



REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules

Issue 1 Revision 7

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1 DEFINITIONS

‘Competent Authority’ (in the context of animal by-product regulations)

For England, Wales and Scotland, the competent authority is named Animal Health. This is the body Government's Executive Agency primarily responsible for ensuring that farmed animals in Great Britain are healthy, disease-free and well looked after. This agency also has responsibility for managing outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases. See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/>.

For Northern Ireland, the competent authority responsible for approving composting of catering waste and animal by-products is the Veterinary Service. See <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/contact-us/a-z-of-contributors/veterinary-service.htm>.

‘Composting process’

All activities undertaken for the production of compost, including but not limited to: delivery of feedstocks on site, pre-treatment activities such as mixing and shredding, sanitization, stabilization, maturation (if applicable), any post-treatment activities such as screening and final storage prior to product dispatch.

‘Compost with no market’

This means that compost has not been supplied and used in one of the designated market sectors specified in the Compost Quality Protocol or, for Scotland, in any suitable market sector. Suitable markets for compost include but are not limited to agriculture, horticulture (professional & amateur), forestry, land restoration, land remediation (including bioremediation), landscape construction and maintenance, sports and amenity green spaces, erosion control, privately owned green spaces and gardens, green spaces and gardens owned and/or managed by community initiatives.

‘Compost recipient’

Organisation or individual receiving the compost consignment from the compost producer.

‘Consignment’

All compost loads that correspond with a customer's order.

‘Disposal operation’

Disposal is defined in Article 3(19) Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC

‘Efficacy of the composting process’

The composting process has been validated. Thus, it has been proven to consistently meet the PAS 100 and Compost Quality Protocol criteria (if applicable) and to comply with the aspects of the Quality Management System for the production of PAS 100 conforming compost, including the HACCP plan, the SOPs and, if applicable, the Compost Quality Protocol requirements related to input material types, compost supply and use.

'Fit for purpose'

Compost that has all the properties and characteristics necessary for its intended purposes. In the context of PAS 100 the compost shall pass all PAS 100 obligatory tests and any additional parameter tests and limits the composter has committed to fulfilling in his/her quality policy or in a written agreement with a compost customer.

'Maturation'

An optional composting process step during which the biodegradation rate is lower than it is during any preceding step. It may precede or follow batch screening. Within the terms of these rules, 'maturation' refers to a minimum defined composting period following the actively managed phase, that is clearly defined within the compost producer's Standard Operating Procedures. As per clause 2.6.1 of the Compost Quality Protocol, if a minimum maturation period is required to ensure the compost produced is fit for purpose, the compost can only cease to be waste after completion of such a maturation period.

'Regulator'

The organisations responsible for monitoring and enforcing environmental controls in different countries of the UK are:

- Environment Agency, England. For further information please see, <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>
- Natural Resource Wales, Wales. For further information please see, <http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/splash?orig=/>
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scotland. For further information please see, http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us.aspx
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Northern Ireland. For further information please see, <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/index/about-niea.htm>

'Re-grading of CQP compost carried out by a supply chain company, manufacturer or end-user'

The process step during which compost produced to a product manufacturer's specification is re-graded at the product manufacturer's site or an end-user's site to produce compost products (e.g. coarse mulch) and/or products that contain compost (e.g. multi-purpose growing medium or topsoil), which are fit-for-purpose.

The primary purpose of this activity is not to remove physical contaminants but to carry out particle size grading, grade refinement and blending in order to manufacture a range of products to supply to one or more markets designated in the Protocol, based on market demand or the end-user's own needs. It normally takes place after temporary storage, in line with good practice for storing and handling compost.

'Satisfactory evidence'

The compost producer demonstrates full compliance with all requirements of 'PAS 100 only' or 'PAS 100 and the Protocol', according to the scope of certification sought. This is evaluated by the certification body.

'Separate composting process'

A composting process separate from any other treatment process, including separate materials reception area, composting area (sanitisation, stabilisation and maturation), mechanical treatment area (e.g. shredding & screening) and compost storage area, and with a liquor collection and storage system that keeps this composting process's liquor separate from any other on-site process's liquor, or, if the composting process's liquor cannot be kept separate from any other on-site process's liquor, the liquor shall not be added to any material fed into, treated and stored in the PAS & Protocol area(s).

'Screening or re-screening carried out by the composter producer at the compost production site'

The process step during which composted material is screened, within the permitted area of the composter's site, to remove physical contaminants, in order to produce the quality of graded compost required and to ensure it has the particle size range required by the customer.

'Storage'

The on-site or off-site retention of compost batches prior to their dispatch to the compost recipients. Within the terms of this scheme, storage does not mean maturation.

'Trader' or 'Merchant'

An organisation, or individual, that operates in the supply chain between the compost producer and compost end-users.

2 ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSURANCE LIMITED (REAL)

The Compost Certification Scheme is administered by the REA's wholly owned subsidiary Renewable Energy Assurance Ltd (REAL). Contact details: Renewable Energy Assurance Limited, 2nd Floor, 25 Eccleston Place, London, SW1W 9NF. Email address: info@qualitycompost.org.uk

3 IMPORTANT GENERAL POINTS ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

- A. These rules come into effect on the date the transitional period following their issue date ends and, from that date they automatically supersede any terms and conditions specified in the previously issued certification scheme rules.
- B. Timescales for the implementation of any change, including any necessary transitional period to give the composters sufficient time to implement such changes, is two months after the issue date.

- C. Regarding a change that affects compost producers, its implementation shall allow the affected compost producers who have achieved certification to maintain it and other compost producers who have applied for but not yet achieved initial certification to progress towards this with reasonable speed.

CERTIFICATION SCHEME OVERVIEW

4 INTRODUCTION

4.1 General

4.1.1 In general, compost derived from biodegradable wastes can only become fully recovered (i.e. no longer be regarded as waste) at the point of use. Its use as well as production is controlled by regulation (to prevent harm to the environment and human health). However, in some cases, it is possible for high quality composted biodegradable wastes to be supplied, stored and used without 'waste' regulatory controls, i.e. as a 'product'.

4.1.2 In the United Kingdom, the British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification for Composted Materials (PAS 100) sets minimum compost quality criteria. Renewable Energy Assurance Ltd. has worked with WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme) to develop this PAS and also to provide complementary specifications covering additional quality criteria for composts used in soft landscape operations, growing media manufacture, edible and non-food crop production, turf maintenance and other applications. These and other market-specific specifications supplementary to PAS 100 now exist in the UK.

4.1.3 The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme, the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Environment Agency for England in consultation with industry and other regulatory stakeholders have developed a Quality Protocol for the Production and Use of Quality Compost from Source-Segregated Biowaste (the Compost Quality Protocol, or simply the Protocol¹) to clarify the circumstances in which high quality waste-derived composts may be supplied, stored and used as 'products'.

4.1.4 The three main purposes of the Protocol are to:

- a) clarify the point at which waste regulatory controls on composted source-segregated biodegradable wastes no longer apply;
- b) provide users with confidence that the compost they purchase conforms with an approved standard (such as PAS 100); and
- c) protect the environment (including soil) and human health by setting criteria for good practice use of quality compost on land used for agriculture or soil-grown horticulture.

4.1.5 The Compost Quality Protocol has been adopted by the Environment Agency, National Resource Wales and on 1st July 2010 the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

¹ Launched 15th March 2007 and came into effect on 11th May 2007. The edition of the Protocol currently in force (the 'CQP 2102') can be found on CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

4.1.6 Fundamental requirements of the Protocol are that:

- a) compost is produced in compliance with an approved standard or specification (at present, only the PAS 100 specification is recognised as an approved standard);
- b) compost is produced using only those source-segregated input materials listed in Appendix B of the Protocol and must be destined for appropriate use in one of the market sectors designated by the Protocol;
- c) compliance with the Protocol is assessed by an independent certification body; and
- d) the certification scheme rules are approved by the relevant regulator(s).

4.1.7 To date, Scotland has not adopted the Protocol. In this country compost(s) derived from composting processes and composts that are able to meet PAS 100 requirements may, in some circumstances, be considered fully recovered by the regulator. Such circumstances are clarified in SEPA's composting position statement available at:

http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/guidance_position_statements.aspx

4.1.8 Compost certified to 'PAS 100 only' which is placed on the market for use or used in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland is regarded as 'waste' by the regulator. In this case waste regulatory controls apply to its supply, storage and use.

4.1.9 REAL's Compost Certification Scheme is aligned and provides a framework for independent assessment and certification of compost to 'PAS 100 only' and to PAS 100 and the Protocol.

4.1.10 Any producer can choose to apply for 'PAS 100 only' or 'PAS 100 and the Protocol' certification, irrespective of the country/ies in which the compost is used and according to whether it is intended to be supplied as a 'product' or a 'waste'.

