

PGS-India Standards

General Note

PGS-India standards have been defined in tune with National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP) prescribed under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) to maintain uniformity in organic production process and quality of organic products in the country. For ease of functioning and understanding standards are presented here in easy to understand and simplified form. For further clarification and correct interpretation readers may refer to National Programme for Organic Production available at [http://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/organic/ORGANIC_CONTENTS/National Programme for Organic Production.htm](http://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/organic/ORGANIC_CONTENTS/National_Programme_for_Organic_Production.htm) as amended from time to time.

Appendix 1

Organic Crop Production

1. Scope

Crop production standards prescribed here refer to cultivation of any agricultural and non-agricultural crops/ plants for the production of food and fibre and their derivatives or by-products and collection of non-timber wild harvest produce from natural forests.

2. Habitat Management and General Requirements

- a. Maintain sufficient diversity on farm through maintenance of diversity plantations, biological nitrogen fixation bushes and trees on farm boundary or as hedge rows. Integration of randomly located multipurpose trees on farm bunds and in utility spaces help in creation of habitat for maintenance and survival of different beneficial life forms.
- b. Integration of agro-forestry, if feasible should be considered
- c. Adequate measures should be adopted to conserve and harvest rain water
- d. Preferably the entire land holding with livestock should be converted to organic according to these standards.
- e. If it is not possible to convert the entire farm (split production) then the measures must be in place to ensure that organic and non-organic parts are clearly and continuously separate.
- f. Simultaneous production of same crop (parallel production) in organic and non-organic needs to be avoided.

3. Diversity Management

- a. Organic farming systems should avoid monocropping and ensure continuously changing farm diversity. Diversity is also a key to maintain soil fertility and to effectively manage the pressure from insects, diseases and weeds. Diversity should also help in maintaining or increasing soil organic matter, soil fertility, microbial activity and general soil health.
- b. Diversity can be achieved by adopting mixed cropping, intercropping and crop rotations. Cover crops, trap crops and multi-layered farming practices are also effective tools for diversity management. Soil fertility can be maintained by integration of legumes or deep rooted plants in cropping systems, frequent use of green manures, planned rotations and fertilization with organic inputs.

4. Integration of livestock

As organic farming systems largely depend upon farming system approach, therefore it is important to integrate livestock along with crop production. This will not only help in overall farm diversity but will also ensure continuous availability of dung and urine for manuring and soil fertility management.

5. Soil and Water Conservation

- a. Soil and water resources to be managed in sustainable manner and measures to be taken to prevent erosion and salination of soil, excessive and improper use of water and the pollution of ground and surface water.
- b. Clearing or destruction of forest is prohibited, burning of straw or biomass shall be restricted to minimum
- c. Measures to be in place to prevent land degradation and pollution of ground and surface water.

6. Contamination Control

- a. Adequate measures to be taken to prevent contamination through water, air drift, mixing or comingling through:
- b. Raised bunds and escape channels to prevent rain water runoff from non-organic fields
- c. Buffer zones between organic and non-organic farms
- d. Separate storage in time and space both for inputs and farm produce
- e. Cleaning of machines and tools while using in organic farm
- f. Any other measure suggested by the group/ certification programme

7. Conversion requirements

- a. For a farm and its crop production products to be certified organic, it is mandatory that the farm and entire farming operations of organic production unit has under gone a period of conversion, complying with all the standard requirements for following period:
 - i. 36 months for perennial plants
 - ii. 24 months for plants/ crops other than perennials
- b. In cases where de-facto requirements under these standards have been met for several years and the same can be verified from available documents, conversion period can be reduced to 12 months at the discretion of Regional Council.
- c. In default organic areas where there is no history of prohibited substances use and administration has imposed the ban on use of such substances and adequate measures are in place to prevent entry of such prohibited substances, the requirement of conversion period can be dispensed with. But such exception can be granted only by the PGS Secretariat on recommendations of RC after physical verification.

8. Seeds and planting material

- a. All seeds and planting material shall be certified organic. When certified organic seed and planting materials are not available (Local group need to ensure non-

availability), chemically untreated conventional seed and planting material can be used.

