rate of 4 square metres per 1,000 birds).
 - (vii) The indoor stocking density in the poultry house shall not exceed:
 - (aa) 6 adult hens per square meter of available floor space.
 - (bb) 10 adult broilers per square meter of available floor space.
 - (cc) 16 adult broilers per square meter of available floor space in the case of mobile poultry houses.
 - (viii) In the case of:
 - (aa) Laying hens, at least 33% of the floor area shall be covered with litter at a depth of 5cm and least 33% of the floor area must be solid, not of slatted or of grid construction and the floors must not be slippery.
 - (bb) Broilers, the whole floor area shall be covered with adequate litter.
 - (ix) There may be a lighting system in place in the poultry houses to ensure the laying hens receive extra hours of light, to assist with egg production, while maintaining an 8-hour continuous sleep schedule.
 - (x) For the laying hens there shall be adequate roosting (perching bars) made of wood at 18cm per hen.
- (b) Cattle:
 - (i) Calves may not be housed in individual boxes after the age of one week.
- (c) Pigs
 - (i) Sows must be kept in groups except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period, and piglets may not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages.
 - (ii) The pasture areas for pigs must permit dunging and rooting by the animals.

4.4 Conversion period

- (a) Animals shall be born and raised on organic farms and thus a conversion period is required between the start of organic management and the acceptance of animal products as organic.

- (b) Animals and animal products may be considered organic at the end of the conversion period of the land and crops, even if the conversion period for the type of animals concerned is longer, given that:
 - (i) It applies only to the farm's existing animals and their offspring and the land used for animal feed/pasture before starting the conversion.
 - (ii) Animals present on the unit since the beginning of the conversion period may be fed with in-conversion feed produced on the in-conversion unit or with organic feed.
- (c) Conversion periods are as follows:
 - (i) 12 months in the case of bovine animals and equine animals for meat production.
 - (ii) 6 months in the case of ovine animals, caprine animals and porcine animals and animals for milk production.
 - (iii) 10 weeks for poultry for meat production.
 - (iv) 7 weeks for Peking ducks brought in before they are three days old.
 - (v) 6 weeks in the case of poultry for egg production brought in before they are three days old.
- (e) Breeding stock may be brought in from conventional farms to a yearly maximum of 10% of the adult animals of the same species on the farm in the following situations:
 - (i) Unforeseen severe natural or man-made events.
 - (ii) Considerable enlargement of the farm.
 - (iii) Establishment of a new type of animal production enterprise on the farm.
 - (iv) The 10% may be increased with permission to maximum 40% in special cases such as drought recovery, major farming extensions, etc.
- (f) Requirements for the 10% breeding stock entering the herd or flock:
 - (i) Bovine animals, equine animals and cervine animals shall be less than six months old.
 - (ii) Ovine animals and caprine animals shall be less than 60 days old.
 - (iii) Porcine animals shall weigh less than 35 kg.
- (g) Non- organic female breeding replacements must be nulliparous (a female that has not borne offspring).
- (h) Breeding stock offspring may be considered organic only if their mother has been organically/in-conversion managed throughout the pregnancy.
- (i) Non-organic animals shall either be kept separate from other livestock or shall be kept identifiable until the end of the conversion period.

4.5 Breeds and breeding

- (a) Breeding systems shall be based on breeds/varieties/strains that can reproduce successfully under natural conditions without human involvement, that can adapt to local conditions and are disease resistant, with preference given to indigenous breeds and strains.
- (b) Artificial insemination is permitted.
- (c) Embryo transfer techniques and cloning are prohibited.
- (d) Hormones are prohibited to induce ovulation and birth unless applied to individual animals for medical reasons and under veterinary supervision.

4.6 Prohibited practices

- (a) Any form of mutilation is prohibited.
- (b) The following exceptions may be used only if animal suffering is minimized and anaesthetics are used where appropriate:
 - (i) Castrations.
 - (ii) Tail docking of lambs.
 - (iii) Dehorning.
 - (iv) Ringing, except for pigs.

