



## Soil Association Certification Ltd (SACert)

Soil Association Certification Ltd is the not-for-profit certification arm of the Soil Association, a charity devoted to promoting organic food and farming. All food products sold as organic must by law comply with National and European Standards. Soil Association Certification Ltd is one of the control bodies approved by DEFRA for the implementation of the organic standards at farm level and it has its own additional standards. Certification of a holding is also a condition of eligibility for the organic farming support schemes.



Code GB05

### About Soil Association Certification

- Soil Association Certification Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Soil Association charity, which supports and promotes the wider organic sector.
- The Soil Association has been certifying since 1973 and is the largest UK organic certification body. It licenses over 80% of all organic products sold in the UK.
- Some SACert organic standards are more exacting than those set by EU or UK regulations particularly in relation to GM and

the use of inputs.

- Soil Association licensees can receive technical advice and support from the charity's trade and producer support team.
- As well as organic certification, Soil Association Certification Ltd offers a range of other industry approved schemes which can be completed at the same time as the organic inspection, such as Red Tractor Farm Assurance and BRC (see overleaf for further information).

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For further information please contact Horticulture Wales. Disclaimer: Every effort is made to ensure the information provided in this information sheet is correct at time of printing. Horticulture Wales cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of its content and links to further information sources from this document.



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu  
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi  
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
The European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development: Europe Investing in  
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



### What sectors of horticulture is the scheme suitable for?

- Field crops
- Protected cropping
- Food processing
- Wild harvested operations.

### SACert is an organic control body

- The EU regulation requires all Control Bodies to be accredited to European standard EN45011 or its international equivalent ISO/IEC Guide 65, General Requirements for bodies operating product certification systems.
- Accreditation to this standard is carried out by the [United Kingdom Accreditation Service](#) (UKAS) on behalf of DEFRA.

### Costs of participation

- The cost for SACert licensees starts around £400 but the annual fee increases for larger farms. The fee includes membership of the Soil Association, plus audit fees
- There is a separate cost structure and audit for processors.

*Prices stated are correct at time of going to press – please check for current prices in case of changes*

### How to join

Contact the support team at the Soil Association (see further information).

### System of assessment or inspection

- There are annual inspections of all SACert licensed operations
- The length of the inspection depends upon the size and complexity of the business.

### Further information

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Red Tractor Farm Assurance website: [www.redtractorassurance.org.uk](http://www.redtractorassurance.org.uk) (Information sheet available from Horticulture Wales)

British Retail Consortium (BRC) website: [www.brcglobalstandard.com](http://www.brcglobalstandard.com) (Information sheet available from Horticulture Wales)

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