- b. Use of Genetically modified seed/ planting material/ transgenic plants, microorganisms (GMO) or their products, directly or indirectly are strictly prohibited

9. Soil fertility and nutrient management

- a. Green manuring, legume cover crop/ intercropping, multi cropping, effective crop rotations and recycling of organic farm generated plant biomass through composting or mulching should form the basis of nutrient management
- b. Sufficient quantities of biodegradable material of plant or animal origin should be used
- c. Biodegradable material of plant/animal origin must be composted through aerobic composting method where pile temperature has been maintained between 131⁰ and 170⁰ F for minimum 5 days.
- d. Raw dung-urine products should be used only after controlled fermentation
- e. Mined mineral fertilizers in their natural composition can be used. In case of micronutrient deficiency, micronutrients can be used mixed with compost.
- f. Off-farm/ purchased inputs should be evaluated before use by the group to ensure that no prohibited substances have been used in their making and method of production is physical, mechanical or biological.
- g. Off-farm/industry produced inputs approved by NPOP accredited certification body as approved input for use in organic farming can be used without further approval of the group.
- h. Microbial preparations such as biofertilizers, biodynamic preparations, EM solutions etc can be used.
- i. Use of mineral nitrogen and all synthetic fertilizers, chemical hormones, synthetic growth promoters, directly or indirectly are prohibited.
- j. Use of sewage, sludge, human excreta or their products are prohibited

10. Insect pest, disease and weed management

- a. Insect pest and disease management should rely primarily on best management practices such as balanced soil fertility management, use of crops and varieties resistant to pests and adapted to local situations, diversity management, effective crop rotations, multi-cropping/ intercropping, green manures, manipulation of planting and sowing time and habitat manipulation through diversified plots, hedge rows, insectary plants, trap crops etc.
- b. Pest problems may also be controlled through physical, mechanical and biological approaches such as (but not limited to):
 - i. Removal of infested plants/ parts,
 - ii. Collection and destruction of egg masses
 - iii. Use of light traps, yellow and blue sticky traps, pheromone traps

- iv. Mechanical such as tilling, scrapping, hoeing
- v. Biological such release of pest predators, parasites, pathogens, installation of bird perches,
- c. In cases where cultural and preventive approaches are not sufficient and there is imminent threat to the crop then plant protection products derived from plant or animal origin and prepared by using physical, mechanical or biological methods can be used. Products approved for use in organic farming by certification bodies accredited under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) can also be used.
- d. Natural mined products and biological products such as microbial biopesticides can be used
- e. On-farm produced plant extracts, oils or fermented products can be used provided no synthetic ingredients is used in such preparations,
- f. Weed management can be done through mulching with biodegradable material, mowing, livestock grazing, hand or mechanical weeding, flame, heat or electrical means or by using plastic or other synthetic mulches, provided that such mulches are removed from the field after harvest.
- g. Use of synthetic herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other chemical preparations including synthetic plant growth regulators and synthetic dyes are strictly prohibited. Use of genetically engineered organisms or products are also prohibited.

11. Collection of non-cultivated products of plant origin from wild habitats and forests

- a. The collection of wild plants and parts thereof and products including Tusser cocoon, Honey, Lac, Medicinal Plants and Herbs, Roots and tuber, grown naturally, and in forest shall be certified as organic provided:
 - i. It is derived from a designated area for collection, clearly depicted in the map and is permitted by the forest department or state department, which is subject to inspection,
 - ii. The collection areas have not received any treatment with products other than those authorised for use in organic production,
 - iii. The collection area shall be at appropriate distance from conventional farming and sources of pollution and contamination,
 - iv. The products are derived from a stable and sustainable environment and total collection shall not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem or threaten the existence of plant and species.

Organic Livestock Production and Beekeeping

1. Scope

Livestock standards prescribed here refer to any domestic and domesticated animal including bovine (including buffalo, Mithun and Yak), ovine, porcine, caprine, rabbits, poultry, insects and bees and/ or any other animal notified by the FSSAI from time to time, raised for food/fibre or in the production of food and fibre, their derivatives and by-products. The products of hunting or fishing or wild animals shall not be considered part of livestock standards.

2. General principles

Organic livestock production in general is a land based activity and shall be an integral part of organic farm unit and management of livestock shall be in consistent with the principles of organic farming and shall base on:

- a. Natural breeding;
- b. Protection of animal health and welfare;
- c. Fed with organic feed and fodder;
- d. Access to grazing in organic fields;
- e. Freedom to express natural behaviour;
- f. Reduction of stress and
- g. Prohibition of use of chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary drugs, antibiotics, hormones, growth boosters, feed additives etc

Landless livestock production where the operator does not have organically managed land and/ or has not established a written cooperation agreement with another certified organic operator in compliance of the rules specified in Appendix 1 of these rules is prohibited.

