



Allowed Input Scheme

Version 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Southern Cross Certified Australia

Southern Cross Certified Australia (SXC) is a certification body operating in Australia and has been approved by the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as an Organic Approved Certifying Organisation ([Click Here](#)).

SXC offers organic certification services to its clients for the following certification schemes:

- National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce (the Australian Export Standard); and
- AS 6000 – Organic and Biodynamic Products.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this scheme is to allow manufacturers to provide a third-party assurance to their customers that their products are suitable for use in organic production systems certified to the following standards (hereafter referred to as “the standards”):

- National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce; and
- AS 6000 – Organic and Biodynamic Products.

The requirements of this scheme are derived from Appendices in the abovementioned documents that :

- specify requirements for farming inputs; and
- specify criteria to evaluate input substances for inclusion in those standards.

1.3 Scope

This scheme applies to processed products derived mainly from plants, animals and other cultured organisms that are deemed to be farming inputs used for:

- soil fertilising and conditioning;
- plant pest and disease control;
- livestock pest and disease control;
- livestock feed additives;
- products used for sanitation, storage and handling;
- substances permitted as post-harvest treatments;
- processing inputs;
- food additives for plant and livestock products; and
- processing aids for plant and livestock products.

SXC Allowed Inputs must not be confused with certified organic inputs. Suppliers of products certified to this scheme must ensure that their products are not misrepresented to imply that they are certified organic products.

2 Requirements

2.1 Interpretation

For the purposes of this section, the term "Product" refers to the product for which approval is being sought. Wherever the term "Product" is used, the requirements below shall be interpreted as applying to the finished product, and any ingredients of that product.

Products that must comply with the "Farming Input Requirements" section are products that are to be used for any of the following:

- soil fertilising and conditioning;
- plant pest and disease control;
- livestock pest and disease control;
- livestock feed additives;
- products used for sanitation, storage and handling; and
- substances permitted as post-harvest treatments.

Products that must comply with the "Additives and Processing Aids" section are products that are to be used for any of the following:

- processing inputs;
- food additives for plant and livestock products; and
- processing aids for plant and livestock products.

2.2 General Requirements

2.2.1 Products must not be:

- derived from genetic modification technology, or
- treated with ionising radiation, or
- interfere with the natural metabolism of livestock and plants, or
- manufactured / produced using nanotechnology.

2.2.2 Products must not contain prohibited substances that are listed in the standards.

2.3 Farming Input Requirements

2.3.1 Products should be of plant, animal, microbial or mineral origin and may undergo the following processes :

- Mechanical/physical, such as extraction, precipitation, thermal, and/or
- Biological/enzymatic/microbial, such as fermentation, composting, digestion and such substances as are found in nature.

2.3.2 Ecological criteria are to be considered when assessing allowance of chemically synthesised nature-identical inputs:

- Products that are identical to natural products (such as pheromones that are chemically produced) may be considered only where the products are not available in sufficient quantities in their natural form.
- Collection and treatment must not affect the stability of the natural environment or affect the maintenance of species within the collection area.

2.3.3 Products shall not contain synthetic chemicals (xenobiotic products) and chemical products are only acceptable if nature identical.

2.3.4 Products use must not result in, or contribute to unacceptable effects on or contamination of, the environment. The following applies:

- Products showing acute toxicity to non-target organisms must have:
 - a maximum half-life of 5 days; and
 - clearly defined restrictions for their use, in an attempt to ensure survival of non-target organisms. Where it is not possible for such restrictions to ensure survival of non-target organisms, the use of the input must not be allowed.
- Products which accumulate in the environment are prohibited.
- Products that are suspected of having mutagenic or carcinogenic properties are prohibited.
- Products must contain no or only low levels of heavy metals. Due to the lack of any satisfactory alternative, and due to long-standing, traditional use in organic agriculture, copper and copper salts are an exception.

2.3.5 The products use must have no unacceptable effect on the quality and safety of the final product;

2.3.6 The products use shall have no negative effects on the quality of the product in terms of taste, keeping quality and visual quality

2.3.7 The literature for the product must indicate that the application of the product should be timed so that there is no residue of the input by the time of product sales.