4.7 Animal nutrition

- (a) Animals shall be fed organic feed.
- (b) In the following exceptional cases non-organic feed may be used provided that the percentage of non-organic feed may not exceed 10% dry matter per ruminant and 15% dry matter per nonruminant:
 - (i) When organic feed is of inadequate quantity or quality.
 - (ii) In areas where organic agriculture is in early stages of development.
 - (iii) Grazing of non-organic grass or vegetation during seasonal migration.
 - (iv) Short-term (less than one rain season) drought.

- (c) Animals shall be offered a balanced diet that provides all of the nutritional needs of the animals.
- (d) For ruminants, 80%, and for all other livestock, 50% of the feed must come from the farm unit itself, surrounding natural grazing areas which have not been subjected to prohibited or restricted inputs, or be produced in co-operation with other organic farms in the region.
- (e) The following substances are prohibited in the diet:
 - (i) Farm animal by-products (e.g., abattoir waste) to ruminants.
 - (ii) Slaughter products of the same species.
 - (iii) Intentional feeding of all types of excrements including droppings, dung or other manure.
 - (iv) Feed subjected to solvent extraction (e.g., hexane) or the addition of other chemical agents.
 - (v) Synthetic amino-acids and amino-acid isolates.
 - (vi) Urea and other synthetic nitrogen compounds.
 - (vii) Synthetic growth promoters or stimulants.
 - (viii) Synthetic appetizers;
 - (ix) Preservatives, except when used as a processing aid.
 - (x) Artificial colouring agents.
- (f) Animals may be fed vitamins, trace elements and supplements from natural sources.
- (g) Synthetic vitamins, minerals and supplements may be used when natural sources are not available in sufficient quantity and quality.
- (h) All ruminants shall have daily access to roughage and shall be grazed throughout the entire grazing season(s).
- (i) Fodder preservatives such as the following may be used:
 - (i) Bacteria, fungi and enzymes.
 - (ii) Natural products of food industry.
 - (iii) Plant based products.
 - (iv) Naturally fermented acid as acetic, formic and propionic acid.
- (j) Young stock from mammals shall be provided maternal milk or organic milk from their own species and shall be weaned only after a minimum period as specified below:
 - (i) Calves and foals: 3 months
 - (ii) Piglets: 6 weeks
 - (iii) Lambs and kids: 7 weeks

4.8 Disease control

- (a) The farmer shall take all practical measures to ensure the health and well-being of the animals through preventative animal husbandry practices such as:
 - (i) Selection of appropriate breeds or strains of animals.
 - (ii) Adoption of animal husbandry practices appropriate to the requirements of each species, such as regular exercise and access to pasture and/or open-air runs, to encourage the natural immunological defence of animal to stimulate natural immunity and tolerance to diseases.
 - (iii) Provision of good quality organic feed.
 - (iv) Appropriate stocking densities.
 - (v) Grazing rotation and management.
- (b) If an animal becomes sick or injured despite preventative measures, that animal shall be treated promptly and adequately, if necessary, in isolation and in suitable housing. Farmers shall give preference to natural medicines and treatments, including homeopathy, ayurvedic medicine and acupuncture.
- (c) The use of synthetic commercial veterinary drugs or antibiotics shall cause the animal to lose its organic status, provided that farmers shall not withhold such medication where doing so will result in unnecessary suffering of the livestock.
- (d) Exceptions may be permitted allowing the animal to retain its organic status if:
 - (i) Natural and alternative medicines and treatments are unlikely to be effective to cure sickness or injury, or are not available to the operator, and
 - (ii) The chemically synthesized commercial veterinary medical products or antibiotics are used under the supervision of a veterinarian, and
 - (iii) Withdrawal periods shall be not less than double of that required by legislation, or a minimum of 14 days, whichever is longer.
- (e) Preventative use of any synthetic commercial veterinary drug is prohibited.

