



Allowed Input Scheme

Version 2

Feb 2020

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Southern Cross Certified Australia.....	3
1.2	Purpose	3
1.3	Scope.....	3
2	Requirements.....	4
2.1	Interpretation.....	4
2.2	General Requirements.....	4
2.3	Farming Input Requirements.....	4
2.4	Compost.....	5
2.5	Additives and Processing Aid Requirements.....	6
3	Labelling	6
3.1	Labelling Requirements	6
4	Records	6
4.1	Record Keeping.....	6
5	Application	7
5.1	Preparation	7
5.2	Lodging an Application.....	7
5.3	Application Review	7
5.4	Initial Audit.....	7
5.5	Certification	7
5.6	Appeal.....	8
6	Surveillance	8
7	Changes to Rules	8
	Appendix A - Additional NOP Requirements	9

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 various certification schemes including:

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

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
- AS 6000 – Organic and Biodynamic Products
- USDA National Organic Program (NOP).

Please refer to [Appendix A - Additional NOP Requirements](#) for additional requirements applicable for Allowed Inputs suitable for use in NOP certified operations.

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

- specify requirements for farming & processing 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, other cultured organisms, minerals and other natural substances that are deemed to be 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.

All products will be assessed for suitability for use in a USDA-NOP certified operation. If the assessment results in the determination that the product is suitable for use in National Standards and AS 6000 certified operations, but not suitable for use in USDA-NOP certified operations, the product may still be certified with additional [Labelling](#) requirements.

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 shall 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 shall only contain substances that are permitted for the intended purpose of the product. *For example, ammonium sulphate may be used as a food additive under the National Standard, however it is not permitted as a soil amendment.*

2.2.3 All ingredients shall be traced back one step in the biological chain to the organism from which they are produced to verify that they are not derived from genetically modified organisms.

2.2.4 Packaging should exclude unnecessary materials and should incorporate recycled, recyclable and/or biodegradable materials.

2.2.5 Packaging shall be clean, and if re-used, be rendered as new through sterilisation. Packaging must not contaminate the product.

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 shall 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 Product use shall 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 shall 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 shall not be allowed.
 - Products which accumulate in the environment are prohibited.
 - Products that are suspected of having mutagenic or carcinogenic properties are prohibited.
 - Products shall 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 Product use shall have no unacceptable effect on the quality and safety of the final organic product.
- 2.3.6 Product use shall have no negative effects on the quality of the final organic product in terms of taste, keeping quality and visual quality.
- 2.3.7 Inert (non-active) ingredients shall be compliant to the standards and if not listed, are restricted for use and only permitted for use where no other listed ingredients can fulfil that role and they are essential for the application of the active ingredient. For additional requirements relating to the use of inert ingredients in NOP products, refer to [Appendix A - Additional NOP Requirements](#).

2.4 Compost

- 2.4.1 Compost shall be produced in accordance with AS 4454-2012. For additional requirements relating to the use of compost in NOP certified operations, refer to [Appendix A - Additional NOP Requirements](#).
- 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

The approval of additives and processing aids shall be restricted to materials listed in the appendices and sections of the standards for allowed additives and processing aids or where the Commonwealth, State or Territory law requires them.

2.5.2 Additives and processing aids shall not detract from the overall quality of the final organic product.

3 Labelling

3.1 Labelling Requirements

3.1.1 Products produced in accordance with this Standard shall be clearly and accurately labelled to ensure consumers are well informed when purchasing products.

3.1.2 Products that satisfy the requirements in this standard, including those specified in [Appendix A - Additional NOP Requirements](#) shall use the claim "Allowed Input".

3.1.3 Products that satisfy the requirements in this standard except for [Appendix A - Additional NOP Requirements](#) shall use the claim "Allowed Input" followed by an asterisk:

Allowed Input*

In this circumstance, the product labelling shall also include the following sentence in close proximity to the claim:

*Not for use in USDA-NOP

4 Records

4.1 Record Keeping

4.1.1 Accurate and up-to-date records shall be kept, including, but not limited, to those records pertaining to:

1. inputs (description of quantities and sources)
2. management / process related actions
3. other significant events
4. outputs including descriptions, quantities and consignees.

- 4.1.2 Records must be sufficient to allow sold product to be traced back to source input materials
- 4.1.3 Records must be sufficient to allow quantities or volumes of source input materials to be compared with the quantities or volumes of finished product sold.
- 4.1.4 Records must be kept for a minimum of 5 years

5 Application

5.1 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 should include:

1. Ingredient supplier statements relating to the Non-GMO, Non-Irradiation, Non-Treated/fumigated nature of the ingredients being supplied.
2. A list of all ingredients including MSDS
3. Certificates for any ingredients classified as certified.
4. A description of the manufacturing process
5. Research that supports the product meets the requirements in Section [2](#).

5.2 Lodging an Application

To apply for certification to the SXC Allowed Input scheme:

1. Register at <https://www.sxcertified.om.au>
2. Login to your portal.
3. Select the "SXC Allowed Input Scheme".
4. Respond to the various questions and provide details and documentation which supports how the products satisfies the requirements in section [2](#) of this document.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 Certification

If the Application Review and Initial Audit are successful, SXC will make a decision to either grant or deny 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.

5.6 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 shall make clear reference to the decision in question and shall 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.

6 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. Desktop audits assess current practices of the operator compared with practices held on file by SXC and may include updates to procedures, products, recipes and ingredients.
3. Testing may be conducted as and when needed.
4. In some circumstances, operators may be subjected to additional audits.

7 Changes to Rules

The SXC Allowed Input Scheme requirements may change from time to time to respond to changes in standards that affect the classification of permitted and prohibited substances in organic production systems and consumer and industry feedback

All operators certified to the SXC Allowed Input Scheme will be notified of changes to this standard within 7 days of the changes being published.

Operators will then have a 6 month grace period to implement the changes, including changing of labelling where required. A derogation to continue to use existing labelling past this grace period may be granted by SXC. In such cases, the decision to issue a derogation will be based on the risk to the integrity of this scheme.

Appendix A - Additional NOP Requirements

In order for a product to be certified under this standard and be deemed acceptable as an input of a NOP certified operation, the following additional requirements must be met :

1. Products shall not be manufactured using sewage sludge.
2. All NOP allowed farming inputs shall comply with the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances sections 205.600 – 205.604 of NOP regulations. Synthetic inert ingredients used in a pesticide must be listed on the US Environmental Protection Agency's EPA List 4, with EPA list 3 only for passive pheromone dispensers.
3. For compost, the initial carbon to nitrogen ratio of the plant & animal material used for the compost shall be between 25:1 and 40:1
4. All additives and processing aids shall comply with the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances sections 205.605 and 205.606 of NOP regulations.