

SECTION 3 CERTIFICATION

Organic farming production standards and legislation

All food products sold as organic must by law follow certain standards (both European and national) and have to be regularly inspected and certified by approved certification bodies. The European regulations for organic food have been completed revised in 2007 and 2008: **Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007**³⁷ on organic food and the **Commission Regulation (EC) 889/2008**³⁸ laying down detailed rules of the implementation. The two new regulations will come into force on **1st January 2009** and together will replace **Regulation (EEC) 2092/91**. The new regulations for organic production in Europe set out objectives and principles of organic production, as well as practices and inputs that may be used in farming and growing and processing. The main changes affecting producers are detailed below. Certification of the holding is also a condition of eligibility for the organic farming support schemes (see Sections 4 and 5) throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

The legislative function of the competent authority for the whole of the UK lies with the **Defra Organic Farming Branch**, which is responsible for implementing the European regulations under the UK Organic Products Regulation. Defra will issue guidance on the implications of the new regime for UK producers before January 2009, which will replace the Compendium of UK Organic Standards³⁹.

Defra is assisted by the **Advisory Committee on Organic Standards (ACOS)** with representation from all UK regions and by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS). Defra and UKAS are responsible for licensing the UK organic certification (control) bodies and for overseeing their inspection activities⁴⁰. The identifying code (GB Organic Certification XX) of the certifier must be used in the labelling of certified organic products, the name, initials or logo of the certifier can be used in addition. Several control bodies have withdrawn over time, so some numbers are no longer used. From January 2009 onwards, all UK certification bodies will have to be accredited by UKAS⁴¹ according to EN 45011, which sets out general requirements for bodies operating product certification systems. At the time of print it is not clear whether the Irish Certification Bodies currently operating in the UK will be allocated a GB control body number.

In the **Republic of Ireland** the Organic Farming Unit established by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (DAFRD) is responsible for all aspects of organic production including the implementation of EU

³⁷ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF

³⁸ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:250:0001:0084:EN:PDF

³⁹ www.Defra.gov.uk/farm/organic/standards/index.htm

⁴⁰ Up-to-date list of certification bodies at www.Defra.gov.uk/farm/organic/standards

⁴¹ www.ukas.com/about_accreditation/accredited_bodies/

regulations. Producers can either register direct with the DAFRD or with any of the three registered certification bodies: Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Ltd. (IOFGA); Organic Trust Ltd and Demeter Standards (Irl.) Ltd.

The **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)** has formulated principles, sets international baseline standards, accredits national certification schemes to facilitate international trade (see p. 46) and collaborates with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other international organisations to harmonise International Organic Standards. In 2001, the FAO formalised guidelines for international trade as part of its *Codex Alimentarius* which were revised in 2004⁴².

Development of organic standards during 2007/08

New European Regulations on organic food

*Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007*⁴³ coming into force on the 1st January 2009 sets out objectives and principles, as well as the basic requirements for plant and livestock production, aquaculture, compound feed, the preparation of products (i.e. processing) and criteria for the approval of substances that are included in the Annexes. The scope has been extended to cover all operators along the whole organic food supply chains. One notable exception is catering, but like non-food products this could be covered by national regulations. In the UK only private schemes currently exist. The EU regulation allows that under certain specified conditions, organic production could be adapted to local conditions, for example under specific climatic conditions or in less developed markets, but only with prior approval of the Regulatory Committee in Brussels.

*Commission Regulation (EC) 889/2008*⁴⁴ contains the more detailed implementing rules for crop and livestock production, processed products, packaging, transport and storage, labelling and inspection, similar to what used to be covered by the Annexes of Regulation (EEC) 2092/91. More detailed rules for aquaculture, seaweed and yeast production will be developed at a later stage. This Regulation has to be considered jointly with the Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007.

Objectives of organic farming (Article 3/EC/834/2007): Organic production shall pursue the following objectives: (a) establish a sustainable management system for agriculture that: (i) respects nature's systems and cycles and sustains and enhances the health of soil, water, plants and animals and the balance between them; (ii) contributes to a high level of biological diversity; (iii) makes responsible use of energy and the natural resources, such as water, soil, organic matter and air; (iv) respects high animal welfare standards and in particular meets animals' species-

⁴² FAO (2004): Guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods, GL 32 – 1999, Rev. 1 – 2001) FAO Rome. www.fao.org/organicag/

⁴³ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF

⁴⁴ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:250:0001:0084:EN:PDF

specific behavioural needs; (b) aim at producing products of high quality and (c) aim at producing a wide variety of foods and other agricultural products that respond to consumers' demand.