4.1.11 The composting process and derived compost(s) of a compost producer applying for certification to 'PAS 100 only' are evaluated against the requirements of:

- PAS 100 (the latest edition, subject to transitional arrangements set by REAL), and
- REAL's Compost Certification Scheme rules (this document).

4.1.12 The composting process and derived compost(s) of a compost producer applying for certification to 'PAS 100 and the Protocol' are evaluated against the requirements of:

- PAS 100 (the latest edition, subject to transitional arrangements set by REAL),
- the Compost Quality Protocol, and
- REAL's Compost Certification Scheme rules (this document).

4.1.13 The requirements specified in clauses 4.1.11 and 4.1.12 are referred to hereafter as 'the Scheme requirements'.

4.2 Scope of certification

4.2.1 Certification is specific to a defined composting process, kept separate² from any other processes carried out at the same site, and one or more compost particle size grades resulting from that process, as nominated by the producer. Where this document refers to certification of a 'compost producer', it means the specific composting process and compost grades assessed.

4.2.2 This scheme requires that only the compost grades for which certification is sought, or is held, are produced in conformance with all the Scheme requirements. Any compost grades for which certification is not sought or held, shall not compromise the quality of the compost grade(s) under assessment for conformance with the Scheme requirements.

4.2.3 PAS 100 specification, the Compost Quality Protocol (if applicable) and REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules shall be followed for every produced batch.

4.2.4 The composter shall have a clear, written contingency plan to deal with non-conforming batches. Production of non-conforming batches is only allowed under exceptional circumstances and shall not be systematic.

4.2.5 If production and dispatch of PAS 100 compost at a certified composting process is changed to production and dispatch of non PAS 100 compost for a period of time for reasons associated with site infrastructural or processing equipment changes³, the composter shall immediately notify the certification body. Such notification shall include the date from which the site has stopped production of PAS 100 compliant compost.

4.2.6 Suspension of production of PAS 100 compost under the conditions specified in clause 4.2.5 shall result in immediate certificate suspension. The composter must check with the certification body whether process re-validation has been completed before a certificate of conformance can be re-instated.

4.2.7 Where a compost producer's single site hosts more than one composting process, the producer shall make clear which composting process (es) is/are operated according to the Scheme requirements, and keep each of those processes separate from each other and any other process at the same site. Similarly, the compost batches produced according to the Scheme requirements shall be kept separate from any other compost, material, waste or any other substance stored and/or treated at the same site.

² See definition of 'Separate composting processes' in the Terms and Definitions section of these rules.

³ Maturation pad being extended, space constraints due to construction works on site, new screen being purchased etc.

4.2.8 This scheme is non-discriminating. There are no pre-requisites upon compost producers participating in the scheme other than those specified under section 5.1.2. Membership of REAL or any other membership organisation or group is not required, nor does it influence any certification, suspension or withdrawal decision made under this scheme.

4.2.9 This Scheme does not have any geographical restriction. Compost producers in countries outside the UK can apply for certification, but they shall be aware that they will be charged by the certification bodies for any cost associated with travel and accommodation in addition to the normal certification assessment fees.

4.2.10 CQP Appendix B Derogation

This derogation allows a composter to take a waste that is not allowed under the Appendix B of the Protocol, following the approval from REAL, the relevant CB and the environmental regulator, under the conditions specified in Annex I to these Scheme Rules. The resulting compost is classed as waste.

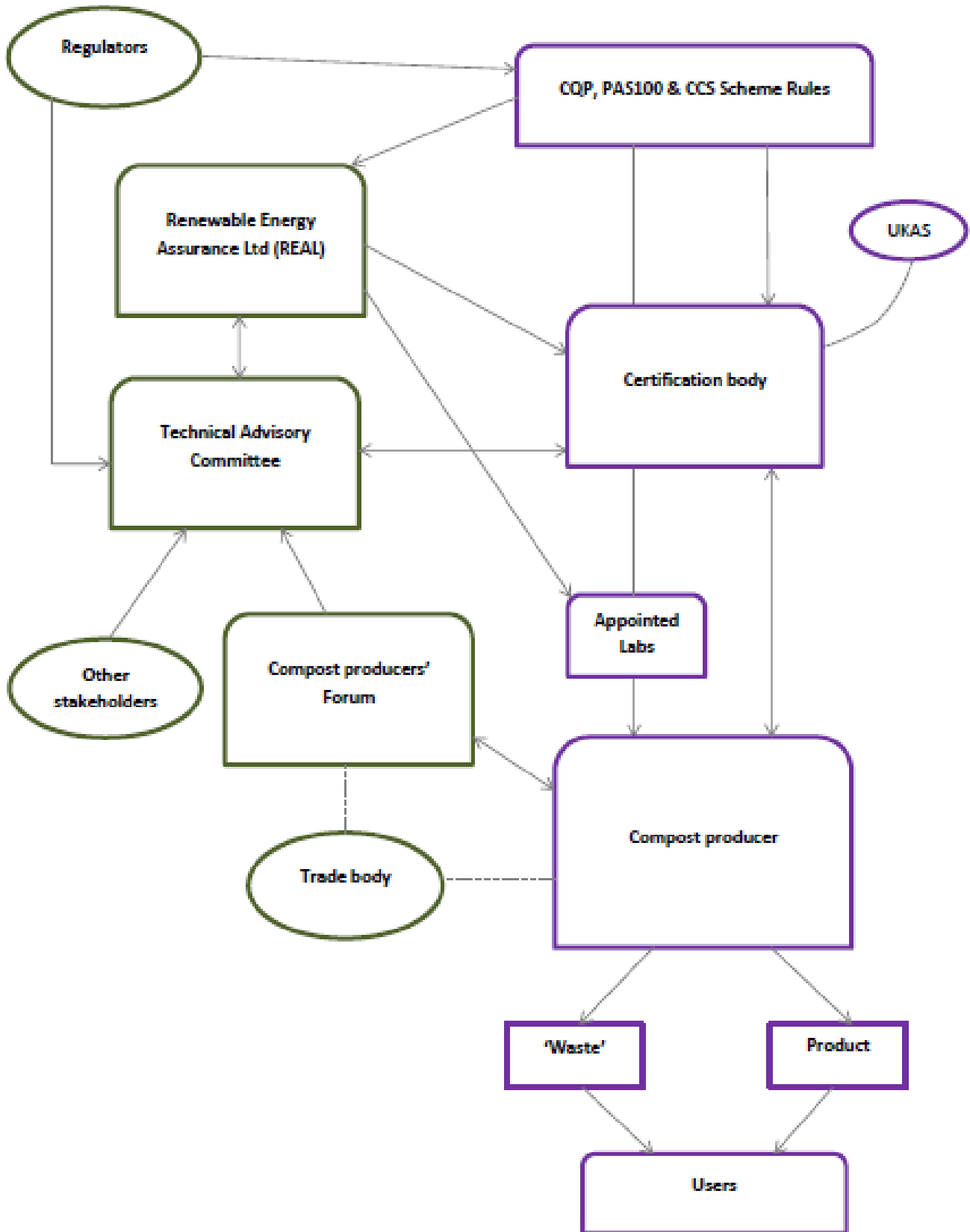
4.3 Beyond the PAS 100 minimum compost quality baseline

4.3.1 If the compost producer subscribes in the quality policy to any standard(s) or specification(s) in addition to PAS 100, the additional quality criteria are treated as complementary to the minimum compost quality criteria specified in PAS 100. In such cases, the compost producer shall provide evidence of compliance with any such additional standards or specifications. Examples are compost sample test results that comply with the additional quality criteria or a valid certificate from an appropriate certification body.

4.4 Editions of standards

4.4.1 'Standards' means PAS 100, the Compost Quality Protocol, and any additional compost quality criteria the producer has committed to achieving in his/her quality policy, for his/her compost grades assessed under this scheme. Assessment of compliance with the Scheme requirements shall be assessed against the requirements of the edition of each relevant standard in force at the time of assessment (subject to transitional arrangements set by REAL).

Scheme structure



5 OVERALL STRUCTURE

5.1 Scheme's owner

14.1.1 REAL, the owner of the scheme, is responsible for the following:

- 1) promotion of the scheme,
- 2) development of the scheme and these scheme rules,
- 3) management of information displayed publicly on compost producers' certification status,
- 4) selection of certification bodies,
- 5) contractual arrangements with certification bodies,
- 6) monitoring the performance of CBs,
- 7) providing feedback to the CBs on their performance,
- 8) updating contracted CB managers on any changes to standards, scheme rules and associated documentation,
- 9) updates to compost producers on the scheme on changes to standards, scheme rules and associated documentation,
- 10) selection and monitoring of laboratories appointed by REAL to test composts on this scheme,
- 11) selection and monitoring of Independent sample takers appointed by REAL to test composts on this scheme
- 12) provide technical support to certification bodies and appointed laboratories, and
- 13) co-ordination of this scheme's Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

5.2 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

5.2.1 This Scheme's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) advises on scheme issues, to ensure that a cross section of views is considered by REAL.

