

THE STOCKFREE-ORGANIC STANDARDS

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PURPOSE OF THE STOCKFREE-ORGANIC STANDARDS

The Stockfree-Organic Standards regulate commercial Stockfree-Organic growers on registered holdings and act as a guideline to other growers. These Standards attempt to be inclusive to involve many growers and transform systems of food production.

For a registered holding to attain the Stockfree-Organic Symbol it is necessary to comply with the Standards and to be inspected by Soil Association Certification Ltd (SA Cert) to verify that the requisite standards have been attained.

Stockfree Organic Services (SOS) provides a telephone helpline advisory service (with disclaimer) for new growers wanting formal certification so that they can discuss their production systems with experienced growers and move away from restricted and prohibited practices outlined in the Standards. SOS also provides a welcome pack which contains an application form.

The Stockfree-Organic Symbol provides consumers with a new quality assurance as to the ethical status of their food and seeks to prevent the exploitation of animals in food production.

Definitions within these standards

Produce attaining the Stockfree-Organic Symbol is certified organic.

The term "organic" refers to a method of producing food by promoting soil fertility and soil life through the addition of biological (non-synthetic) substances to the soil to replenish any organic matter lost through cropping. Organic growers minimise their reliance on imported inputs and utilise all the resources on the registered holding.

No inputs, as the sole source of fertility, are allowed into an organic system that may adversely affect the soil ecosystem. Soluble fertilisers are not permitted, as they by-pass the soil and feed the crops directly. Synthetic fertilisers, synthetic pesticides and weedkillers are not permitted in an organic agricultural or horticultural system. The registered grower is not permitted to use genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or any products derived from such GMOS.

The organic production system makes a positive ecological impact on the registered holding by conserving wildlife habitats as well as attempting to prevent harmful impacts on the wider environment. Reliance on non-renewable resources like fossil fuels is discouraged.

Produce attaining the Stockfree-Organic symbol is additionally certified stockfree. The term "stockfree" refers to a method of producing plant-based foods without relying on animal inputs. Growers must not keep animals for food production or commercial gain on the registered holding and must not use animal manures or slaughterhouse by-products of animal or fish origin.

Standard Requirement - an obligation that must be observed on the registered holding.

Standard Principle – a standard that all growers should aspire to achieve.

Recommended activity - an activity carried out on the registered holding that is preferred under these Standards. The lists of recommended practices are not intended to be exclusive providing that any other method used by a grower falls within the remit of the Stockfree-Organic standards.

Permitted activity - an activity carried out on the registered holding that is permitted by the Standards but may be seen in some way to go against the ideal e.g. working outside the closed system.

Restricted activity - an activity carried out on the registered holding that may be permitted only under certain specific circumstances and only with the written permission of SA Cert Ltd. Growers will need to justify their use of the restricted practice and may seek guidance from the Stockfree Organic Services (SOS) of experienced growers as to preferential practices.

Prohibited activity - an activity that may not be carried out on the registered holding under any circumstances.

Derogation - a partial or temporary withdrawal of one of the standards when compliance with the standard would be to prevent the grower from functioning at all.

Derogations Currently Applying

Derogations to Standards 6.1 & 6.2 in accordance with EU Council Regulation No. 2092/91

- (1) Seeds and vegetative propagating materials not obtained by organic production methods may be used under restriction during a transitional period (consult the Soil Association organic standards for expiration date) but only with the approval of SA Cert Ltd who should be satisfied that the grower is unable to obtain preferred materials.
- (2) Propagating composts not obtained by Stockfree-Organic production methods may be used under restriction during a transitional period expiring on 31 December 2009 but only with the approval of the SA Cert Ltd which should be satisfied that the grower is unable to obtain preferred materials.

CONVERSION PERIODS AND LABELLING

1. In the case of a registered holding converting from a *certified organic production* system to a *Stockfree-Organic production* system no conversion period applies and produce can be referred to as "*Stockfree-Organic Produce*" from the outset providing that the registered holding is a Soil Association licence holder and the application to the Stockfree-Organic standards has been approved.
2. In the case of a registered holding converting from *agro-chemical farming* or any other system not certified "Organic" to a *Stockfree-Organic production* system
 - (a) a conversion period of at least two years before sowing for annual crops and three years before the first harvest of a perennial crop must have elapsed before the produce can attain the Stockfree-Organic symbol.
 - (b) produce may bear indications referring to the conversion to the Stockfree-Organic production method once a conversion period of at least 12 months before the harvest has been completed. Such indications must take the form of the words "*Stockfree-Organic and Soil Association approved organic conversion*", and must appear in a colour, size and style of lettering which is not more prominent than the sales description of the product. The labelling must not mislead the purchaser.

