v17 LEAF Marque Standard Draft:
Short Summary of Changes

The LEAF Marque Standard v17.0 Draft has been developed over the past year, with input from multi-stakeholder working groups and focus groups, the LEAF Marque Technical Advisory Committee, multi-stakeholder feedback on the LEAF Marque Standard 16.1 and research conducted by LEAF.

Please note the following:

• This document provides a summary of the major changes made to the LEAF Marque Standard v17 draft, it is not comprehensive of all minor changes. Please refer to the v17 draft to view all changes in purple text.

• The Livestock Management section (called Animal Husbandry in v16.1) is still under revision and will be included in the second round of public consultation in July 2024.

• The V17 draft is not final. There may be additional changes to the draft (for example, to incorporate feedback from the public consultations).

• The new guidance column is not final – there will be more guidance added.

General Changes

Section Titles

Some sections of Integrated Farm Management have been renamed to better reflect the objectives of IFM and the LEAF Marque requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Title (v16.1)</th>
<th>Title in v17.0</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisation and Planning</td>
<td>Business Planning and Resilience</td>
<td>Recognition of the importance of continuous improvement and resilience for businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Management and Fertility</td>
<td>Soil and Substrate Management</td>
<td>Increase relevance to producers who don’t grow in soil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Health and Protection</td>
<td>Plant Health and Protection</td>
<td>Recognition of importance of plants not grown as crops on farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution Control and By-Product Management</td>
<td>Waste and By-Product Management</td>
<td>Pollution to be incorporated throughout other sections to address the impact of pollution in these sections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Management</td>
<td>Water Management</td>
<td>No change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and Nature Conservation</td>
<td>Landscape and Biodiversity</td>
<td>Recognition of the language used internationally and more clear alignment with the section requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging Society</td>
<td>Engaging Society</td>
<td>No change.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An excel spreadsheet format of v17.0 will be available.

All sections have been divided into subsections to improve readability and organise requirements by theme.

Many control points throughout the standard have been reworded and simplified to improve clarity. Some control points were also combined to reduce duplication.

All control points have been renumbered for clarity and deleted control points have been removed.

The verification text has been numbered (a, b, c / i, ii, iii) to make the requirements easier to read.

A guidance column has been added to provide immediate support in understanding the Control Point; more detailed guidance will be made available online.

The Verbal verification of evidence option / icon was removed, as discussion with the auditor is inherent to the audit and Observational verification of evidence.

New Control Point Categories

In v17.0, LEAF Marque intends to categorise Control Points as “Core”, “Advanced I”, and “Advanced II”, which replaces the “Essential” and “Recommended” categories.

“Core” control points will be mandatory for LEAF Marque certification. They represent the fundamental sustainability requirements that all LEAF Marque certified businesses must implement.

“Advanced I” and “Advanced II” control points will be optional for LEAF Marque certification (not mandatory). Advanced I control points are more rigorous than Core control points. Advanced II control points are more rigorous than Advanced I control points.

This change to the Control Point categories aims to recognise that LEAF Marque producers might be at different stages in their Integrated Farm Management/sustainability journey and encourage continuous improvement.

LEAF Marque Tiers

- Core Tier: A business must meet all “Core” requirements to be in the Core Tier of LEAF Marque.
- Advanced Tier: A business must meet all “Advanced I” requirements to be in the Advanced Tier of LEAF Marque. “Advanced II” requirements are optional in the Advanced Tier.
- There will be one LEAF Marque logo to represent both tiers (the current LEAF Marque logo).
Control Point Changes

Business Planning and Resilience

New Control Points

- **CP 1.3** Compliance with all applicable national and local regulatory and legislative requirements. (Core)
- **CP 1.9** All equipment is appropriately maintained and calibrated. (Core)
- **CP 1.10** Risk Assessments are conducted to identify business and environmental risks. (Core/Advanced)
- **CP 1.10.d** Risk assessment identifies economic risks within the business. (Advanced I)

Major Edits

- **CP 1.6** Where the business has overall management, or ownership, of tenanted or contracted land, there is an agreement that stipulates that contractors or tenants, must manage the land in a way that protects and enhances the environment. (Core)
  - In V16.1: **CP 8.5** Contractors, or tenants who rent land from the certified business, manage the land in a way that protects and enhances the environment. (Recommended)
- **CP 1.10.b.iv** The business records information about extreme weather events that occurred in the last 12 months, including: Type of event(s), Severity of negative impacts of event, Number of days to recover from the event. (Core)