In cases where traditional rearing system of the farm and/ or adverse climatic conditions does not allow easy access to pastures, livestock may be produced through providing organic feed certified under these rules, provided the indoor and outdoor space requirements, specified under these rules are fully met (Clause 6).

3. Choice of Breeds, Source and Origin

3.1 Choice of Breeds

The choice of livestock and poultry, breeds, strains and breeding methods shall be consistent with the principles of organic farming, taking into account, in particular, the following:

- i. their adaptation to the local climatic conditions and
- ii. their vitality and resistance to diseases

3.2 Sources/ Origin

- i. Animals must have been born or hatched on organic farms;
- ii. Livestock and poultry raised on non-organic units shall be subjected to prescribed conversion period;

4. Livestock Identification

- i. Each animal/ herd/ batch shall bear unique identification number. Large animals including bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine etc shall bear individual number in the form of tag, while poultry birds and small mammals shall be identified with herd/ flock/ batch;
- ii. Identification devices on the animals can be printed ear tags, RFID tags, Barcodes or any other suitable tag which is clearly visible.

5. Housing and Management

- i. The housing and day-to-day management of the animal, maintenance of sanitation, hygiene, bio-security and environment shall be planned to suit the behavioural needs of the livestock and poultry and shall provide for sufficient space to ensure free movement and opportunity to express normal patterns of behaviour;
- ii. Livestock shall have access to open area and adequate housing to protect from adverse conditions
- iii. Housing for Livestock and Poultry shall not be necessary in areas where appropriate climatic conditions exist to enable animals to live outdoors;
- iv. The outdoor stocking density of livestock kept on pasture, grassland, or other natural or semi-natural habitats, must be low enough to prevent degradation of the soil and over-grazing of vegetation.
- v. Housing of poultry in cages shall not be permitted;
- vi. In the case of laying hens, manipulation of day length may be permitted through the use of artificial lights;
- vii. The keeping of rabbits in cages shall not be permitted. If required for comfort and safety rabbits may be temporarily confined, for example overnight, in cages or hutches. Continuous confinement is prohibited;
- viii. Rabbits shall have space to run, hop and dig, and to sit upright on their back legs with ears erect.
- ix. For further details and understanding on housing requirements Annex 1 and related clauses in Appendix 2 and Annex 1 of Appendix 2 under chapter 3 of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) may be referred. Requirements allowed or prohibited under these rules shall also be deemed allowed and prohibited under these rules.

6 Conversion Period for Animal Production

- i. Simultaneous conversion of livestock and poultry and land used for raising feed/fodder within the same unit should be a preferred approach. Land for

production of feed, fodder, pasture, grazing etc shall be certified organic as per the provisions specified for crop production;

- ii. In cases, where the land and livestock conversion is not simultaneous then the livestock shall undergo following conversion period before certifying their products as PGS-organic:

a. Bovine including buffalo

- i. Meat products: Twelve (12) months;
- ii. Calves for meat production: Six (6) months;
- iii. Milk products: Six (6) months.

b. Ovine and caprine (Sheep & Goat)

- i. Meat products: Six (6) months;
- ii. Milk products: Six (6) months.

c. Pig

- i. Meat products: Six (6) months.

d. Small mammals (such as Rabbits)

- i. Meat products: From the second week after their birth to the entire life span as determined by the accredited Certification Body.

e. Poultry

- i. Meat products: from the second day of hatching to the entire life span;
- ii. Eggs : Six (6) weeks.

7 Feed

Livestock and poultry shall be fed with organic feed and fodder. Fodder grown on land undergone for minimum period of 12 months can be treated as organic for feeding purpose.

During the operations, the products shall maintain their organic status provided that livestock and poultry are fed with at least 85% for ruminants and 80% for non-ruminants calculated on a dry matter basis, feed obtained from organic sources that have been produced in compliance with crop production standards.

Following products shall not be included nor added to the feed given to farm animals:

- Synthetic growth promoters or stimulants
- Synthetic appetisers
- Preservatives, except when used as a processing aid
- Artificial colouring agents
- Urea
- Farm animal by-products (e.g. abattoir waste) to ruminants

- Droppings, dung or other manure (all types of excreta) even if technologically processed
- Feed subjected to solvent (e.g. hexane), extraction (soya and rape seed meal)
- Feed prepared with the addition of other chemical agents
- Pure amino acids
- Genetically engineered organisms or products thereof

Vitamins, trace elements and supplements shall be used from natural origin when available in appropriate quantity and quality.

