

Soil Association Organic Standards for Northern Ireland

Summary of standards changes – document updated 18 May 2026

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1. Updates to NI and SA NI Farming & Growing standards

| Standard | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|--|---|--|
| 1.8.9 - Percentage for naming a specific country when declaring ingredient origin (higher) | The standard has been removed. | We have concluded that this requirement no longer meets the criteria to justify a higher standard. |
| 1.16 - Packaging (higher) | <p>The following text has been added to the packaging standards.</p> <p><u>Following feedback from licensees we have paused the implementation of our 2024/25 updated packaging standards. Whenever we review our higher standards, the process is focused on achieving impact through best practice and reasonable implementation. The implementation of the updated packaging standards has highlighted challenges with conveying technical information about packaging through supply chains and so has been paused until further notice whilst we undertake a further review. This is an important topic which we are committed to getting right. Please direct any feedback to standards@soilassociation.org.</u></p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 1.16.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>*This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |

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| | <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p>Any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant. Packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | |
| <p>1.16.4 - Plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks containing phthalates (higher)</p> | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>The <u>implementation of the changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025 are paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>The restriction applies to plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs.</u> This restriction applies to all packaging products in scope and is not restricted to plastic materials. However, for plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs the restriction applies from September 2025. For those specific products, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |
| <p>1.16.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics (higher)</p> | <p>The guidance is updated as follows:</p> <p>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polyvinyl chloride (PVC) • polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) <i>(applied from September 2025)</i> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vinyl chloride <p>For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | |
| 1.16.8 - Oxo-degradable Plastics (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 1.16.9 - Polystyrene (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 1.16.10 - PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients (baseline)** | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Stone meal and clays</p> <p>Description, specific conditions and limits: For example, ground basalt, bentonite, perlite and vermiculite. <u>Perlite, sand and vermiculite, including when heat treated, may also be used for sprouted seeds</u></p> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |

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| | <u>production as an inert medium as referred to in Part I, point 1.3(a), of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848'</u> | |
| 2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients (baseline)** | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Carbon dioxide</u></p> <p>Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>use for enrichment of water for algae production on land in closed systems; in this case, carbon dioxide shall be of food grade</u> • <u>when available, carbon dioxide shall be obtained as a by-product of other processes or from renewable sources pursuant to Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*)</u> • <u>may also be used in greenhouse production</u> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |
| 2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients (baseline)** | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Calcium acetate</u></p> <p>Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>only for foliar application on vegetables in greenhouses and on apple trees to prevent deficiency in calcium</u> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>obtained from calcium carbonate of natural origin</u> | |
| 2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients (baseline)** | The standard is updated as follows: Name: <u>Plant fibre mats</u> Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>plant-based fibres, such as hemp fibre, flax fibre, coconut fibre</u> • <u>with no addition of any fertiliser, soil conditioner or nutrient nor additives or binders, only mechanically manufactured</u> • <u>only for sprouted seeds production as an inert medium referred to in Part I, point 1.3(a), of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848</u> • <u>when available, materials from organic production shall be used</u> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |
| 2.5.2 – Permitted fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients (baseline)** | The standard is updated as follows: Name: <u>Calcium gluconate and magnesium gluconate</u> Description, compositional requirements and conditions for use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • derived from microbial fermentation | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |

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| <p>2.6.2 - Permitted pesticides and plant protection products</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>A new category has been created – ‘low risk active substances’ – and the following substances have been added to this category:</p> <p>Lavandulyl senecioate Potassium hydrogen carbonate Straight chain lepidopteran pheromones Sheep fat Quartz sand and silicone dioxide Lavandulyl senecioate</p> <p>The following substances which were already permitted have been moved to this category:</p> <p>COS-OGA Laminarin Ferric phosphate (iron (III) orthophosphate) ABE-IT 56 (components of lysate of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> strain DDSF623) Aqueous extract from the germinated seeds of sweet Lupinus albus Cerevisane Ferric pyrophosphate</p> | <p>These amendments have been made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>2.7.11 - Soil based production</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The Guidance is updated as follows:</p> <p><u>The following materials may be used as an inert medium for sprouted seed production:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Perlite, sand and vermiculite, including when heat treated</u> • <u>Plant-based fibres, such as hemp fibre, flax fibre, coconut fibre with no addition of any fertiliser,</u> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| | <u>soil conditioner or nutrient nor additives or binders, only mechanically manufactured</u> | |
| 3.7.2 – Quality of outdoor area (baseline)* | The standard is amended as follows: The outdoor area must be attractive to pigs. <u>It must provide an outdoor climate and have access to shelters to allow pigs to regulate their body temperature.</u> Where possible, preference shall <u>must</u> be given to fields with trees or forests. | To ensure the EU Regulation (2020/ 464) is reflected clearly. |
| 3.10.4 - Feeding organic and in-conversion feed (baseline)* | The standard is amended as follows. b) up to 20% of the total average amount of feed can be first year conversion perennial forage crops and protein crops only if they are produced from your own holding, which must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>be sown under organic management on land in first year of conversion,</u> • <u>be part of the holding itself and,</u> • <u>not have been under organic production of that holding in the last five years.</u> | To ensure the SA standard meets regulatory requirements. |
| 3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed (baseline)** | The standard is updated as follows: Product or substance: <u>Single cell proteins from</u> <u>Trichoderma viride and Aspergillus</u> <u>oryzae</u> Conditions of use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>only from non-GM strain and culture media</u> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>not obtained from substrates with synthetic nitrogen sources</u> • <u>obtained from substrates coming from organic production when used for ruminants and other herbivores</u> • <u>when used, antifoaming agents shall be authorised for organic production</u> | |
| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed (baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Products from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> rich in protein</u></p> <p>Conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>only from non-GM strain and culture media</u> • <u>not obtained from substrates with synthetic nitrogen sources</u> • <u>obtained from substrates coming from organic production when used for ruminants and other herbivores</u> • <u>when used, antifoaming agents shall be authorised for organic production</u> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Product or substance: Calcium Calcareous marine shells Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate <u>Calcium stearate</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Propylene glycol</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for the reduction of the risk of ketosis in dairy cows, goats and ewes.</u></p> <p><u>Application in the form of bolus is permitted.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period between 3 weeks before and 6 weeks after calving for dairy cows, or between six weeks before and three weeks after parturition for ewes and goats.</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance:</p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| | <p><u>Calcium propionate</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for the reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia in dairy cows.</u></p> <p><u>Application in the form of bolus is permitted.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period from first signs of parturition to two days after parturition</u></p> | |
| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Calcium chloride</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for the reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia in dairy cows.</u></p> <p><u>Application in the form of bolus is permitted.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period from first signs of parturition to two days after parturition</u></p> <p><u>Calcium chloride when purified from naturally occurring brine, if available</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Iron dextran 10%</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for suckling piglets, to compensate for insufficient iron availability after birth.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period up to 3 weeks from birth.</u></p> <p><u>Growing medium for the fermentation process for dextran must be of non-GMO origin.</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Iron (II) fumarate</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for suckling piglets, to compensate for insufficient iron availability after birth.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period up to 3 weeks from birth.</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| <p>3.10.14 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows</p> <p>ID no. or Functional Group: <u>1c322, 1c322i</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Lecithins</u></p> <p>Conditions for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>derived from organic raw material</u> • <u>from 1 January 2027, only from organic production</u> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>3.10.17 – The use of propylene glycol and iron dextran 10% is restricted</p> <p>(higher)</p> | <p>This standard has been removed.</p> | <p>Further updates to the EU Organic Regulation since this standard was implemented mean that it is no longer necessary as the conditions set out in the Organic Regulation are sufficient to prevent routine or preventative treatment of livestock with these substances.</p> |
| <p>3.11.1 - Transport and handling</p> <p>(baseline)</p> | <p>The guidance is amended as follows.</p> <p><u>Animals should be able to bear weight on all four legs without pain and be able to walk onto the vehicle unaided. If a cow needs shackles to stand or walk, it is not fit for transport.</u></p> | <p>There is a legal requirement that if a cow needed shackles to stand or walk, it is not fit for transport. The guidance has been updated to more explicitly cover this.</p> |

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2. Updates to NI and SA NI Food & Drink standards

| Standard | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|--|---|---|
| 5.9.1 - Using accurate descriptions (baseline)* | <p>The text has been removed from the guidance.</p> <p>If you produce organic and non-organic lines in the same range, you need to make sure that the packaging is sufficiently distinguishable (for example by colour, design or wording) to prevent confusion.</p> | Misleading labelling is already covered in legislation. |
| 5.16 - Packaging (higher) | <p>The following text has been added to the packaging standards.</p> <p><u>Following feedback from licensees we have paused the implementation of our 2024/25 updated packaging standards. Whenever we review our higher standards, the process is focused on achieving impact through best practice and reasonable implementation. The implementation of the updated packaging standards has highlighted challenges with conveying technical information about packaging through supply chains and so has been paused until further notice whilst we undertake a further review. This is an important topic which we are committed to getting right. Please direct any feedback to standards@soilassociation.org.</u></p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 5.16.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>*This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |

