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Latest updates from the CCS

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- **Upcoming REAL and REA events**
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New version of position on technical requirements document published

CCS has published an updated version of its Position on Technical Requirements. This new version contains one additional position: The position on QMS internal audits involving the author or co-author of the QMS.

Having considered feedback from composters, consultants, and other stakeholders through the Technical Advisory Committee, the CCS position is that someone who authored the QMS is not considered to be auditing their own work when they audit site staff's implementation of, and adherence to, the QMS, provided they are not personally responsible for the operational activities or recordkeeping being assessed. If they are personally responsible for those activities or records, the restriction applies in full.

This position is taken on the basis that the internal QMS audit is a check on day-to-day operational compliance and recordkeeping. The intent is to audit whether site personnel are correctly implementing the QMS and keeping records of work in accordance with documented procedures, rather than to assess the design or structure of the QMS documentation itself.

You can read the full position [here](#).

Upcoming REAL and REA events

CCS Producers' Forum - Tuesday 20th October

The next meeting of the CCS Producers' Forum will be held on Tuesday 20th October, and we would like to invite all composters to attend. This meeting will be held online from 11:00 to 13:30.

The Producers' Forum consists of representatives of composters who are either certified or working towards certification. The Forum provides producers with the opportunity to raise and discuss issues they may be experiencing in relation to certification under the scheme and other issues that may impact on the scheme.

You can review summaries of previous fora [here](#).

If you are interested in attending the Forum, you can register interest and confirm attendance by contacting oliver@realschemes.org.uk. If you are not able to attend this meeting but you would like to have an issue raised on your behalf, please contact Gregor Keenan, the CCS Producers' Representative, at gregor@keenanrecycling.co.uk.

Understanding PAS100 in Full – 20th & 21st October

REA Organics is running a 2 x 2-hour online training course on 20th & 21st October, 10:00–12:00 each day, focused on the requirements of PAS 100, the End of Waste rules (Compost Resource Framework and Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish positions), and the Compost Certification Scheme Rules requirements.

The course is aimed at compost producers, as well as consultants and anyone wanting a detailed understanding of PAS 100 and CCS requirements. Topics covered include HACCP and critical control points, input materials, sampling and lab analysis, record keeping and traceability, and End of Waste requirements across the UK.

For more details on the course and to book your place click [here](#).

Research Hub to make its reports open access

The Research Hub is pleased to announce that its completed project reports will be made available on an 'open access' basis to any interested readers. Following discussions with the Hub's governance bodies, comprising stakeholders from across industry and regulators, fees for non-Scheme participants to access the Hub's research have been removed. This is part of a wider plan to raise the profile of the Hub's work, helping it to fulfil its aim of supporting the Compost Certification Scheme by providing evidence to inform developments in processes and policy.

Completed reports now available to read for free:

- Digestate Characteristics and Valorisation Options
- Residual Biogas Potential Test Improvements and Alternatives
- Carbon Accounting for Compost and Digestate
- Plastic Contamination Method Assessment

Coming soon:

- Risk Assessments to Inform Resource Frameworks Revision
- End-of-Waste Case Information for Digestate-derived Products

By sharing the results of the research funded by CCS participants, the Hub can maximise the impact of its work on policy and regulation developments. The Hub will be identifying target audiences for its research and taking note of which stakeholder groups are using the reports. This approach will consolidate the Hub's reputation as a source of robust evidence to support the organics recycling sector. The greater transparency represented by open access will bring the Hub into alignment with bodies such as WRAP and will contribute to improving public trust in the sector.

As always, Hub reports are free for Scheme participants to access. You can contact grace@realschemes.org.uk at any time if you would like to receive a copy of any of the Hub's reports. If you have any questions or comments, please be in touch.

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