Principles (Article 4/EC/834/2007): Organic production shall be based on the following principles: (a) the appropriate design and management of biological processes based on ecological systems using natural resources which are internal to the system by methods that: (i) use living organisms and mechanical production methods; (ii) practise land-related crop cultivation and livestock production or practise aquaculture which complies with the principle of sustainable exploitation of fisheries; (iii) exclude the use of GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs with the exception of veterinary medicinal products; (iv) are based on risk assessment and the use of precautionary and preventive measures, when appropriate; (b) the restriction of the use of external inputs. Where external inputs are required or the appropriate management practices and methods referred to in paragraph (a) do not exist, these shall be limited to: (i) inputs from organic production; (ii) natural or naturally-derived substances; (iii) low solubility mineral fertilisers; (c) the strict limitation of the use of chemically synthesised inputs to exceptional cases, these being: (i) where the appropriate management practices do not exist; and (ii) the external inputs referred to in paragraph (b) are not available on the market; or (iii) where the use of external inputs referred to in paragraph (b) contributes to unacceptable environmental impacts; (d) the adaptation, where necessary, and within the framework of this Regulation, of the rules of organic production taking account of sanitary status, regional differences in climate and local conditions, stages of development and specific husbandry practices.

Derogations and use of permitted inputs: All existing derogations have been replaced by either permanent rules, or by exceptional production rules, which are limited either for a certain time or under certain conditions, for example, the rules for the use of non-organic feed that will expire for all species at the end of December 2011. Permitted inputs, such as fertiliser and soil conditioners (Annexes I) Pest and disease control (Annex II of Commission Regulation 889/2008) no longer require authorisation from the certification body before use. Responsibility to decide on certain exceptions has been granted to the operator or the competent national authority (Defra in the UK). Operators using permitted inputs have to be able to provide documentary evidence at the time of inspection that the use of a certain input is in line with the principles and rules set out. It is strongly recommended that producers consult their certification body if they are uncertain about the conditions under which a certain input can be used and some UK certification bodies may continue to require that they are consulted prior to use. Defra will publish a guidance document setting out procedures before January 2009.

Prohibition of the use of GMO: The existing prohibition of GMOs in organic products will be maintained. To determine whether an input is GMfree the operator can rely on the labels in line with the Directive 2001/18/EC.

Crop inputs: The list was extended in May 2008 to include micro-organisms for biological control, Spinosad as insecticide, *Potassium bicarbonate* and *Copper octanoate* as fungicides. The conditions for the use of ethylene have been extended to cover (1) the de-greening of citrus fruits when such a treatment is part of a strategy to prevent fruit fly damage and (2) the inhibition of sprouting in stored potatoes and onions. The responsibility to justify whether the use of certain permitted fertilisers or soil conditioners (listed in Annex I of implementing rules) has been given to the operator, who has to be able to document at the time of inspection that their use is in line with the principle restricting the use of external inputs; i.e. that internal sources are not available (Article 2/EC/834/2007); that fertility and biological activity is maintained and increased by multi-annual crop rotations including legumes and that there is no possibility of applying material from organic production (Article 12/EC/834/2007). Individual certification bodies may have more specific requirements.

Livestock production: All rules will be harmonised across the EU and member states will no longer be able to have different stricter national rules, but national requirements (e.g. Farm Animal Welfare codes) apply. This will affect UK producers in the following areas:

Mutilations: These should not be carried out routinely, but the control body can authorise exceptions. Any suffering should be avoided by using appropriate anaesthetic for dehorning and other similar operations, as specified in the welfare codes. Defra will publish guidance on how these exceptions are to be authorised.

Housing: The continual housing of pigs and sheep in the final finishing stages will no longer be permitted, and for beef this will only be possible if there are safety issues, e.g. with bulls. The exercise area for pigs must allow for dunging and rooting.

