

Guidance on QMS requirements

BCS guidance on Quality Meat Scotland requirements

This version of the guidance document does not introduce any technical changes from the previous version, only a few minor edits (e.g., made specific to BCS/digestate only and no longer CCS/compost) and minor updates (e.g., tense as no longer a recent development).

Quality Meat Scotland declared digestate as safe for farmers to use – with restrictions

Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) issued an update of their standards covering the use of digestates (and composts). As a result, the Bulk Organic Fertilisers section allowed digestates to be applied to land, provided they are PAS 110 certified, meet additional physical contaminant restrictions, particle size restrictions, and are applied in accordance with the guidance table provided. The new standards came into effect from 1 January 2015. The standards are available to view online [HERE](#).

Summary of the QMS standard's additional requirements

Physical contaminant restrictions for digestate:

The quantities of physical contaminants do not exceed 8% of those permitted by PAS 110:2014.

Particle size restrictions:

For grass (grazed and harvested) and fodder and forage crops, no compost grade greater than 20mm should be used. For combinable crops, no compost grade greater than 40mm should be used. These restrictions should be applied to the separated fibre fraction of digestates in the same manner.

Additional paperwork:

'PAS100:2011 and PAS110:2014 require that compost and digestate suppliers provide their customers with specific information relating to consignments of compost and digestate supplied. It is recommended that this information forms the basis of a Contract of Supply between scheme members and their compost/digestate suppliers.' (QMS Cattle & Sheep Standards (Issue 13))

The BCS requirements

Clause 4.2.1 of PAS 110:2014 requires that you a) check whether the digestate users have any requirements in addition to the minimum quality requirements set out in PAS 110; and b) ensure the market ready digestate is fit for purpose, which includes meeting any extra quality requirements specified by the user. Where digestate is intended for use by QMS members, the additional requirements must be included in your quality policy. This will be verified at your annual certification audit. Please ask whether any farmers that you might be working with in Scotland are QMS members, and if so that you comply with the QMS standard's requirements. If you are using a third-party contractor, then they should inform you of any additional quality requirements.