The terms & references for the TAC are available in the Information/Governance section on the CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

5.2.2 The TAC representatives have an obligation to ensure confidentiality of information arising from TAC meetings.

5.2.3 REAL shall select and de-select each representative of the TAC.

5.2.4 Each certification body's personnel responsible for scheme management shall participate in, at reasonable notice, TAC meetings. Each certification body shall make all reasonable endeavours to participate in each TAC meeting. REAL shall confirm at reasonable notice prior to each meeting whether it will be held face-to-face or by telephone conference.

5.3 Compost Producers' Forum

The Compost Producers Forum is the body recognised by REAL to provide producers with the opportunity to discuss issues associated with operating a facility producing compost under the Scheme.

The terms & references for the Compost Producers' Forum are available in the Information/Governance section on the CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

5.4 Certification bodies

5.4.1 The certification bodies are appointed by REAL to provide compost producers' independent assessment for conformance with PAS 100, the Compost Quality Protocol (if applicable) and REAL Compost Certification Scheme rules.

5.4.2 The certification body shall have composting expertise within its structure, or utilise technical support from REAL, such that the CB's personnel can gain technical interpretation of the standards and scheme requirements when requested.

5.5 Independent samplers

The independent samplers are appointed by REAL to provide independent sampling services on behalf of REAL, as per clauses 15.1 and 15.2.

5.6 Appointed laboratories

This scheme requires participating compost producers to send compost samples for testing only at independent laboratories appointed by REAL. Such laboratories operate in accordance with REAL's terms and conditions (T&Cs) for laboratories appointed under the Scheme.

The list of appointed laboratories and the T&Cs for laboratories appointed under the Scheme are available in the Information/Governance section on the CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

SCHEME PROCEDURES

6 APPLICATION FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION AND RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION

6.1 Information on pre-requisites for application

6.1.1 Pre-requisites for applying for initial certification or renewal of certification are:

- a) the composting site holds a planning consent/permission, if required by the relevant planning authority; the composting site holds a relevant 'authorisation to operate' (an Environmental Permit, a Waste Management Licence, a Pollution Prevention and Control Permit issued by the relevant regulator, or an exemption registered with the relevant regulator); and
- b) if the process treats animal by-products, the composting site is approved or under the process of being approved by Animal Health or Veterinary Service to treat Animal By-Products. A certificate of conformance shall only be issued if the composting site holds a full approval issued by Animal Health or Veterinary Service to treat Animal By-Products.

6.1.2 If any of the conditions in the authorisation issued by the regulator is breached and/or the authorisation is partially or fully suspended, the certification body may suspend the certificate or withdraw the composting process from the Scheme. Such a decision by the certification body will depend upon the severity of the breach and whether the nature and type of breach mean that the quality of compost produced and its compliance with PAS 100, the Compost Quality Protocol or REAL's Scheme Rules are severely compromised.

6.2 Information on the application procedures

6.2.1 Any producer who intends to apply for initial certification or renewal of certification can either request an application from the relevant CB or download the relevant application from the Compost Certification Scheme (CCS) web site. Document templates for compliance with the Scheme requirements can also be downloaded from the CCS's webpages, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

6.2.2 Each producer who applies shall make clear whether his/her application is for 'PAS 100 only' certification or 'PAS 100 and Protocol' certification.

6.2.3 The compost producer shall apply for certification by completing the relevant form and submitting it to his/her choice out of REAL's contracted certification bodies, together with payment of the fee quoted by the certification body. The owner of the business or a duly authorised employee (e.g. person with responsibility for compliance with the Scheme requirements) shall sign the form.

6.2.4 By signing and returning the certification body's relevant form for this scheme, the producer:

- A. confirms that all pre-requisites specified in clause 5.1 are currently met; and
- B. agrees to comply with this scheme's rules (latest version issued) and operating protocols.

6.2.5 When applying for initial certification or certification renewal, the compost producer shall also supply to the relevant certification body a copy of each of the QMS documents requested.

6.3 Renewals

6.3.1 It is the responsibility of the compost producer to achieve and maintain valid certification and to:

- a) swiftly apply and pay for renewal assessment;
- b) produce compost according to the validated Quality Management System (including the HACCP and SOPs); and
- c) carry out on-going testing according to PAS 100 minimum requirements and any additional specifications applicable to the compost grade (as per the Quality Policy),

so that full compliance is demonstrated to the certification body (via inspection and follow-up on any non-compliances) before the expiry date of the current certificate.

7 ASSESSMENT OF COMPOST PRODUCER COMPLIANCE

7.1 Annual audits

7.1.1 For initial certification and each 12 month renewal phase thereafter, the certification body's assessment of conformity to the Scheme requirements shall include an inspection of the compost production site, during which the composting process and relevant compost grades are checked as well as the producer's documented evidence.

7.1.2 The certification body reserves the right to carry out one or more extra inspection visits. Examples of reasons for extra visit(s) are checks on the efficacy of action taken to correct non-compliance, or investigation of a complaint or test failures resulting from independent sampling visits. The costs associated with any additional visits shall be borne by the producer, but shall be kept as low as reasonably possible.

7.1.3 The notice period for routine and extra inspections shall be decided by the certification body, having taken account of any notification from the producer of a test result failure and any subsequent action(s) taken and notified to the CB. Inspection visits may be carried out without notice or at a very short notice if deemed appropriate by the certification body.

7.1.4 The compost producers shall give employees and agents of the certification body sufficient access to their business and relevant composting processes to carry out any inspection visit the certification body decides to carry out. Failure to do so shall result in the suspension of certification or assessment for initial certification, and may ultimately result in withdrawal from the scheme if such failure persists.

7.1.5 The certification body's inspector may refuse to carry out an assessment in the presence of a third party who the compost producer believes will, intentionally or otherwise, influence its outcome in an inappropriate manner.

7.1.6 The duration of an inspection visit shall be reasonable, realistic and shall not place excessive burden on the inspector or the compost producer. Time allocation shall provide for the necessary checks to be carried out in full. Additional time for assessment shall be allowed when further investigation is necessary, for example in the event of a major non-compliance(s), numerous non-compliances, or a complaint.

7.1.7 Each inspection visit shall consist of:

- a) an opening meeting,
- b) assessment of the input materials, composting process, compost grade(s) and any product(s) that contain them,
- c) review of the compost producer's Quality Management System for PAS 100 (and Compost Quality Protocol if applicable) compliance, and
- d) a closing meeting.

7.1.8 During the closing meeting, the inspector shall state his/her findings to the compost producer, including all non-conformances found. If any required information is not available for evaluation prior to or during the inspection visit, it shall be recorded as a non-compliance. After the missing information has been supplied and evaluated, further non-compliance(s) may be identified. The inspector should not comment on the likely outcome of the certification body's decision whether to award certification.

7.2 Non-conformities

7.2.1 A non-conformities list shall be given to the compost producer at the end of the inspection visit. It shall include at least the following:

- a) reference to the composting process,
- b) identification of each compost grade under assessment,

- c) the type and description of any non-conformance found,
- d) the timescale the compost producer is allowed for taking corrective action and supplying evidence or for a further visit to verify efficacy,
- e) the name of or a description of any required information not available prior to or during the inspection visit,
- f) the hours taken to carry out the inspection visit, and
- g) a description of any reason for shortening or lengthening the inspection compared with the typical or expected duration (guideline duration set by the certification body).

7.2.2 The report shall be based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection and any evidence provided by the producer to the certification body in advance of the inspection. The report shall identify any required evidence that has not been submitted in advance or during the inspection.

7.2.3 The type of non-conformity assigned against any of the Scheme requirements shall be based upon evidence and observations made during the evaluation, whether done before the inspection visit, during that visit, or afterwards when corrective action evidence is being evaluated.

7.2.4 Following inspection in a subsequent year of certification, all non-conformances notified by the certification body shall be addressed by the compost producer and corrective action evidence submitted to the certification body before the certificate expiry date.

7.2.5 In circumstances where product quality was or may have been compromised, the certification body may carry out an extra visit, which may be unannounced. For example, such a visit may be carried out if there is any doubt about or evident deficiency in how typical the compost samples tested were of the compost grade. Assessment of effective corrective action(s) may be done during an extra visit instead of via documented evidence supplied to the certification body, as deemed appropriate by the certification body. The costs associated with these procedures, including any additional visits shall be borne by the producer, but shall be kept as low as reasonably possible.

7.2.6 During the course of the inspection, the certification body's inspector is entitled to take pictures of the site and any material being processed and/or stored on the site at the time of the inspection.

7.2.7 During the course of the inspection, the certification body's inspector can request the compost producer's relevant personnel to carry out compost sampling in his/her presence to verify the correct sampling procedures are followed.

