

Organic Food & Farming Standards in Ireland

Edition 1 – Issue 001 01.01.2012 – Amendments Register

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A2	3.05.07	INAB Aquaculture Review	01.12.2012
A3	5.02.14	INAB Aquaculture Review	01.12.2012
A4	5.02.39	INAB Aquaculture Review	01.12.2012
A5	5.02.44	INAB Aquaculture Review	01.12.2012
A6	4.08.12	INAB Review	01.12.2012
A7	4.10.07	INAB Review	01.12.2012
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A23	6.04.19	Commission Implementing Regulation 508/2012	01.12.2012
A24	6.04.20	Commission Implementing Regulation 508/2012	01.12.2012
A25	6.04.25	Commission Implementing Regulation 508/2012	01.12.2012
A26	6.04.26	Commission Implementing Regulation 508/2012	01.12.2012
A27	6.04.27	Commission Implementing Regulation 508/2012	01.12.2012
A28	6.04.39	Commission Implementing Regulation 508/2012	01.12.2012
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A58	5.02.68	Proposed legislative update – Explanatory note	01.12.2014
A59	4.06.11	OPMC Review	01.09.2015
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A61	4.06.21	DAFM Review	01.01.2018
A62	4.03.09	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017-2273	01.01.2018
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A64	2.08.02	DAFM Review	01.01.2018
A65	2.08.03	DAFM Review	01.01.2018
A66	4.05.20	DAFM Review	01.01.2018
A67	4.02.04	DAFM Review	01.01.2018
A68	4.02.10	DAFM Review	01.01.2018
A69	Appendix 1	Article 92 (d) 889/08	01.01.2018
A70	6.02.11, 6.03.35 6.04	Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as amended	01.01.2018
A71	1.01.03	Regulation (EU) 625/2017	29.04.2018 and 14.12.2019
A72	6.01.07	Regulation (EU) 625/2017	29.04.2018 and 14.12.2019
A73	6.06.04	Regulation (EU) 625/2017	29.04.2018 and 14.12.2019

*Regulation officially published 14.06.2012 (implementation dates 01.01.2012 and 15.06.2012), however, notified to OCB operators in tandem with distribution of new standards manual in January 2012 as already agreed at EU level and notified to European OCBs late in 2011. Publication of 505/2012 simply completed the official publication process.

Section 4

Section 4.05.29 is amended as follows:

4.05.29 (889.18.1, 2 95.4) 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 the Competent Authority 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.

In all cases permission must be sought from the organic certification body in advance of use of any of these procedures. **Adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia must be used*.**

The Competent Authority for the organic sector in Ireland, the Organic Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, have provided the following conditions under which dehorning, castration, tail docking etc of organic animals can be carried out.

As an organic livestock farmer you are not permitted to **routinely** attach rubber bands to the tails of sheep, dock tails, cut teeth, trim beaks or dehorn animals.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine, as the Competent Authority for the organic sector, has authorised certain veterinary procedures that can be carried out on organic animals and the conditions attached to such procedures. These requirements are additional to the general legal requirements applicable to all farmers carrying out such procedures and outlined in the Animal Health legislation including Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013; associated implementing legislation and the requirements of the relevant Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) under Cross Compliance legislation.

The following paragraphs outline the conditions associated with the use of such authorised operations/procedures on your organic animals.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, prior approval is required from your Organic Certification Body (OCB) before any of the authorised operations are undertaken (derogation request forms are available from your certifying OCB). The derogation request form for these procedures must be submitted and approval granted in advance by the certifying OCB for any use of the authorised procedures outlined below.

To avoid suffering to the animal adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia must be administered*.

Detailed records of the operations and the conditions under which they were carried out must be kept and maintained in the record book provided by the certifying OCB. These records will be inspected by the OCBs and DAFM during inspections. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the application of penalties.

Note:

Prior consent from your organic certification body is not required to carry out physical (surgical) castration, however, to avoid suffering to the animal the procedure must be carried out by the veterinary surgeon and adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia must be administered. Relevant records as outlined above must be maintained.

For reasons of safety or to improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the specific species the following procedures are authorised on foot of the required derogation from your OCB:

BOVINES:

The following procedures are permitted subject to receipt of approved derogation:

Dehorning/Disbudding:

- Disbudding is strongly recommended.
- Disbudding of a calf that has not attained the age of 15 days is permitted.
- Dehorning should only be undertaken in exceptional circumstances and performed by a veterinary surgeon.

