



It is going to be essential for businesses to have contingency plans in place to respond to risks associated with climate changes. This is introduced through Control Point 1.24. Contingency plans can be included within existing management plans, or as a separate plan.

<p>1.24 (New v16.0) Measures are taken to enhance climate resilience.</p> <p>E</p> <p>NEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of impact(s) from consequences of extreme climate change are identified (e.g., flooding, drought, resource availability) • Strategies for responding to high-risk impacts are defined • Risks and strategies are used to inform development of targets to enhance climate resilience 	 
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4. Carbon

Relevant Control Points: 1.6, 1.12, 2.1, 2.2, 4.5, 6.3, 6.4

The LEAF Marque Standard v15.0 has relevance to carbon emissions, reduction, and sequestration throughout, although it is not always explicitly mentioned. Reducing carbon emissions and climate positive action is essential in the future of agriculture and several changes have been made to emphasise this.

It will now be required to reference reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and implementing climate positive action in the Integrated Farm Management Policy (Control Point 1.6). It will also be required to include strategies to improve carbon capture and sequestration within the Soil Management Plan, and to take measures to capture and retain soil organic carbon (Control Point 2.1). There will also be a requirement to reference GHG emissions in the Pollution Risk Assessment (Control Point 4.5).

Another change will be that businesses are required to use a carbon footprinting tool to record GHG emissions (Control Point 6.3). It is essential for businesses to start recording GHG emissions to gather an understanding of their current performance and to generate a baseline footprint, which will be the basis for setting actions and measuring improvement year on year.

5. Soil Health

Relevant Control Points: 2.1, 2.14

There have been changes to require businesses to address biological, physical, and chemical aspects of soil health. This includes including targets to improve and maintain these factors within the Soil Management Plan (Control Point 2.1). Also, Control Point 2.14 requires soil health to be measured, and this has been upgraded to Essential.

6. **Nutrient Management**

Relevant Control Points: 2.3, 2.6

There have been changes to strengthen nutrient management requirements and how this integrates across all farm management decisions and strategies. Control Point 2.3 has been renamed the “Integrated Nutrient Management” to emphasise the importance of integrating this plan with the Soil Management Plan, Crop Health and Protection Plan, Manure Management Plan, Pollution Risk Assessment, and where relevant, the Animal Feed Audit and Action Plan. The Integrated Nutrient Management Plan must include crop nutrient requirements based on soil testing, and calculation of nutrient content in animal returns and manure/slurry. In addition, the sustainability of nutrient inputs and strategies to source from sustainable alternatives must be referenced.

There are also changes to Control Point 2.6 to ensure the long-term cropping plan considers availability and effective use of nutrients in cropping choice and rotation decisions.

7. **Water Management**

Relevant Control Points: 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 7.1, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7

Water Management requirements have been strengthened to focus on water catchment working, water sourcing, monitoring water quality, and optimising water use and water use efficiency.

The requirements related to drainage in the Pollution Control and By-Product Management section were consolidated into one Control Point (4.8) to provide clarity on the requirements for drainage maps and records.

There were updates to the requirements of the Water Management Plan to include water catchment context, approaches to water quality monitoring, water use, water use efficiency and water quality targets, actions to optimise water use and water use efficiency, and improve water quality and consideration of water use related to local availability and future demand (Control Point 7.1).

There were two new Control Points added which requires sources of water use to be justified (Control Point 7.6) and to monitor water quality (Control Point 7.7).

<p>7.6 (New v16.0) The sources of water used are justified.</p> <p>R</p> <p>NEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current sources of water used are detailed and explained (see 7.1) • Consideration has been given to progression and plans towards increasing the proportion of water used which is re-used and/or collected from periods of natural abundance • Justification includes environmental impacts • To include mains supply, ground water, surface water, harvested water, stored surface water, recycled process/waste water, desalinated water, precipitation, non-renewable resources (fossil water), and unusual sources (e.g., snow, ice) 	   <p>WM.WQ.01 WM.WQ.07</p>
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<p>4.11 (New v16.0) There is an implemented Waste Audit Action Plan.</p> <p>R</p> <p>NEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waste Audit Action Plan is based on the annual Waste Audit (4.1) • Waste Audit Action Plan includes reference to and targets around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing production of waste ○ Reuse waste produced ○ Recycling waste ○ Safe and effective disposal of waste where it cannot be utilised ○ Reducing dependency on non-recyclable materials ○ the use of alternative materials such as biodegradable or compostable plastics ○ Closed loop, circular approaches e.g., send packaging back to manufacturer/supplier for reuse • If waste cannot be reused, reduced or recycled it must be justified by the business • Action Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated • The implementation of the Action Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan. 	 
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9. Relevance to Different Systems

The LEAF Marque Standard was reviewed in consideration of relevance to different systems. This included producer groups, livestock businesses, protected cropping businesses, businesses with complex business models, and international relevance. There have been changes to various Control Points and the intended outcomes were to increase relevance for these businesses.