THE STANDARDS

The preamble to individual standards appears in italics.

Many of the concepts outlined in the Standards are further discussed in the:

Accompanying book by Jenny Hall and Iain Tolhurst “Growing Green: Organic Techniques for a Sustainable Future.”

1. Keeping of animals on the registered holding

1.1 Standard Requirement

You must not keep animals for food production or commercial gain on the registered holding.

1.2 Standard Requirement

You must not use animal manures or products of animal or fish origin on the registered holding.

1.3 Standard Requirement

You must not grow animal fodder or bedding litter on the registered holding.

1.4 Standard Requirement

The Standards do not regulate the keeping or neutering of companion animals, rescue animals, animals that assist blind or deaf people and guard animals on the registered holding but require that their manures are not deliberately used as a fertility input into the growing system (see 3.5(a)+(b)).

2. Protecting soil life and soil structure

2.1 The soil must be managed with the aim of developing and sustaining an optimum soil structure, biological activity (for example, microbes and earthworms) and fertility. Soil can suffer when exposed to

- *drought conditions*
- *heavy rain leading to erosion*
- *strong wind leading to erosion*
- *heavy machinery leading to compaction*
- *inappropriate cultivation leading to structural damage and organic matter losses*
- *frost shattering action on unprotected bare soils.*
- *deforestation*

2.2 Recommended Soil Protection Methods

- regularly replenishing organic matter
- green manure leys
- overwintering green manures
- undersowing green manures under existing crops (also known as living mulches)
- timing cultivation to avoid tillage in wet or dry weather
- varying the depth of cultivation to prevent panning
- keeping the soil permanently covered with decaying plant material in the form of a mulch
- minimising tillage

3. Primary sources of soil fertility

3.1 *The grower must regularly replenish the organic matter in the soil. When growing annual crops nitrogen fixing green manures and plant based composts have proved the most effective way of maintaining the fertility of the Stockfree-Organic system.*

3.2 Recommended as main sources of fertility

- (a) Plant-based composts made from materials from the registered holding
- (b) Cut and mulched green manure strips, areas or leys
- (c) Compost or hay made from green manures grown on the registered holding

3.3 Permitted as a main source of fertility

- (a) Plant-based composts made from materials outside the registered holding providing that they are from another certified organic system

3.4 Restricted as main sources of fertility

Before using any of the following it is important to obtain written permission from the approved certification body. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis after discussing all the options. The following will be taken into account

Pathways into the Stockfree-Organic growing system for contaminants

- Animal manures and dead animals
- Pathogen
- Heavy metal
- Toxic
- Synthetic
- GMO
- Radioactive

How the materials will be

- Collected
- Transported
- Properly composted
- Distributed once at the holding.

(The grower also has to comply with 16.2(c) and has to make a general statement as to how they will operate their growing system in the application form.)

- (a) Plant-based composts made from green waste segregated by local authorities (restricted because they cannot be assured to be free from toxic or genetic engineering contaminants, or animal residues)
- (b) Leaf mould collected by local authorities (restricted because it cannot be assured to be free from the toxic residues of road traffic or from dog faeces)
- (c) Plant based composts from ungrazed upland meadows (restricted because these are fragile ecosystems prone to erosion. Forestry is a more sustainable activity for these areas)
- (d) Plant-based composts, hays and straws from conventional farming systems including set aside land (restricted because the Stockfree-Organic system needs to be self-sustaining and not rely on conventional inputs)
- (e) Plant wastes and by-products, from food processing industries e.g. spent hops
- (f) Seaweed (need to show that it is collected away from a pathogen contamination source e.g. raw sewage outlet, a heavy metal source e.g. industrial effluent outlet and a radioactive contamination source e.g. nuclear power station)

3.5 Prohibited as main sources of fertility

- (a) Products of animal or fish origin
- (b) Manures, slurry or urine from any animals including livestock, sanctuary animals or domestic animals
- (c) Worm compost
- (d) Human faeces and urine
- (e) Human tissues
- (f) Sewage sludge
- (g) Extracted peat
- (h) Materials containing GMOs or their derivatives
- (i) Radioactive materials
- (j) Synthetic fertilisers
- (k) Soluble fertilisers as the main source of fertility

4. Composting procedures

4.1 During composting, which is a process of aerobic fermentation, a minimum maintained temperature of 60°C is strongly advised to kill weed seeds and pathogens.