Castration:

- Non-surgical castration (by use of the burdizzo) of a bull aged no more than 6 months.
- Use of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum of a bull that has not attained the age of 8 days.

SHEEP & GOATS

The following procedures are permitted subject to receipt of approved derogation:

- Disbudding of a sheep or goat that has not attained the age of 8 days.
- Non-surgical castration (by use of the burdizzo) of a ram that has not attained the age of 3 months.
- Use of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum of a ram that has not attained the age of 8 days.*
- Removing part of the tail of sheep that has not attained the age of 8 days by means of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the tail.*
- Non-surgical castration (by use of the burdizzo) of a goat that has not attained the age of 2 months.

- Use of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum of a goat that has not attained the age of 8 days.*
- Removing part of the tail of goat that has not attained the age of 8 days by means of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the tail.*

***Advisory Note – Sheep & Goats:**

In relation to tail docking and castration of lambs/goats by means of a rubber ring as outlined above: The requirement for the administration of anaesthetic/analgesia in these specific situations can be waived on foot of documented instructions (by way of letter) from the prescribing veterinary surgeon advising that for reasons of animal welfare (undue stress and/or potential infection risk) that the administration of anaesthetic/analgesia is not recommended.

Note: This only applies to lambs/goats **under the age of 8 days** – over the age of 8 days the mandatory requirement for use of anaesthetic/analgesia applies. Operators must ensure that the required letter from the veterinary surgeon is forwarded to the OCB in advance of such procedures taking place.

PIGS

The following procedures are permitted subject to approved derogation:

- Castration of a pig that has not attained the age of 8 days by a method that does not involve tearing tissue.
- Removing part of the tail of a pig that has not attained the age of 8 days.
- Removal of the corner teeth on a pig that has not attained the age of 8 days.

DEER:

The following procedure is permitted subject to approved derogation:

- Use of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum of a deer that has not attained the age of 8 days.

POULTRY

- The trimming of beaks is not permitted.

Section 4

Section 4.06.21 is amended as follows:

4.06.21 (889.12.3)

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, sand or turf;

Section 4

Section 4.03.09 is amended as follows:

- 4.03.09 (889.42) Where the conditions laid down in paragraph **1.09.02(b) (834.22.2b)** apply, and with prior authorisation of the Competent Authority:
- (b) Non-organically reared pullets for egg production of not more than 18 weeks may be brought into an organic livestock unit until 31 December 2018, when organically reared pullets are not available and provided that the relevant provisions laid down in **Sections 4.08, 4.09 & 4.10 (889. Section 3 and 4 of Chapter 2)** are complied with from day olds onwards (i.e. from up to 3 days old onwards).

Section 4

Section 4.08.21 is amended as follows:

- 4.08.21 (889.43 as amended by Amendment A54) Where the conditions laid down in **Section 1.09.02 b) (834.22.2b)** and where farmers are unable to obtain protein feed exclusively from organic production, the use of a limited proportion of non-organic protein feed is allowed for porcine and poultry species.

The maximum percentage of non-organic protein feed authorised per period of 12 months for those species shall be 5 % until 31st December 2018.

The figures shall be calculated annually as a percentage of the dry matter of feed from agricultural origin.

The operator shall keep documentary evidence of the need for the use of this provision.

Section 2

Section 2.08.02 is amended as follows:

Compound Products or Products Containing Only Materials Listed Hereunder	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use	Documentary Evidence Required to Substantiate Use (information to be retained in Operator's Record Book)
Biogas digestate containing animal by-products co-digested with material of plant or animal origin as listed in Annex 1 of Commission Regulation 889/2008	Animal by-products (including by-products of wild animals) of category 3 and digestive tract content of category 2 (categories 2 and 3 as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council) must not be from factory farming origin. The Processes have to be in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011. Not to be applied to edible parts of the crop	Reasons for use, source, quantity, status, storage arrangements. Declaration from supplier that product is produced in accordance with compositional requirements.