- (f) Substances of synthetic origin used to stimulate production or suppress natural growth are prohibited.
- (g) Vaccinations are allowed only in the following cases--
 - (i) when an endemic disease is known or expected to be a problem in the region of the farm and where this disease cannot be controlled by other management techniques, or
 - (ii) when a vaccination is legally required.
- (h) Substances for pest and disease control and disinfection allowed (subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Alkali carbonates.
 - (ii) Calcium oxide (lime, quicklime).
 - (iii) Potassium hydroxide (Caustic potash).
 - (iv) Sodium hydroxide (Caustic soda).
 - (v) Citric acid, peracetic acid, formic acid, lactic acid, oxalic acid and acetic acid.
 - (vi) Cleaning and disinfection products for teats and milking facilities.
 - (vii) Ethanol and isopropanol.
 - (viii) Hydrogen peroxide.
 - (ix) Iodine.
 - (x) Calcium hydroxide (Milk of lime slack lime, picking lime, hydrated lime, slaked lime).
 - (xi) Natural essences of plants.
 - (xii) Nitric acid (dairy equipment).
 - (xiii) Phosphoric acid (dairy equipment).
 - (xiv) Potassium and sodium soap.
 - (xv) Sodium carbonate.
 - (xvi) Sodium hypochlorite (e.g., as liquid bleach).
 - (xvii) Water and steam.

4.9 Transport and slaughter

- (a) Animals shall be handled calmly and gently during transport and slaughter.
- (b) The regular use of electric prods and other such instruments is prohibited, with the exception of ensuring the physical safety of livestock and humans.
- (c) Animals shall be provided with conditions during transportation and slaughter that reduce and minimize the adverse effects of:
 - (i) stress,
 - (ii) loading and unloading,
 - (iii) mixing different groups of animals,
 - (iv) extreme temperatures and relative humidity.
- (d) The type of transport shall meet the specific needs of the species being transported.
- (e) The farmer shall ensure an adequate food and water supply during transport and at the abattoir.
- (f) Animals shall not be treated with synthetic tranquilizers or stimulants prior to or during transport.
- (g) Each animal or group of animals shall be identifiable at each step in the transport and slaughter process.
- (h) Slaughterhouse journey times shall not exceed eight hours.
- (i) Avoid contact of live animals (sight, sound or smell) with dead animals or animals in the killing process.

5. **Wild harvesting of plants**

- (a) Wild collection may be done of plants or parts thereof that grow naturally in areas that are not maintained under cultivation or other agricultural management systems; Provided that –
 - (i) The plants or parts thereof may legally be harvested
 - (ii) It must be derived from a stable and sustainable growing environment.
 - (iii) Gathering shall not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem and shall not affect the stability of the natural habitat, or the maintenance of the species in the collecting area.
 - (iv) The collecting area is clearly defined and mapped,
 - (v) Collection by other persons shall not overlap, impacting on point (iii) above.
 - (vi) Collection area shall be separated from conventional farming, pollution and exposure to prohibited substances.
- (b) The collection area shall not have received treatments with substances that are not allowed for a period of at least three years before collection;

- (c) Collectors shall be supervised and trained to stay within the collection area, to identify which species to collect, in the methods of collection and intensity of harvesting.

6. Bee keeping

6.1 Management

- (a) The areas within a 3 km radius of the hives shall consist of organically managed fields, uncultivated land and or wild natural areas.
- (b) Hives shall not be placed within a foraging distance (5 kms) of fields or other areas with a high contamination risk (e.g., conventional fields, industrial zones and highways).
- (c) The hives shall consist primarily of natural materials and present no risk of contamination to the environment or the bee products.
- (d) At the end of the production season, hives shall be left with reserves of honey and pollen sufficient for the colony to survive the dormancy period.
- (e) Supplementary feeding in response to unexpected need (the exception) may be allowed provided that organic honey or organic sugar is used, and the honey may not be sold.

6.2 Conversion period

- (a) Conversion period for bees shall be 12 months.
- (b) During the conversion period, the wax shall be replaced by organically produced wax.
- (c) Where beeswax from organic beekeeping is not available non-organic beeswax may be used:
 - (i) If it is free of contamination with products or substances not authorised.
 - (ii) It comes from the cap;
- (d) In cases where all the wax cannot be replaced during a one-year period, the conversion period shall be extended.