7.2.8 If during the course of an assessment the certification body identifies a non-compliance that is also relevant to the regulatory officer(s) responsible for enforcing waste management regulations in the area where the composting takes place or the compost is stored and/or used, within 5 working days the certification body shall:

- a) notify the regulator, via the email address provided by the regulator for communications, of the non-compliance and its nature; REAL shall be copied in the communication.
- b) inform the relevant area regulatory officer(s) and team leader in writing of the actions that will be taken by the certification body in light of the non-compliance (e.g. whether the certificate will be suspended as a result of the non-compliance and whether a Spot Checks Visit will be carried out); REAL shall be copied in the communication.
- c) keep the above stakeholders informed, in writing, of the progress made by the composter to resolve the non-compliance, and
- d) when evaluation of corrective action(s) and/or Spot Checks Visit evidence has been completed and a decision on certificate status has been made, inform the above stakeholders of the outcome.

Examples of instances where the regulator would need to be informed by the certification body are:

- a) Non-compliance or failure to meet ABPR (the Competent Authority should also be informed in this case).*
- b) Batch test failure, if the composter has not already notified the regulator according to clause 15.2 of PAS 100:2011.*
- c) Non-conforming input wastes being processed in a PAS 100 composting process.*
- d) Non-permitted wastes being processed in a PAS 100 composting process.*
- e) Failure of physical contamination levels in the compost produced or failure to address or adopt a control process resulting in compost produced not conforming to PAS 100 minimum quality criteria.*
- f) Any non-compliance with operating processes already agreed as part of the certifications scheme where it influences the state of the material being considered non-waste.*

Where appropriate, REAL can be consulted to identify additional instances where the regulator should be involved.

7.3 Consecutive failures on one the same parameter

7.3.1 During the investigation, if the batch sampled and tested after the ‘triggering fail batch’ fails on the same parameter, the composter shall immediately inform the certification body and supply details of the failures and actions taken to date. The composter shall do the same if any other incident of two or more consecutive failures on the same parameter occurs during the investigation.

7.3.2 The certification body shall evaluate such information within 10 working days of its receipt and decide whether to suspend the certificate of compliance, having taken account of the severity of the failures and progress of the investigation.

N.B.: Suspension of certification may be actioned before the composter has completed the investigation, as appropriate to the severity of the failures and progress of the investigation.

8 CERTIFICATION

Certification is conditional upon demonstrated evidence of compliance with all Scheme requirements. Renewal of certification is independent of any previous certification achieved by the compost producer.

8.1 Certificates

Each certificate issued shall be authorised by a permanent member of the certification body staff. The certificate shall contain at least:

- A. name and contact details of the compost producing organisation;
- B. address of the composting site;
- C. reference to the composting process (e.g. in-vessel for green and catering wastes);
- D. for each certified compost grade,
- E. particle size range (e.g. approx 0 – 10 mm),
- F. certification assessment code.
- G. statement of compost conformance to BSI PAS 100 (latest version) or to BSI PAS 100 (latest version) and the Compost Quality Protocol;
- H. REAL's compost conformity mark;
- I. certificate issue and 'valid from' date;
- J. certificate 'valid to' or expiry date;
- K. certification body name and address; and,
- L. signature of person who authorised the certificate.

8.1.1 The certificate's issue date is the date on which the certification decision is made. The initial certificate is valid from the certificate issue date for 365 days. The expiry date of the certificate day becomes renewal date and any subsequent certificate runs from the Renewal date for 365 days.

8.1.2 If certification is suspended then is later reinstated, the existing certificate returns to being valid; a new certificate is not issued. If certification is withdrawn, this means the existing certificate is invalid.

8.1.3 Under this scheme, temporary certificates are only available under exceptional circumstances. These may be, for example, postponement of inspection due to extremely adverse weather conditions. The certification body shall determine whether a circumstance is exceptional, in consultation with REAL.

8.1.4 A certificate is not transferable and remains the property of the certification body. When a certificate has been issued, the producer shall only promote the certified composting process and its certified compost grade(s) as appropriate to the specific type of certification.

8.2 Obligation to inform certification bodies of changes

Compost producers registered on REAL's Compost Certification Scheme shall inform the certification bodies when any changes are made in relation to:

- a) mailing addresses;
- b) person or contact details of the person responsible for implementing and maintaining the certification scheme procedures and complying with the scheme requirements;
- c) person or contact details of the person that is responsible for compost sales or related contact details; and
- d) any other details relevant to this certification scheme.

9 MARKS OF CONFORMITY



REAL's compost certification scheme conformity marks

9.1 Use of the conformity marks

9.1.1 REAL Compost Certification Scheme's appropriate conformity mark shall only be used in clear association with the specific composting process and the compost grade(s) for which the composter holds a valid certificate of conformity to this scheme's rules.

9.1.2 The mark shall only be used in association with a product that contains a certified compost grade if scheme requirements on providing information about the compost ingredient are fulfilled.

9.1.3 The scheme requirements regarding use of the conformity marks are stated in the 'Conformity declaration and conformity mark' document, available on CCS web site.

9.1.4 The above consent, in so far as it applies to use of the conformity mark, is limited to using the entire designations "PAS 100 CERTIFIED" or "PAS 100 & CQP CERTIFIED" (whichever is applicable to the scope of certification) and to using the appropriate conformity mark in an identical form to that supplied by REAL. The consent is specific to the producer's certified composting process and compost grade(s) and shall not be transferred or licensed to any other business.

9.1.5 Any composter who holds a valid certificate of conformity shall not use (or authorise or license others to use) the conformity mark in any way outside the scope of the above consent, unless that composter has first obtained REAL's written authorisation to do so. Any such composter shall not use or authorise or license others to use any name, mark, sign or device confusingly similar to the conformity mark nor file or cause to be filed any conformity mark, trade mark or company name registration applications containing or confusingly similar to this scheme's conformity marks. Any such composters shall not oppose or cause any opposition to any conformity mark applications filed by REAL, register the conformity marks anywhere in the

world nor otherwise cause any question to be raised concerning REAL's ownership of this scheme's conformity marks.

9.1.6 A supply chain company may use the appropriate conformity mark, subject to:

- a) meeting the requirements associated with its use, set out in this document, and
- b) compliance being verified and confirmed in writing by the certification body.

9.2 Withdrawal of the permission to use the conformity marks

9.2.1 REAL reserves the right to withdraw from any composter with a valid certificate of compliance the permission granted hereunder, after giving one month's notice or upon immediate notice if the composter fails to observe this scheme's requirements with regard to the use of the conformity marks, or if certification is suspended or withdrawn for whatever reason.

10 INDEPENDENT SAMPLING

10.1 Certification Scheme's independent sampling procedures

10.1.1 For quality assurance purposes, a percentage of composting processes that produce certified compost shall be selected by REAL for independent sampling. Composters selected for independent sampling shall allow sampling to take place unimpeded. Selections may be made on a random basis or can be targeted at composting processes with previous compliance issues.

10.1.2 The independent sampling shall be carried out by an appointed competent person who is independent of the composter, who is also responsible for dispatching the independently taken sample(s) to the approved laboratory used by the producer. Competent means that he/she shall have received training on procedures to follow for taking independent samples and related records of training must be kept. The independent sample taker is not allowed to be an appointed laboratory nor work for or on behalf of an appointed laboratory under this scheme. In addition, each independent sampling person shall be independent of the compost producer. Key criteria for demonstration of independence are that the independent sampling service provider:

- a) did or does not currently work for or on behalf of the compost producer that is subject to independent sampling; and
- b) is not providing consultancy to the producer, nor has done so within the last year.

10.1.3 The independent sample taker shall ensure that all information specified in the REAL's independent sampling pro-forma is recorded when the independent sample is taken.

More information about 'How the independent sampling works' is available in the Certification section on the CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

10.2 Independent sampling costs

10.2.1 The cost of the independent sample taking is cover by REAL.

10.2.2 The cost associated with testing the samples shall entirely be borne by each compost producer selected for the independent sampling. The compost producer shall liaise directly with the laboratory with regard to the invoices associated with independent testing, i.e. the producer pays the appoint laboratory directly.

10.2.3 If samples of the appropriate age are available at the time of the independent sampling (e.g. not older than a week from the minimum validated composting process duration), the associated test results may be used by the composter as part of the evidence required to maintain certification.

10.2.4 If, as a result of the selection, the compost producer selected is in the period of corrective actions after inspection, the independent sample(s) taking shall be deferred such that the sample test results are evaluated as part of the next inspection.

10.2.5 In the event of a test failure following independent sampling, a further spot check visit may be carried out by the CB which will include the taking of further sample/s for testing. This decision will be made in consultation with REAL. The timing of the additional visit will be decided by the CB as appropriate to the failure.

The costs associated with any additional visits shall be borne by the producer, but shall be kept as low as reasonably possible.

