
Overview

This standard is about planning, managing and monitoring the operation and performance of an organic enterprise and covers a whole system approach in an organic setting.

In order to market produce as "organic", the relevant certification must be achieved. The process of converting to organic status can take up to 36 months and the process laid down by the appropriate organic control body must be followed. For the purpose of this standard it will be presumed that organic status has been obtained.

This standard is suitable for those with planning and management responsibilities in an organic enterprise such as with livestock, crops, or horticulture.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. define objectives and targets for the organic enterprise and plan a system of production to deliver these
2. confirm that the plan produces products that meet and respond to changing customer/market requirements so as to maximise opportunities
3. seek specialist advice where required
4. develop a production plan for the organic enterprise in accordance with relevant organic certification requirements
5. confirm that the plan incorporates the way that production practices will be managed to meet the requirements of the organic control body
6. produce physical and financial forecasts for the organic enterprise based on the defined objectives and targets
7. produce procedures and protocols to manage and monitor the performance of the organic enterprise
8. identify and confirm the availability of the resources required to implement the plan for the operation and performance of an organic enterprise
9. communicate the plan to those involved with its implementation
10. confirm that those implementing the plan are fully trained in the principles of organic production
11. plan and manage the operation of the enterprise in line with relevant organic certification requirements
12. establish measures to maintain the required levels of hygiene and bio-security and confirm that they have been implemented
13. establish measures for the recycling or disposal of waste and by-products in accordance with relevant legal and organisational requirements, and confirm that they have been implemented
14. confirm that working methods maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
15. confirm that those involved in the operation of the organic enterprise are using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
16. monitor compliance with relevant quality assurance schemes and use this information to optimise market opportunities
17. monitor and evaluate the operation and performance of the organic enterprise on a regular basis to ensure that targets and

- objectives are being met and make changes as necessary
18. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation, codes of practice, organic certification, quality assurance requirements and organisational policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the principles of organic production
2. the definition and relevant legal requirements for organic production and the requirements of the organic control body
3. the requirements, advantages and disadvantages of organic production
4. the objectives and targets of the organic enterprise
5. the market/customer demand for specific products in relation to quantity, size/volume, quality specification, seasonality and changing trends
6. the details and purpose of relevant quality assurance schemes and their influence on the success of the organic enterprise
7. where to obtain specialist advice
8. how to plan and manage the operation and performance of the organic enterprise to meet defined objectives and targets
9. how to determine the human, financial, material and capital resources necessary to achieve the plan for the operation and performance of an organic enterprise
10. the importance of a whole system approach and maintaining the natural balance and biodiversity and how to support this
11. how to provide and maintain habitats for beneficial wildlife
12. beneficial plants and their uses and how weeds, pests and diseases can be managed and controlled in accordance with organic requirements
13. soil types and content and soil management techniques
14. water use, application and management
15. the relevant requirements for controlled environments
16. the importance of checking whether suppliers have organic status
17. the opportunities for waste reduction, reuse and recycling
18. how to produce forecasts and budgets and how to introduce an effective physical and financial control system to assess critical performance components of the organic enterprise
19. the methods of communicating plans and procedures to those involved in their implementation
20. the methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why this is important
21. the relevant legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage, recycling and disposal of waste and

by-products

22. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety and food hygiene legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
23. the importance of confirming that the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) is used by those working in the organic enterprise
24. the need for careful management and regular monitoring and review of the performance of the organic enterprise to ensure that objectives and targets are met
25. how internal and external influences may impact on the performance of the organic enterprise, such as changes in prices arising from market conditions, and the changes that may be required to the plan
26. the requirements for reporting and recording and the length of time for which records should be retained

Glossary

Soil management techniques: e.g. dig/no-dig, use of green manures and fertility building leys, mulches, supplementary nutrients, composts and manures

Organic farming can include:

- avoiding artificial fertilisers and pesticides
- using crop rotation and other forms of husbandry to maintain soil fertility
- controlling weeds, pesticides and diseases using husbandry techniques and where necessary approved materials to control pests and diseases
- using a limited number of approved products and substances where necessary in the processing of organic food

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Plan, manage and monitor the operation and performance of an organic enterprise



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