



## Revision of LEAF Marque System Rules v5.2 → v5.3

### Introduction

This document summarises and the key changes in the proposed LEAF Marque System Rules which is due to be implemented at the same time as LEAF Marque Standard v17 (April 2026).

The Leaf Marque System Rules is a publicly available normative document which informs producers (and certification bodies) of how the LEAF Marque Assurance System works, including their obligations and rights.

The primary reasons for this revision are:

- Clarification of existing rules
- Introduction of new clauses which enhance the robustness of the certification process

A tracked changes version of the document is also attached.

### Significant Revisions

#### Throughout

References to Essential & recommended Control points replace with Core and Advanced. References to non-conformances for recommended (advanced) control points removed, to be replaced by Recommendations.

Replacing compliance (which indicates legal compliance) with conformance (indicating adhering to a voluntary standard)

#### Membership

- 1.1.3 Including option 1 multisite businesses in description of membership and whole farm definition.
- 1.3 Adding requirement for producers to permit transfer of information between CBs when a transfer takes place.

#### Audit

- 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 Further defining the audit process:
  - Documentary review which may be completed off site
  - Onsite inspection and site tour, summary of minimum audit protocol defined in CB Licence agreement
- 2.7 Specifying that LEAF Marque will endeavour to provide translations for predominant languages globally, and that in case of doubt over interpretation, the English version is definitive.
- 2.9 Member's right to a receive a copy of the audit report following completion of the certification process (reflects ISEAL's principles of performance insights for producers)



- 2.10 Simplifying & harmonising terminology around audit types (initial, certification/recertification, additional, extension)
- 2.11 Specifying that CBs may perform unannounced additional audits when investigating suspicion of non-conformance / complaints, and announced additional audits to allow observation of production and/or environmental management not possible to observe at certification audit.
- 2.12.3 Added requirement for new audit being required where the legal entity responsible for conformance changes (i.e. change of farm ownership)

## Certification

- 3.2.2 Further clarified certification cycles and certificate validity periods in cases where recertification takes place prior to or after the existing certificate expiry date (ensuring producers do not “lose” or “gain” duration of certification due to audit timing).
- 3.3 Amended provision for certificate extensions to allow greater CB autonomy (removing preapproval process via LEAF Marque) where within accepted audit window (up to 4 months following certificate expiry) to reduce the risk of breaks in certification for producers through no fault of their own:
  - consistency with GlobalG.A.P. system
  - allows for variation in audit timing to account for meeting minimum audit protocol by CBs (seeing different points in production cycle or environmental management)
  - allows sufficient time for completion of multiple audits for producer groups and multisite operations, or arranging audits in areas where auditor availability is lower
- 3.4 Clarified that where a producer transfers to another CB, the new CB may not extend the previously issued certificate
- 3.7.4 Adding right of LEAF Marque to impose a prohibition period on recertification following withdrawal of certification
- 5.6 Including to data use permission for CBs to view LSFR data as part of audit process.

## Claims & Labelling

- 6.1 Expanded definition of a LEAF Marque Claim to include public commitments to sourcing LEAF Marque product
- 6.5 Clarified that a product not grown on a LEAF Marque certified farm may not be sold as LEAF marque certified (outside of approved mass balance agreements)