6.3 Breeding

- (a) 20 % of the queen bees and swarms may be replaced yearly by nonorganic queen bees and swarms.
- (b) The replacement queen bees and swarms shall be placed in hives with combs or comb foundations coming from organic production units.
- (c) Artificial insemination of queen bees is permitted.

6.4 Disease control

- (a) For pest and disease control the following are permitted(subject to point 9 below):
 - (i) Natural acids such as lactic acid, formic acid, acetic acid.
 - (ii) Sulphur.
 - (iii) Natural essential oils such as menthol, eucalyptol, camphor.
 - (iv) *Bacillus thuringiensis*.
 - (v) Steam, direct flame and caustic soda for hive disinfection.
 - (vi) Cultures (microorganisms growing on or in a medium and substrate) of beneficial micro-organisms.
- (b) Where preventative measures fail, veterinary medicinal products may be used provided that:
 - (i) Preference is given to phytotherapeutic and homeopathic treatment.
 - (ii) If commercial chemically synthesized medicinal products are used, the bee products shall not be sold as organic.
 - (iii) Treated hives shall be placed in isolation and undergo a conversion period of one year.
 - (iv) The practice of destroying the male brood is permitted only to contain infestation with *Varroa* (mites).
- (c) The health and welfare of the hive shall be primarily achieved by hygiene and hive management.
- (d) Mutilations, such as clipping of the wings of queen bees, are prohibited.

6.5 Harvesting

- (a) The destruction of bees in the combs as a method of harvesting of bee products is prohibited.
- (b) The use of chemical synthetic bee repellents is prohibited.
- (c) The use of smoke should be kept to a minimum, and smoking materials should be natural and from materials that meet the organic requirements.
- (d) Honey temperatures shall be maintained as low as possible, and not exceed 45°C during extraction and processing.

7. Mushroom production

7.1 Substrates

- (a) Only the following substrates may be used (subject to point 9 below):
- (i) Composted farmyard manure, slurry and urine from organic holdings and up to 25 % by weight of total components of the substrate.
 - (ii) Products of organic agricultural origin (e.g., straw).
 - (iii) Peat not chemically treated.
 - (iv) Wood, not treated with chemical products after felling.
 - (v) Mineral products.
 - (vi) Mushroom compost as substrate may only be sterilized by pasteurization.

8. Processing

8.1 Handling

- (a) Organic products shall not be co-mingled with non-organic products.
- (b) Traceability shall be ensured in the organic processing and handling chain.
- (c) All organic products shall be clearly identified/labelled as such and processed, stored and transported in a way that prevents co-mingling, contamination and or substitution by or physical contact with non-organic products.
- (d) Ensure measures are implemented to prevent organic products from being contaminated by pollutants and contaminants, including the cleaning, decontamination, or if necessary, disinfection of facilities and equipment.
- (e) Minimize risk of environmental pollution resulting from the processing activity.
- (f) Apply good manufacturing practices (GMPs).

8.2 Ingredients

- (a) Ingredients used in an organic processed product shall be organically produced.
- (b) In cases where an ingredient of organic origin is commercially unavailable in sufficient quality or quantity, non-organic raw materials may be used, provided that:
 - (i) They are not genetically engineered or contain nano-materials.
 - (ii) The current lack of availability in that region is officially recognized.
 - (iii) Using organic and non-organic forms of the same ingredient in a single product is prohibited.
 - (iv) Water and salt may be used as ingredients in the production of organic products but are not included in the percentage calculations of organic ingredients.
 - (v) Minerals (including trace elements) and vitamins shall not be used to fortify products unless their use is legally required.
 - (vi) Preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes commonly used in food processing may be used, with the exception of genetically engineered micro- organisms and their products.
 - (vii) For the production of organic micro-organisms for processed food and feed, only organically produced substrate shall be used.

