PROCESSING
ANIMAL FEED

Guidelines n°26:

RULES ON COMPOSITION AND LABELLING
OF ANIMAL FEED

According to Ecocert Organic Standard (EOS)

These guidelines shall not apply to feed processed on the farm by livestock operators (or subcontracted to a third party service provider), please refer to specific guidelines on livestock production.
I. Scope

Guidelines apply to feed intended for animals which may be eligible for organic certification as per EOS from the following species: bovine, equidae, ovine, caprine, porcine, poultry and aquaculture livestock such as fish and shellfish.

(NB: Guidelines do not apply to bees as external feed supplements are mostly prohibited and with very few exceptions. Guidelines do not apply to molluscs and echinoderms either as they are not fed by keepers)

The scope of the standard EOS does not include pet food or feed for fur animals.

However, organic pet food may be eligible for certification according to the French standard “pet food based on raw materials from organic farming”.

II. Process

A. General rules

EOS does not provide a detailed list of authorised and unauthorised processes. However a few items have been clearly identified as malpractices with regards to organic certification:

- **The use of ionising radiation** for the treatment of organic animal feed or raw materials used in organic animal feed.

- **The use of GMOs** and products derived therefrom as food, animal feed, processing aids and micro-organisms.

- **Organic processed feed must contain feed materials and may not be processed using chemical solvents.**

- The use of substances and techniques restoring product quality that has been lost through processing and storage of organic food and feed, or even through negligence in the processing of the products (e.g. : nanotechnology).
As a general rule, operators must:

- Take all precautionary measures to prevent cross-contamination by unauthorised substances or products
- Implement suitable cleaning measures, monitor their effectiveness and record these operations
- Ensure that non-organic products are not marketed with a statement referring to organic production
- Be able to provide Ecocert SA with updated records of all operations and quantities processed (manufacturing factsheet)

Special attention should be paid to risk factors of cross-contamination by GMO, medicinal additives, pesticides and chemical aminoacids.

**B. Mixed operations**

When both non-organic and organic products are prepared, packaged or stored in the same facility, then operators must:

- Separate by place or time organic operations from similar operations performed on non-organic products (i.e. for storage of feed materials and finished products).
- Take necessary measures to ensure identification of lots (traceability)
- Carry out operations on organic products only after complete emptying and suitable cleaning of the production equipment (if a full clean out of the equipment cannot be achieved in between organic and non-organic production, the first production runs must be downgraded to non-organic)

**NB**: For processors and distributors, EOS does not provide a restrictive list of products for cleaning and sanitisation (this type of list may be found only for breeders and aquaculture farmers). Therefore, general legislation on food processing applies.
III. Transport of organic products

A. Bulk collection of products and transportation to production and preparation units

Simultaneous collection of organic and non-organic products may be allowed provided:

✓ Appropriate measures are taken to prevent any possible mixture or exchange and to ensure the identification of the organic products

✓ Operators keep a record of the information relating to collection days, hours, circuit and date and time of reception of the products available to Ecocert SA.

B. Feed transport

1. Packaging and transport of products to other operators or units

Organic products must be carried in packaging, containers or vehicles closed and provided with a label stating the following details:

✓ Name and address of the operator

✓ Name of the product

✓ Reference to the organic production method

✓ Name of the control body

✓ Lot identification mark if applicable

2. Specific rules

The transport of processed feed for organic animals must be well separated in terms of time and space from other processed goods being transported.

Quantities of products delivered including all delivery location details should be recorded.

Vehicles and containers which have been used previously for the transport of non-organic must be cleaned out adequately before if may be used for the transport of organic raw materials and feed. Clean out operations must be documented and records must be made available to Ecocert SA.
IV. Composition of feed

A. General rules

All additives, feed materials and substances listed as feed ingredients for organic animals must be GMO-free.

An organic ingredients list must not include simultaneously organic and non-organic forms of the same ingredient.

The composition of processed feed must comply with the provisions set for in part F.3 of EOS. The use of growth hormones and chemical aminoacids are notably prohibited.

Depending of the animal, specific rules on the composition of feed shall apply.