4.2 Recommended

- (a) Composting plant-based materials and leaf mould separately
- (b) Mixing plant based ingredients
 - nitrogen "greens" e.g. grass and vegetable wastes and
 - carbon " browns" e.g. straw
- (c) Building a heap of sufficient volume – at least one cubic metre
- (d) Turning the heap to assist with aeration
- (e) Monitoring temperature rises
- (f) Covering the heap or windrow to prevent it from becoming waterlogged
- (g) Application rates up to 25 tonnes per hectare / 10 tonnes per acre per annum (equivalent of one wheel barrow load per 3 metre squared)

4.3 Prohibited

- (a) Placing heaps or windrows on a slope.
- (b) Placing heaps or windrows adjacent to waterbodies e.g. ponds and streams.

5. Supplementary nutrients

5.1 Permitted soluble fertilisers and alginates for supplementary purposes only

- (a) Supplementary tonics created on the holding e.g. Comfrey tonics, nettle tonics and herb tonics e.g. camomile and tansy
- (b) Compost teas created on the holding
- (c) Dried seaweed meal
- (d) Liquid seaweed and other commercially available foliar feeds suitable for organic systems that are free from animal inputs
- (e) Commercially available compound fertilisers and liquid feeds suitable for organic systems that are free from animal inputs

5.2 Permitted fertilisers for supplementary purposes only

- (a) Phosphate sources (Cadmium content less than or equal to 90mg/kg of P₂O₅);
 - Natural rock phosphate (e.g. Tunisian rock phosphate);
 - Calcined aluminium phosphate rock (e.g. Redzlaag) where soil pH > 7.5.
- (b) Potassium (potash) sources:
 - Wood-ash (from wood not chemically treated after felling) from the registered holding
- (c) Calcium-magnesium sources:
 - Dolomitic limestone
 - Gypsum - calcium sulphate
 - Ground chalk & limestone
 - Epsom salts (for acute magnesium deficiency)
 - Magnesium rock (including Kierite)
- (d) Clays (e.g. perlite and vermiculite).

5.3 Mineral must only be used in cases of acute shortage because the products are quarried from non-renewable resources and are transported over long distances.

5.4 Restricted fertilisers

- (a) Sulphate of potash - only where exchangeable K levels are below index 2 (100mg/litre) and clay content is less than 20%, following soil analysis
- (b) Sulphur
- (c) Calcium chloride - for bitter pit in apples
- (d) Industrial lime from sugar production
- (e) Natural rock potash - providing it has a relatively low immediate solubility in water and low chlorine content
- (f) Trace elements
 - Stone meal (ground basalt)
 - Boron, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, cobalt, selenium, zinc.

5.5 Prohibited fertilisers

- (a) Any animal by-product of livestock or fish origin
- (b) All synthetic fertilisers including: nitrochalk, Chilean nitrate, urea, muriate of potash, potassium chloride, superphosphates, kanite and fibrophos
- (c) Slaked lime, quicklime
- (d) **Lithothamnium coralloides and phymatolithon calcareum forms of calcified seaweed**

6. Propagation

6.1 Recommended

- (a) Stockfree-Organically grown seed from the registered holding
- (b) Stockfree-Organic propagating composts made on the registered holding
- (c) Bare root transplants raised on the registered holding

6.2 Permitted

- (a) Organically grown seed
- (b) Organically grown vegetative reproductive material such as potato tubers, onion sets, strawberry runners and fruit tree root stock and bud material
- (c) Commercially available Stockfree-Organic composts that are free from animal inputs

6.3 Restricted

- (a) Non-organic seeds (subject to derogation (consult the Soil Association organic standards) when it will move to the prohibited category)
- (b) Non-organic vegetative reproductive material such as potato tubers, onion sets, strawberry runners and fruit tree root stock and bud material (subject to derogation (consult the Soil Association organic standards) when it will move to the prohibited category)
- (c) Commercially available organic propagating composts containing animal inputs (subject to derogation until **31 December 2009** when it will move to the prohibited category)

6.4 Prohibited

- (a) Propagating composts containing synthetic inputs
- (b) Seed dressings
- (c) Varieties of seeds or plants that have been produced using genetic engineering
- (d) Hormone rooting powders and solutions

6.5 Standard Principle

Peat should not be used.