Organically reared stock: As is already the case in the UK, all organic livestock in Europe will need to be born and raised on an organic holding, with the exception of animals introduced for breeding (10% for ruminants, 20% for other mammals), animals present on the farm at the beginning of conversion and poultry, for which exceptional rules apply. It is expected that most certification bodies will maintain the requirements that such converted animals should not be used in meat production. Defra will issue guidance on how higher percentages foreseen in the regulation are to be authorised.

Avian flu provision for poultry housing: If access to open air for organic poultry has to be restricted to protect public or animal health, organic status can be maintained if the birds have access to roughage and other suitable material in order to meet their ethological needs.

Feed requirements: Full organic diets for all animals should be achieved by 31st December 2011. In the interim, annual limits on dry matter intake of feeds from conventional sources (GM free) have been specified under the exceptional rules (Annex V/EC/889/2008). Since January 2008, no non-organic materials can be fed to ruminants. For other species the stepwise reduction of limits has taken effect: until 31st December 2009, 10% non organic feed can be used and after that 5% until 31st December 2011. These limits do not apply to fishmeal and other products and by-products of sustainable fisheries. These have been re-classified as a non-agricultural ingredient and therefore can be fed to pig and poultry diets (Article 22/Reg 889/2008). Any operator using non-organic feed has to demonstrate that organic feed was not available, and that the use is in line with the principles of organic farming (Article 4 and 5/EC/ 834/2007), stating that livestock production should be land-related and using feed preferably coming from the farm's own holding. Defra will publish guidelines on administrative procedures and what constitutes documentary evidence.

Reductions to the conversion period can only be granted where either a parcel of land was part of a land management agreement that excludes non-permitted inputs (e.g. agri-environment measures) or where the competent authority (previously certification body) is satisfied that there is sufficient proof that non-permitted inputs have not been applied for at least three years. Defra will issue guidance on how reductions in the conversion period are to be authorised. It is envisaged that a reduction to less than 12 months will not be granted other than for poultry runs.

Labelling: On pre-packaged goods the use of the EU logo will become mandatory from the 1st July 2010, once a new European logo has been launched. Packaging in line with Regulation 2092/91 may continue to be used until 1 January 2012 so long as the product otherwise complies with Regulation 834/2007. Stocks of products already produced, packaged and labelled may be sold until stocks are exhausted. The label has to show an indication of the place of origin of the raw materials. Only products containing more than 95% organic ingredients can be labelled as organic; products with lower organic content can declare the organic origin of raw materials on the ingredient list but must still be produced under the control of an approved certification body. The category of products containing at least 70% of organic ingredients has been withdrawn. The label has to carry the code number of the control body that carried out the most recent inspection. The code numbers of the certification bodies will have to carry the ISO code for the country identifier (GB), and the term Organic Certification and the specific code number of the control bodies. The new format of code numbers of the UK certification bodies will be published by Defra.

Control system: This has been linked to the European Regulation on control systems for food (EC/882/2007), but will maintain an annual verification of each operator. A standardised EU-wide format for certificates will be introduced, along with a standard operator identification number. The organic certification bodies in the UK (see this section) remain an essential component of the organic control system and some operate their own standards. Producers are advised to consult with their inspection bodies, even in respect of issues which the EU Regulations leave to the operator's discretion.

Processing inputs (Annex VI): The use of sodium nitrite and potassium nitrate, sulphur dioxide, potassium metabisulphite and hydrochloric acid (only permitted for specific cheeses) is to be reviewed by 31st December 2010 with a view to withdrawing these additives afterwards. Member states are encouraged to establish educational programmes in alternative processing methods and hygiene. For some other listed additives and ingredients changes to the conditions of use apply.

Certification body standards

Some certification bodies in the UK operate their own standards, which may include higher specifications than those required by the EU Regulations, particularly with regard to livestock husbandry and environmental requirements and to the use of certain inputs. All control bodies holding their own standards will need to adapt these in the light of the changes to the European Regulation. Producers can obtain copies of the full standards from the certification bodies (see below). Regular updates to the standards are distributed to licensees in the form of newsletters. Some sector bodies are aiming to develop standards in new areas currently not regulated by the EU, such as pullet rearing and transplant production. Co-operation agreements between some certification bodies exist.

Organic Farmers and Growers**UK2****Contact address:**

The Old Estate Yard, Shrewsbury Road, Albrighton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 3AG.