8.3 Processing

- (a) Processing of organic products shall be biological, physical, and mechanical in nature.
- (b) The following processes are acceptable:
 - (i) Mechanical and physical.
 - (ii) Biological (such as fermentation).
 - (iii) Smoking.
 - (iv) Extraction.
 - (v) Precipitation.
 - (vi) Filtration.
 - (vii) Distillation.
 - (ix) Microwaving.
- (c) Substances and techniques shall not be used that reconstitute properties lost by the processing and storage of organic products or conceal the true nature of these products.
- (d) Ionizing radiation/irradiation/radurisation (high energy emissions from radio-nucleotides, capable of altering a product's molecular structure) is not permitted for any ingredient or the final product.

- (e) Filtration equipment shall not contain substances that may contaminate the product.
- (f) The following conditions of storage are permitted:
- (i) Controlled atmosphere.
 - (ii) Temperature control.
 - (iii) Drying.
 - (iv) Humidity regulation.
- (g) The use of manufactured nanomaterials is prohibited and equipment surfaces and utensils that might come into contact with organic products shall be free of manufactured nanomaterials.
- (h) Additives (labelled with “X”) and processing/post harvest treatments (labelled with “Y”) allowed (subject to point 9 below):
- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|---|---|
| (i) | INS 170 | Calcium carbonate X Y | Not for colouring |
| (ii) | INS 270 | Lactic acid X Y | |
| (iii) | INS 290 | Carbon dioxide X Y | |
| (iv) | INS 296 | L-malic acid X Y | |
| (v) | INS 300 | Ascorbic acid X | |
| (vi) | INS 306 | Tocopherols, mixed natural concentrates X | |
| (vii) | INS 322 | Lecithin X Y | Obtained without bleaches |
| (viii) | INS 330 | Citric acid X Y | |
| (ix) | INS 331 | Sodium citrates X | |
| (x) | INS 332 | Potassium citrates X | |
| (xi) | INS 333 | Calcium citrates X | |
| (xii) | INS 335 | Sodium tartrate X Y | |
| (xiii) | INS 336 | Potassium tartrate X Y | |
| (xiv) | INS 341 | Mono calcium phosphate X | Only for “raising flour” |
| (xv) | INS 400 | Alginic acid X | |
| (xvi) | INS 401 | Sodium alginate X | |
| (xvii) | INS 402 | Potassium alginate X | |
| (xviii) | INS 406 | Agar X | |
| (xix) | INS 407 | Carrageenan X | |
| (xx) | INS 410 | Locust bean gum X | |
| (xxi) | INS 412 | Guar gum X | |
| (xxii) | INS 413 | Tragacanth gum X | |
| (xxiii) | INS 414 | Arabic gum X | |
| (xxiv) | INS 415 | Xanthan gum X | |
| (xxv) | INS 428 | Gelatine Y | |
| (xxvi) | INS 440 | Pectin X | Unmodified |
| (xxvii) | INS 500 | Sodium carbonates X Y | |
| (xxviii) | INS 501 | Potassium carbonates X Y | |
| (xxix) | INS 503 | Ammonium carbonates X | Only for cereal products, confectionery, cakes and biscuits |
| (xxx) | INS 504 | Magnesium carbonates X | |
| (xxxi) | INS 508 | Potassium chloride X | |
| (xxxii) | INS 509 | Calcium chloride X Y | |
| (xxxiii) | INS 511 | Magnesium chloride X Y | Only for soybean products |
| (xxxiv) | INS 513 | Sulfuric acid X Y | As processing aid for pH adjustment of water during sugar processing. |
| (xxxv) | INS 516 | Calcium sulphate X | For soybean products, confectionery and in bakers’ yeast |
| (xxxvi) | INS 524 | Sodium hydroxide X Y | For sugar processing and for the surface treatment of traditional bakery products |
| (xxxvii) | INS 526 | Calcium hydroxide X Y | Food additive for maize tortilla flour |
| (xxxviii) | INS 551 | Silicon dioxide (amorphous) Y | Processing aid for sugar |
| (xxxix) | INS 553 | Talc Y | |
| (xl) | INS 558 | Bentonite Y | Only for fruit and vegetable products |
| (xli) | INS 901 | Beeswax Y | |
| (xlii) | INS 903 | Carnauba wax Y | |

