



## PAS 100

**BSI PAS 100 is the national compost benchmark issued by The British Standard Institution. PAS 100 specifies the standards for the production of compost detailing the minimum requirements for the process of composting, the selection of materials that are used to make the compost, and how the compost is labelled. PAS 100 is useful for defining the quality of the compost produced allowing producers to demonstrate a minimum standard and buyers to be able to recognise this standard.**

- PAS 100 was launched in 2002 and was developed jointly by WRAP and The Association for Organics Recycling (formerly the Composting Association)
- The standard was updated in 2011, updates included a number of improvements and efficiencies such as new upper limits for some test parameters and a new testing process for *E.Coli*



### PAS 100 specifies requirements for:

- The process of composting
- Selection of input materials
- Minimum quality of composted materials and their storage
- Labelling and traceability of compost products
- Quality management system for the production of composts
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) assessment

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**Benefits of PAS 100**

- It helps to differentiate products. PAS 100 composts are safe, reliable, and this helps improve confidence in composted materials among end users, specifiers and blenders
- Achieving PAS 100 is a useful step toward achieving QPC (Quality Protocol for Compost) compliancy – this is required to change the status of compost from waste to a product and is part of the Compost Certification Scheme
- Being able to label the compost as a product and not as a waste removes waste regulatory controls on its storage and use

**For what sectors of horticulture is PAS 100 suitable?**

The scheme is suitable for compost producers wishing to sell their end product as a product rather than a waste i.e. for use in horticultural growing media. Awareness of the scheme is valuable for horticultural businesses looking to buy safe, high performing growing media for pot and container production. Composts can also be spread to land as a soil improver to increase soil organic matter.

**What assurance categories does PAS100 scheme cover?**

- Compost safety and traceability
- Compost production quality

**How to become certified to PAS 100**

The Association for Organics Recycling run a certification scheme, it is a UK only scheme providing third party assessment and agreement with PAS 100.

The scheme involves an annual inspection of the compost producer. The following are steps required to become certified:

- Creation of a quality policy
- Hazards analysis
- Creating standard operating procedures
- Process validation
- Day-to-day record keeping
- One sample has to be sent off for every 5000 m3 produced.
- Estimates suggest the full PAS 100 suite costs £450 incl. VAT

**How to identify suppliers of PAS 100 compost**

Visit the compost supplier directory for a comprehensive list of suppliers:

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/compost-supplier-directory>

**Further information**

Website: <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/bsi-pas-100-producing-quality-compost>

The website contains the full BSI PAS 100 compost specification. The website also lists all the improvements to the specification which were reviewed and updated in 2011.

**WRAP**

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For details of other quality assurance schemes and British standards please contact Horticulture Wales. [www.horticulturewales.co.uk](http://www.horticulturewales.co.uk)

