



**Notification:** 2104  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
**Category:** Update to the Australia Organic Standard (ACOS) 2021v1  
**Title:** IFOAM Annex Update

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## Background

The International Federation for Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) is a membership-based organization promoting organic agriculture around the world.

The Australian Certified Organic Standard (ACOS) is recognised as equivalent and can be used to access markets requiring IFOAM certification.

To ensure ongoing access to IFOAM certification according to the ACOS, updates are required from time to time.

The following updates to the IFOAM annex become effective on the date of this Notification

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### Point 2:

In regards to conversion periods:

**Delete:** For perennial systems (other than pastures and meadows), certification of farm units as “In Conversion to Organic” may be given where the operator has a verified minimum of 18 months of conformance with the Standard.

**Replace with:** The length of the conversion period shall be at least: 12 months before sowing or planting in the case of annual production, 12 months before grazing or harvest for pastures and meadows. For perennial systems (other than pastures and meadows), certification of farm units as “In Conversion to Organic” may be given where the operator has a verified minimum of 18 months of conformance with the Standard.

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### Point 20:

In regards to transport of livestock:

**Delete:** Those responsible for transportation and slaughtering of livestock shall avoid contact (sight, sound or smell) of each live animal with dead animals or animals in the killing process.

**Replace with:** Those responsible for transportation and slaughtering of livestock shall avoid contact (sight, sound or smell) of each live animal with dead animals or animals in the killing process. Organic animal management avoids animal stress and suffering during the movement, handling and slaughter of animals. The use of any injurious devices such as electric prods, tranquilizers and stimulants is not allowed.

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**Point 28:**

In regards to packaging material:

**Delete:** Equipment surfaces and utensils that might come into contact with organic products shall be free of nanomaterials, unless there is verified absence of contamination risk.

**Replace with:** Equipment surfaces, utensils and packaging materials that might come into contact with organic products shall be free of nanomaterials, unless there is verified absence of contamination risk.

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**Point 53 becomes Point 54.**

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**Point 54 becomes Point 55.**

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**Point 55 becomes Point 56.**

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**Point 56 becomes Point 57.**

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**Point 57 becomes Point 58.**

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**Point 58 becomes Point 59.**

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**Point 59 becomes Point 60.**

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**Point 60 becomes Point 61.**

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**Point 53:**

Additional Point regarding water resources:

**Add:** Stocking densities and grazing shall not degrade land or pollute water resources. This also applies to all manure management and applications.

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**Point 54:**

Additional information regarding thermal sterilisation as it relates to land preparation:

**Delete:** Land preparation by burning vegetation or crop residues is only allowed in exceptional cases, for reasons such as disease control or to stimulate seed germination, and only with approval from the CB.

**Replace with:** Land preparation by burning vegetation, crop residues or thermal sterilisation of soils is only allowed in exceptional cases, for reasons such as disease control or to stimulate seed germination, and only with derogation approval from the CB.



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**Add POINT 62:**

Clarifying hormone and growth promoter use within Aquaculture:

**Add:** Synthetic hormones and growth promoters are prohibited for use to artificially stimulate growth or reproduction

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**Add POINT 63:**

Clarification to Wild harvest of Sedentary Species:

**Add:** Operators shall take measures to ensure that wild, sedentary aquatic species are collected only from areas where the water is not contaminated by substances prohibited in these standards.

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**END**