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (xlili) | INS 938 | Argon X | |
| (xliv) | INS 941 | Nitrogen X Y | |
| (xlv) | INS 948 | Oxygen X Y | |
| (xlvi) | | Ethylene Y | De-greening of citrus and ripening |
| (xlvii) | | Activated carbon Y | |
| (xlviii) | | Cellulose Y | |
| (xlix) | | Diatomaceous earth Y | |
| (l) | | Ethanol Y | |
| (li) | | Kaolin Y | |
| (lii) | | Perlite Y | |
| (liii) | | Plant and animal oils Y | For extraction only |
| (liv) | | Preparations of bark Y | Only for sugar |
- (i) Flavouring agents allowed (subject to point 9 below):
- (i) Organic flavouring extracts (including volatile oils), and, if not available, approved natural flavouring preparations based on:
- (aa) The sources are plant, animal or mineral.
- (bb) The process of production is in accordance with an organic standard.
- (cc) They are produced by means of solvents such as vegetal oils, water, ethanol, carbon dioxide and mechanical and physical processes.
- (j) Micro-organisms and enzymes allowed (subject to point 9 below):
- (i) Organic produced:
- (aa) Micro-organisms.
- (bb) Preparations of micro-organisms.
- (cc) Enzymes and enzyme preparations.

8.4 Pest control

- (a) Pests shall be managed by use of the following methods according to these priorities:
- (i) Preventative methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat and access to facilities.
- (ii) Mechanical, physical and biological methods, including visual detection, sound, ultrasound, light and UV-light, temperature control, controlled atmosphere and diatomaceous earth.
- (iii) Substances according to points 3.4(f)-(j).
- (iv) Substances (other than pesticides) used in traps.
- (b) Prohibited pest control practices include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (i) Pesticides not mentioned in points 3.4(f)-(j).
- (ii) Fumigation with ethylene oxide, methyl bromide, aluminium phosphide or other substance not mentioned in points 3.4(f)-(j) and 8.3(h).
- (iii) Ionizing radiation/irradiation/radurisation.
- (c) The application of prohibited substances shall not compromise the organic integrity of product handled or processed therein when non-organic equipment or facilities are made use of.

8.5 Packaging

- (a) Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and aluminium should be avoided for environmental reasons.
- (b) Packaging material may not contaminate organic products and care must be taken with re-used bags or containers that could have been in contact with any substance likely to compromise the organic integrity.
- (c) Packaging materials, and storage containers, or bins that contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative, fumigant, or nanomaterials are prohibited.
- (d) Farmers shall demonstrate efforts to minimize packaging and/or choose packaging materials with minimum environmental impact.

8.6 Cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing

- (a) Organic products shall not be contaminated by substances used to clean, disinfect and / or sanitize processing facilities.
- (b) Intervening events shall be used between the use of any cleaner, sanitizer, or disinfectant and the contact of organic product:
- (i) A flush with organic products that may not be sold as organic;
- (ii) Provide adequate time for the substance to volatilize.
- (c) Cleaners and disinfectants allowed (subject to point 9 below):

- (i) Acetic acid.
- (ii) Alcohol, ethyl (ethanol).
- (iii) Alcohol, isopropyl (isopropanol).
- (iv) Calcium hydroxide (slaked lime).
- (v) Calcium hypochlorite - an intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination.
- (vi) Calcium oxide (quicklime).
- (vii) Calcium oxychloride, Calcium chloride, and Calcium hydroxide (Chloride of lime).
- (viii) Chlorine dioxide An intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination.
- (ix) Citric acid.
- (x) Formic acid.
- (xi) Hydrogen peroxide.
- (xii) Lactic acid.
- (xiii) Natural essences of plants.
- (xiv) Oxalic acid.
- (xv) Ozone.
- (xvi) Peracetic acid.
- (xvii) Phosphoric acid - only for dairy equipment.
- (xviii) Plant extracts.
- (xix) Potassium soap - an intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination.
- (xx) Sodium carbonate.
- (xxi) Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) - an intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination.
- (xxii) Sodium hypochlorite - an intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination.
- (xxiii) Sodium soap - an intervening event or action must occur to eliminate risks of contamination.
- (xxiv) Water.