Tel: 01939 291 800 / 0845 330 5122; Fax: 01939 291 250 / 0845 330 5123

Contact: Richard Jacobs, Chief Executive

Stephen Clarkson, Certification Manager

E-Mail: info@organicfarmers.org.ukInternet: www.organicfarmers.org.uk**Standards:**

Paper copy £12.00 +VAT; CD Rom £2 +VAT;

Can also be downloaded as pdf from website.

Inspection and certification charges (excl. VAT) valid from 1/07/2008

Charges may be revised at any time, so please contact the office for up-to-date information.

Agricultural producers:

£(excl. VAT)

Application fee

Year 1 – first 10 months

£354

Year 2 – 12 months

£425

Annual fee

Up to 10 ha

£425

10.01 – 50 ha

£520

50.01 – 100 ha

£550

100.01 – 200 ha

£650

200.01 – 350 ha

£725

350.01 – 500 ha

£825

500.01 ha and above

£875

LFA holdings up to 10 ha

£425

LFA holdings 10.01 ha and above

£465

Processing fees:

Livestock market inspection

£368

On-farm simple processing operation inspected at the
farm at the same time as the farm inspection

£110

For all other processing fees see Form RD15 on website.

Working in partnership with SAI Global/EFSIS, OF&G is able to provide farm assurance and organic inspections which can normally be carried out on the same day, for FABBL, FABBLcrop, ADFs, FAWL (in Wales), Assured Crops, Assured Produce, Assured British Pigs and others.

Organically registered feed mills can have a UFAS and organic inspection on the same day.

Scottish Organic Producers Association Ltd.**UK3****Contact address:**

Scottish Organic Centre, 10th Ave. Royal Highland Centre, Ingleston, Edinburgh, EH28 8NF

Tel: 0131 335 6619; Fax: 0131 335 6601

E-Mail: info@sopa.org.ukInternet: www.sopa.org.uk**Standards:** free**Individual producers inspection and certification fees (excl. VAT):**

Application fee	£ 45
Discounted fee for first year of conversion	£295
(no further charge until January of following year, when membership fee will be due.)	

Band	Registered In-conversion/Organic Area	Calendar year fee £ excl. VAT	RG discount £ excl. VAT
1	up to 10 ha	£405	£304
2	10.1 – 40 ha	£450	£338
3	40.1 – 100 ha	£495	£371
4	100.1 – 250 ha	£595	£446
5	250.1 – 500 ha	£665	£499
6	500 ha+	£740	£555

RG – discount: 25% for farmer with more than 80% rough grazing land

Other Discounts for combined farm assurance inspections.

Subscriptions are based on hectare and not turnover and are deemed correct at publication.

Processing fees

	Stand alone £ excl. VAT	Integrated Audit# £ excl. VAT
Simple small scale processor (<2hrs*)	£230	130
Medium scale (up to half day)	360	260
Large scale (up to full day)	565	465
Complex (half day inspection)	405	-
Complex (full day inspection)	820	-

* Processing inspection time will be determined in consultation with applicant. # combined with Producer inspection. Other Joint inspections (BRC, SALSA) can be arranged

Evaluation of approved product:

Trade companies wishing to gain approval for products to be used in organic systems can apply to the SOPA office.

Associate Membership available for companies trading in the organic industry.

These fees are correct for 2008 but may be subject to change. Contact the SOPA office for up-to-date information.

Organic Food Federation***UK4*****Contact address:**

31 Turbine Way, Eco Tech Business Park, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7XD

Tel: 01760 720 444; Fax: 01760 720 790

E-Mail: info@orgfoodfed.comInternet: www.orgfoodfed.com**Standards:** can be downloaded from website*UK Compendium of Organic Standards***Charges:**

Membership subscriptions vary according to the status and type of operation. Each application is judged on its merits. Charges are not based on turnover.

UKAS accredited certification body according to EN 45011.

