

# Self Assessment Procedure for Importing Non-Organic Animal Manures

Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements  
Statutory information is for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print

## Introduction

The organic agricultural industry is not large enough to be self sufficient in many raw materials and other inputs and, for the time being, has to be reliant on materials and livestock brought in from conventional agriculture.

In addition, some practices which are not fully compliant with the principles of organic production, are also only permitted during a conversion period or for specific reasons.

Most of these practices and inputs require the approval of the certification body responsible for inspecting and certifying the producer concerned. This is identified in the Standards by the term – **Must be approved by Certification Body before use**. As the organic industry becomes more self sufficient, the Standards are slowly being tightened up and advance approval is being demanded for more conventional practices and materials, which were formerly permitted without restriction.

## The Self Assessment Approach

This Technical Leaflet has been written to allow producers the opportunity to give themselves approval to use non-organic animal manures without contacting the certification office.

To use this procedure, the Self-Assessment Questionnaire questions must be completed in sequence and the relevant 'Yes' or 'No' boxes ticked for each. Completing the Self-Assessment Questionnaire will arrive at one of the following results:

- Where there is an unequivocal approval, the producer may go ahead and use the manure in compliance with the conditions stated in the questions.  
**Keep the form on farm for future inspection.**
- Where any question comes up with a 'Not approved' answer the producer may not use the manure.  
**Keep the form on farm for future inspection.**
- Where the producer is uncertain over the process or result, an OF&G Record Sheet 9 can be sent to the certification office with a copy of the GM declaration and nitrogen budget (OF&G Record Sheet 22).

## Control Manual

This procedure must be used in conjunction with the criteria set out in sections 7.13.24 to 7.13.37 of the OF&G Control Manual

## **Nitrogen Budget**

The need for a nitrogen budget applies equally to manures from both registered organic/conversion holdings and conventional holdings. The Nutrient Budget must be completed to confirm that the total quantity of manure produced by the stock on the holding and brought in from elsewhere will not result in the application of more than 170kg Nitrogen per year per hectare.

## **Period of Eligibility**

The Self-Assessment procedure applies to the manure to be brought in during the current calendar year only. An additional procedure must be completed each year.

## **Recording and Auditing**

This procedure puts the responsibility on the producer to carry out the self-assessment process correctly and to keep the results for checking by the certification body at the following inspections.

To facilitate this, a special file must be established called the Restricted Practices and Inputs File.

The attached Self-Assessment Questionnaire must be kept as a master document and copies made for the completion of the self-assessment and general record keeping.

The Self-Assessment Questionnaire and the accompanying documents mentioned in the Questionnaire (eg Nitrogen Budget and Declaration of Non Genetically Modified Content OF&G Record Sheet 2) must be kept in this file.

The file must be made available to OF&G Inspectors, Defra inspectors, Trading Standards Officers and any other officials entitled to check your records.

## **Penalties for Misuse of the System**

The failure to obtain prior approval to use a restricted practice or input from the certification office is a non-compliance and will be recorded as such by the inspector. Where the self-assessment system is used and the procedure is ignored or the questionnaire is incorrectly completed, this will also be recorded as a non-compliance.

The certification officers will apply the appropriate penalty in such cases, which may involve an additional inspection at the producer's expense or, in more serious cases, the withdrawal of organic status from the affected land, crop or livestock.

# Self Assessment Questionnaire for Importing Animal Manures

Producer: ..... Year of Completion: .....

Completed by:	Position (Producer or manager):	Signed:	Date:
Approved by:	Position (Inspector or certification officer):	Signed:	Date:

## Questionnaire and Assessment

	Give details of the livestock system from which the manure is derived.				
	What quantity will be brought in during the current year?				
	<b>Self-Assessment Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
1	In the case of an arable system, has the rotation been accepted by the certification office as being sufficiently self sufficient in Nitrogen?		Go to next question		Not approved
2	Has a Nitrogen Budget (OF&G Record Sheet 22) been completed to confirm that the total application of manure per year per hectare does not exceed 170kg Nitrogen?		Go to next question		Not approved
3	Can the supplier of the manure provide a declaration/feed label to confirm that the feed used does not contain GM ingredients?		Go to next question		Not approved
4	Is the proposed material a liquid slurry?		Not approved		Go to next question
5	Does the manure come from systems where the stock have access to free range in season?		Go to next question		Not approved
6	In the case of poultry manure from deep litter systems, does the live-weight stocking rate at maturity exceed 25kg per square metre?		Not approved		Go to next question

	<b>Self-Assessment Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
7	<p>Does the need for the manure meet at least one of the following criteria?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• manure from a conventional livestock system about to enter conversion;</li> <li>• manure exchanged for an equivalent quantity of straw supplied to a linked conventional livestock unit for bedding;</li> <li>• a one-off application of manure brought in for light sandy soils in conversion, with low organic matter following exploitative cropping;</li> <li>• manures needed to support small scale intensive field and glass house horticulture;</li> <li>• local manures intended to replace P &amp; K in preference to rock minerals imported from other regions and countries.</li> </ul>		Go to next question		Not approved
8	Will the import of manures impinge on the health of existing stock through the possible introduction of diseases (eg salmonella)?		Not approved		Go to next question
9	Are the storage and handling facilities capable of complying with the Standards to ensure the avoidance of pollution water and public nuisance?		Go to next question		Not approved
10	<p>Will the composting meet the following criteria?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fym and stable manure composted 3 months or stacked for 6 months;</li> <li>• other manures composted for 6 months or stacked for 12 months.</li> </ul>		Go to next question		Not approved
11	Will the intended application rate on the crop exceed the equivalent of 250kg N per hectare?		Not approved		Application approved

**Do not send this form to the OF&G office unless you are having difficulty completing it.**