LEAF Marque Standard v15.0
what has changed?
The LEAF Marque

LEAF Marque is a leading global assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products. It is based on LEAF’s Integrated Farm Management (IFM) principles.

LEAF Marque certified farms meet our rigorous standards of sustainable farming practice and have been independently verified against the robust LEAF Marque Standard.

The LEAF Marque Standard

The LEAF Marque Standard sets out the requirements for LEAF Marque certification. Its intended impacts are to improve:

• Soil management to enhance soil quality and soil health
• The resilience of cropping systems
• Management of water use and water quality
• Energy efficiency and energy use
• Waste management
• Management of livestock to enhance the environment
• And enhance the management of native habitats and biodiversity
Continually improving the LEAF Marque Standard

Every few years we review the LEAF Marque Standard to ensure it remains relevant. As industry practices and scientific understanding evolve over time, so our Standard needs to evolve too. Our Standard review is public and consistent with best practice codes and guidelines provided by ISEAL. It engages our members and stakeholders including academics, fellow NGO’s, government, industry and members of the public throughout the process.
LEAF Marque v15.0 – Key Changes

**Animal Husbandry:** Developed requirements and new Control Points to increase the livestock offer for LEAF Marque certified businesses. Key is the importance of good animal welfare for maintaining healthy animals and productivity whilst also reducing environmental impact.

**Soil Health:** Introduction of a new Recommended Control Point to provide direction on strategies to measure soil health.

**Community Engagement:** Amendments were made to ensure the global relevance of this section. The three Control Points in the LEAF Marque Standard v14.1 have been deleted and replaced in v15.0 with two new Control Points.

**Outcome-based approach:** Introduction of a new Recommended outcome-based Control Point on monitoring habitats and species. This is part of a pioneering project on transitioning the LEAF Marque Standard to a hybrid outcome-based approach.

**Upgraded Control Points:** Three Recommended Control Points have been upgraded to Essential: Monitoring of animal health and welfare indicators, having an implemented Energy Action Plan, and completing the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review question On-Farm

**Product List:** LEAF Marque Standard v15.0 certificates will include all the businesses certified products, and Production Information entered on the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review will be verified in audits. For more information on the products eligible for certification and further guidance, please see the LEAF Product List and LEAF Production List: Supporting Information on the LEAF Marque webpage

**Baseline Systems:** Control Point 1.2 has been amended to clarify the baseline certification system requirements, which is applicable to all the business’ products. For v15.0, the baseline certification system must be included on a list approved by LEAF Marque which can be found in the LEAF Product List

**Continual Improvement & Efficiency:** Various small changes throughout the Standard to greater emphasise these principles.
Claims & Labelling

From the 1st of January 2020, Claims & Labelling (C&L) will replace Chain of Custody and Warranty Chain, both of which will no longer be operational. A C&L Licence is needed for each product in which a LEAF Marque claim is made. A LEAF Marque claim is any combination of the use of the LEAF Marque logo AND/OR a sustainability claim used to set apart and promote a product, process, business or service that is based on achievement of LEAF Marque certification. This includes claims made with supply chains for business requesting LEAF Marque certification, regardless of whether the product is sold as such.

C&L is not included in the LEAF Marque Standard as the relevant Licence Holder isn’t necessarily the LEAF Marque certified business, as it also includes the wider supply chain. The relevant licence holder must submit a Licence Application; this will be reviewed by LEAF Marque, and if approved, a C&L Licence issued. C&L Licence’s will be valid for a year, after which they must be reviewed.

Further guidance is available at leafuk.org/farming/leaf-marque/leaf-marque-standard
We are here to help

The full version of the LEAF Marque Standard v15.0 is available at leafuk.org/farming/leaf-marque/leaf-marque-standard

If you have any questions on the LEAF Marque Standard v15.0 or Standard Setting Procedure, please do not hesitate to get in touch at info@leafmarque.com.

We provide a BASIS accredited two-day training course covering all aspects of Integrated Farm Management and the LEAF Marque Standard – if you would like to be updated of the next course, please contact lucy.redmore@leafuk.org.

Next Steps - LEAF Marque Standard Version 16.0

The next version of the LEAF Marque Standard (v16.0) will be published on the 1st October 2022 at the latest.