
DECLARING CONFORMITY WITH BSI PAS 100, THE COMPOST QUALITY PROTOCOL, & SEPA'S REGULATORY POSITION STATEMENT FOR COMPOST USING REAL'S COMPOST CERTIFICATION MARK

1. Scope

This document covers the certification mark that is part of REAL's scheme for assessment and verification of conformity with:

- the British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification for Composted Materials (PAS 100),
- the Environment Agency and Waste and Resources Action Programme's Compost Quality Protocol,
- the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)'s Regulatory Position Statement for Compost, and
- REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules.

It sets out requirements for compost producers and supply chain organisations that:

- declare conformity of a compost or a product containing one or more composts certified by REAL; and
- use of the certification mark for this scheme in connection with such composts or products that contain certified compost.

This document also sets out requirements for organisations and individuals involved in promotion of the scheme, participating compost producers and certified composting processes, composts and/or blend products that contain them.

2. Terms and definitions

2.1 *Blender*

A business enterprise, organisation, community initiative or person(s) involved in the blending of compost with other resources.

2.2 *Blend product*

A product that contains ingredients in addition to the certified compost.

2.3 *BSI PAS 100*

British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification for Composted Materials.

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- 2.4 *Compost producer*
A business enterprise, organisation, community initiative or person(s) responsible for the production of compost.
- 2.5 *Labelling*
Words, marks or symbols on the bag or document accompanying the certified compost or blend product that contains it.
- 2.6 *Packer*
A business enterprise, organisation, community initiative or person(s) involved in the packaging of compost.
- 2.7 *Promotional material*
Printed, on-line and visual resources.
Note: examples are articles in journals and magazines, information on webpages, product marketing material, and support information for salespersons.
- 2.8 *Promoter*
A business enterprise, organisation, community initiative or person(s) involved in promotion of the scheme, participating compost producers and certified composting processes, composts or products that contain them.
- 2.9 *Compost Quality Protocol*
A formalised procedure that sets out the requirements agreed and published by the Environment Agency and Waste and Resources Action Programme for demonstrating the point at which waste regulatory controls on composted source-segregated biodegradable waste are no longer required.
- 2.10 *Retailer*
A business enterprise, organisation, community initiative or sole trader involved in the sale of compost to consumers.
- 2.11 *Supply chain organisation (SCO)*
A business enterprise, organisation, community initiative or person(s) involved in the supply of compost, including blenders, packers and retailers.
- 2.12 *Traceability*
Ability to trace the history of the certified compost, or product that contains it, through the supply chain to or from the place and time of production, including identification of the inputs used, production operations undertaken, quantity supplied and date.

3. Declaration of conformity

3.1 Declaration of conformity with PAS 100 and REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules only shall be made by inclusion of the appropriate phrase below in compost/product labelling and promotional material:

- 1) 'Conforms to PAS 100 (latest edition); or
- 2) 'Contains compost conforming to PAS 100 (latest edition)'.

3.2 Declaration of conformity with PAS 100, the Compost Quality Protocol, and REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules shall be made by inclusion of the appropriate phrase below in compost/product labelling and promotional material:

- 1) 'Conforms to PAS 100 (latest edition) and the Compost Quality Protocol'; or
- 2) 'Contains compost conforming to PAS 100 (latest edition) and the Compost Quality Protocol'.

3.3 Declaration of conformity with PAS 100, SEPA's Regulatory Position Statement for Compost, and REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules shall be made by inclusion of the appropriate phrase below in compost/product labelling and promotional material:

- 1) 'Conforms to PAS 100 (latest edition) and SEPA's Regulatory Position Statement (latest edition)'; or
- 2) 'Contains compost conforming to PAS 100 (latest edition) and SEPA's Regulatory Position Statement (latest edition)'.

3.4 The certification mark may be used in association with products that, amongst their ingredients, contain certified compost. The compost producer and SCO shall declare the percentage of certified compost the product contains. The declaration shall state whether this is on a mass/mass or volume/volume basis. The percentage should be stated as a:

- i. range; or
- ii. single, whole figure and described as 'approximate'.

4. Certification mark - conditions of use

4.1 The certification mark may be used by a compost producer only when the organisation:

- i. holds a valid certificate of compliance for the composting process and particle size grade of compost certified;
- ii. it is printed or displayed in accordance with one or more of the options in section 5 below.

NB: A key certification requirement is that the certified compost and any blend

product containing certified compost is labelled as required in section 13 of PAS 100 and that the labelling includes the compost certification code.

The certificate of compliance remains the property of the Certification Body and is returnable upon withdrawal of the compost from the scheme (see section 6).

4.2 There are three versions of the mark.

i. The first version, shown underneath this paragraph, is awarded to compost producers who achieve certification to PAS 100 and REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules. Compost grades that carry this version of the certification mark cannot be supplied, stored and used as 'products' (without waste regulatory controls) if derived from biodegradable wastes.



ii. The second version, shown below, is awarded to compost producers who achieve certification to PAS 100, the Compost Quality Protocol' (CQP), and REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules. Compost grades that carry this version of the certification mark can be supplied, stored and used as 'products' (without waste regulatory controls) in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.



iii. The third version, shown below, is awarded to compost producers who achieve certification to PAS 100, the Compost Quality Protocol (CQP), and REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules. Compost grades that carry this version of the certification mark can be supplied, stored and used as 'products' (without waste regulatory controls) in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.



REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules include requirements related to compost bagging¹.