Producer Groups

Relevant Control Points: 1.1

Changes were made to Control Point 1.1 to clarify that one LEAF Sustainable Farming Review should be completed per producer group by the operator of the Quality Management System on behalf of all members in the producer group.

Protected Cropping

Relevant Control Points: 2.1, 8.7, 8.14, 8.24

To ensure the LEAF Marque Standard is relevant to protected cropping businesses, minor amendments were made. The Soil Management Plan (Control Point 2.1) now has greater emphasis on its relevance to businesses that grow in substrate. Control Points 8.7 and 8.14 states “site boundaries” instead of “field” to remove terminology that was not relevant in protected cropping contexts.

Livestock

Relevant Control Points: 2.11, 3.1, 3.2, 5.13

Following significant changes in v15.0 to enhance the relevance of the Standard to all livestock businesses, additional amendments were made to improve relevance with particular emphasis on pig and poultry businesses. A requirement was added to the Crop Health and Protection Plan to ensure grassland and forage crops are managed as a crop in crop health decisions (Control Point 3.1). Also, the Animal Feed Action Plan asks businesses to consider ways to minimise waste of feed and/or nutrients (Control Point 5.13). There were also Not Applicable icons added to Control Point 2.11 and Control Point 3.2 for those businesses who do not apply nutrients or manure, and those who do not apply Plant Protection Products (PPP's) respectively.

International Relevance

Relevant Control Points: 2.11, 5.6, 8.1

To ensure internationally relevant terms were used in the LEAF Marque Standard, “Environmentally Sensitive Areas” (Control Point 2.11) and “statutory landscape designation” (Control Point 8.1) were removed from the Standard.

Control Point 5.6 was moved to the Landscape and Nature Conservation section and the terminology used updated to be more internationally relevant.

<p>8.29 (New v16.0) Protected and/or high conservation value areas, are protected and managed appropriately.</p> <p>E</p> <p>NEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected and/or high conservation value areas (e.g., hedges, ponds, ditches, streams, rivers, margins) are managed to protect wildlife and water quality Management practices are targeted to benefit species and habitats identified in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Audit (see 8.1) Management strategies align with animal husbandry practices, if relevant to a business' enterprises 	  LN.LQ.01 LN.LQ.07
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10. Other

Recommended Control Points

Relevant Control Points: 2.8, 2.12, 3.15, 4.7, 5.10, 5.12, 5.13, 7.4, 7.5, 8.15, 8.19, 8.22, 8.23, 8.27

All the recommended Control Points within the LEAF Marque Standard were reviewed to assess their role and whether they should be upgraded to Essential. The Control Points that were upgraded to Essential were: 2.14, 3.20, 4.8, 5.12, 5.13, 7.4, and 8.27. Control Points were deleted if their requirements were duplicated elsewhere in the Standard: 2.8, 2.12, 3.15, 4.7, 7.5, 8.8, 8.15, 8.19, and 8.22.

Recommended Control Point 8.23 was identified as not appropriate to upgrade to Essential, but the percentage farm area available as appropriate habitats has increased to 10% to indicate the importance of biodiversity and habitat area.

Crop Health and Protection

Relevant Control Points: 3.9, 3.20, 3.21

The language regarding buffer strips and agrochemical applications was reviewed for international relevance. The changes to Control Point 3.9 require that buffer zones are justified through local best practice guidance, legislation, and product label requirements. Control Point 3.20 was changed to align with changes to Control Point 3.9, and was upgraded to Essential.

A new Control Point was added (see below) which requires businesses to inform neighbouring businesses and the public of agrochemical application activities.

<p>3.21 (New v16.0) Actions are taken to inform neighbouring businesses and the public from agrochemical application activities.</p> <p>R</p> <p>NEW</p> <p>N/A <i>N/A where agrochemicals are not applied</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When fields are sprayed adjacent to business and residential properties or public rights of ways, appropriate methods are taken to inform these properties and the public of when agrochemical application will take place. 	  <p><u>CP.CQ.11</u></p>
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Verification Icons

Relevant Control Points: 1.6, 1.12, 2.3, 3.1, 3.13, 4.2, 4.3, 5.13

There were additional verification icons added to several Control Points. A Verbal Verification icon was added to Control Point 1.6, to enable assessment of whether the IFM Policy is communicated to staff. A Visual Verification icon was added to Control Point 2.3, 3.1, 4.2, and 5.13 so the relevant verification for Management Plans is consistent. The Verbal Verification icon was removed from Control Point 6.4 as communication is not necessary to audit this Control Point.

There were also Not Applicable icons added to Control Point 1.12 'where no buildings and equipment purchased, designed, or refurbished in the past 12 months and/or future plans', Control Point 3.13 for businesses where no PPPs are used, and Control Point 4.3 for businesses who do not store fuel.

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