



## Organic and biodynamic products



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee FT-032, Organic and Biodynamic Products. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 26 October 2015.

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The following are represented on Committee FT-032:

- Accord Australasia
  - Australian Food and Grocery Council
  - Australian National Retailers Association
  - Australian Organic
  - Biodynamic Agriculture Australia
  - Consumer's Federation of Australia
  - Department of Agriculture (Australian Government)
  - Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand
  - National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia
  - Organic Federation of Australia
  - Organic Industry Standards and Certification Council
- 

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

## Organic and biodynamic products

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee FT-032, Organic and Biodynamic Products, to supersede AS 6000—2009.

The objective of this Standard is—

- (a) to establish a framework for the organic industry covering production, preparation, transportation, labelling and marketing;
- (b) to ensure that all stages of production, preparation and marketing meet the minimum requirements as outlined in this Standard;
- (c) to protect consumers against deception and fraud in the market place and unsubstantiated product claims;
- (d) to protect producers of organic products against misinterpretation of other agricultural products as organic;
- (e) to provide a guide to farmers contemplating conversion to organic farming;
- (f) to raise awareness of ecological requirements in nature and the farm environment; and
- (g) to harmonize national provisions for the production, identification and labelling of organically and biodynamically grown products.

The objective of this revision is to update—

- (i) Clauses 2.1 Farm, and 2.2 Conversion of land;
- (ii) Clause 2.14.2.9 on the sunset condition for synthetic amino acids;
- (iii) Clause 2.17 Livestock housing and range management;
- (iv) Clause 2.22 Biodynamic production; and
- (v) Appendix G (new) provides additional guidance on biodynamic production.

This Standard stipulates minimum requirements for products placed on the market with labelling that states or implies they have been produced under organic or biodynamic systems. In this Standard the production procedures are an intrinsic part of the identification and labelling of, and claims for, such products.

Appendix A provides a brief outline of a certification system for information.

The procedures for certification are set out in MP 100, *Procedures for certification of organic and biodynamic products*.

The main text of this Standard contains two distinct components:

- (A) *General principles* The first component identifies general principles that apply to organic and biodynamic activities. These are in *italic text*. General principles are intended to give the reader information and guidance on what each clause aims to achieve.
- (B) *Requirements* The second component stipulates the specific conditions (or requirements), which must be met by an operator of an organic or biodynamic unit for compliance with this Standard. These are in normal print.

Requirements outlined in this Standard are complementary and additional to other health, agricultural or food standards or regulatory requirements recognized by or enacted by the Commonwealth, States or Territories. These include but are not limited to food safety, animal welfare, environmental management and social justice.

This Standard applies in addition to Commonwealth, state/territory or local statutory laws.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in footnotes to tables are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

This Standard is based on the publication by Organic Industry Export Consultative Committee (OIECC), c/o Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) of Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, *National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce*, Edition 3.3, 1 July 2007.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## FOREWORD

The Organic Industry Export Consultative Committee (OIECC) publication, *National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce*, was first implemented in 1992 as the Australian Export Standard for products labelled as 'organic' or 'biodynamic'. A second edition was released in 1998, with further development resulting in a third edition in 2002. Since inception it has provided the organic industry with a nationally agreed Standard.

Organic farming systems include those that are referred to as 'biodynamic' or 'biological'. The basic principles are to achieve optimum quantities of products and food of high quality without the use of artificial fertilizers or synthetic chemicals. Organic farming requires the nurturing and maintaining of land for future generations.

Emphasis is placed on management practices, the use of renewable resources, the need for conservation of energy, soil and water resources and the maintenance of environmental quality. The production cycle is as closed as possible, with limited use of external inputs permitted by this Standard. The objective of this system is to be sustainable.

A Standard for organically produced agricultural products differs from Standards for other agricultural products in that the production procedures are an intrinsic part of the identification and labelling of, and claims for, such products.

The principal objectives of an organic production system include—

- (a) the production of quality food and fibre;
- (b) the enhancement of biological cycles in farming systems;
- (c) maintaining or improving fertility of soils;
- (d) working as far as practicable within a closed system by minimizing the use of non-renewable resources;
- (e) the avoidance of land, water and atmospheric pollution resulting from agriculture and processing practices; and
- (f) the co-existence with, and the protection of, the environment and the welfare of animals.

# STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard Organic and biodynamic products

### SECTION 1 SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

#### 1.1 SCOPE

**1.1.1** This Standard stipulates the minimum criteria to be met by operators before products can be labelled as ‘organic’, ‘biodynamic’ or ‘in-conversion’ or any of these.

**1.1.2** Those products include unprocessed products from plants, animals, fungi and their processed derivatives.

**1.1.3** The methods by which production, preparation, labelling and marketing take place are defined and specified by this Standard.

**1.1.4** This Standard specifies the almost absolute restriction of synthetically derived pesticides, fertilizers and veterinary inputs in production and the restriction of processing aids and additives to the most simple and necessary ones.

#### NOTES:

- 1 The materials, substances, additives and processing aids in Appendices B to D include products (inputs) established and acceptable to use in organic and biodynamic agriculture. These inputs are subject to review.
- 2 Appendix F sets out the criteria to be used to evaluate changes to the inputs in Appendices B to D.

**1.1.5** This Standard includes the definition and specification of practices in production and preparation that minimize environmental impacts in the operations and the environmental impact through the sourcing, manufacture, use and fate of input products.

**1.1.6** This Standard specifies animal welfare requirements that focus on maintaining natural behaviour and also the broader ethical and social dimensions of agricultural production.

**1.1.7** This Standard also includes measures that predicate internal recycling of energy and nutrients on the farm and measures that encourage the development of biodiversity and carbon conservation in the soil and vegetation of the farm.

**1.1.8** This Standard is founded on the precautionary principle that explains the prohibition of gene technology, nanotechnology and ionizing radiation, excluding X-rays used for the detection of foreign matter, as production and processing inputs and methodologies.

**1.1.9** As such, this Standard is based on the process of production and preparation as a defining factor in the nature of the finished product and, therefore, does not guarantee that the finished product is completely free from adventitious contamination arising from factors beyond the control of the operator. Nonetheless, the practices described within will maximize the quality and wholesomeness of food and other products and ensure the lowest possible risk of contamination of all finished products.

**1.1.10** As a measure to confirm the truthful labelling of products produced under this Standard, it includes requirements for the preservation of the identity and traceability of organic and biodynamic products from the paddock to the consumer and that operators be subject to compliance verification. The means of achieving this is by a certification system.

#### NOTES:

- 1 Appendix A provides a brief outline of a certification system for information.
- 2 The procedures for certification are set out in MP 100.