For further details and understanding on feed, fodder and feed supplements including their processing Annex 2 and related clauses in Appendix 2 under chapter 3 of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) may be referred. Requirements allowed or prohibited under these rules shall also be deemed allowed and prohibited under these rules.

Specific Criteria for Additives and Processing Aids:

- The supplements should be derived from natural sources;
- Feed processing aid supplements like binders, anti-caking agents, emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners, surfactants, coagulants if used should be from natural sources;
- Antioxidants: only from natural sources shall be permitted;
- Preservatives: only natural acids are allowed;
- Colouring agents (including pigments), flavors, odor masking agents and appetite stimulants: only natural sources are allowed;
- Probiotics, enzymes and microorganisms are allowed but should not be from genetically modified sources;
- Any synthetic chemicals, such as, antibiotics, coccidiostat, medicine, growth promoters or any other substance supplemented for purpose to stimulate growth or production shall not be fed to the organic livestock & poultry;
- Silage additives, additives for enriching crop residues and processing aids may not be derived from genetically engineered/modified organisms or products thereof, and may be comprised of only:
 - Sea salt;
 - Coarse rock salt;
 - Yeasts;
 - Enzymes;
 - Whey;
 - Sugar; or sugar products such as molasses, jaggery, grain bran;
 - Honey;
 - Lactic, acetic, formic and propionic bacteria, or their natural acid product when the weather conditions do not allow for adequate fermentation and their use to be approved by the accredited Certification Body.

8 Health Care

- i. The organic livestock & poultry, in general, should follow the basic principles of preventive health and productivity management wherein the focus would be on preventing diseases, detecting underlying fertility and production problems and its correction primarily on correcting management, nutrition and sanitation. The health care shall be based on the following broad principles:
 - a. The choice of appropriate breeds suitable to environment
 - b. Practices focused on encouraging strong resistance to disease and prevention of infections;
 - c. The use of good quality organic feed, together with regular exercise and access to fodder/roughages, and/or open-air runs;
 - d. Appropriate stocking density;
- iii. The use of veterinary medicinal products in organic farming shall comply with the following principles:
 - a. All vaccinations required by law of the land shall be permitted.
 - b. Where specific disease or health problems occur, therapeutic use of veterinary drugs are permitted under prescription and supervision of a registered veterinarian, provided that the double the mandatory withdrawal periods as prescribed for that drug is followed. In drugs where withdrawal period is not prescribed, a minimum of 48 hours of withdrawal period shall be observed;
 - c. For purpose of treatment and prevention of diseases herbal/phyto-therapeutic (excluding antibiotics), homeopathic or ayurvedic products shall be preferred to allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics;
 - d. In case alternative therapeutic or preventive measures are unlikely to be effective allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics may be used under the responsibility and supervision of a veterinarian.
- iv. The use of allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics or drugs derived from genetically modified source for preventative treatments and for enhancing productivity or fertility is prohibited;
- v. Hormonal treatment may only be used for therapeutic reasons and under veterinary supervision;
- vi. Growth stimulants, agents or substances used for the purpose of stimulating growth or production shall not be permitted.

For further details and understanding on common diseases, withdrawal periods for allopathic medicines and agents allowed for sanitation and disinfection under Annex 3, 4 and 5 and related clauses in Appendix 2 under chapter 3 of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) may be referred. Requirements allowed or prohibited under these rules shall also be deemed applicable under these rules.

Standard Requirement for Bee Keeping

As bee keeping is considered a part of animal husbandry, general principals of animal husbandry shall also apply on bee keeping. In addition following requirements shall also be met:

i. Construction of Apiaries and Beehives

- a. Apiary boxes shall be made from untreated wood and not exposed to prohibited substances
- b. The hives shall be made of the natural material to avoid contamination to the environment and the apiculture products.
- c. The bee wax for the new foundations shall be sourced from organic production units.
- d. Only natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils shall be used in the hives.
- e. Queen bees to be sourced from organic apiaries