6.6 Standard Principle

Coir should not be used.

7. Crop rotations

7.1 Standard Requirement

Central to Stockfree-Organic systems is a well-designed crop rotation. It is advised that a grower achieves a balance between exploitative cropping (vegetables, pulses or cereals) and nitrogen-fixing green manures.

7.2 Recommended

- (a) Nitrogen-fixing green manure leys e.g. clovers and lucerne
- (b) Using crops and green manures with different rooting systems
- (c) Avoiding plant families with similar pest and disease susceptibility on the same plot in the same course of the rotation
- (d) Separating crop families by a four-year interval (from harvesting to planting)
- (e) Carrying out a soil analysis every rotation to monitor nutrient levels

7.3 Prohibited

- (a) Alliums, brassicas and potatoes returning to the same land before a period of 48 months has elapsed from planting date to planting date
- (b) Continuous cereal crops

7.4 Standard Principle

You should not use a greenhouse or polytunnel for the monocropping of annual crops

8. Environmental Pollution

8.1 Recommended

- (a) Wherever possible using renewable energy sources such as human, wind, solar and water power in the place of fossil fuels
- (b) Reusing and recycling waste materials rather than burning them or sending them to landfill
- (c) Obtaining supplies as locally as possible and in any case in the UK.
- (d) Selling the products of the holding as locally as possible and in any case in the UK.

8.2 Prohibited

- (a) The growing of produce in topsoil that is contaminated with heavy metals above these maximum levels:

	Soil Mg/kg	Kg/ha
Zinc	150	336
Chromium	150	336
Copper	50	110
Lead	100	220
Nickel	50	116
Cadmium	2	4.4
Mercury	1	2

- (b) The use of plant based composts that are contaminated with heavy metals above these maximum levels.

	Mg/kg of dry matter
Zinc	200
Chromium (VI)	0
Copper	70
Lead	45
Nickel	25
Cadmium	0.7
Mercury	0.4

- (c) Spray drift contamination from pesticides and herbicides on the registered holding. Effort must be made to provide an effective windbreak until the time when a hedge is established. A 10-metre buffer zone is normally sufficient. However, there should be a 20-metre buffer zone if the registered holding is near to a conventional orchard or other heavily sprayed area.
- (d) Contamination of water and use of contaminated water for irrigation purposes
- (e) Seeds, seedlings, plant propagation materials, inoculants or other crop production inputs containing GMOs or their derivatives.
- (f) Genetic engineering may cause unacceptable contamination of the land or crops by via pollen or other plant residues. If genetically engineered crops are being grown within a six-mile radius of a registered holding, the approved certification body should be notified. If agreed by the grower this information can be passed to the Stockfree-Organic Services to enable them to publicise the risk to the grower's livelihood.
- (g) The burning of straw, cereal waste, stubble and other compostable materials.
- (h) The burning of plastic.

9. Practices promoting environmental conservation

9.1 Growers should actively encourage wildlife and biodiversity on their registered holding.

9.2 Standard Requirement

Growers are expected to abide by all legal and statutory environmental requirements.

9.3 Standard Principle

Concern for the environment should manifest itself in a willingness to consult appropriate conservation bodies.

9.4 Recommended practices on the field

- (a) Leaving an undisturbed field margin around all fields for wildlife conservation
- (b) Leaving strips of undisturbed vegetation across the field
- (c) Planting attractant species for beneficial insects e.g. phacelia and for birds e.g. teasel
- (d) Planting or encouraging indigenous flora of the area
- (e) Installation of bird and bat boxes and winter feeding stations for birds
- (f) Avoiding the disturbance of ground nesting birds when cultivating and mowing
- (g) Mowing from the centre of the field outwards so that unfledged birds and mammals can escape to the uncut refuges
- (h) Timing mowing operations to allow wildflower meadow grasses and flowers to set seed