There are 2 main types of feed:

- "Complete feedingstuff": ingredients complying with the regulation requirements on all aspects, especially on the aspect of approved levels of in-conversion organic and conventional. Suitable for daily feed ration.

- "Supplementary feedingstuff": mix of ingredients containing high levels of specific substances (e.g. in conversion ingredients > 30% for livestock animals). Suitable for daily feed ration provided they are combined with other food.

B. Specific rules on livestock animals (mammals, poultry)

1. Agricultural feed materials

   a. Organic

   - Plant origin: no restriction
   - Animal origin: All types of animal products (in compliance with general regulation)

   b. Conversion year 2 (C2)

   - Plant origin: no restriction on the type, maximum 30% in average of yearly feed ration (% of dry feed solids of plant origin)

   - Animal origin: there is no concept of in-conversion animal product in EOS, therefore considered as conventional
c. Conversion year 1 (C1)
Feed materials from plots within their 1st year of conversion are considered as conventional.

NB: Livestock operators producing their own feed from their own plant production may use up to 100% of C2 plant production or integrate to the feed 20% of following C1 plant production: pastures, permanent grassland crop, annual fodder crops, protein crops sowed on C1 areas.

d. Conventional
For all types of animals, non-organic spices, herbs and molasses may only be included in feedstuff if the organic type is unavailable and provided that they have been prepared without chemical solvent and that they do not exceed more that 1% or the yearly feed ration (calculation based on the ratio ingredients of agricultural origin / dry matter).

Except for the above-mentioned case, no other type of conventional agricultural feedstuff is permitted for herbivores.

For mono-gastric animals (porcine, poultry):

✔ if they are not available under organic form, non-organic high-protein feed material of plant and animal origin may be used (obtained without chemical solvents); the portion represented by the non-organic feed materials in their ration may not exceed a yearly average of 5% of the total amount of agricultural feed (calculated on the basis of dry matter).

✔ Products from sustainable fisheries may be used (without maximum %) provided that they have been produced or prepared without chemical solvents (the use of fish protein hydrolysate is restricted solely to young animals).

2. Other substances

a. Feed materials of mineral origin
Resources listed in Annex V of EOS may be used in all cases.

b. Nutritional additives
Sources of trace elements listed in Annex VI of EOS may be used in all cases.

Vitamins and provitamins derived from agricultural products and synthetic vitamins identical to natural vitamins may be used for mono-gastric animals.

For ruminants, on top of vitamins and provitamins derived from agricultural products, only synthetic vitamins A, D, E which are identical to natural vitamins may be used.
c. Zootchnical, sensory and technological additives

Enzymes and micro organisms as well as preservatives, antioxidants, binders, coagulants and anti-caking agents listed at Annex VI may be used in all cases.

Flavouring compounds extracted from agricultural products may be used in all cases.

d. Other substances

_Saccharomyces cerevisiae_ and _Saccharomyces carlsbergiensis_ yeasts may be used in all cases, provided they have been produced without using chemical solvents.
### C. Specific rules for aquaculture animals (fish, shellfish)

#### 1. Feed materials of agricultural origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal types</th>
<th>Main source</th>
<th>Other sources when not available</th>
<th>Composition (%) and other restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carnivorous species</td>
<td>Feed originating from <strong>Organic</strong> aquaculture</td>
<td>Fishmeal and fish oil from waste of <strong>non-organic</strong> fish (bred thru aquaculture or fished).</td>
<td>No more than 60% of organic plant products in the daily feed ration until 31/12/14, and max 30% of daily feed ration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fishmeal and fish oil from trimmings of <strong>organic</strong> fish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste originating from <strong>sustainable fisheries</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Organic</strong> feed materials of plant and animal origin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>For salmon and trout:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Organic</strong> Astaxanthin (extracted from the shells of organic shellfish)</td>
<td>Astaxanthin of natural origin (e.g.: Phaffia yeast)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal types</td>
<td>Main source</td>
<td>Other sources when not available</td>
<td>Composition (%) and other restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish in in-land waters:</td>
<td>Carps and related species produced in the context of polyculture (perch,</td>
<td>As a rule, no external source of feed (only natural feedstuff from lakes and ponds)</td>
<td>For shellfish and panga: Fishmeal and fish oil from sustainable fisheries Maximum 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>strugeon, atlantic wolfish, vendace, pike...)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>Penaeid shrimps and freshwater prawns</td>
<td>Organic feed of plant origin or seaweed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater tropical fish</td>
<td>tilapia, chanos, panga.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Other substances

a. Feed materials of mineral origin
Resources listed in Annex V of EOS may be used in all cases.