ii. Apiary Management

- a. The apiaries shall be placed within a radius of 3 kms from the organic farms. These conditions shall not apply when the farms are not in flowering stage or when the hives are in the dormant condition.
- b. An apiary site shall be as close to a natural source of clean hygienic water and bee flora as far as possible, protected from wind, direct sunlight, severe heat, severe cold, rain, wild animals, ants, termites and sources of pollution and contamination exposure to insecticides or toxic fumes or poisonous chemicals. An apiary shall not be located in unclean areas or at a site where the presence of bees is likely to cause public nuisance. It shall be 5 m away from public path or highway.
- c. The number of honey bee colonies kept in such an apiary shall be limited to optimum in relation to forage resources within the same flight, range, so as to avoid over stocking

iii. Conversion period

- a. The conversion period shall not apply when bees are grown in wild and in natural conditions.
- b. One-year conversion period shall apply to those bee colonies/apiaries which are reared.
- c. During conversion the bee colonies shall be placed in isolation and the foundation comb shall be made from organic wax.
- d. The conversion period for apiaries shall not apply in the case of renovation of apiaries

iv. Feeding

Artificial feeding is not allowed. But in cases of dearth or under adverse climatic conditions bees can be fed with organic honey or organic sugar for limited period of time.

v. Health care

- a. Veterinary medicines/ antibiotics shall not be used in bee keeping and no repellents consisting of prohibited substances be used when working with the bees.
- b. For pest and disease control and for hive disinfection use of caustic soda, lactic, oxalic, acetic, formic acids, sulphur, etheric oils and *Bacillus thuringensis* are allowed.

vi. Transport/Migration

- a. In case of non-availability of forage, migrate the colonies to nearest sources of organic forage from farm(s) or forest(s) through individual or collective migration.

vii. Product extraction

- a. Honey shall be extracted only when the combs are sealed by the honey bees.
- b. Honey shall never be extracted from brood combs.
- c. At the end of the flow, and after the honey has been extracted, the empty combs shall be got cleared of honey bees and preserved carefully in supers in a cool, dry, rat-proof enclosures with suitable preservatives against wax moth and other insect pests.
- d. At time of harvest, repellent consisting of prohibited substances (chemical synthetic repellents) shall not be used, except smoke.
- e. Excessive smoke shall not be used as it may taint the flavour of honey or otherwise spoil it.

Processing and Handling

1. Scope

The Processing and Handling standards, procedures and conditions laid down under these rules shall apply to all procedures and operations taken up after the harvest of the crop/livestock products (excluding primary processing such as drying, cleaning, grading etc on the farm) till it is finally packed in retail packs, including (but not limited to) physical, mechanical or biological processing, packaging, storing, ware housing and transportation. Livestock product processing such as pasturing and packing of milk, defatting of milk, curd making, butter, ghee, paneer, chees making etc shall be covered under processing and handling and shall not constitute primary processing

2. General Requirement

2.1 For Local Groups

Any food processing, handling and storage of organic products, on-farm and/or off-farm or under hired facilities away from the farm can be certified under PGS, provided the entire operation is carried out under the supervision of PGS Local Group and the items/ materials to be processed are the direct produce of the PGS group. If required many PGS groups can make their federation and get their federation registered with RC for collective processing, handling and storage. Necessary guidelines for making federation and handling of products from different groups will be laid down by the concerned RC.

2.2 For Individual Processing and Handling units away from group

For PGS-India organic certification individual processing and handling units need to register their units with authorised Regional Councils and obtain necessary certification after mandatory physical inspection and approval by RC. Such certification will be similar to third party certification as envisaged under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

3. Organic Management Plan

The PGS Local groups or individual processing and handling operators seeking PGS-India certification under food processing and handling standards shall submit an organic Management plan to the Regional Council. Organic Management Plan shall be updated annually. The management plan should include.

- i. Description of practices and procedures to be performed
- ii. Details of recipe, list of substances/inputs used during production, storage and handling indicating their composition, source, locations where it will be used and documentation of commercial availability as applicable.
- iii. Description of management practices and separation measures to prevent commingling of organic and non-organic products during parallel processing and handling

4. Specific Requirements

- i. Pollution/ contamination sources shall be identified and contamination/ co-mingling avoided.
- ii. Processing and handling of organic products shall be done separately in time and place from handling and processing of non-organic products.
- iii. All products shall be adequately identified through the whole process by appropriate labelling.

5. Facility Pest Management

The facilities such as ware houses, stores, handling area, processing units etc shall undertake necessary process for decontamination, cleaning or disinfection to keep the entire operating and handling area free from pests. These may include (but not limited to).