Section 2

Section 2.08.03 is amended as follows:

Note: *Factory farming – the following farming systems are prohibited vis a vis imported FYM & Bio Digestate: zero grazing of bovines, ovines, caprines, equines; pigs permanently housed; all poultry systems with the exception of organic, free range and barn-reared systems (up to a maximum stocking density of 27.5kg/m²). Where imported material is being used, the organic operator must secure confirmation that all regulatory requirements relating to inputs have been complied with.*

Section 4

4.05.20 is amended as follows by the inclusion of a Note:

Note:

Sufficient roughage would be provided by approximately one standard small square bale of straw per 100 birds. The bales should be suspended (using a hay-net for example) for the birds to rummage and peck at, and this will help keep the birds occupied and discourage behavior such as pecking at companions or, in the case of laying hens, breaking and eating their eggs. Equivalent quantities of loose straw or hay may also be used, again provided this is held securely in a hay-net and suspended. This approach is suggested by way of example and does not preclude other approaches, but in every case sufficient roughage and other material must be provided to facilitate natural behavior amongst the birds. Behaviour should be monitored daily to ensure that the birds are not distressed whilst any housing restriction continues and to ensure that adequate levels of roughage are maintained.

Section 4

Section 4.02.04 is amended as follows:

4.02.04 (889.17.1) Non organic livestock may be present on the holding provided they are reared on units where the buildings and parcels are separated clearly from the units producing in accordance with the organic production rules and a **different species** is involved.

Note:

Where horses are retained on the in-conversion/organic unit, the following conditions apply:

Organic Equines

Where equines are managed according to the Organic Regulations and have been on the holding throughout the conversion period they are deemed to be organic. They have unlimited access to the organic grazing on the holding.

Non-Organic Equines

Where equines are managed conventionally (e.g. utilising non-organic inputs such as non-organic feed, veterinary treatments) they are deemed to be non-organic and must be managed accordingly.

A dedicated non-organic area (stables and paddocks) with physical boundaries must be clearly identified and utilised for the non-organic equines. Stocking levels must be in compliance with the Nitrates Regulations (SI 31 of 2014). This paddock area must be listed on the annual BPS as a non-organic parcel.

The non-organic equines can have access to the organic land for a maximum period of 120 days per annum provided they are grazed separately from organic livestock.

Section 4

Amendment Number A18 is amended as follows – amendment A18 previously referred to Amendment of 4.08.24 – this should have read amendment to 4.02.10, addition of e):

Section 4.02.10 is amended as follows:

- 4.02.10 (889.17.4) During the period of transhumance animals may graze on non-organic land when they are being moved on foot from one grazing area to another. The uptake of non-organic feed, in the form of grass and other vegetation on which the animals graze, during this period shall not exceed 10 % of the total feed ration per year. This figure shall be calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feeding-stuffs from agricultural origin.

Appendix 1

Appendix 1 – Penalties System – is replaced with the following:

Penalties Procedure

A document titled Catalogue of Infringements, Version 6, as amended has been produced in accordance with Article 30 (1) of Regulation 834/2007 (Infringements and Irregularities), and Article 92(d) of 889/2008 as amended.

A copy of this document has been issued in hard copy and electronic format to all organic operators registered within the Republic of Ireland jurisdiction. **This document replaces the previous Penalties Section within Appendix 1 of the Organic Food & Farming Standards in Ireland, Edition 1, as amended. A copy of the Catalogue of Infringements, Version 6, as amended is available from the approved OCBs.**

Its purpose is to set out a comprehensive list of non-compliances, infringements and irregularities applying to the Organic Sector in Ireland, based on the provisions of the various EU regulations as well as national legislation.

Regulatory background

Article 92 (d) of 889/2008 as amended provides as follows:

“Competent authorities shall adopt and communicate to control bodies that have been delegated control tasks, a catalogue at least listing infringements and irregularities affecting the organic status of products and corresponding measures to be applied by control bodies in case of infringements or irregularities by operators under their control who are involved in organic production.

Competent authorities may include other relevant information in the catalogue on their own initiative.”

Response of the Irish Competent Authority

The Irish Authorities communicated to all control bodies the Catalogue of Infringements document outlining examples of types of non-compliance together with sanctions which should be imposed, at a minimum, and a catalogue listing infringements and irregularities affecting the organic status of products and corresponding measures to be applied by control bodies in case of infringements or irregularities by operators under their control who are involved in organic production. In exceptional circumstances after due consideration of mitigating circumstances, and with agreement of the Competent Authority, the sanction may be reduced. Similarly the measures to be applied by the Organic Control Body may be elevated to a higher sanction in proportion to the extent to which the provision has been violated, the particular type and circumstances of the irregularity and mindful of any pattern of reoccurrence. If the organic integrity of the product is not directly compromised re-categorisation is permitted.

