



Dear all,

Over the past few months, we've been busy with the appointed laboratories and appointed certification bodies discussing ways in which we can develop the Scheme. Some of these discussions have revolved around the findings of research projects presented in reports recently published by WRAP. Other discussions have revolved around issues that the laboratories or certification bodies have been experiencing. Please read through the following information as it contains important reminders about requirements that must be met as a certified producer.

Sampling

In response to a report recently published by WRAP, we've been discussing sampling methodologies with the certification bodies. It was reported that some producers were not following the CCS sampling guidance correctly. For example, operators were not taking the correct number of incremental samples to combine for the final sample. This is problematic because samples taken for testing will not be representative of the batch and therefore the results might not reflect the entire batch/portion of production. *Please read through and follow the sampling guidance provided on our website [here](#).* It is very important that these guidelines are followed in order to produce truly representative samples. We will be considering ways in which we can strengthen the monitoring of this.

Certification codes

We have been notified that producers continue to send samples for testing (for certification purposes) without providing certification codes or providing incorrect certification codes. The laboratories cannot upload test reports to the CCS database unless the correct certification code has been provided. If the report is not uploaded to the CCS database then *it will not count towards your certification*. Please ensure that you check the certification codes displayed on your certificates for each grade, and please provide these

codes clearly on the PAS100 Compost Analysis Request Form when sending samples for testing (for certification purposes). Guidance on sampling requirements can be found on our website [here](#).

'Re-testing'

We have also been notified that producers continue to 're-test' without implementing any corrective actions following a failure. It is vital that you abide by the requirements of PAS100 with regard to failed test results. You must investigate the cause of the failure, review your quality management system in relation to HACCP, and implement corrective actions before sending further sample(s) for testing. You cannot use the 'archive' sample to test for positive release. You cannot send another sample from the same batch for testing without doing the above - if you decide to 're-sample' the failed batch, you must first apply appropriate corrective actions. If you are still uncertain on the requirements then please see the guidance on our website [here](#) or contact your certification body.

Finally, our email addresses have now changed following the transfer in administration of the Biofertiliser Certification Scheme and Compostable Packaging Certification Scheme. If you wish to contact Justyna Staff (Head of Certification Schemes), please now use the email address justyna@realschemes.org.uk. If you wish to contact me, please use the email address georgia@realschemes.org.uk.

Thank you all.

Kind regards,

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