9. ***Input evaluation***

- (a) Substances of organic origin must be used if commercially available.
- (b) If organic sources are not available, natural sources must be used if commercially available and only if organic and natural sources are not available, may synthetic forms of the substances be used.
- (b) All farmers/producers shall have a dossier covering at least the following:
 - (i) All the inputs (organic and non-organic products and/or substances allowed by this document) shall be evaluated against the following criteria and documented for the input:
 - (aa) Non-organic inputs shall be essential for achieving or to fulfil specific needs or requirements for specific purposes which cannot be satisfied by the practices outlined in this document.
 - (bb) The input shall be regularly evaluated to determine whether there are alternatives available that are organic or more in line with the principles of organic production, especially where the input is conventional but allowed by these regulations.
 - (cc) The inputs shall be of natural plant, animal, fungi, microbial or mineral origin which were produced by the following processes:
 - physical.
 - enzymatic.
 - microbial.
 - (dd) Inputs may not be synthetic (i.e. a substance that is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant or animal sources: Provided that this requirement shall not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes).

- (ee) Natural non-renewable resources such as salt and mined minerals must be obtained by physical and mechanical means and are not rendered synthetic by chemical reaction.
- (ee) Inputs shall not be genetically modified organisms and products (i.e. organisms or products produced through techniques in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and or natural recombination);
- (ff) Inputs shall not be from industrial management systems that are heavily reliant on veterinary and feed inputs not permitted in organic agriculture (i.e. “factory farming”).
- (gg) The use of irradiation is not allowed in production and processing of inputs.
- (hh) The use of the input shall not result in, or contribute to, unacceptable effects on, or contamination of, the environment, or negatively affect the animals.
- (ii) The use shall not have unacceptable effects on the quality and food safety of the final product (e.g. contain contaminants, such as heavy metals).
- (jj) Legally required inputs and treatments (i.e. where there are no legal alternatives) to plants, animals, buildings, equipment and facilities are allowed and may include genetically modified organisms and products derived from such organisms.
- (kk) Inputs used shall comply with the relevant legislation applicable to the products/substances, and in the absence thereof the use shall be in accordance with good practices.
- (c) The dossier shall also indicate the availability/non-availability of alternative methods, practices, and inputs.
- (d) Natural non-renewable resources (such as mined minerals) require a description of the deposit or occurrence in nature. Non-renewable resources are generally restricted or limited in their use.

10. Labelling and claims

10.1 Organic/Organic in conversion:-

- (a) Products produced in accordance with this standard for “organically produced” may be labelled as “Organic”/“Organically Produced”.
- (b) Multi-component products, unprocessed such as vegetable boxes, may be sold or marketed as organic only if all the components therein are organic.
- (c) For processed products:
 - (i) Where 95 to 100% of the ingredients (by weight) are organic, the product may be labelled as “organic”.
 - (ii) Where less than 95% but not less than 70% of the ingredients (by weight) are organic, the product cannot be labelled as “organic”, but phrases such as “made with organic ingredients” can be used, provided the proportion of organic ingredients is clearly stated.
 - (iii) Where less than 70% of the ingredients (by weight) are organic, the product cannot be labelled “organic”, nor bear phrases such as “made with organic ingredients” but individual ingredients may be called “organic” in the ingredients list.
 - (iv) Water and salt are not included in the percentage calculations of organic ingredients.
- (d) All ingredients of a multi-ingredient product shall be listed on the product label and it shall be apparent which ingredients are of organic certified origin and which are not.
- (e) Multi-component products, live or unprocessed (such as vegetable boxes) may be sold or marketed as organic only if all the components are organic.
- (f) Only single ingredient products (plant and plant products only) may be labelled as “organic in-conversion”, i.e. products that have met the requirements of this standard for at least one year but do not qualify as fully organic.
- (g) The label for in-conversion products shall be clearly *distinguishable* from the label for organic products.
- (h) Organic products not in final packaging may be transported to other premises only in appropriate packaging or containers which are adequately labelled and identified as organic.
- (i) All labelling shall comply with the relevant legal requirements (regulations and standards).