This document has been drawn up in consultation with The Organic Forum, representing all Control Bodies operating within the Irish jurisdiction. The Catalogue of Infringements document is not exhaustive and will be subject to on-going amendment. Other infringements and irregularities which also affect the organic status of products but are not listed must also be duly considered by the Control Body. The Catalogue of Infringements document is binding on all parties.

Section 6

Amendments to Sections 6.02.11, 6.03.35 and 6.04 – Third Country Import Requirements

Guidance Note:

Significant amendments have been made to the regulations dealing with the requirements for **Third Country Imports** (i.e. importation of organic products and/or produce **directly from** non-EU countries). The extent of the changes renders the references/requirements associated with Third Country Imports as outlined in the above sections of the standards obsolete.

Therefore, operators who currently import or operators who intend to import organic produce/products **directly** from non-EU countries are referred to the Standards Sections on the OCB websites which contain the consolidated Third Country Import Regulation 1235/2008 as amended.

Notwithstanding the above, operators involved in direct importation from non-EU countries are now required to register on the newly established **TRACES** system – full information regarding the registration requirements for **TRACES** is available from the OCBs or the Organic Unit of DAFM or DEFRA as appropriate.

Section 1

Section 1.01.03 is amended as follows:

1.01.03 These Standards shall 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.

The OCB is not required by the Competent Authority to inspect statutory requirements (other than organic) and codes of best practice outside the scope of these Standards. However, where the OCB identifies an infringement against relevant legislation or code of best practice that affects the integrity of the organic product, this will be brought to the attention of the operator as a defacto infringement of these Standards.

Operators shall ensure that their products conform to all relevant statutory regulations in addition to the organic regulatory requirements.

Operators must also comply with the requirements of the Official Food & Feed Regulation 882/2004 (OFFC) and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) (Regulations 1829/2003 and 1830/2003). In this respect operators must note that the Official Food & Feed Regulation 882/2004 (OFFC) is being replaced by Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law; rules on animal health and welfare and plant health and plant protection products. This Regulation will apply from December 14th 2019, however, some laboratory requirements enshrined within this regulation will apply from April 29th 2018.

Section 6

Section 6.01.07 is amended as follows:

6.01.07 (834.1.4) These Standards shall 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.

The OCB is not required by the Competent Authority to inspect statutory requirements (other than organic) and codes of best practice outside the scope of these Standards. However, where the OCB identifies an infringement against relevant legislation or code of best practice that affects the integrity of the organic product, this will be brought to the attention of the operator as a defacto infringement of these Standards.

Operators shall ensure that their products conform to all relevant statutory regulations in addition to the organic regulatory requirements.

Operators must also comply with the requirements of the Official Food & Feed Regulation 882/2004 (OFFC) and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) (Regulations 1829/2003 and 1830/2003). In this respect operators must note that the Official Food & Feed Regulation 882/2004 (OFFC) is being replaced by Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law; rules on animal health and welfare and plant health and plant protection products. This Regulation will apply from December 14th 2019, however, some laboratory requirements enshrined within this regulation will apply from April 29th 2018.

Section 6

Section 6.06.04 is amended as follows:

6.06.04 (834.1.4) These Standards shall 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.

The OCB is not required by the Competent Authority to inspect statutory requirements (other than organic) and codes of best practice outside the scope of these Standards. However, where the OCB identifies an infringement against relevant legislation or code of best practice that affects the integrity of the organic product, this will be brought to the attention of the operator as a defacto infringement of these Standards.

Operators shall ensure that their products conform to all relevant statutory regulations in addition to the organic regulatory requirements.

Operators must also comply with the requirements of the Official Food & Feed Regulation 882/2004 (OFFC) and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) (Regulations 1829/2003 and 1830/2003). In this respect operators must note that the Official Food & Feed Regulation 882/2004 (OFFC) is being replaced by Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law; rules on animal health and welfare and plant health and plant protection products. This Regulation will apply from December 14th 2019, however, some laboratory requirements enshrined within this regulation will apply from April 29th 2018.