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| | <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p>Any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant. Packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | |
| <p>5.16.4 - Plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks containing phthalates (higher)</p> | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>The <u>implementation of the</u> changes to this standard <u>come into effect from September 2025 are paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p>Until September 2025 The restriction applies to plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs.</p> <p>From September 2025, the restriction will apply to all packaging, whether in contact with foodstuffs or not. Any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |
| <p>5.16.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics (higher)</p> | <p>The guidance is updated as follows:</p> <p>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polyvinyl chloride (PVC) • polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) <i>(applied from September 2025)</i> • vinyl chloride | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |

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| | For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted. | |
| 5.16.8 - Oxo-degradable Plastics (higher) | The standard is amended as follows: This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 5.16.9 - Polystyrene (higher) | The standard is amended as follows: This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 5.16.10 - PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) (higher) | The standard is amended as follows: This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 6.4.1 – Permitted additives and processing aids (baseline) | The following entries were amended as follows. Name: E220 Sulphur dioxide Specific conditions: fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead with and without added sugar) (see standard 6.4.3. for additional SA standard related to free sulphur dioxide levels). 100 mg/l (Maximum levels available from all sources, expressed as SO ₂ in mg/l). <u>For mulled cider, you must also meet these requirements.</u> Name: E224 Potassium metabisulphite | This is to clarify how this standard applies to mulled cider and wine. |

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| | <p>Specific conditions: Fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead with and without added sugar): 100 mg/l (Maximum levels available from all sources, expressed as SO₂ in mg/l. <u>For mulled cider, you must also meet these requirements.</u></p> | |
| <p>6.4.2 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The separate lists of food additives and food processing aids are merged into one table.</p> | <p>This amendment is made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>6.4.2 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Buffered vinegar</u></p> <p>Use as an additive: <u>products of plant and animal origin</u></p> <p><u>only from organic production</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>6.4.2 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Gellan gum</p> <p>Use as an additive: Products of plant and animal origin</p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| | <p>From organic production, applicable as of 1 January 2023 <u>if available</u></p> <p>Only high-acyl form</p> | |
| <p>6.4.2 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Pea protein</u></p> <p>Use as a processing aid: <u>Use for clarification of fruit juices and fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead</u></p> <p><u>From organic production if available</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>6.4.2 – Permitted additives; and 6.5.1 – Permitted processing aids</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Potato protein</u></p> <p>Use as a processing aid <u>Use for clarification of fruit juices and fruit wines (wines made from fruits other than grapes, including cider and perry) and mead</u></p> <p><u>From organic production if available</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| <p>6.4.3 – Free sulphur dioxide levels (higher)</p> | <p>The guidance text is amended as follows.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate compliance, you will need to prove that the free SO₂ level does not exceed this level – this could be by regular testing of products. If you source products certified to other organic standards they must meet this Soil Association requirement. <u>For mulled cider, you must also meet these requirements. This standard does not apply to fruit wines, cider and mead when used as an ingredient in a product, e.g. a pork and cider pie.</u></p> | <p>This is to clarify how this standard applies to mulled cider and wine.</p> |
| <p>6.6.2 – Ingredients which must be organic (higher)</p> | <p>The standard has been removed.</p> | <p>Previously, the EU Organic Regulation had allowed the use of certain non-organic ingredients, even where organic was widely available. However, subsequent updates to the EU Organic Regulation have resulted in a significantly shorter and more tightly controlled list of permitted non-organic ingredients. As a result, this higher standard is no longer needed.</p> |
| <p>6.8.12 - Organic yeast (baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: <u>Fermentation activators</u></p> <p>Primary yeast</p> <p>Specific conditions and limits</p> <p><u>nutrients from yeast extract or autolysate</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

Key to text changes: (~~strikethrough~~ = delete; underlined = new wording; normal text = no change)