10.2 PGS (Participatory Guarantee Systems)

- (a) The PGS is a participatory organization or structure, whereby producers (at minimum) and other stakeholders (desirable) participate voluntarily and transparently in the organic standard, the procedures for verification and sanctions, and the choice of people with specific responsibility in the PGS and shall be labelled as follows:

- (i) Products shall always display the words “Organic - PGS” on labelling and in advertising.
- (ii) In outlets where products that are labelled “Organic – PGS” are sold notices shall be posted that inform customers of the meaning of the words. PGS suppliers

10.3 Claims

- (a) The “Organically Produced” standard includes similar requirements to other standards registered in terms of the Regulations Relating to the Management Control System in Respect of the Sale of Certain Agricultural Products No.R.6634 of 19 September 2025. These management control systems may be referenced together with “Organically Produced” on the label provided that the product in question complies with all the standards referenced, and where the standards differ compliance to the stricter requirement shall be adhered to.

11. **Enforcement**

- 11.1 The designated assignee/inspectors shall ensure that only farms registered with the Department for the “Organically Produced” system as a Management Control System” are allowed to pack and label the product, container or outer containers as “Organic”/ “Organically Produced” and “Organic in-conversion”.

- 11.2 Enforcement of “Organic”/ “Organically Produced” and “Organic in-conversion” may be risk based.

11.3 “Organic – PGS” shall be enforced as follows:

- (a) Decisions regarding PGS procedures are made either in general assembly, regular group meetings (open to all participating producers), or by regularly elected producer (and consumer) representatives.
- (b) PGS implementation mechanisms are locally and culturally adapted and relevant and efforts are made to minimize paperwork needed for endorsement.
- (c) Participating producers take a public pledge to follow the organic standard and are subsequently subject to a PGS on-site reviews/assessments at minimum once a year to verify their continued compliance with the standard.
- (d) The PGS has developed a system to objectively assess and manage non-compliance, provide feedback regarding the verification process, clear consequences that are implemented, including suspending operators with serious non-compliances.
- (e) The PGS grants open and easy access to consumers, the public and any interested person to:
 - (i) Its list of group members (farmers/producers).
 - (ii) Information concerning its structure and its main procedures.
- (f) The PGS has mechanisms to ensure that producers understand:
 - (i) The principles of organic agriculture and expected practices,
 - (ii) The purpose and structure of the PGS and their rights for participation
 - (iii) The role of verification and the sanctions that might be imposed on them in case of non- compliance.
- (g) Farm/site reviews/assessments involve a team of, at minimum 3 persons, including 1 experienced person and 1 peer operator. Experience in on-site “assessment” can have been acquired through training or learning-by-doing.
- (h) A PGS consists of a group with the appropriate technical experience and with at least one member producer taking the decision for the endorsement of each producer/new producer.
- (i) Information about compliance is generated, maintained and updated (minimum annually) for each farmer/producer including type of production, areas of compliance and non-compliance, brought-in inputs, etc.
- (j) The PGS procedures are regularly internally reviewed and improved, minimum once every two years.
- (k) The designated assignee/inspectors shall be informed of a functioning PGS and shall accompany the PGS once a year to witness their PGS on-site reviews/assessments.

- 11.4 The List of registered farms will be placed on the department website at <https://www.nda.gov.za/index.php/core-business/agricultural-production/inspection-services/food-safety-quality-assurance>

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