- i. Good manufacturing practices, ensuring cleanliness and hygiene.
- ii. Use practices like physical barriers, sound, ultra-sound, light and UV-light, traps (including pheromone traps and static bait traps), temperature control, controlled atmosphere and diatomaceous earth.
- iii. Treatments with pest regulating agents must be regarded as the last resort.
- iv. Following measures shall be used in order of priority: -
 - Preventive methods such as disruption, elimination of habitat and access to facilities
 - Mechanical, physical and biological methods
 - Pesticidal substances allowed for organic processing in Appendix 5 under Chapter 3 of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) provided it is ensured that organically produced products/ingredients do not come in contact with such substances.
 - Other substances used in traps
- v. Irradiation is prohibited.
- vi. No direct or indirect contact between organic products and prohibited substances. (e.g. pesticides). In case of doubt, it shall be ensured that no residues are present in the organic product.
- vii. Persistent or carcinogenic pesticides and disinfectants are not permitted.

6. Ingredients

- i. All ingredients and additives of agriculture origin shall be PGS-organic.
- ii. Water and salt may be used without any restriction.
- iii. For the production of fermentation / microbiological products the medium shall be composed of organic ingredients.
- iv. Commercial microbial formulations for use as inoculants in such processes can be used.
- v. In cases where ingredients of organic agriculture origin are not available or some ingredients of non-agriculture origin (preservatives, additives and

processing aids) are to be used then the guidelines provided in Appendix 5 of chapter 3 under NPOP may be followed.

- vi. Use of genetically modified organisms or their products are prohibited
- vii. Minerals, vitamins and similar other ingredients of chemical origin shall not be used.
- viii. Ethylene gas is permitted for ripening.

7. Processing Methods

- ii. All processing equipment and machinery should be properly washed and made contamination free before using for organic processing.
- iii. All processing equipment and filtration aids shall be free from contamination and shall not release any substance that may negatively affect the organic integrity
- iv. Measures should be in place to prevent co-mingling and contamination of organic produce with non-organic.
- v. Processes approved under PGS-India organic are: mechanical and physical, biological, smoking, extraction, precipitation and filtration. Extraction shall be done with water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon-di-oxide, nitrogen or carboxylic acids. All such solvents/ extraction liquid shall be of food grade.
- vi. Irradiation is not allowed

12. Product Composition for Organic Food

- i. Single ingredient products may be certified as "PGS-India Organic" when all standard requirements have been met.
- ii. Multi ingredient products where 100% of all ingredients are of PGS-India organic origin, products may be labelled as "Organic" when all standard requirements have been met in respect of all ingredients.
- iii. Multi ingredient products where not all ingredients, including additives, are of organic origin may be labelled in the following way :
 - Where a minimum of 95% by weight of its ingredients of agricultural origin are organic including allowed additives, processing aids and preservatives (as allowed under Appendix 5 of NPOP), products may be certified as "organic".
 - Where less than 95% but not less than 70% by weight of its ingredients of agricultural origin are organic, products may not be called "organic" and can only be certified as "made with organic ingredients".
- iii. Added water and salt shall not be included in the percentage calculations of organic ingredients.

13. Storage & Transport

- i. Organic products shall not be stored and transported together with inorganic products unless they are properly packed and labelled and physically separated from each other with no chances of contamination or co-mingling.
- ii. Control measures should ensure that organic products do not come in contact with the in-organic products and prohibited substances during storage, transportation and processing.
- iii. No synthetic preservatives, chemicals, fumigants etc or storage aid shall be used. Use of controlled temperature, cooling, freezing, drying, humidity control through mechanical means and fumigation with nitrogen or carbon-di-oxide gas is permitted. Ethylene gas is permitted for ripening.
- iv. Organic products shall be stored at ambient temperature. Permitted methods for storage are: Controlled atmosphere, Cooling, Freezing, Drying and Humidity regulation
- v. Product integrity should be maintained during storage and transportation of organic products.
- vi. Where only part of the unit is certified and other products are non-organic, the organic products should be stored and handled separately to maintain their identity.
- vii. Bulk stores for organic product should be separate from conventional product stores and clearly labelled to that effect.

14. Packaging

- i. Biodegradable, recyclable, reusable systems and eco-friendly packaging materials shall be used wherever possible
- ii. Material used for packaging shall not contaminate food.
- iii. The packages shall be closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damage of the seal.