- 4.3 The certification mark may be used by an SCO only when:
- i. its compost producer supplier holds a valid certificate of compliance for the composting process and particle size grade of compost certified;
 - ii. certified compost and any blend products that contain are traceable and the SCO can demonstrate this to REAL or the relevant certification body if requested; and
 - iii. it is printed or displayed in accordance with one or more of the options in section 5 below.

¹ These can be downloaded from:
http://www.qualitycompost.org.uk/upload/real_ccs_scheme_rules_v8.pdf

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- 4.4 Each compost producer and SCO supplying certified compost shall include in the product labelling all information required in section 16 of PAS 100 and declaration of conformance with the Compost Quality Protocol, plus the compost certification code.
- 4.5 Each compost producer and SCO supplying blend product(s) that contain certified compost shall include the following information in labelling;
- i. all information required in section 16 of PAS 100 and declaration of conformance with the Compost Quality Protocol,
 - ii. compost certification number, and
 - iii. the approximate percentage of certified compost in the blend, on a mass/mass or volume/volume basis*.
- * The certification body reserves the right to refuse use of the certification mark if, in its view, the percentage of certified compost in the blend is 'insignificant' and substantially below the technically feasible percentage for product fitness-for-purpose.
- 4.6 The following declaration should accompany information about product characteristics:
- i. 'as determined at the time of manufacture'.
- 4.7 Instructions for product storage should encourage use of conditions that minimise any changes in its characteristics during storage. For example, "This product keeps best when stored in a cool, dry place. If covered to prevent risk of contamination by wind-blown weed seeds and minimise gradual change in biological and chemical characteristics, you are advised to use a gas-permeable cover."
- 4.8 If a 'best before' date is quoted, this should be based on knowledge of how the compost characteristics change during storage under the recommended conditions.
- 4.9 With the exception of the batch code and certification number, the compost producer may use the same packaging and product information for two or more certified composts only where:
- i. the compost product type will be the same;
 - ii. the materials from which each compost is derived are of similar composition and proportion;
 - iii. all sample characteristics reported by the approved laboratory are within the ranges declared by the compost producer; and
 - iv. instructions for storage and use will be the same.
- 4.10 In promotional material the promoter, SCO or compost producer shall:
- i. ensure any information about the scheme is correct;

- ii. gain permission to use the certification mark from the certification body prior to each single use;
- iii. print and/or display the certification mark in accordance with one or more of the options in section 5; and
- iv. ensure the identity of the certified compost(s) and/or blend product(s) that contain it/them is clear and distinguishable from any composts not certified under the scheme and/or blend products that contain such composts.

Note 1: Examples of 'single use' are in labelling when first issued and/or updated, in a magazine or promotional leaflet, or on a webpage.

Note 2: Clear identity of certified compost(s) and/or blend products can be achieved through provision of the certification codes, product name and type and/or particle size grades.

4.11 Compost producers that intend to bag any of the certified compost grades for dispatch/sale shall ensure that the packaging (and/or separate document stuck to each packaging item) for the specific compost grade includes:

- REAL's certification mark for this scheme,
- the compost grade's unique certification number,
- all the information required in section 16 'Labelling and Marking' of PAS 100:2018, and one of the following
- a declaration of conformance with the PAS 100 (latest edition) and the Compost Quality Protocol if the compost is to be used as a product in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland
- a declaration of conformance with the PAS 100 (latest edition) and SEPA's Regulatory Position Statement for Compost (latest edition) if the compost is to be used as a product in Scotland, or
- a declaration of conformance with PAS 100 (latest edition) if the compost is quality assured, in connection with the relevant compost grade.

The information on the packaging (and/or separate document stuck to the packaging) must always enable the checking of which graded compost batch, or part batch, was filled into each compost bag. Maintenance of traceability is an important PAS 100 requirement and enables checks on compost production and quality in the event of a complaint.

5. Set, print and display related requirements

- 5.1 The mark should be prominently positioned in labelling for the certified compost.
- 5.2 On product packaging, the mark should be used as prominently as possible, positioned on the main face with the product description and printed at a size in proportion with it.
- 5.3 The certification mark shall be displayed in its entirety and in the upright position, i.e. no rotation.



- 5.4 The minimum reproduction size is that the certification mark fits within a 18 millimetre wide exclusion zone.
- 5.5 The exclusion zone surrounding the certification mark shall be kept clear of text and other graphic elements and its background shall be uniform. The mark shall be printed over a solid background colour or rectangle of colour that extends at least to the edge of the exclusion zone. Use over backgrounds, such as photographs, is permitted only if the certification mark remains clear and legible, i.e. 100 per cent of greyscale or colour options below. The exclusion zone is based on the unit 'x' which is determined by the depth from the top of the first line to the top of the third line.



- 5.6 To ensure a consistent image the certification mark shall be displayed in greyscale or in the following colour combination:
- For two spot colour printing using Pantones 364 (green) and 520 (purple) as shown below; or



- For CMYK process full colour printing the combination shall result in the same colours as Pantones 364 and 520.
- 5.7 Tinting, shadowing and other effects are not permitted and the positioning of the certification mark's elements shall remain as laid out in the version supplied by the certification body.

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- 5.8 In exception to 5.6 the certification mark may be reversed out in white if it is to appear on a dark background.



6. Non-compliance and withdrawal of use of the certification mark

- 6.1 In the event of a non-compliance where actions to rectify the problem have results deemed unsatisfactory by the certification body:
- i. no initial certification shall be made and the compost(s) shall be withdrawn from the scheme; or
 - ii. certification and use of the certification mark shall be withdrawn from the compost producer and any SCOs involved.

In such cases, the compost producer and any SCOs involved shall be notified in writing.