

Self Assessment Procedure for Importing Non-Organic Animal Manures and Slurries

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 non-organic agriculture.

In addition, some practices that 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 Control Body responsible for inspecting and certifying the producer concerned. This is identified in the OF&G Organic Standards and Certification Manual (OSCM) by the term 'Must be approved by OF&G before use.'

The Self Assessment Approach

This Technical Leaflet has been written to allow producers the opportunity to grant themselves approval to use non-organic animal manures and slurries without contacting OF&G.

To use this procedure, the Self-Assessment Questionnaire 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:

- On completing the Self Assessment Questionnaire if the answer to Question 13 is 'Application Approved', the producer may go ahead and use the manure or slurry in compliance with the conditions stated in the questions. Keep the form on farm for future inspection.
- Where any question results in a 'Not approved' answer the producer may not use the manure or slurry. Keep the form on farm for future inspection.
- Where the producer is uncertain over the process or result, a completed OF&G Record Sheet 9 must be submitted to OF&G with a copy of the GM declaration (OF&G Record Sheet 2), copies of feed labels and Nitrogen budget (OF&G Record Sheet 22) to gain approval.

This procedure must be used in conjunction with the criteria set out in Sections 7.13.19 to 7.13.27 of the OSCM.

Avoidance of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

All brought-in manures and slurries must come from animals that have not been fed feeds containing GMOs. In order to establish this, if the animals producing the manure or slurry were fed a compound feed, then you must obtain a copy of the

feed label. If the feed contains ingredients that were produced or derived from GMOs then the feed label will indicate this. If the manure or slurry to be brought in was produced by animals being fed straight feeds a non-GM Declaration must be obtained from the supplier, OF&G Record Sheet 2 can be used for this.

Nitrogen Budget

The need for a Nitrogen budget applies equally to manures and slurries from both registered organic / in-conversion holdings and non-organic holdings. The Nitrogen budget must be completed to verify that the total quantity of manure and/or slurries produced by the stock on the holding and brought-in from elsewhere will not result in the application of more than 170kg Nitrogen per hectare per year. OF&G Record Sheet 22 can be used for this purpose.

Period of Eligibility

The self-assessment procedure applies only to the manure and slurry to be brought-in from one source during the current calendar year only. An additional procedure must be completed each year or if material is brought-in from other additional sources.

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 OF&G at following inspections.

The Self-Assessment Questionnaire and the required documentation (feed labels for the feed fed to the animals that produced the manure or, if no compounds fed, a Declaration of Non-Genetically Modified Content - Record Sheet 2, and a Nitrogen/Livestock Calculation Sheet - Record Sheet 22) 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

Failure to obtain prior approval to use a restricted practice or input from OF&G 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 OF&G certification officers will apply the appropriate penalty in such cases. This 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.



OF&G
Old Estate Yard
Shrewsbury Road | Albrighton
Shrewsbury | Shropshire
SY4 3AG



01939 291 800



@ofgorganic



info@ofgorganic.org



/organicfarmers



ofgorganic.org

Self Assessment Questionnaire for Importing Non-Organic Animal Manure and Slurry

Operator name:		Date Manure/Slurry to be brought in:			
Give details of the livestock system from which the manure or slurry is derived					
What quantity will be brought in?					
	Self Assessment Questions	YES		NO	
1	In the case of an arable system, has the rotation been accepted by OF&G 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 and/or slurry per hectare per year does not exceed 170kg Nitrogen?		Go to next question		Not approved
3	Were the animals that produced the manure or slurry fed on a non-GM diet?		Go to next question		Not approved
4	If the animals that produced the manure or slurry were fed a concentrate feed has a copy of the feed label(s) been attached to this form? (If not fed a compound feed go to Question 5.)		Go to next question		Not approved
5	If the animals that produced the manure or slurry were fed a straight feed has a copy of the GM declaration been attached to this form? (If not fed a straight feed go to Question 6.)		Go to next question		Not approved
6	Does the manure or slurry come from systems where the stock have access to free range in season? (For poultry manure from barn systems go to Question 7.)		Go to Question 8		Not approved
7	In the case of poultry manure from deep litter systems, does the live-weight stocking rate at maturity exceed 30kg per m ² ?		Not approved		Go to next question
8	Does the need for the manure or slurry meet at least one of the following criteria? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manure or slurry from a non-organic livestock system about to enter conversion; • manure or slurry exchanged for an equivalent quantity of straw supplied to a linked non-organic livestock unit for bedding; • a one-off application of manure or slurry brought-in for light sandy soils in conversion, with low organic matter following exploitative cropping; • manure or slurry needed to support small scale intensive field and glasshouse horticulture; • local manure or slurry intended to replace P & K in preference to rock minerals imported from other regions and countries 		Go to next question		Not approved
9	Will the import of manure or slurry impinge on the health of existing stock through the possible introduction of diseases (e.g. salmonella)?		Not approved		Go to next question
10	Are the storage and handling facilities capable of complying with the Standards to ensure the avoidance of pollution and public nuisance?		Go to next question		Not approved
11	For manures only (for slurry go to Question 12): Has the manure been properly composted.		Go to Question 13		Not approved
12	For slurry only: Has the slurry been subject to controlled fermentation and/or appropriate dilution?		Go to next question		Not approved
13	Will the intended application rate on the crop exceed the equivalent of 250kg N per hectare?		Not approved		Application approved
Form completed by:			DATE:		
Form checked by (OF&G Inspector):			DATE:		

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

Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements.

Statutory information if for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print.

For your organic business