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| | <u>up to 5 % of the substrate calculated in weight of dry matter</u> | |
| 6.9.3 - Additives and processing aids (baseline) | <p>This standard is amended as follows.</p> <p>Product/substance: Sulphur dioxide, Potassium bisulphite or potassium metabisulphite.</p> <p>Specific conditions: <u>For mulled wines, you must also meet these requirements.</u></p> | This is to clarify how this standard is applied. |
| 6.9.4 - Sulphur dioxide levels for Soil Association certified wines (higher) | <p>The following text has been added to the guidance.</p> <p><u>For mulled wines, you must also meet these requirements. This standard does not apply to wines when used as an ingredient in a product, e.g. a beef and red wine sausage.</u></p> | This is to clarify how this standard is applied. |
| 6.9.4 - Sulphur dioxide levels for Soil Association certified wines (baseline) | <p>The following text has been added to the guidance.</p> <p><u>For mulled wines, you must also meet these requirements</u></p> | This is to clarify how this standard is applied. |
| 6.9.3 - Additives and processing aids (baseline)** | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Yeasts for wine production</p> <p>References to Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934:</p> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |

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| | <p>Part A, Table 2, <u>point 1.11</u> Part A, Table 2, point 9.1</p> <p>Specific conditions and limit <u>For the individual yeast strains, organic if available</u></p> | |
| <p>6.9.3 - Additives and processing aids (baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Name: Lactic bacteria</p> <p>References to Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934: <u>Part A, Table 2, point 1.12</u> Part A, Table 2, point 9.2</p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

3. Updates to NI and SA NI Aquaculture standards

| Standard | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|---|---|--|
| <p>13.8.1 – Products and substances permitted for use in aquaculture feed (baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows</p> <p>ID no. or Functional Group: <u>1c322, 1c322i</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Lecithins</u></p> <p>Conditions for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>derived from organic raw material</u> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>from 1 January 2027, only from organic production</u> • use restricted to aquaculture animal feed | |
| 13.19.1 - Using accurate descriptions* (baseline) | <p>The text has been removed from the guidance.</p> <p>If you produce organic and non-organic lines in the same range, you need to make sure that the packaging is sufficiently distinguishable (for example by colour, design or wording) to prevent confusion.</p> | Misleading labelling is already covered in legislation. |
| 13.20 - Packaging (higher) | <p>The following text has been added to the packaging standards.</p> <p><u>Following feedback from licensees we have paused the implementation of our 2024/25 updated packaging standards. Whenever we review our higher standards, the process is focused on achieving impact through best practice and reasonable implementation. The implementation of the updated packaging standards has highlighted challenges with conveying technical information about packaging through supply chains and so has been paused until further notice whilst we undertake a further review. This is an important topic which we are committed to getting right. Please direct any feedback to standards@soilassociation.org.</u></p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 13.20.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>*This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |

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| | <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p>Any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant. Packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | |
| <p>13.20.4 - Plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks containing phthalates</p> <p>(higher)</p> | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>The <u>implementation of the changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025 are paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>The restriction applies to plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs. This restriction applies to all packaging products in scope and is not restricted to plastic materials. However, for plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs the restriction applies from September 2025. For those specific products, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</u></p> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |
| <p>13.20.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics</p> <p>(higher)</p> | <p>The guidance is updated as follows:</p> <p>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polyvinyl chloride (PVC) | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) (applied from September 2025) • vinyl chloride <p>For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | |
| 13.20.8 - Oxo-degradable Plastics (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 13.20.9 - Polystyrene (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 13.20.10 - PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |

4. Updates to NI and SA NI Feed Processing standards

| Standard | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|----------|------------------------|-------------------|
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Key to text changes: (strikethrough = delete; underlined = new wording; normal text = no change)

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| <p>8.10.1 - Using accurate descriptions* (baseline)</p> | <p>The text has been removed from the guidance.</p> <p>If you produce organic and non-organic lines in the same range, you need to make sure that the packaging is sufficiently distinguishable (for example by colour, design or wording) to prevent confusion.</p> | <p>Misleading labelling is already covered in legislation.</p> |
| <p>8.16 - Packaging (higher)</p> | <p>The following text has been added to the packaging standards.</p> <p><u>Following feedback from licensees we have paused the implementation of our 2024/25 updated packaging standards. Whenever we review our higher standards, the process is focused on achieving impact through best practice and reasonable implementation. The implementation of the updated packaging standards has highlighted challenges with conveying technical information about packaging through supply chains and so has been paused until further notice whilst we undertake a further review. This is an important topic which we are committed to getting right. Please direct any feedback to standards@soilassociation.org.</u></p> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |
| <p>8.16.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products (higher)</p> | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>*This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |

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| | Any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant. Packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted. | |
| 8.16.4 - Plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks containing phthalates (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>The <u>implementation of the changes to this standard come into effect from September 2025 are paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>The restriction applies to plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs. This restriction applies to all packaging products in scope and is not restricted to plastic materials.</u> However, for plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs the restriction applies from September 2025. For those specific products, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 8.16.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics (higher) | <p>The guidance is updated as follows:</p> <p>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polyvinyl chloride (PVC) • polyvinylidene chloride (PVdC) <i>(applied from September 2025)</i> • vinyl chloride | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |

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| | For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted. | |
| 8.16.8 - Oxo-degradable Plastics (higher) | The standard is amended as follows: This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 8.16.9 - Polystyrene (higher) | The standard is amended as follows: This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 8.16.10 - PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) (higher) | The standard is amended as follows: This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 9.1.4 – Feeding organic and in-conversion feed (baseline)* | The standard is amended as follows. b) up to 20% of the total average amount of feed can be first year conversion perennial forage crops and protein crops only if they are produced from your own holding, which must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>be sown under organic management on land in first year of conversion.</u> • <u>be part of the holding itself and.</u> • <u>not have been under organic production of that holding in the last five years.</u> | To ensure the SA standard meets regulatory requirements. |

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| <p>9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Single cell proteins from <i>Trichoderma viride</i> and <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></p> <p>Conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>only from non-GM strain and culture media</u> • <u>not obtained from substrates with synthetic nitrogen sources</u> • <u>obtained from substrates coming from organic production when used for ruminants and other herbivores</u> • <u>when used, antifoaming agents shall be authorised for organic production</u> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows:</p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Products from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> rich in protein</u></p> <p>Conditions of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>only from non-GM strain and culture media</u> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>not obtained from substrates with synthetic nitrogen sources</u> • <u>obtained from substrates coming from organic production when used for ruminants and other herbivores</u> • <u>when used, antifoaming agents shall be authorised for organic production</u> | |
| 9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed (baseline)** | The standard is updated as follows: Product or substance: Calcium Calcareous marine shells Calcium gluconate Calcium carbonate <u>Calcium stearate</u> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |
| 9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed (baseline)** | The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u> Product or substance: <u>Propylene glycol</u> Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for the reduction of the risk of ketosis in dairy cows, goats and ewes.</u> <u>Application in the form of bolus is permitted.</u> | This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973 |

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| | <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period between 3 weeks before and 6 weeks after calving for dairy cows, or between six weeks before and three weeks after parturition for ewes and goats.</u></p> | |
| <p>9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Calcium propionate</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for the reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia in dairy cows.</u></p> <p><u>Application in the form of bolus is permitted.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period from first signs of parturition to two days after parturition</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Calcium chloride</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for the reduction of the risk of milk fever and subclinical hypocalcaemia in dairy cows.</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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| | <p><u>Application in the form of bolus is permitted.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period from first signs of parturition to two days after parturition</u></p> <p><u>Calcium chloride when purified from naturally occurring brine, if available</u></p> | |
| <p>9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Iron dextran 10%</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for suckling piglets, to compensate for insufficient iron availability after birth.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period up to 3 weeks from birth.</u></p> <p><u>Growing medium for the fermentation process for dextran must be of non-GMO origin.</u></p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The following product was added to a new section of the table: <u>Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes</u></p> <p>Product or substance:</p> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |

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|--|---|---|
| | <p><u>Iron (II) fumarate</u></p> <p>Conditions of use: <u>Specifically for suckling piglets, to compensate for insufficient iron availability after birth.</u></p> <p><u>Only for animals in need and for a limited period up to 3 weeks from birth.</u></p> | |
| <p>9.1.13 - Products and substances permitted for use in livestock feed</p> <p>(baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows</p> <p>ID no. or Functional Group: <u>1c322, 1c322i</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Lecithins</u></p> <p>Conditions for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>derived from organic raw material</u> • <u>from 1 January 2027, only from organic production</u> | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
| <p>9.1.15 – The use of propylene glycol and iron dextran 10% is restricted</p> <p>(higher)</p> | <p>This standard has been removed.</p> | <p>Further updates to the EU Organic Regulation since this standard was implemented mean that it is no longer necessary as the conditions set out in the Organic Regulation are sufficient to prevent routine or preventative treatment of livestock with these substances.</p> |