See also REAL's guidance docs 'Procedures in the event of independent sampling (IS) failures' available in the Certification section on the CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

10.3 Timing of the independent sampling taking

10.3.1 The principal compost grade and any additional grade required to be tested shall be sampled from any batch(es) that are stored on the site awaiting dispatch as PAS 100 conforming material. When this is not possible (e.g. there are no batches that have completed the process available on site), the composter shall inform the independent sampler immediately upon the received notification that an independent sampling visit will be carried out.

10.3.2 Independent sampling visits do not need to be pre-announced or pre-arranged, although it is normal practice to notify such visits during the afternoon before. In addition to taking an independent sample of the composting process's principal PAS 100 certified compost grade, this scheme also requires the independent sampling of one additional PAS 100 certified compost grade (if produced) chosen by the independent sample taker according to his/her on-site assessment of which additional grade is at highest risk of failing any one or more PAS 100 obligatory parameters.

11 SUSPENSION / WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SCHEME

11.1 Applicants

11.1.1 Failure to demonstrate satisfactory evidence of corrective actions taken, and pass any necessary revisit inspection, within 3 months from initial inspection shall result in immediate withdrawal from the scheme of the compost producer's application for the composting process and its relevant compost grades.

11.1.2 When caused by the compost producer, failure of an inspection to occur within 2 months of the application acceptance date shall result in the applicant's immediate withdrawal from the Scheme.

11.2 Renewals

11.2.1 Immediate certificate suspension may be actioned by the certification body according to the severity of any non-conformity. Examples of circumstances in which the non-conformity may have been identified are:

- during a routine inspection,
- during a Spot Checks Visit as a result of random or targeted selection,
- during or following a Spot Checks Visit carried out when investigating a complaint,
- as a result of information / evidence supplied to the certification body by the regulator or when investigating a complaint,
- during an independent sampling visit or during a spot check visit following an independent sampling visit.

11.2.2 In the event that a certificate is suspended, the certification body shall inform the compost producer, REAL and the regulator (via the email address provided for communications) **as soon as reasonably practicable**. When the certificate is re-instated, the certification body shall inform the compost producer, REAL and the regulator (via the email address provided for communications) within 5 working days. REAL's database of composting processes and related compost grades registered on the Scheme shall be altered accordingly by the certification bodies.

11.2.3 In the event the certificate is suspended, the composter shall make available to the CB records and photographic evidence showing what material is on site at the time of the suspension. Prior to re-instating the certificate (when this is appropriate) the certification body shall check how the composter dealt with any compost stored on site during the suspension period, including any batches that completed production during the suspension period.

11.2.4 The certification body is entitled to charge the producer for any time and cost incurred in assessing such evidence.

11.2.5 Failure to supply satisfactory evidence of corrective action(s) taken in response to non-compliances, and pass any necessary Spot Check Visit, by the current certificate's expiry date will result in immediate withdrawal of the composting process and its relevant compost grades from the scheme.

11.2.6 Failure to pay the certification body's complaint investigation fee or any other fees associated with extra visits, spot check visits, and spot sampling visits by the payment due date stated or referred to on the invoice shall result in immediate withdrawal from the Scheme.

11.2.7 In the event a composting process is withdrawn from the Scheme, the certification body shall inform the environmental regulator as soon as reasonably practicable.

11.2.8 During any period when the certificate is suspended or withdrawn the compost shall not be placed on the market as a material with 'product' status.

11.2.9 In the event of certificate withdrawal, the compost producer may re-apply for certification. The evidence assessed after the re-application date may or may not relate to batches of compost produced, sampled and tested prior to the non-compliance that caused withdrawal, depending on the type and severity of such non-compliance⁴. A pre-application evaluation shall be carried out by the certification body to review the composteer's intention to re-apply and specify what pre-withdrawal evidence would be acceptable (if any). Pre-application is subject to the composteer's payment of the pre-application fee specified by the certification body.

11.2.10 In the event of certificate withdrawal, the regulator shall be informed by the CB as soon as reasonably practicable. The REAL's database of composting processes and related compost grades registered on the Scheme shall be altered accordingly by the certification body.

⁴ As an example, if the non-compliance that caused the certificate withdrawal is a delayed payment of the renewal fee, once this has been paid, evidence of compliance obtained prior to the certificate withdrawal date can be used to evaluate compliance after the producer's re-application date. On the other hand, if the composting process was withdrawn because sham recovery occurred, withdrawal will require starting again to obtain evidence after the cause of withdrawal has been fully resolved and closed.

12 CONFIDENTIALITY

12.1 Compost Producers' information

12.1.1 The certification body shall provide to REAL detailed information regarding each composting process and compost grade under assessment, both those for which initial certification has been applied for and those for which certification has been awarded. Such information is detailed in REAL's contractual arrangements with the certification bodies.

12.1.2 Details of registered participants are held on a central database, which is owned by REAL.

12.1.3 REAL may produce and publish statistical reports drawing upon aggregated scheme data so that individual data cannot be traced back to individual applicants or members.

12.1.4 Participant data may be retained on the above mentioned databases and will be treated as specified above for up to 5 years after a composter has ceased to be a member of REAL scheme.

12.1.5 The following information shall be made publicly available by REAL:

Information about the composting process and the certification status of each assessed compost grade (including certificate issue, 'valid from', expiry, suspension and withdrawal dates, as applicable to each grade's status).

12.1.6 Details of the information gained during the course of the certification body's assessment shall be supplied to REAL if requested and shall be supplied to members of the Technical Advisory Committee, the certification body's accreditation body, the regulator and/or the competent authority as relevant, if the assessment is selected for review. Information gained during investigation of a complaint or suspected/reported 'sham recovery', or information associated with an appeal made by a composter shall be supplied to REAL, members of the Technical Advisory Committee, the certification body's accreditation body, the regulator and/or the competent authority, according to which organisations are involved in the appeal.

12.2 PAS100 test results

12.2.1 The compost sample test results and sample codes of any compost producers on the Scheme shall be supplied by the appointed laboratory to the certification body and/or REAL whenever requested by either party.

12.2.2 Appointed labs are required to provide to REAL the test results for all compost samples tested by the composters on the Scheme either by email or by uploading directly onto REAL's database. Test results for all compost samples submitted by the composters for:

- a) Initial validation purposes;
- b) On-going testing to verify the continued efficacy of the PAS 100 quality management system and compost compliance with PAS 100 minimum quality criteria and any other criteria specified and agreed with the customer;
- c) Archive samples that have been tested to verify compliance with PAS100; and
- d) Re-sample test results that have been tested to verify corrective actions efficacy.

When joining the Scheme, the composters agree for the labs to disclose all the above sample results to REAL, the certification bodies and the regulators (when this is deemed appropriate by the certification bodies).

13 COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

13.1 Complaints about compost producers on the Scheme

13.1.1 Where possible, any complaint about a compost producer on the Scheme should be submitted to the relevant certification body by filling in REAL CCS Complaint Form available on the CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

However, complaints submitted verbally or by email shall also be accepted and dealt with according to the procedures described below.

13.1.2 In any case, the person receiving the complaint shall record the details of the complaint onto the REAL CCS Complaint Form to ensure the information received is recorded consistently. In the event that REAL is contacted by the complainant, he/she shall be instructed to make the complaint directly to the relevant certification body or complete the above complaint form which will be available from CCS' web site.

13.1.3 REAL is not responsible for organising and carrying out the investigation nor for liaising with any involved parties; it is the certification body's responsibility to lead the investigation and liaise with each relevant party. The certification body shall keep REAL informed about the progress and details of each investigation, and shall also keep the regulator informed for each investigation that involves the regulator.

13.1.4 The certification body may seek from REAL at any time technical interpretation of Scheme, PAS 100 and Compost Quality Protocol requirements, regulatory position statements and any relevant guidelines.

13.1.5 Within 5 working days from receipt of the complaint, the certification body shall:

- a) Establish, with REAL's guidance where appropriate, whether the investigation requires the involvement of the regulator.

NOTE: Examples of circumstances in which the investigation requires the regulator's involvement are: a) when the complainant is the regulator; b) when the complainant is not the regulator but the complaint was initially received by the regulator and logged in the regulator's complaints management system; c) when a) or b) does not apply but the complainant has alleged that one or more provisions in the site's environmental permit / waste management license is not / are not complied with AND the operational issue is relevant to PAS 100 production requirements; and d) when a) or b) does not apply but the complainant has alleged that pollution of the environment occurred or aspects related to compost quality mean that the compost may have to be regulated as 'waste'.

- b) Where possible, confirm to the complainant in writing that the complaint has been received. REAL shall be copied in the written communication;
- c) Where appropriate, inform the compost producer in writing that a complaint has been made and the nature of the complaint. REAL shall be copied in the written communication; and
- d) Where possible, gain from the complainant any information / evidence relevant to the investigation and/or if necessary, seek clarification about the nature of the complaint.

