



## Laboratory Approval Scheme

REAL Compost and Biofertiliser Certification Schemes

Renewable Energy Assurance Limited (REAL) has established this framework for laboratories approved to undertake testing on the Compost and Biofertiliser Certification Schemes (CCS and BCS).

This document sets out the respective responsibilities of REAL, the Certification Bodies (CBs) appointed under the Schemes, and the Approved Laboratories.

REAL

- I. Organise regular (i.e. quarterly) meetings between the Approved Laboratories and REAL. Update the Approved Laboratories on changes to the schemes, standards, scheme rules, test methods, and associated documentation.
- II. Make a list of Approved Laboratories publicly available and keep the list up to date.  
*REAL's public list of laboratories approved under the Schemes confirms the validity of the appointment, which gives assurance to producers that the laboratory can be used for testing for certification purposes.*
- III. Carry out or appoint an independent competent organisation to carry out external audits to ensure the Approved Laboratories comply with all Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) for Approved Laboratories. Communicate to laboratories the outcome of the audit process and decision on (re)approval.
- IV. Carry out or appoint an independent competent organisation to run a proficiency testing programme for the schemes' specific methods.
- V. Ensure that the CCS and BCS are robust in order to maintain market and regulatory confidence.

## Certification Bodies

- I. Contribute to the approval process of the Approved Laboratories when appropriate.
- II. Respond to annual review consultation on terms and conditions.
- III. Provide comments on current issues related to the work of the Approved Laboratories.

## Approved Laboratories

- I. Undergo the initial approval if required
- II. Participate in the on-going performance assessment, including
  1. Participate in the PT programme for scheme specific methods
  2. Respond to investigations into formal complaints
  3. Contribute to the relevant technical debates
- III. Renewal
  1. Comply with the T&Cs at all times for testing for scheme methods and procedures, including obtaining UKAS accreditation for parameters specified in Table 3 of PAS 100 and PAS 110 (excluding scheme specific parameters).
  2. Participate in an annual audit to independently assess conformance with the T&Cs.
  3. Attend regular liaison meetings as requested by REAL, including:
    - a. Technical Advisory Committee meetings
    - b. Catch up meetings/conference calls
    - c. Meetings/conference calls to discuss specific issues

## Useful links

- List of CCS Approved Laboratories: [www.qualitycompost.org.uk/certification/sample-testing](http://www.qualitycompost.org.uk/certification/sample-testing)
- List of BCS Approved Laboratories: [www.biofertiliser.org.uk/certification/laboratory-tests](http://www.biofertiliser.org.uk/certification/laboratory-tests)
- CCS Laboratory Application Procedures: [www.qualitycompost.org.uk/information/governance/laboratories](http://www.qualitycompost.org.uk/information/governance/laboratories)
- BCS Laboratory Application Procedures: [www.biofertiliser.org.uk/certification/laboratory-tests](http://www.biofertiliser.org.uk/certification/laboratory-tests)
- Terms and Conditions for Approved Laboratories (CCS and BCS): [www.qualitycompost.org.uk/information/governance/laboratories](http://www.qualitycompost.org.uk/information/governance/laboratories)  
[www.biofertiliser.org.uk/certification/laboratory-tests](http://www.biofertiliser.org.uk/certification/laboratory-tests)