b. Nutritional additives
Sources of trace elements listed in Annex VI of EOS may be used in all cases. Vitamins and provitamins derived from agricultural products and synthetic vitamins identical to natural vitamins may be used.

c. Zootchnical, sensory and technological additives
Enzymes and micro organisms as well as preservatives, antioxidants, binders, coagulants and anti-caking agents listed at Annex VI and organic lecithin (emulsifier) may be used in all cases.

Flavouring compounds extracted from agricultural products may be used in all cases.
V. Rules on labelling

A. Basic rules

These rules apply to feedstuff, processed feedstuff and feed material ingredients in feedstuff.

All feedstuff, including those which do not contain feed material ingredients from organic farming, should be inspected and certified in order to be eligible for a label referring to "organic farming" or "feed for organic animals".

B. References to organic farming

Mention « product from organic farming » (or equivalent sentence) may be used for feedstuff in which all ingredients of plant or animal origin are organic and represent at least 95% of the product dry matter (i.e. less than 5% for minerals and additives).

The ratio should be calculated in relation with the total dry matter content, not solely in relation with the agricultural ingredient content.

The EU logo may be used on the label of this type of feed.

Mention « may be used for organic production in accordance with Ecocert Organic Standard » may be used for feedstuff containing less than 95% (dry matter) overall of feed materials from organic farming origin.

The EU logo may NOT be used on the labels of this type of feed.

The above references should be displayed using a colour, format or font, which should not make it stand out more than the feed name or product description.

C. Compulsory indications

1. Reference to the Control Body

The code number of the control body is mandatory in the display; control body name may also be displayed.

2. List of ingredients

Names of feed materials from organic farming or in-conversion should be listed.
3. Calculation format : 4 types of % (dry matter content)

✓ % of feed materials of organic farming origin
✓ % of feed materials from in-conversion farming
✓ % of conventional feed materials (neither organic nor in-conversion): conventional feed and minerals
✓ % of feed materials from farming (organic + in-conversion + conventional)

VI. Definitions

**Feed additives:**
means substances, micro-organisms or preparations, other than feed material and premixtures, which are intentionally added to feed or water in order to perform, in particular, one or more of the following functions:

✓ favourably affect the characteristics of feed
✓ favourably affect the characteristics of animal products
✓ favourably affect the colour of ornamental fish and birds
✓ satisfy the nutritional needs of animals
✓ favourably affect the environmental consequences of animal production
✓ favourably affect animal production, performance or welfare, particularly by affecting the gastro-intestinal flora or digestibility of feedingstuffs
✓ have a coccidiostatic or histomonostatic effect

**Feed (or feedingstuff):**
means any substance or product, including additives, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be used for oral feeding to animals.

**Feed materials:**
various products of vegetable or animal origin, in their natural state, fresh or preserved, and products derived from the industrial processing thereof, and organic or inorganic substances, whether or not containing additives, which are intended for use in oral animal feeding either directly as such, or after processing, in the preparation of compound feedingstuffs or as carriers of premixtures.
**Conversion:**
means the transition from non organic to organic farming within a given period of time, during which the provisions concerning the organic production have been applied.

**In-conversion feedingstuffs:**
means feedingstuffs produced during the conversion period to organic production, with the exclusion of those harvested in the 12 months following the beginning of the conversion.

**VII. References in EOS**

D.1  - Information and visit conditions
D.2  - Precaution measures processing
D.3  - Precaution measures transport
D.4  - Precaution measures storage
D.5  - Conformity of the recipes and processing methods
F.3  - General rules on feed for livestock animals
H.8  - General rules on feed for aquaculture animals
D.6  - Accounts, traceability and documentation
D.7  - Quality management
D.8  - Labelling and invoicing

Documents available upon request to ECOCERT or to be downloaded from our website [www.ecocert.com](http://www.ecocert.com)