13.1.6 When the investigation requires the regulator's involvement, within 5 working days from receipt of the complaint the certification body shall:

- A. notify the regulator via the email address provided for communications, and
- B. once provided with the contacts of the regulatory officer(s) responsible for the area, discuss the complaint details with him/them and, if appropriate, with the regulator team leader(s) (e.g. via a teleconference). This shall be done with the aim to establish:
 - i. whether the complaint is validated
 - ii. whether the complaint alleges that one or more provisions in the site's environmental permit / waste management licence that are relevant to PAS 100 / Protocol production is not / are not complied with (this is a matter for the regulator to investigate);
 - iii. whether the complaint alleges that one or more requirements in PAS 100, the Compost Quality Protocol or REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules has not been complied with (this is a matter for the certification body to investigate);
 - iv. whether pollution of the environment occurred, due to the compost being unfit for purpose (this is a matter for both the regulator and the certification body to investigate);
 - v. if pollution of the environment has occurred, whether the cause was the compost being unfit for purpose OR another reason [e.g. the compost was fit for purpose but was not used as instructed by the composter] (this is a matter for both the regulator and the certification body to investigate); and
 - vi. whether a Spot Checks Visit or a Spot Sampling Visit are necessary.

13.1.7 Under the circumstances described in iii, iv and v above the certification body shall:

- a) gain any necessary information / evidence relevant to the investigation from the officer(s) responsible for enforcement of the relevant regulations in the area(s) where the composting activity takes place or the compost is stored or used;
- b) inform REAL, the area officer(s) and the regulator team leader(s) in writing, within 5 working days from the discussion (e.g. teleconference), which actions will be taken to investigate into the complaint and when they will be carried out;
- c) start the investigation within 5 working days from the discussion (e.g. teleconference);
- d) inform REAL, the area officer(s) and the regulator team leader(s) in writing about the progress made whenever a significant action occurs.

13.1.8 When the investigation does not require the regulator's involvement, the certification body shall:

- a) begin the investigation within 5 working days from receipt of the complaint;
- b) gain any necessary information / evidence relevant to the investigation from the officer(s) responsible for enforcement of the relevant regulations in the area(s) where the composting activity takes place or the compost is stored or used;
- c) inform REAL in writing of which actions will be taken to investigate into the complaint and when they will be carried out; and
- d) inform REAL in writing about the progress made whenever a significant action occurs.

13.1.9 Where it is considered appropriate by the investigating party/ies, the certification body shall carry out Spot Checks Visits or Spot Sampling Visits promptly and normally within 10 working days from the discussion.

13.1.10 Where it is considered appropriate by the investigating party/ies, the certification body shall also take sample/s of the relevant compost grade and send it/them to an REAL appointed laboratory for testing on the quality parameter(s) on which the compost is alleged deficient.

13.1.11 There is no obligation for a Spot Checks Visit or a Spot Sampling Visit to be pre-announced; if pre-announced, the notice period should be the shortest practicable.

13.1.12 On completion of the investigation and decision on whether the complaint is upheld, within 5 working days the certification body shall inform the complainant and the compost producer in writing whether the complaint was upheld and the key reason(s) for that decision. REAL shall be copied into the written communication, as too shall the regulator if involved in the investigation.

13.1.13 Regarding a Spot Checks Visit or a Spot Sampling Visit, the compost producer against whom the complaint has been made shall pay the certification body any fee charged; this fee is payable whether or not the complaint is upheld. The approved laboratory's fee for compost sample testing will be paid by the compost producer, regardless of whether or not the complaint is upheld. If the complaint is upheld, the compost producer shall also pay the certification body any investigation costs it has incurred in addition to, or instead of, a Spot Checks Visit. The certification body's documentation shall clearly identify the fee payable by the compost producer for a Spot Checks Visit and refer him/her to this clause in REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Rules.

13.1.14 [Animal Health \(England, Scotland and Wales\)](#) and [Veterinary Service \(Northern Ireland\)](#) shall also be kept informed about the investigation if the complaint is relevant to them.

13.2 Complaints about the Certification Bodies

13.2.1 Any complaints from participating compost producers about the services provided by the certification bodies shall be submitted to the relevant certification body at first and include the following information:

- Organisation name and contact details;
- Name and contact details of the person within the organisation making the complaint; and
- Description of the aspects of the service that the complaint refers to.

13.2.2 Upon receipt of a complaint, the certification body shall promptly inform REAL and investigate into the complaint according to the certification body's internal complaint procedures. It shall also take any necessary actions to address the complaint, report on the outcome to REAL and ensure that the complainant is kept informed in writing of the outcome of the complaint.

13.2.3 If the complainant remains unsatisfied of the outcome of the investigation, the complaint shall be referred to REAL and the complainant shall be informed accordingly.

13.2.4 Each time it meets, or upon request, REAL's Compost Certification Scheme Technical Advisory Committee shall be provided with an anonymised list of all complaints about the certification body, including the number and a summary of their subjects and outcomes.

13.3 Appeal against certification bodies' decisions

13.3.1 Any individual who or organisation that appeals a decision taken by the certification body shall follow the certification body's relevant appeal procedures.

13.3.2 The certification body shall keep REAL informed of all appeals received, their subjects and outcomes.

13.3.3 If the individual or organisation who made the appeal remains unsatisfied of the outcome of the CB's appeal procedures, the case shall be referred to REAL and the individual or organisation shall be informed accordingly.

Annex 1 SCHEME'S CLARIFICATION OF PAS 100 AND COMPOST QUALITY PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS

Section I ALLOWED INPUT WASTES

1. Digestates are allowed as an input material to a PAS 100 and CQP certified composting process only if:
 - a) derived from input types allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Quality Protocol and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110; or
 - b) derived from input materials in Appendix B of the Compost Quality Protocol.'
2. Any skip waste stream that mixes biowaste with inert and/or any other types of non-biodegradable waste or materials, at any stage, are not acceptable as inputs under this certification scheme, even after the biowaste has been separated from the mixture.
3. 'Compostable' packaging and plastic products made of biodegradable material are permitted only if the product is independently certified as conforming to all composting-relevant parts of a standard accepted by the Environment Agency or Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Standards accepted at the time of publishing the Compost Quality Protocol are BS EN 13432, BS EN 14995, ASTM D6400 and AIB-Vinçotte International S.A.'s 'Program OK 2' criteria for 'home compostable' packaging and plastics. These scheme rules require that the valid certificate has been issued by an independent certification body.
4. The following 'pre-treated' waste types are allowed under the Appendix B of the Compost Quality Protocol:
 - 19 02 03 Premixed wastes composed only of non-hazardous wastes. 'Acceptable only if derived solely from input types allowed by this Quality Protocol and remains segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste types' (e.g. wastes bulked up at a waste transfer station).
 - 19 02 06 Sludges from physico/chemical treatment other than those mentioned in 19 02 05. 'Acceptable only if derived solely from physical treatment and/or pH adjustment of input types allowed by this Quality Protocol and remains segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste types' (e.g. wastes that have been sanitised at a third party supplier site).
 - 19 12 12 Other wastes (including mixtures of materials) from mechanical treatment of wastes other than those mentioned in 19 12 11. 'Acceptable only if derived solely from input types allowed by this Quality Protocol and remains segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste types' (e.g. wastes that have been de-packaged or shredded at a third party supplier site).

5. In the event the composting process accepts any of the pre-treated waste types specified in clause 14.1.4 from a supplier site, the composteer shall ensure that:
 - a) the input materials pre-treated at the supplier site are only those allowed in Appendix B of the Compost Quality Protocol and comply with section 6 of PAS 100:2011; and
 - b) appropriate procedures are in place to audit the supplier site and ensure the above requirements are satisfied. Such procedures must be documented and the outcome of such audits recorded and made available to the certification body when requested.

Section II COMPOSTING PROCESS

1. The composteer's criteria for completion of the composting process shall be clearly defined in the compost producer's Standard Operating Procedures. The criteria shall be specific to each relevant compost grade.
2. Composting process duration shall be evaluated as follows:
 - A. If the composting process does not include any maturation phase after screening, the composting process is considered to start when the batch formation has been completed and to finish on the date of the start of any screening activities.
 - B. If the composting process includes a minimum maturation period after screening, the composting process duration is considered to start when the batch formation has been completed and to finish when the minimum maturation period has been completed.
3. Any batch that is dispatched before composting process completion shall be dispatched as non-PAS 100 conforming material.
4. Composting process with different, parallel sanitization phases

A compost producer may operate two different, parallel sanitisation phases within a single composting process and produce one or more compost particle size grade(s) from that composting process only if:

- a) the sanitized batches coming from the two different sanitization phases are combined at the start of the stabilisation phase,
- b) at the start of the stabilisation phase the batches are combined in a defined, consistent proportion specified in the Standard Operating Procedures,
- c) the entire composting process and the compost particle size grades it produces are described in one Standard Operating Procedures document,
- d) traceability is maintained between the different sanitization phases as well as through the rest of the process,
- e) records are kept that enable traceability checks to be carried out by the certification body, and

- f) the certification body's inspection includes each sanitisation phase and the related QMS records.

