



UK Soil Association

Website: <http://www.soilassociation.org/>

Based in: United Kingdom

Type: Organic Standard Setting Body; NGO/Nonprofit

Certification process: Producers must submit an application to Soil Association Certification, Ltd (SAC), which is owned by the UKSA. SAC carries out inspection, and certification is granted after agreement to meet any unmet standards and final approval.

From the UKSA website: “The Soil Association organic standards cover both the EC regulations and the Compendium of UK Organic Standards. In many cases our standards are more robust than those set by EU regulations – in fact, no system of farming has higher levels of animal welfare standards than organic farms working to our standards.”

What they certify:

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|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| • Food and Drink | Textiles | Livestock |
| • Health and Beauty | Aquaculture | Woodlands and their |
| • Products | Products | products |

Certifying aquaculture products since: 1999

Aquaculture standards overview:

For UKSA fish welfare is perhaps the highest priority. Also, impacts on surrounding ecosystems and species must be kept to a minimum. UKSA standards provide fewer social welfare and energy efficiency considerations than some labels. Fish feed requirements are also slightly less strict.

- **Therapeutants:** limited to vaccines for specific diseases, some anesthetics, and antibiotics as a last resort; non-chemical methods of preventing and treating disease are preferred
- **Water Quality:** water and effluent quality must meet strict requirements
- **Antifoulants:** no toxic antifoulants or unnatural additives approved
- **Feed:** Organic feed preferred, but not necessarily required (certified sustainable feed and feed from wild fish byproducts can be approved)
- **Hormones & Growth Stimulants:** hormones are not permitted; artificial lighting only to extend day length (up to 16 hours)

- **Stocking Density:** no more than 10kg/m³

Miscellaneous information: This organic label is one of the most respected in the EU. UKSA also certifies producers and processors as ethical traders under its Ethical Trade standards.