9.5 Recommended practices for the promotion of permanent habitats on the registered holding

- (a) Allowing undisturbed areas for natural regeneration of wild plants
- (b) Maintaining traditional boundaries such as hedges, ditches and stone walls that act as important wildlife corridors. These will provide the refuge and hibernation facilities for beneficial vertebrate and invertebrate life
- (c) Reinstating hedges where appropriate
- (d) Practising agroforestry techniques e.g. alley cropping with rows of trees
- (e) Replanting indigenous shrubs and trees
- (f) Coppicing and other traditional management practices of existing woodland
- (g) Fencing newly planted trees against competing animals
- (h) Hedge trimming and ditch and dyke clearance between January and February
- (i) Clearing ditches in phased operations leaving a portion uncleared each year e.g. clearing opposite sides of ditches in successive years
- (j) Maintaining and creating water bodies for beneficial amphibians, reptiles and insects

9.6 Recommended practices relating to farm buildings

- (a) The siting and construction of new farm buildings should be done sensitively, taking account of their environmental and aesthetic impact.
- (b) Maintaining existing old buildings in their original form.
- (c) The provision of roosts and nest sites for bats and barn owls in new buildings and conversions.

9.7 Restricted

- (a) Removal of hedgerows, banks or ditches. Proposed measures must be discussed with a conservation advisor. Consideration should be given to the need for compensatory environmental work.
- (b) Clear felling of woodland
- (c) Felling of mature trees that are not endangering safety.

9.8 Prohibited

- (a) Hedge trimming, tree felling, ditch and dyke clearance between 1st March - 31st August
- (b) Annual trimming of all hedges unless required by Local Authorities for road safety
- (c) Ploughing species-rich meadows agreed with a statutory conservation body to be of conservation interest
- (d) New or improved drainage affecting areas of significant conservation value
- (e) Exploitation of peat bogs that are of conservation interest
- (f) Damage to or disturbance of the nesting and roosting sites of owls, bats and other protected species
- (g) The use of wood preservatives that are harmful to bats and other wildlife on new or existing building or fence posts etc.
- (h) Levelling of ridge-and-furrow fields and cultivation of sites of ancient monuments, archaeological sites and earthworks.

10. Weed control

10.1 No herbicides are permitted in Stockfree-Organic systems. Weeds are kept to an acceptable level and are not allowed to out-compete crops.

10.2 Recommended

- (a) Stale seedbed techniques, allowing a weedstrike
- (b) Pre-emergence and post-emergence operations e.g. hoeing, ploughing, inter-row weeding, harrowing, topping and hand-weeding
- (c) Pre-germination, propagation and transplanting
- (d) Green manure leys maintained for several years in rotation and repeatedly mowed
- (e) Undersowing crops with green manures e.g. clover
- (f) Mulches of straw and hay
- (g) Alternating weed suppressing with weed susceptible crops
- (h) Ensuring composting reaches at least 60°C so that plant-based composts do not contain weed seeds

10.3 Permitted

- (a) Plastic mulches (including biodegradable plastic) for alliums
- (b) Plastic mulches (including biodegradable plastic) where they raise soil temperature for season extension of harvesting e.g. during early spring
- (c) Plastic mulches (including biodegradable plastic) for perennial crops e.g. strawberries

10.4 Prohibited

- (a) The use of any herbicide

10.5 Standard Principle

Plastic mulches should not be used routinely.

10.6 Standard Principle

Flame weeding should not be used.

11. Disease, mollusc and insect pest control

11.1 Disease and insect pest control is largely a matter of prevention rather than cure

11.2 Recommended

- (a) Balanced rotational cropping to break pest and disease cycles
- (b) Dividing up large fields with hedgerows
- (c) Dividing up large fields with trees
- (d) Providing permanent predator belts, including incorporating undisturbed perennial plants, shrubs and trees.
- (e) Providing annual predator belts by leaving uncultivated field margins and strips between beds
- (f) Planting attractant species of flowers in strips e.g. phacelia
- (g) Mixed cropping
- (h) Undersowing crops with clover e.g. white clover under brassicas
- (i) Installing some body of stagnant water to attract beneficial insects and creatures
- (j) Compost that has been shown to encourage beneficial antagonistic microorganisms and have an inoculating effect against disease
- (k) Appropriate choice of crop varieties e.g. using resistant varieties
- (l) The use of strategic planting dates
- (m) Good husbandry and hygienic practices
- (n) Physical barriers e.g. netting, fleeces, brassica collars
- (o) Quartz sand as a repellent