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| <p>10.2.1 - Permitted feed additives (baseline)**</p> | <p>The standard is updated as follows</p> <p>ID no. or Functional Group: <u>1c322, 1c322i</u></p> <p>Product or substance: <u>Lecithins</u></p> <p>Conditions for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only if derived from organic raw material • <u>from 1 January 2027, only from organic production</u> • Use restricted to aquaculture animal feed | <p>This is an update made by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/973</p> |
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5. Updates to NI Abattoir & Slaughter standards

| Standard | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|--|---|--|
| <p>18.8.3 - Using accurate descriptions (baseline)*</p> | <p>The text has been removed from the guidance.</p> <p>If you produce organic and non-organic lines in the same range, you need to make sure that the packaging is sufficiently distinguishable (for example by colour, design or wording) to prevent confusion.</p> | <p>Misleading labelling is already covered in legislation.</p> |

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6. Updates to NI and SA NI Seaweed standards

| Standard | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|--|---|---|
| 14.10.1 - Using accurate descriptions (baseline)* | <p>The text has been removed from the guidance.</p> <p>If you produce organic and non-organic lines in the same range, you need to make sure that the packaging is sufficiently distinguishable (for example by colour, design or wording) to prevent confusion.</p> | Misleading labelling is already covered in legislation. |
| 15.5 - Packaging (higher) | <p>The following text has been added to the packaging standards.</p> <p><u>Following feedback from licensees we have paused the implementation of our 2024/25 updated packaging standards. Whenever we review our higher standards, the process is focused on achieving impact through best practice and reasonable implementation. The implementation of the updated packaging standards has highlighted challenges with conveying technical information about packaging through supply chains and so has been paused until further notice whilst we undertake a further review. This is an important topic which we are committed to getting right. Please direct any feedback to standards@soilassociation.org.</u></p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 15.5.3 - Paper, card and wood-pulp packaging products (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>*This standard comes into effect from September 2025. <u>The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |

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| | <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p>Any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant. Packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | |
| <p>15.5.4 - Plastic materials, coatings, dyes or inks containing phthalates (higher)</p> | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>The <u>implementation of the</u> changes to this standard <u>come into effect from September 2025 are paused while a review is undertaken.</u></p> <p>The guidance is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>The restriction applies to plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs. This restriction applies to all packaging products in scope and is not restricted to plastic materials. However, for plastic materials, coatings, dyes, or inks in contact with foodstuffs the restriction applies from September 2025. For those specific products, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</u></p> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |
| <p>15.5.5 - PVC and other chlorinated plastics (higher)</p> | <p>The guidance is updated as follows:</p> <p>This restriction applies to all chlorinated plastics which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polyvinyl chloride (PVC) • polyvinylidene chloride (PVC) <i>(applied from September 2025)</i> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vinyl chloride <p>For products containing PVdC, any packaging purchased from September 2025 must be compliant and packaging purchased prior to September 2025 may be used until stocks are exhausted.</p> | |
| 15.5.8 - Oxo-degradable Plastics (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 15.5.9 - Polystyrene (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |
| 15.5.10 - PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) (higher) | <p>The standard is amended as follows:</p> <p>This standard comes into effect from September 2025. The implementation of this standard is paused while a review is undertaken.</p> | We are currently undertaking a review of our packaging standards. |

7. Updates to SA Glossary

| Term | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Outdoor range | <p>an outdoor area to which livestock have access. It is <u>mainly covered in vegetation, and which includes soil connected to subsoil and bedrock</u>. For poultry, part or all of the outdoor range may comprise a fenced area, or 'run'. The use of 'verandas' or other screened in and/or</p> | This update has been made to provide greater clarity around the relationship between 'range' and 'run'. |

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| | roofed structures attached to a fixed poultry house does not qualify as outdoor range. | |
|--|--|--|

8. Updates to SA Sourcing Annex

| Sourcing requirement | Description of changes | Reason for update |
|--|--|---|
| 5.11 Resting the range for laying poultry | For laying poultry, the pasture range must be rested for at least nine months between each flock of laying birds . <u>This requirement does not apply if your poultry: are not reared in batches; are not kept in runs; and are free to roam throughout the day.</u> | To align the wording with SA Farming & Growing standards. |

9. Standards that have no significant updates

There are no significant updates to the following standards (typos or errors may have been corrected):

- Health & Beauty
- Textiles
- SA Approved & Verified Inputs

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