Soil Association Certification Ltd**UK5****Contact address:**

South Plaza , Marlborough Street, Bristol, BS1 3NX

Tel: 0117 914 2406

E-mail: goorganic@soilassociation.orgInternet: www.soilassociation.org/certification**Standards:** can be downloaded from the website*Soil Association Organic Standards***Fees for the farming and growing industry:**

excl. VAT

Application fee including first inspection and the full range of services for six months

£199

Annual fees

Non LFA/SDA* land

£450

LFA/SDA land

£420

Farmers aged 30 years or under

£325

Livestock markets

£250

Education centres

£450

Aquaculture businesses

£450

* LFA/SDA: Less Favoured Areas or Severely Disadvantaged Areas.

The fees are kept at the lowest rate for the first two years of conversion. Additional certification services, including a variety of Farm Assurance Schemes, Beef Labelling Scheme (BLS) and the National Organic Programme (NOP) are offered.

Fees for the food, textile and health and beauty industries:

excl. VAT

Application fee including first inspection and the full range of services for six months

£250

Annual fee payable six months from application, based on total predicted organic sales in the first year, excl. VAT)

Total organic sales

Fee (excl. VAT)

Less than £180,000

£548

£180,000 – £2m

0.003 x organic sales

£2m – £20m

0.003 x organic sales for the first £2m and 0.001 x organic sales between £2m – £20m

Over £20m

0.003 x organic sales for the first £2m and

0.001 x organic sales between £2m– £20m and

0.0002 x organic sales over £20m

Full details of fees for all services will be sent with initial information pack.

Additional certification services, including British Retail Consortium (BRC) and the Beef Labelling Scheme, US National Organic Programme (NOP) for Processors, Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS), and ASISCO (UK15) certifying according to the European/UK national rules.

Bio-dynamic Agricultural Association (Demeter)**UK6****Contact address:**

Demeter Administrator: 25 Boswall Road, Edinburgh EH5 3RR

Tel: 0131 5526565; Fax: 0131 552 6565

Contact: Moira Ross

E-Mail: demeter@biodynamic.org.ukInternet: www.biodynamic.org.uk/demeter/certification.html**Standards:** Demeter International Standards are available at demeter.net**New Application and Transfer Fee:**

£ 65

Demeter Production and Processing Standards:

£ 20 (each)

Fees for farming and gardening:

£ excl VAT

Horticulture	< 0.50 ha and < 500 m2 covered cropping		£ 325
	0.50 – 5 ha and < 500 m2 covered cropping		£ 415
	5 – 10 ha or > 500 – 1000 m2 covered cropping		£ 500
	10 ha + or > 1000 m2 covered cropping		£ 585
Top fruit	1 – 10 ha		£ 525
	10 ha +		£ 640
Farming	< 10 ha	(or < 25 ha LFA)	£ 415
	10 – 25 ha	(or 25 – 35 ha LFA)	£ 480
	25 – 60 ha	(or 35 – 90 ha LFA)	£ 570
	60 – 100 ha	(or 90 – 150 ha LFA)	£ 660
	100 – 175 ha	(or 150 – 263 ha LFA)	£ 755
	175 – 300 ha	(or 263 – 450 ha LFA)	£ 850
	300 – 500 ha	(or 450 – 750 ha LFA)	£ 940
	500 ha +	(or 750 ha + LFA)	£1035

All above inspections for up to 60 ha (or 90 ha LFA) taking more than 4 hours and farming inspections over 60 ha (or 90 ha LFA) taking more than 6 hours to be charged at £30/ additional hour.

Processing**On farm****All other processing**

£ excl. VAT

£ excl. VAT

< 1 k (included on production certification)	£ 55	n/a
1 – 5 k	£ 225	n/a
5 – 10 k	£ 280	n/a
10 k or less	n/a	£ 330
10 – 20 k	£ 340	£ 420
20 – 35 k	£ 410	£ 535
35 – 55 k	£ 520	£ 645
55 – 85 k	£ 630	£ 780
85 – 135 k	£ 770	£ 955
135 – 200 k	£ 935	£1130
200 – 325 k	£1115	£1305
> 325 k +	£1305	n/a
325 – 450 k	n/a	£1490
450 – 700 k	n/a	£1665
700 – 1000 k	n/a	£1800
1 m – 2 m	n/a	£1950
> 2 m	n/a	£2095

Fees for import, warehouse and distribution: < £100k certified turnover: £420; £100-335k: £525; > £335k: 0.15% of certified turnover, > £1m: £1575. The above fees relate to single site operations. Processing inspections taking more than 4 hours to be charged at £35/hour for each additional hour.