2.4 Compost

2.4.1 Compost must be produced in accordance with AS 4454.

2.4.2 Appropriate turning of outer material to the inside of the windrow so the whole mass is subjected to a minimum of three turns with the internal temperature reaching a minimum of 55°C for three consecutive days before each turn.

2.4.3 Where higher risk materials including manure, animal waste, food or grease trap wastes are used as feedstock, the core temperature of the compost mass shall be maintained at 55°C or higher for 15 days or longer. During this period the windrow shall be turned a minimum of five times.

2.5 Additives and Processing Aid Requirements

2.5.1 The following are not permitted as an additive or processing aid:

- "Nature identical" synthetic substances;
- synthetic substances primarily considered as being unnatural or as a "new construction" of food compounds such as acetylated cross-linked starches;
- any substance that uses genetic engineering techniques; and
- synthetic colouring and synthetic preservatives

2.5.2 Additives and processing aids shall only be approved where the additive or processing aid is essential to the production; and

- the authenticity of the product is respected; and
- the product cannot be produced or preserved without them.

- 2.5.3 Additives and processing aids shall only be approved where:
- There are no other acceptable technologies available to process or preserve the product.
 - The use of additives or processing aids minimise physical or mechanical damage to the foodstuff that might result from the use of other technologies.
 - The safety of the product cannot be guaranteed as effectively by other methods such as a reduction in distribution time or improvement of storage facilities.
 - There are no natural food sources available of acceptable quality and quantity which can be used instead of the additive or processing aid.
- 2.5.4 Additives or processing aids must not compromise the authenticity of the product.
- 2.5.5 Additives or processing aids must not confuse the customer by giving the impression that the final product is of higher quality than is justified by the quality of the raw material. This refers primarily, but not exclusively, to colouring and flavouring agents.
- 2.5.6 Additives and processing aids must not detract from the overall quality of the product.

3 Application

3.1 Preparation

Before applying for certification to the SXC Allowed Input scheme, it is recommended that the following documentation and any other supporting evidence be gathered. Information such as :

1. Ingredient supplier statements of Non-GMO and Non-Irradiation;
2. MSDS for ingredients;
3. Certificates;
4. Research that indicates the requirements in section [2](#) above have been met.

3.2 Lodging an Application

To apply for certification to the SXC Allowed Input scheme:

5. Register at <https://www.sxcertified.om.au>
6. Login to your portal.
7. Apply for the "Certified Input" service.
8. Respond to the various questions and provide details and documentation which supports how the products satisfies the requirements in section [2](#) above.

3.3 Application Review

Once the application has been submitted, SXC reviews the information to ensure that your operation and products have a good chance of being able to meet the requirements of this scheme. SXC may contact you for more information if required.

3.4 Initial Audit

If the Application Review stage is successful, SXC will ask an experienced auditor to contact you to arrange an on-site audit. This audit will ensure that you fulfil all requirements of the scheme.

3.5 Certification

If the Application Review and Initial Audit are successful, SXC will decide on whether it will grant certification. If certification is granted, the applicant must sign an agreement and pay the certification fee and audit costs before a certificate is issued.

If certification is denied, the applicant will be sent a written notification of this.

3.6 Appeal

Applicants may appeal decisions relating to certification made by SXC (including decisions to deny certification) by lodging a written appeal with SXC. This appeal must make clear reference to the decision in question and must state the reasons why the applicant believes the decision was not valid. SXC will then assign an independent appeals committee to review the decision. The applicant will be notified in writing of the appeals committee decision as soon as possible after the decision, and the justification for upholding or denying the appeal.

4 Surveillance

After initial certification has been granted, SXC will conduct surveillance of the allowed input manufacturer's operations as follows :

1. An on-site audit will be conducted every 2 years.
2. A desktop audit will be conducted every year between on-site audits.
3. Testing may be conducted as and when needed.
4. In some circumstances, operators may be subjected to additional audits.