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2024 Annual Report Published

REAL has released its seventh annual report for the Biofertiliser Certification Scheme, providing a comprehensive overview of the scheme and highlighting key developments in 2024.

By the end of 2024, there were 106 certified BCS processes across the UK: 79 in England, 12 in Scotland, 8 in Wales, and 8 in Northern Ireland.

The report also includes an overview of the Compost Certification Scheme and the Research Hub's 2024 Annual Report, underscoring ongoing efforts to advance quality standards across the sector.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Procedures on RBP Inoculum Inhibition

The BCS has published an updated version of comprehensive guidance on handling residual biogas potential (RBP) inoculum inhibition and invalid test results, providing operators with clear procedures to overcome these testing challenges.

The guidance addresses an issue faced by some operators where digestate samples can inhibit laboratory standard inocula and result in invalid RBP test results, particularly affecting those processing nitrogen-rich feedstocks.

The document outlines a structured three-step process for operators experiencing inhibition issues: initial notification and discussion with BCS, parallel inoculum testing using site-provided inoculum alongside laboratory standard inoculum, and ultimately progression to site inoculum only testing after several successful parallel tests.

The guidance confirms that the RBP own inoculum process is no longer considered a short- or medium-term solution. This approach should now be regarded as the permanent BCS RBP inoculum inhibition process.

The guidance ensures that operators can achieve valid RBP results to support their certification under the BCS, even when facing inoculum inhibition issues. Working collaboratively with several operators, trials have demonstrated that site-acclimated inocula perform significantly better than standard laboratory inocula for affected samples.

Operators experiencing invalid RBP test results due to inoculum inhibition should contact BCS immediately at info@realschemes.org.uk to discuss their specific circumstances and begin the structured testing process outlined in the guidance.

The full guidance document is available [here](#).

REAL Welcomes New Research Hub Manager

The BCS is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Research Hub Manager Grace Egan, who will be working closely with both the Biofertiliser Certification Schemes.

The Research Hub plays a vital role in strengthening the technical foundations of the Schemes, supporting innovation and evidence-based decision-making in the organics recycling sector. The new manager will lead the day-to-day operations of the Hub, including, stakeholder engagement and communications, as well as providing secretariat support to the Research Panel.

As a central point of contact for the Hub, the new Manager will also represent the Hub at Producers' Fora and other key events, helping to ensure the research priorities of BCS are clearly communicated and effectively delivered. We are confident they will help drive forward the Hub's mission to support continual improvement across the industry.

We look forward to the new Manager's contributions as they work alongside the BCS team and support the scientific development.

You can contact Grace at grace@realschemes.org.uk

For more on the Research Hub, please visit: www.realresearchhub.org.uk.

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