



Latest updates from the BCS

- **Update to the BCS Scheme Rules Version Control Number (changed to v6.2)**
- **Updates to the BCS Position on Technical Requirements**
- **Update to the BCS Audit Checklist**
- **Clarification on the Ten-Month Storage Limit for Continuous Processes**
- **Expansion of Approved Laboratory Network**

Update to the BCS Scheme Rules Version Control Number (changed to v6.2)

An administrative update has been introduced for the Biofertiliser Certification Scheme rules. This revision introduces an updated Version Control Number (VCN) to the document, to reflect that the annexes of the rules were updated in the previous version, earlier this year, to include references to SEPA's current end-of-waste position (WAS-G-DEF-07) and NRW's current end-of-waste position (GN023). To support CBs and producers, making it clear there have been changes, these regional annex updates are now reflected with a distinct scheme rules VCN. Please note that no alterations have been made to the core text or the underlying requirements of the scheme. However, all scheme participants are expected to update their internal records to reflect the updated VCN in relation to scheme rules v6.2.

The latest version is now available on the BCS website [here](#).

Updates to the BCS Position on Technical Requirements

The BCS technical position document has been updated to ensure continued regulatory alignment and clarity for participants. This revision introduces the addition of references to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) End of Waste position requirements.

Additionally, the document has been expanded to include five new sections:

- section 18 covering changing the screen to decrease the aperture size
- section 19 covering testing digestate made from the producer's/co-operative's own materials and used by the producer/co-operative for physical contaminants
- Section 20 regarding Co-storage of certified liquid digestate outputs produced by the same operator on the same site
- Section 21 outlines the Scheme position on PAS 110 training.
- Section 22 outlines the Scheme position on internal auditor training, clarifying competence and evidence expectations during assessments.

All operators are advised to review these updates to ensure continuous compliance.

The latest BCS Position on Technical Requirements document can be found [here](#) and the marked-up version showing all changes can be found [here](#).

Update to the BCS Audit Checklist

The Biofertiliser Certification Scheme audit checklist has been revised to ensure continued alignment with Version 6.2 of the Scheme Rules and the updated Positions on technical requirements document.

This updated version introduces specific checks for the new positions regarding feedstock controls, and the evaluation of training records and competency evidence for PAS 110 and internal auditing. Operators are encouraged to download the revised checklist from the BCS website [here](#).

Clarification on the Ten-Month Storage Limit for Continuous Processes

BCS have recently sought clarification from the Environment Agency regarding the interpretation of the ten-month storage limit specified in Section 3.1 of the Anaerobic Digestate Resource Framework. The framework explicitly states that operators "must not store any portion of your product for more than 10 months" and further dictates that operators must maintain "contracts of supply or sales orders (or both)" or a "sales history for the most recent 12 months" covering the relevant volumes.

For continuous-flow operations where materials are constantly blended and storage vessels are rarely emptied completely, proving that specific portions have not exceeded this timeframe presents operational challenges. Following discussions between REAL and the Environment Agency regarding these systems, the regulator has confirmed that operators are not expected to fully drain and empty their tanks or lagoons every ten months.

Instead, an evidenced mass-balance or equivalent turnover approach is deemed sufficient to satisfy the requirements. Provided that an operator can demonstrate via records that a volume equivalent to the quantity currently held in storage has been dispatched within the ten-month window, the requirement is fulfilled. This pragmatic approach ensures regulatory compliance whilst preventing unnecessary operational disruptions for continuous digestion processes. If you have any questions or issues regarding this approach, please contact your certification body.

Expansion of Approved Laboratory Network

We are pleased to announce that the Biofertiliser Certification Scheme has expanded its laboratory network with the appointment of a third approved laboratory, Livelab. This appointment strengthens the overall testing capacity of the scheme, ensuring a more robust and resilient service for all participants, as well as providing improved geographical coverage.