

Guidance on QMS requirements

CCS guidance on Quality Meat Scotland requirements

This version of the guidance document does not introduce any technical changes from the previous version, only a few minor edits (e.g., made specific to CCS/compost only and no longer BCS/digestate) and minor updates (e.g., tense as no longer a recent development).

Quality Meat Scotland declared compost as safe for farmers to use – with restrictions

Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) issued an update of their standards covering the use of composts (and digestates). As a result, the Bulk Organic Fertilisers section allowed composts to be applied to land, provided they are PAS 100 certified, meet additional physical contaminant restrictions, particle size restrictions, and are applied in accordance with the guidance table provided. The new standards came into effect from 1 January 2015. The standards are available to view online [HERE](#).

Summary of the QMS standard's additional requirements

Physical contaminant restrictions for compost:

The quantities of physical contaminants do not exceed 50% of those permitted by PAS 100:2011.

Particle size restrictions:

For grass (grazed and harvested) and fodder and forage crops no compost grade greater than 20mm should be used. For combinable crops no compost grade greater than 40mm should be used.

Additional paperwork:

'PAS100:2011 and PAS110:2014 require that compost and digestate suppliers provide their customers with specific information relating to consignments of compost and digestate supplied. It is recommended that this information forms the basis of a Contract of Supply between scheme members and their compost/digestate suppliers.' (QMS Cattle & Sheep Standards (Issue 13))

The CCS requirements

PAS 100 (footnote a) to Table 3) requires you to check with your customers if they have any additional quality requirements and – if so – that these are included in your Quality Policy. This will be verified at your annual certification audit. Please ask whether any farmers that you might be working with in Scotland are QMS members, and if so that you comply with the QMS standard's requirements. If you are using a third-party contractor, then they should inform you of any additional quality requirements.