11.3 Prohibited

- (a) All synthetic biocides
- (b) All biocides based on animal derivatives
- (c) Steam sterilisation of soils
- (d) Hypochlorite-based disinfectants for sterilising buildings and equipment
- (e) Copper sulphate, copper oxychloride, copper ammonia carbonate
- (f) Nicotine
- (g) Formaldehyde and phenols for soil sterilisation
- (h) Methyl bromide and other chemical soil sterilisers
- (i) Slug and snail killers based on metaldehyde or aluminium compounds
- (j) Beeswax pruning agent
- (k) Hydrolysed proteins

11.4 Standard Principle

Natural pesticides, insecticides and biological controls should not be used.

11.5 Standard Principle

Ducks should not be kept to eat slugs and snails

12. Competing birds and mammals

12.1 As a Stockfree-Organic grower you should not deliberately kill or maim any animal. Where crops may be destroyed and/or consumer health is at risk, then all competing animals should be prevented from causing damage by the installation of physical barriers.

12.2 Recommended

- (a) Attracting natural predators
- (b) Fencing
- (c) Electric fencing
- (d) Netting and wire mesh
- (e) Sonic repellents
- (f) Raptor models and balloons
- (g) Scarecrows
- (h) Sealed containers for the produce

12.3 Prohibited

- (a) Killing of animals in the name of sport on the registered holding
- (b) Poisoning animals
- (c) Shooting animals

12.4 Standard Principle

The trapping of competing animals should only occur as a last resort if a crop may be destroyed or human health is at risk (e.g. when the Environmental Health Authority may question practices)

12.5 Standard Principle

Dogs or cats should not be kept to control competing birds and mammals.

13. Harvesting and storage

13.1 Standard Requirement

It is important to take steps to ensure that produce does not suffer contamination during harvesting, packaging, storage and transportation.

13.2 Standard Requirement

Stockfree-Organic produce should be clearly labelled from harvesting through to dispatch, so that it cannot be confused with other crops on holdings where both Stockfree-Organic and non-Stockfree-Organic crops are grown.

13.3 Standard Requirement

Before use all equipment, vessels and surfaces that may come into contact with the produce must be clean and free from conventional crop residues and other contaminants

13.4 Standard Requirement

All surfaces that come into direct contact with the produce should be constructed from materials for food use e.g. stainless steel

13.5 Recommended for drying crops

Solar energy drying techniques e.g. leaving onions in a glasshouse

13.6 Permitted for drying crops

Indirectly heated air or other means including direct-fired propane, diesel and paraffin fuelled dryers

13.7 Permitted for Cleaning

- (a) Vacuum cleaning
- (b) Steam cleaning
- (c) High pressure water cleaning with water that is free from contaminants

13.8 Prohibited

- (a) The use of ionising radiation and synthetic chemicals as an aid to preservation
- (b) The use of waxing products on fruit and vegetables
- (c) The use of synthetic sprout inhibitors, fungicidal sprays, dips or powders and chemical fumigants or pesticides
- (d) Stores containing wood previously treated with organochlorine (gamma HCH and lindane), wood preservatives
- (e) Contamination by the combustion products of the fuels used for crop drying

14. Packaging materials

14.1 Standard Principle

As far as is reasonably practical, ecologically sound materials, free from GMOs and their derivatives, should be used for packaging.

14.2 Standard Principle

Non-essential packaging should be avoided and consideration should be given to how the end product packaging may be recycled or returned.

14.3 Standard Requirement

Materials used for packaging that comes into contact with the produce must be of food grade quality and sufficiently strong to protect the produce during transport and display.

14.4 Standard Requirement

The packaging must not transmit to the produce any substances in quantities that may be harmful to human health.

14.5 Standard Requirement

If returnable outer containers are used, they must be reserved exclusively for Stockfree-Organic food, they must be kept in good repair and they must be clean and free from contamination.

14.6 Standard Requirement

All packaging materials must be stored off the floor and away from walls and ceilings in clean, dry, hygienic conditions.