5. Addition of allowed input waste types after first sanitization

A compost producer is allowed to add input materials after a first sanitisation phase only provided that:

- a) the added input materials are allowed under the PAS 100 'only' or PAS 100 & the Compost the Quality Protocol Certification Scheme (according to the scope of certification sought);
- b) an additional sanitisation takes place after the new input materials are added to the process;
- c) the entire composting process and the compost particle size grades it produces are described in one Standard Operating Procedures document;
- d) traceability is maintained between the different sanitisation phases as well as through the rest of the process;
- e) records are kept that enable traceability checks to be carried out by the certification body; and
- f) the certification body's inspection includes each sanitisation phase and the related QMS records.

6. Composting process location

All activities of a composting process⁵ shall take place at the same site, on a specifically designated area, or areas, within a single site's boundaries unless the circumstances match those defined in rule 14.2.4.7.

7. Activities within the same composting process taking place at different locations

This clause applies to a compost producer who, for a single composting process, carries out some of the activities listed under the definition of composting process¹² at separate sites. This is allowed provided that:

- a) the compost producer clearly states on his/her Standard Operating Procedures and any other relevant QMS documents where each of the activities take place; and
- b) all sites where activities take place have an environmental permit / waste management licence / pollution prevention control permit / exemption authorised by the regulator for carrying out the relevant activities; and
- c) all sites where activities take place comply with the animal by-product regulations if input materials include animal by-products; and
- d) traceability is maintained between the different locations for the composting process and records are kept that enable traceability checks to be carried out by the certification body; and

⁵ See definition of 'Composting process' under the Terms and definitions section of this document.


- e) the organisation nominates one person who oversees all the activities of that composting process and is responsible for implementing and maintaining the certification scheme procedures for all sites. This person shall take responsibility for the all composting process, from the input waste delivery to the dispatch of a fit for use product; and
- f) each location shall be inspected by the certification body; and
- g) the different sites that comprise the single composting process are supervised by the same organisation, which is responsible for PAS and Protocol compliance at those sites; this is the organisation that will be awarded with certification and is responsible for the entire composting process, from the reception of input materials to the dispatch of compost products; and
- h) if any of the sites are operated by organisations sub-contracted to the main organisation, a formal partnership arrangement is agreed between the relevant organisations to ensure that all conditions above are adhered to at all times. Under this scenario the sub-contracted organisation shall also nominate a person responsible for PAS 100 compliance at the sub-contracted site.

Any additional related cost incurred by the CB for inspecting different locations shall be borne by the compost producer.

Section III COMPOSTING PROCESS ADDITIVES AND OTHER PRODUCTS

1. Under this scheme incorporation of a mineral-based (e.g. rock dust) or biodegradable additive during the composting process is allowed provided that the conditions specified in clause 6.2 of PAS 100 are met.
2. The additive shall be used according to the following conditions:
 - a) The additive is used according to the product manufacturer's recommendations and guidelines for use and the composting process is carried out as per the producer's Standard Operating Procedures.
 - b) The producer's record of the additive use clearly states the proportion / rate, how and when the additive has been used.
 - c) The producer identifies any potential risks to compost quality or the environment(s) in which the compost is likely to be used deriving from the use of the additive. If necessary to show that such risks have been mitigated, compost batches are sampled and tested corresponding with the identified potential risks.
 - d) A record of the above evaluation and each sampled and tested compost batch results shall be kept at the compost production site and made available to the certification body when requested.

3. The certification body shall review the records and test results associated with the use of the additive and must be satisfied that compost compliance quality and compliance with PAS100 requirements were not adversely affected.
4. The compost producer shall include in the Standard Operating Procedures the name of any composting process additive used. The SOPs or a linked QMS document shall also state how often the additive is used (or exceptional circumstances in which it would be used if not used on a regular basis), how much is used 'per use', and how it would be applied / incorporated into the composting process (including the stage(s) at which it is applied).
5. Any pesticide or biocide (e.g. fly control product, disinfectant etc.) applied on the input materials to the composting process, the material undergoing composting, composted materials or surfaces coming into contact with any of these materials shall:
 - a) must be authorised/registered under The Biocidal Products Regulations (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/bpd/index.htm> and <http://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/bpd/prodauth.htm>).
 - b) The following HSE search database allows you to search for approved non-agricultural pesticide products in different ways:
<http://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/pesticides/view?objectId=2308>
 - c) be approved by the HSE⁶ under Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) for professional use⁷ (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/copr/copr.htm>) or,
6. Any pesticide or biocide (e.g. fly control product, disinfectant etc.) applied on the input materials to the composting process, the material undergoing composting, composted materials or surfaces coming into contact with any of these materials shall be used in accordance with the product manufacturer's instructions.
7. All the conditions specified in section 14.3 for additives must also be met for fly control products.

⁶ As the regulatory authority for biocides HSE is responsible for administering the COPR regulatory scheme in relation to non-agricultural pesticides. In the UK, before a non-agricultural pesticide can be advertised, sold, supplied, stored or used, it has to be approved under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR) (as amended 1997) or must be authorised/registered under The Biocidal Products Regulations. Products controlled under COPR are gradually moving over to be regulated under the BPR, with COPR eventually becoming redundant. Details of agricultural pesticides/plant protection products approved by the Chemicals Regulations Directive (Pesticides) are available on the CRD (Pesticides)  website.

⁷ Professional - means that the product can only be used by people who are required to use pesticides as part of their work and who have received appropriate information, instruction and training.

Section IV TEMPERATURE MONITORING EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION

Calibration of equipment used for monitoring temperature shall be carried out at least once per year by an independent third party calibration service provider.

Section V RE-SAMPLING

If the re-sampled batch test result(s) for the failed parameter is / are pass(es), the batch can be released as PAS 100 compliant. However, any such pass does NOT count towards regaining the passes for proving the efficacy of the routine composting process.

Section VI DEALING WITH NON-CONFORMING BATCH AND INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE

1. Options for dealing with a sampled and tested compost batch that does not conform with PAS 100's minimum quality and/or plant response requirements are set out in clause 15.2 of the PAS.
2. During the investigation required in clause 16.1 of PAS 100 no batch of compost produced after the batch that failed shall be dispatched as PAS 100 conforming unless it is sampled, tested on the parameter(s) corresponding with the failure(s), and found to have passed the test(s).
3. During the investigation, if the batch sampled and tested after the 'triggering fail batch' fails on the same parameter, the composter shall immediately inform the certification body and supply details of the failures and actions taken to date. The composter shall do the same if any other incident of two or more consecutive failures on the same parameter occurs during the investigation. The certification body shall evaluate such information within 10 working days of its receipt and decide whether to suspend the certificate of compliance, having taken account of the severity of the failures and progress of the investigation. *N.B.: Suspension of certification may be actioned before the composter has completed the investigation, as appropriate to the severity of the failures and progress of the investigation. In the case of where failed batches have already been dispatched the recipient must be informed and a record kept of that communication. Information may be shared with the regulator.*

REAL's guidance on [Actions you are expected to undertake in the event of any test failure](#).
Is available on the CCS web site, www.qualitycompost.org.uk

Section VII COMPOSTS VISUAL ASSESSMENTS

1. Each batch shall be visually assessed by the composter's relevant personnel for conformance with PAS 100 minimum quality criteria covering physical contaminants and stones. Visual assessment of each batch may be replaced by testing each batch for, physical

contaminants and stones, as long as the test methods /procedures used for the assessment are documented.

Note e.g. the composter may wish to use a sieve test to check particle size distribution and physical contaminant content

2. Within three working days of completing the minimum composting process and screening, the composter shall record their own assessment of whether the batch can be dispatched as conforming or not.

Section VIII DISPATCH INFORMATION

1. Any compost producer that supplies compost **with a 'waste' status** for use in:

- agriculture & soil/field-grown horticulture,
- soft landscaping,
- land restoration,
- professional & amateur horticulture,
- forestry and
- any other market

shall ensure that compost is supplied in accordance with waste regulatory controls.

Any such compost producer shall ensure that the compost recipient is informed that compost dispatched is a 'waste' and, thus, that it has to be transported, stored and used according to waste regulatory controls⁸.

2. When dispatching / supplying / selling any of his / her certified compost grade(s) the compost producer shall ensure that the information supplied for each consignment about the specific compost grade includes:
 - a) REAL's conformity mark for this scheme (the version appropriate to the scope of certification),
 - b) the compost grade's unique certification number,

⁸ For example, compost of 'waste' status should be transported by a registered waste carrier, and the recipient should be supplied with a duty of care notice and hold an environmental permit / waste management licence / pollution prevention and control permit / exemption in order to store or use the compost. Waste regulatory controls should apply to supply chain organisations / individuals as well as the user of a 'waste' compost. These requirements apply, whether the compost recipient is a distributor, wholesaler, retailer, anyone / any other organisation in the compost supply chain, or the compost user.

