



## REAL'S CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR QUALITY COMPOSTS

### Compost Certification Scheme newsletter



The Compost Certification Scheme (CCS) has been established as a robust and reputable quality assurance and end-of-waste scheme. In this newsletter, you will find various ways in which the scheme has been developed this year accompanied by related industry news.

#### Research Hub

##### Governance

The REAL Compost and Biofertiliser Certification Schemes' Research Hub has taken shape with the first Research Fees charged, the first project tenders anticipated for release this year, and the first Research Panel meeting taking place this month. A Research Panel is in place to propose to a Governance Committee

#### Certification Body telephone numbers

##### OF&G

+44 (0)1939 291 800

##### NSF

+44 (0)1993 885 610

##### ACL

+44 (0)1984 624 989

#### Approved Laboratory telephone numbers

##### ATL

+44 (0)1449 721 192

##### D&F

which projects should be funded, agree the process for appointing organisations to deliver the objectives of projects funded by the Hub, appoint members of the Project Panel, and determine the ways in which the results from the projects may be used. The Governance Committee is in place for the Hub to manage the funds, sign off which projects will be funded, and oversee the work of the Hub.

### Research projects

We invited ideas and proposals for potential projects until 13th February. These will soon be presented to the Research Panel and a list of projects will be finalised and then circulated to scheme participants (composters). All operators will be able to vote to prioritise which projects should be funded by the Hub.

During stakeholder meetings like the CCS Producers' Forum, individuals discussed ideas for potential research projects. Evidence-building to support changes to the E. coli parameter limit in PAS 100 or revision of the plant response test method, for example. Others suggested exploring opportunities for new manufacturing equipment or markets for oversize e.g. biomass.

### Benefits

Funding for R&D work is vital if we are to see any more significant changes to PAS 100, the test methods, or other aspects affecting operation and certification under the scheme. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this with anyone but more information can be found on the Research Hub page of our website [here](#). We look forward to sharing the benefits of the Hub!

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### Market Development Working Group

We are making progress with our plans for market development. The first meeting of our Market Development Working Group took place recently with a wide range of topics on the agenda from plastic contamination to organic certification. This group has been set up to provide industry with the opportunity to build and develop new and existing markets for *quality compost* and *biofertiliser*. We will be liaising with the markets for certified compost and digestate, the environmental regulators, the Research Hub, certified compost and digestate producers, and reporting to our Technical Advisory Committee. More news on this work to come!

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### CCS Scheme Rules

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+44 (0)1514 208 741

#### NRM

+44 (0)1344 886338

### Media platforms

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#### LinkedIn

[www.linkedin.com/company/compost-certification-scheme/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/compost-certification-scheme/)

#### Twitter

[www.twitter.com/compostcert](http://www.twitter.com/compostcert)

### PAS 100:2018 published

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In September last year, PAS 100:2018 *Specification for Composted Materials* was published. This version is the result of an extensive stakeholder consultation process and the changes were made to ensure that compost produced according to the requirements is always fit-for-purpose. All certified composters are now complying with this version.

### Appendix B Derogation

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Certified composters can benefit from a derogation, issued by the Environment Agency, by accepting a wider variety of waste materials.

The Agency has issued a derogation enabling wastes with EWC codes 19 05 01 and 19 05 02 to be included as acceptable inputs for the production of Quality Protocol certified compost.

Wastes produced from the aerobic treatment of solid wastes with the

Following the revision of PAS 100 and a consultation period, the rules that set out the certification scheme requirements have been revised. The CCS Scheme Rules now open up the possibility of certification for a wider variety of compost producers, introduce new certification marks, require the collection of more data on processes and production, introduce further checks to the certification process, and introduce the Schemes' Research Hub and Research Fees. The rules have also been revised to ensure the document is suitable for UKAS accreditation. We have addressed UKAS' technical comments on PAS 100 and the CCS Scheme Rules so are nearer the 'finish line' for setting up specific UKAS accreditation for the scheme!

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## Quality Assurance

The new version of the Scheme Rules introduces a third category of certification. The 'Quality Assurance' category provides the opportunity for composters to join a quality assurance scheme.

If composters do not require or do not wish to attain 'end-of-waste' status for compost, they can apply to the scheme for certification to PAS 100 and the Scheme Rules. This might be desirable for smaller producers spreading compost onto their own land. Certification will assure a well-managed process and a safe, good quality compost without the need to achieve 'product' status. Certification will provide guarantees that the production process is appropriate and well-managed, based on a robust quality management system, and the compost has been produced in a hygienic manner and is consistently safe and good quality.

However, compost certified to PAS 100 and the Compost Certification Scheme Rules in this category will continue to be supplied, stored and used under 'waste' regulatory controls (i.e. not as a 'product'), if derived from biodegradable wastes.

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The Certification Bodies' application forms have been updated to reflect this and can be found in this section of our website [here](#).

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descriptions 'non-composted fraction of municipal and similar wastes' (EWC 19 05 01) and 'non-composted fraction of animal and vegetable waste' (EWC 19 05 02) have been assessed as acceptable input materials.

This derogation is supported by REAL CCS and all producers can now accept these wastes as permissible feedstocks to their composting processes, subject to meeting the requirements set by the Agency [here](#).

## QMS standards Scotland

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Certified composters supplying compost in or to Scotland can now benefit from a new market opened by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS). QMS has revised its standards for Cattle and Sheep Assurance Scheme members to allow the use of PAS-certified *green waste* compost as animal bedding.

This position was released following a consultation process and is approved by the Scottish Government, SEPA, APHA, and REAL CCS.

We remind compost producers to check and record the intended use, especially for compliance with PAS 100:2018, but the requirements for QMS members can be found in the scheme addendum [here](#).

*Composters with a certificate supplying compost as a 'product' in Scotland are awarded the new certification mark: 'PAS 100 Product Scotland'.*

## Resources & Waste Strategy

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The Resources and Waste Strategy was published and announced plans for the introduction of mandatory food waste collections for local authorities. On top of this welcome news, the strategy also highlights support for the composting industry:

- Government plans to carry out and publish a review of policies to support



## Certification Marks

There are now three certification marks that reflect the different certification categories. The 'PAS 100 QUALITY ASSURED' mark will be issued for compost certified to PAS 100 and the Compost Certification Scheme Rules; for compost that does not have 'product' status but is certified to a quality standard, and the compost and composting process is therefore, 'quality assured'.



+44 (0)207 981 0875



[www.qualitycompost.org.uk](http://www.qualitycompost.org.uk)



[info@realschemes.org.uk](mailto:info@realschemes.org.uk)

bio-waste recycling through composting (and AD) to ensure the maximisation of the benefits whilst managing the risks.

- Defra would like to ensure that what is recycled is good quality, and that contaminating materials such as metals and plastic are kept within recognised limits.
- Support for compost and digestate quality standards, noting it is important they are fully adopted and regularly reviewed to check fitness for purpose or to see if they can be improved with evidence.
- Defra is also exploring how Government policy can address issues surrounding plastic contamination.
- The strategy announced that they will review the quality protocols, which includes the CQP.

The full strategy can be found [here](#).

## Clean Air Strategy

The Clean Air Strategy was published last month and can be found [here](#). Announcements include Defra tasking an expert group to make recommendations on the optimal form of regulation to minimise pollution from fertiliser use. It informs that the recommendations should prioritise the use of organic fertilisers.

Compost Certification Scheme is part of Renewable Energy Assurance Limited.  
Compost Certification Scheme 80 Strand, London WC2R 0DT / Tel: +0207 981 0875

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