

Title	Describe the scope and application of standards that apply to organic horticulture in New Zealand		
Level	4	Credits	8

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to describe: the purpose of organic certification and the options available for organic certification in New Zealand; how organic standards are applied; the process for achieving organic certification; and the procedures and requirements for exporting certified organic products.
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Classification	Horticulture > Production Horticulture
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

Standards relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to:

- Demeter Standards www.biodynamic.org.nz;
- BIO-GRO Standards www.biogro.co.nz;
- Agriquality Organic Standards www.agriquality.co.nz;
- Soil and Health Association of New Zealand www.organicnz.org.nz;
- New Zealand Food Safety Authority www.nzfsa.govt.nz/organics;
- NZS 8410:2003, Organic production www.standards.co.nz
- International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Guide 65 www.iso.org;
- International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements www.ifoam.bio.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the purpose of organic certification and the options available for organic certification in New Zealand.

Performance criteria

1.1 Describe the purpose of organic certification in terms of maintaining organic standards.

Range purposes include but are not limited to – consistency, continuous improvement, traceability, accountability, production records, consumer guarantee, independent verification of organic management, integrity of products, market access.

1.2 Describe options available for organic certification in New Zealand in terms of maintaining organic standards.

Range evidence of six options is required.

Outcome 2

Describe how organic standards are applied.

Performance criteria

2.1 Describe the intentions of organic standards in terms of maintaining organic standards.

Range intentions include but are not limited to – minimum standards for organic production, organic product identification, consumer assurance, animal welfare and environmental protection, transparency of production trademark development, trademark protection.

2.2 Describe how organic standards are set in terms of maintaining organic standards.

Range standards include but are not limited to – privately owned standards, national standards, consumer consultation, good agricultural (horticultural) practice, producer expectation, international regulations, relevant local legislation, regular review.

2.3 Describe the functions of certifiers who manage organic standards in terms of maintaining organic standards.

Range functions include but are not limited to – standard setting, processing applications, assessing organic management plans, inspections, certification, regulatory compliance, suspension and withdrawal of certification.

2.4 Describe the differences between the Demeter Standards and other organic standards in terms of maintaining organic standards.

Range evidence of three differences is required.

Outcome 3

Describe the process for achieving organic certification.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Describe the application procedure for organic certification in terms of maintaining organic standards.
- Range procedures include are not limited to – certifier application forms, organic management plan, operational policies and procedures, application assessment, compliance with standards, fees.
- 3.2 Describe the inspection procedures for organic certification in terms of maintaining organic standards.
- Range procedures include but are not limited to – auditing, site inspection, traceback audit, input/output audit, records verification, non-compliance, corrective action.
- 3.3 Describe the certification decision and certificate issue procedures in terms of maintaining organic standards.
- Range procedures include but are not limited to – review of inspection report, certificate issue.
- 3.4 Describe the key differences between the requirements of Organic Farm New Zealand and the other certifiers in terms of maintaining organic standards.
- Range requirements include but are not limited to – standards, regional bodies, peer review inspections, domestic market only.

Outcome 4

Describe the procedures and requirements for exporting certified organic products.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe the characteristics of the international organic marketplace in terms of exporting certified organic products.
- Range characteristics include but are not limited to – regulated markets, International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Guide 65, International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements, accredited certifiers, non-regulated markets.
- 4.2 Describe the New Zealand Food Safety Authority in terms of their function for organic horticulture exports, and the requirements they have for exporters of organic produce.
- Range Official Organic Assurance Program, Ministry of Primary Industries Organic Product Requirements in New Zealand, ISO 17020, International Accreditation New Zealand, third party agencies, compliance assessment, accountability.

- 4.3 Describe third party agencies in New Zealand in terms of their functions, and the requirements they have for exporters of organic produce.

Range certification, identity preservation, protection of organic integrity, product recall.

Replacement Information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 10322.
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Planned review date	31 December 2027
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	27 October 2006	31 December 2024
Review	2	24 November 2022	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0052
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.