Cancellation within 1 week of a confirmed assessment visit will incur a charge of £150. Late payment of fees (terms specified on invoice) will incur a charge of £35. All fees subject to VAT at 17.5% and annual review.

Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association***UK7*****Contact address:**

Main Street, Newtownforbes, Co. Longford, Republic of Ireland

Tel: +353 (0) 43 42495; Fax: +353 (0) 43 42496

E-Mail: iofga@eircom.netInternet: www.iofga.org/

Operates in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Standards:*IOFGA Standards for Organic Food and Farming in Ireland* €20**Annual fees:** (including membership) as at January 2008**New farmers and growers:**

Euro

Holdings of 3 acres or less

€150

Holdings of 4 – 30 acres

€199

All other holdings

€399

Renewal farmers and growers:

Holding of 1 acre or less

€138

Holding of 2 – 3 acres

€165

Holding of 4 – 20 acres

€275

Holding of 21 – 30 acres

€429

Holding of 31 – 50 acres

€512

Holding of 51 – 100 acres

€528

Holding of 101+ acres

€549

Processors, packers, distributors, retailers*:

Micro Enterprise

€520

Small Enterprise

€995

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

€1470

*contact IOFGA for precise definitions of enterprise types.

N.B. clients may be liable for any extra costs due to follow-up inspections, etc. (more details on request).

See website for other services (e.g. training and advice resources).

Organic Trust Limited**UK9****Contact address:**

Vernon House, 2 Vernon Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3, Ireland

Tel: +353 (1) 853 0271; Fax: +353 (1) 853 0271

Contact: Helen Scully, National co-ordinator

E-Mail: organic@iol.ieInternet: www.organic-trust.org

Operational in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Standards:*Organic Trust Standards for Organic Food and Farming* € 5

Full application pack (including Standards Manual) €10

Application fees:

Producers €80

Processors €200-500 depending on enterprise

Application fees include the initial inspection, the first year's certification and the organisational membership fee (including quarterly magazine 'Clover')

Renewal of licence (from second year):

Renewal fee: €195 for producers; €550 for processors up to turnover level of €40,000, and thereafter on a sliding scale.

Other: List of recommended organic advisors and training courses.**Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd.****UK13****Contact address:**

PO BOX 8, Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3SD

Tel: 01970 624 011; Fax: 01970 624 049

Contact: Marilyn James or Moss Jones

Email: marilynj@wfsagri.netInternet: www.tso-quality.com/bodies/x_qual_welsh.htm**Standards:**

Free

Welsh Organic Scheme Standards

Inspection charges

£ excl VAT:

LFA 0.1– 10 ha

£370

LFA 10 + ha

£400

NON LFA 10 + ha

£375

NON LFA 10.1-50 ha

£465

NON LFA 50-100 ha

£480

NON LFA 100-200 ha

£575

NON LFA 200 + ha

£585

UKAS accredited certification body according to EN 45011.

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

IFOAM formulated the principles of organic agriculture, and now sets international standards and is the organic voice in international fora. The standards are revised regularly, the last revision being at the 2005 General Assembly in Adelaide, Australia. IFOAM also accredits organic certification bodies, through the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS): the Soil Association is currently the only UK certifier accredited by IFOAM⁴⁵ Together with FAO and UNCTAD, IFOAM leads the International Task Force on Harmonization & Equivalence in Organic Agriculture.

Contact address:

Charles-de-Gaulle-Str. 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: +49-(0) 228 92650 10; Fax: +49 (0) 228 92650 99
Contact: Thomas Cierpka, Membership Relations and Human Resources Director
Diane Bowen, Manager Organic Guarantee System
E-Mail: Headoffice@ifoam.org
Internet: www.ifoam.org

Standards:

IFOAM Book of Norms, including IFOAM Basic Standards for Organic Production and Processing and IFOAM Accreditation Criteria: €20, free download for members.

Service and accreditation charges:

Apply directly for information from International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS)

Contact address:

IOAS, 40 1st Avenue West, Suite 104, Dickinson, N.D. 58601, USA
Tel: +1 701 483 5504; Fax: +1 701 483 5508
E-Mail: info@ioas.org
Internet: www.ioas.org

⁴⁵ For a list of accredited certification bodies see www.ioas.org/