



Latest update from BCS

- **Couriers and sample transit times**
- **ADQP Revision Update**
- **Compostables Labelling Guidance**

Couriers and sample transit times

Given the current challenges with courier missed pickups and delays, we wanted to clarify the scheme guidance and scheme requirements regarding couriers and sample transit times.

Sample dispatch – Samples are required to be dispatched within one day of sampling. Ideally organise a courier collection for the same day as sampling. *The results would not be valid for certification if not dispatched within one day of sampling. Unfortunately, this also includes in the event of late pick-up.*

Courier service selection – There is specific scheme guidance on the courier services that operators should use/book for samples. You can find this information in the [scheme sampling guidance](#) and below:

- For pathogens, we suggest using/booking a 24-hour service (unless in an extreme geographical location then use/book a 48-hour service)
- For non-pathogen parameters, we suggest using/booking a 48-hour (or less) service

The results would still be valid for certification if a different courier service is selected.

Sample transit time – There is no limit in PAS 110 on transit time for samples and as such a non-conformance will not be raised by your certification body for a sample delayed in transit. *The results would still be valid for certification if delayed in transit. However, we advise that samples which are in transit for longer than 72 hours (i.e., 4 days or more) should be considered unsuitable/unrepresentative. In this event, it is advisable for operators to request the labs discard the samples and send new samples.*

Finally, we also advise arranging sampling early in the week (i.e., Monday to Wednesday) to maximise conformance through the whole sampling and testing process.

ADQP Revision Update

The Environment Agency confirmed that the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group will be held on Monday 20th December. REAL is represented on this group and will be joining the meeting next week.

Compostables Labelling Guidance

REAL has recently developed a guidance document to provide clear information on how to identify independently certified compostable materials. The guidance has been designed for everyone, including consumers, and AD or compost site operators.

We are now seeking feedback on the document through public consultation. We are interested to receive views, particularly on whether the guidance achieves its aim and whether the information is clearly presented. Though we welcome any feedback.

The guidance can be found [here](#). If any operators have feedback, you are welcome to provide it in a Word or Excel file and send it to Justyna Staff at justyna@realschemes.org.uk. The deadline for this open consultation is **Friday 31st December**.

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