14.7 Recommended

- (a) Returnable outers and bulk containers
- (b) Biodegradable packaging
- (c) Recycled outer packaging, indicated as such
- (d) Unbleached paper and cardboard
- (e) Hessian and hemp sacks
- (f) Organic cotton bags

14.8 Permitted

- (a) Glass and plastic containers
- (b) Polyethylene and polypropylene films
- (c) Modified-atmosphere packaging films
- (d) Plastic sacks

14.9 Restricted

- (a) PVC films free from additional plasticisers (for non-fat foods only)
- (b) Metal foils

14.10 Prohibited

- (a) Expanded polystyrene made with CFCs.

15. Labelling for box schemes / packers selling to third parties using multi-sourced produce

15.1 Where

- growers, complying with the Stockfree-Organic production standards
- or companies, buying-in produce attaining the Stockfree-Organic symbol

are further packing and distributing the produce under their own company name or mark, such as box schemes to third parties, the following must be observed:

15.2 Standard Principle

As far as practically possible all produce within the container or box shall conform to the Stockfree-Organic production standards.

15.3 Standard Requirement

Where 15.2 cannot be observed, the contents that do **not** conform to Stockfree-Organic production standards must conform to another Organic Standard.

15.4 Recommended

Where 15.2 cannot be observed the packaging can be individually labelled, stating which products in the container conform to the Stockfree-Organic production standards and which conform to the other organic standard(s), stating which standard(s) this is.

15.5 Restricted

Where 15.2 cannot be observed the contents conforming to the Stockfree-Organic production standards can be referred to with a blanket explanation either:

(a) **Using a notice** at a point of collection or sale stating which products conform to the Stockfree-Organic production standards and stating that all other products conform to another Organic Standard(s), stating which standard(s) this is.

(b) **In a newsletter** stating that for a given month the following crops will conform to the Stockfree-Organic production standards and stating that all other products conform to another Organic Standard(s), stating which standard(s) this is.

16. Transportation of Stockfree-Organic produce

16.1 Standard Principle

In order to minimise fossil fuel use and avoid compromising the freshness of the Stockfree-Organic food consideration must be given to the "food miles" and the produce should be consumed as close to source as possible.

16.2 Standard Requirement

Stockfree-Organic food may be transported to other units, including wholesalers and retailers, only in closed packaging which would prevent substitution of the contents. However, closed packaging is not required where transportation is between a producer and another operator who are both subject to the Stockfree-Organic inspection system or is between a producer and consumer of the produce.

16.3 Standard Requirement

If crate or bulk containers are used, they should be of food grade quality, in a state of good repair and clean and free from visible residues or any materials that may contaminate or impair the Stockfree-Organic food.

16.4 Standard Requirement

Products intended for retail sales must be packed and transported to the point of sale in closed packaging. Each consignment must be accompanied by appropriate documentation enabling the origin of the product to be traced.

16.5 Standard Requirement

The documentation should state the

- (1) name
- (2) address
- (3) registration number of the certifying body.

16.6 Standard Requirement

All vehicles used for transporting Stockfree-Organic food should be subject to a regular cleaning programme to ensure that they are maintained in a generally clean state.

17. Record keeping

17.1 Growers must keep accurate records of their growing activities and these must be made available for examination when inspections are carried out.

17.2 Standard Requirement

When the grower first registers their holding with the approved certification body they must provide the following:

- (a) a full description of the unit showing storage and production premises
- (b) a full description of the arable areas of land
- (c) a general statement as to how the grower will undertake to abide by the Standards

17.3 Standard Requirement

The following records must be kept for the entire holding.

PRODUCTION RECORDS - Details of the origin, nature and quantities of all materials brought in and the use of such materials.

OUTPUT RECORDS - Details of the nature, quantities and consignees of all agricultural or horticultural products sold. Quantities sold directly to the final customer must be accounted for on a daily basis.

CROP RECORDS - Where applicable, the following crop records must be recorded:

- (a) The crop rotation
- (b) The cropping and fertilisation plan for at least the next two seasons
- (c) The cropping history
- (d) The source, type and rate of application of compost and green manures
- (e) The source, type and rate of usage of mineral fertilisers
- (f) The source, type and usage of products used for pest and disease control (with permissions from the approved certification body)
- (g) The source and type of seeds used. Seed packets should be retained.
- (h) For land In Conversion the previous treatments over the last three crop years with agro-chemicals, artificial fertilisers and materials not permitted in these standards by field or area

ACCOUNTS -The following accounting records

- (a) Sales and purchase invoices