

Protocol for Compulsary Activities (Required By Law) being carried out by contractors on an organic certified property.

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Overview:

AsureQuality has operated an organic certification program for the last 8 years. The AsureQuality Organic standard is based on internationally recognised standards and is accredited by IFOAM and NZFSA. Our customers enjoy market access to the USA, European Union, Australia, South East Asia, and Japan.

Organic Farmers are required to follow the AsureQuality organic standard (view standard on www.organiccertification.co.nz) to maintain their organic certification. See section 9 of the AsureQuality Organic standard and keep appropriate documentation for audit purposes.

Key Requirements for Required Activities which involve contractors:

Section 4.7 of the AsureQuality standard outlines the requirements for the cleaning of equipment that has been used on conventional farming systems. The equipment shall be properly cleaned, and free from residues before being used on organically managed farms. This means that collectable soil must be washed of equipment before entering an organic property.

An inspection and clean down protocol needs to be developed and implemented by the contractors prior to entering the organic property. A record of equipment inspections/clean downs needs to be kept for audit purposes. A copy of these records must be supplied to the farmer.

Regrassing

If areas of the land need to be re-established in pasture, then organic seed (preferably) or untreated, uncoated GMO Free seed must be used permission for the use of this must be requested from AsureQuality prior to purchase. Limited availability of organic seed means seed must be ordered well in advance. Documentation supporting seed purchases must be kept. See section 4.5.1 of the AsureQuality standard

Fertiliser

There are specific types of fertiliser that must be used on organic an organic farm. Please apply for approval with AsureQuality before the purchase and application of any fertiliser.

Spray

Chemical sprays are not permitted to be used on any organic properties.

Exclusion Zones

Organic stock must not be allowed to graze on non-organic pasture. Boundary fences must be maintained at all times to avoid stock leaving the organic property. Staff must ensure that gates are closed so that stock cannot leave, or enter the organic property.

Stock Transfer/Purchased Feed

If stock are required to be grazed off the property due to disruption of farming activities due to activities, these stock must be grazed on an organic property of equivalent organic status or better if the organic status of the animal in question is to be retained. If supplementary feed is to be purchased this must be organically certified. While there is (limited) grazing and feed available, any such decision would need to be planned well in advance to ensure supply.

Oil and fuel spills

Any oil or fuel spills on the organic land must be cleaned up by removal of the affected soil.

Communication

Given the issues surrounding potential violation and integrity of the organic status it will be important that there is high level of communication between any parties entering the property and the land owner. There will need to be an additional level of care shown by contractors on these properties, eg with regard to closing gates and ensuring no chemical spills.

If in doubt on any aspect of the organic status of a property they should contact AsureQuality to seek information.

This protocol is valid for twelve months from the above date, and should be reviewed against the standards which are in place at the time of review.

I have read and understood these requirements, Signed By Party Carrying out Compulsary Activities: _____ Date _____.

Provide a duplicate copy of this for them to keep.