- c) all the information required in section 17 of PAS 100 on 'Labelling and Marking', in sections 3.2 and Appendix E of the Compost Quality Protocol,
 - d) one of the following:
 - A. a declaration of conformance with the PAS 100 & Compost Quality Protocol if the compost is to be used in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, or
 - B. a declaration of conformance with PAS 100, in connection with the relevant compost grade.
3. Compost supply to manufacturers of growing media, turf dressings, root zone mixes, topsoils, soil improvers and mulches

When compost is dispatched to an organisation that uses compost as an ingredient in the manufacture of products such as topsoils, turf dressing, root zone mixes and growing media, or generate a soil improver and/or mulch grade of compost as part of their own product manufacturing, the composter shall supply a Contract of Supply (in countries where the CQP applies) or a Product Information Sheet to the manufacturer which contains clear terms and conditions for product storage and use. In countries where the CQP applies, it is advisable that the composter obtains and keeps a copy of the contract that has been signed by both parties. The composter is not be liable if the compost is not stored, manufactured, transported and used according to Terms and Conditions in the Contract of Supply.

Note

REAL acknowledges that, after the compost has been supplied by a composter to a product manufacturer, the manufacturer may need to:

- a) store the compost for a period of time depending on customer demand (this should be done according to good practice for storage);*
- b) move the compost to maintain an open and stable structure while the material is being stored;*
- c) re-grade the material into different particle size ranges appropriate to the range of products that will consist of or include compost (as per the manufacturer's particular specifications), to ensure that the product(s) supplied to the end user is/are fit-for-purpose;*
- d) blend the compost with other materials that are not controlled wastes, if the manufacturer does not have an appropriate authorisation for managing controlled wastes); and/or*
- e) blend the compost with other materials that include controlled wastes, if the manufacturer has an appropriate authorisation for managing controlled wastes*

REAL acknowledges that any one or more of the above activities may result in change of the compost's characteristics after receipt by the product manufacturing customer. However, provided that the composter has supplied the certified compost grade that conforms to any specification agreed with the manufacturer and the grade complies with PAS 100 requirements, at the time of dispatch the compost is regarded as conforming to the Compost Quality Protocol. Thus, the composter has fulfilled his/her part of the contractual agreement, which is to dispatch 'product' status compost to the customer.'

Section IX STORAGE OF COMPOST ON AN UN-AUTHORIZED AREA, ON-SITE OR OFF-SITE IN ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1. The clauses under this section are applicable in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It does not apply to Scotland.
2. With regard to England and Wales, the EA's briefing note 'Waste Protocols Project, Change to end of waste criteria – notice to local authorities (April 2009) explains that quality waste-derived products can be stored outside waste management controls on the site of production or off-site, providing that the relevant Quality Protocol's criteria are met. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has not published to date an equivalent briefing note; however REAL obtained a written confirmation from NIEA that the same position adopted in England and Wales applies to Northern Ireland.
3. In effect, this allows compost certified to the Compost Quality Protocol to be stored on an unpermitted / unlicensed area of the site or off-site, only provided that:
 - A. The requirements of the Compost Quality Protocol, including conditions described in clauses 1.3.1 and 2.2.1, are complied with;
 - B. the composting process and resulting compost grade(s) that are moved into the unpermitted / unlicensed area are certified to PAS 100 and the Compost Quality Protocol;
 - C. the certificate of compliance with PAS 100 & Compost Quality Protocol is valid during the period the compost is stored on the unpermitted / unlicensed area;
 - D. prior to being moved onto the unpermitted / unlicensed storage area:
 - i. the compost batch(es) have completed the minimum composting process duration that the process has been validated for; this includes any maturation applicable to the graded compost;
 - ii. the compost batch(es) have been screened to one or more of the certified compost grades;
 - iii. the resulting compost grade(s) are fit for all their intended purposes throughout the storage before dispatch to the customer;
 - E. if sampled and tested, test results for those graded compost batch(es) show compliance with all Quality Policy's minimum quality criteria;
 - F. the graded compost batch(es) stored have not become contaminated such that Quality Policy's minimum quality criteria are no longer met;
 - G. the compost is stored awaiting dispatch or to be used in a market sector designated by the Compost Quality Protocol; and
 - H. the records kept enable traceability checks.

4. Traceability means the compost producer must keep records that show which graded compost batches have been delivered / moved to storage, which location(s) they have been delivered / moved to and the dates when these activities took place. Please refer to the Compost Quality Protocol for 'contract of supply' requirements that apply when compost is dispatched to a customer.
5. Please note that this position exempts the storage of compost 'product ONLY from waste management controls'. The compost shall be stored and used according to any other regulatory controls that are relevant, including any specific requirements applicable to the land where the compost is stored.

Section X COMPOST PRODUCER'S RECORD OF COMPLAINTS

Each participating compost producer shall make and keep a record of any complaint relating to the compost(s) under assessment. These records shall be reviewed by the inspector, as part of the audit, and taken into account during evaluation of compost quality. Their influence on non-conformance decisions will depend on the number and nature of any such complaints.

ANNEX 2 CQP APPENDIX B DEROGATION

1. A compost producer who has applied for initial certification or renewal of certification may apply to REAL for a time- and/or tonnage-limited derogation to feed into his/her PAS and Protocol composting process a specific waste from a specific source, if:
 - a) that waste type and appropriate description is not included in the CQP's Appendix B;
 - b) that waste is biodegradable and complies with clauses 6.1.1 to 6.1.6 in PAS 100:2011;
 - c) that waste is assessed for acceptance or rejection and managed as per clauses 6.1.7 to 6.1.10 in PAS 100:2011 and the SOPs applicable to the composting process.
2. Any application for derogation shall be assessed by REAL and the relevant regulators. Relevant regulators are those responsible for waste regulatory controls in the country in which the composting process is located, may include the regulator responsible for waste regulatory controls in any UK country in which 'waste' compost derived from the derogation waste is intended to be placed on the market or disposed of, and shall include the organisation responsible for animal by-products regulatory controls if the derogation waste is within the scope of European Union or national animal by-products regulations.
3. The terms and conditions of any derogation allowed by REAL shall be adhered to throughout the derogation period. Such terms shall include that:
 - A. an appropriate code and description of the derogated waste is in the permit or registered exemption applicable to the composting process;
 - B. batches that contain the derogated waste are;
 - i. composted in accordance with the applicable permit, animal by-products approval (if applicable) and SOPs,
 - ii. kept separate from composting batches and graded compost that comprises only input materials allowed in the Protocol's Appendix B),
 - iii. traceable through the composting process, during screening, in storage and through to dispatch;
 - iv. placed on the market as 'waste' status compost;
 - C. liquor arising from batches that contain the derogated waste is managed as per the specific conditions in the derogation (if approved);
 - D. compost derived from the derogated waste is dispatched only to recipients who have an environmental permit for use or registered exemption appropriate to the quantity of 'waste' status compost supplied and how it will be managed;
 - E. compost derived from the derogated waste is dispatched only to recipients who are aware that they must comply with waste regulation and the regulator's appropriate guidance (e.g. [Environment Agency Technical Guidance Note, No. EPR 8.01](#));
 - F. the compost producer provides information to the officer who is responsible for regulating the composting process that enables the regulator to check whether the dispatch, transportation, storage, use and/or disposal of the compost derived from the derogated waste has been carried out in accordance with waste regulatory controls; and
 - G. the compost producer makes and keeps records that enable the certification body to

- check whether the compost producer has managed the derogated waste in accordance with the specific derogation issued; and
- H. the compost producer informs the regulator(s) of any corrective actions (relevant to the derogation) that are required. Information will be shared between the regulator and the certification body
4. Waste that is the subject of an application for derogation shall not be taken on to the permitted composting site until the start date in the derogation issued by REAL. Similarly, it shall not be taken and composted after the derogation's end date. If the application is unsuccessful, REAL will not issue derogation and the waste referred to in the application shall not be fed into the PAS and Protocol composting process.
 5. When any condition of the derogation is not complied with, or if REAL terminates the derogation, the waste subject to the derogation shall no longer be taken and composted.
 6. REAL reserves the right to terminate derogation at any time, with immediate effect or on a specified date, by email or letter sent to the compost producer. Other parties named in the derogation shall be copied into REAL's communication; those parties include the relevant regulator(s).
 7. The compost producer shall pay REAL's charge for assessing an application for derogation, regardless of whether derogation is issued (see REAL's current schedule of charges for assessing derogation applications).
 8. These scheme rules cover the compost production and quality scope stated above in this document. Certification bodies shall only offer certification within the defined scope of this scheme. Thus, the certification body shall confine its requirements, evaluation and decision on certification to those matters specifically related to the scope of the certification being considered.