Soil and Substrate Management

New Control Points

- **CP 2.1.2** There is a Substrate Management Plan. (Core)
- **CP 2.7** Measures are taken to avoid soil salinisation. (Core)
- **CP 2.8** Peat-free growing medium is considered by the business. (Advanced I)

Major Edits

- **CP 2.3** Soil health is measured at least annually. (Core)
  - In V16.1: **CP 2.14** Soil health is measured. (Essential)
- **CP 2.6** Measures are taken to avoid soil degradation. (Core)

Plant Health and Protection

Major changes

- **CP 3.1** There is a Plant Health and Protection Plan. (Core)

Waste and By-Product Management

New Control Points

- **CP 4.6** Waste or by-products are utilised. (Advanced I)
• **CP 4.7.1** Food waste produced on-farm is managed. (Core) / **CP 4.7.2** Food waste produced on-farm is measured. (Advanced II)

• **CP 4.8** There is no burning or incineration of waste unless justified by the business. (Core)

• **CP 4.9** Waste is disposed of responsibly and as a last resort after all other options to reuse or recycle are exhausted. (Core)

**Major Changes**

• **CP 4.1** There is a Waste and By-Product Assessment. (Core)
  - This CP has been categorised as Core (mandatory for certification), whereas it was Recommended (optional for certification) in v16.1.

**Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**New Control Points**

- **CP 5.4.f** (A carbon footprinting tool is used) Where possible, footprinting includes indirect emissions associated with purchased energy (Scope 2). (Advanced II)

**Water Management**

**New Control Points**

- **CP 6.4** Water is harvested and reused. (Advanced I)
- **CP 6.5** Water is stored securely in appropriate storage facilities. (Core/Advanced)
- **CP 6.6** Measures are taken to mitigate flooding risks and impacts. (Core)
- **CP 6.8** Water outlets are monitored to prevent or reduce water loss. (Core)
- **CP 6.9** Quantity of water used is monitored to improve efficiency. (Advanced I)
- **CP 6.11** Actions are taken to actively improve and protect water quality and the health of water bodies on and adjacent to the farm. (Core)

**Noteworthy change**

- **CP 6.1.a** The Water Management Plan includes: vii. Description of the water challenges in the catchment & viii. Information about the business' participation in collaboration/collective action in the catchment to address water challenges, where applicable.

**Landscape and Biodiversity**

**New Control Points**

- **CP 7.3.2** Where land is rented, the business collaborates with the landlord to enhance habitats and biodiversity on farm. (Advanced II)
- **CP 7.7.1** Degradation of peatland is avoided. (Core) / **CP 7.7.2** Measures are taken to improve or restore degraded peatland. (Advanced II)
- **CP 7.8.2** The business integrates additional trees or shrub/scrub. (Advanced I)
- **CP 7.12.1** 5% or more of the farm/site's land is managed as a habitat area. (Core)
- **CP 7.13** Measures are taken to improve the connectivity of habitats. (Advanced I)
• CP 7.17 Measures are taken to monitor and manage invasive species. (Advanced I)

Deleted Control Points

• V16.1: CP 8.26 The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review question On-Farm Habitats has been completed. (Essential)

Major Changes

• CP 7.14 Measures are taken to support protected species. (Core)
• CP 7.18 At least two species are monitored on farm. (Core)
  o In V16.1: CP 8.27 At least one representative species or habitat, that can be justified in environmental terms, is monitored on the farm. (Essential)
• CP 7.19 At least one habitat is monitored on farm. (Advanced I)
  o In V16.1: CP 8.27 At least one representative species or habitat, that can be justified in environmental terms, is monitored on the farm. (Essential)

Engaging Society

New Control Points

• CP 8.1. The business engages in knowledge-sharing and learning activities. (Core)

Deleted Control Points

• V16.1: CP 9.5 The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review data questions on Community Engagement have been completed. (Essential)

Major Changes

• CP 8.2 The business collaborates with others & CP 8.3 The business is part of collective action(s)
  o Moved from Business Planning and Resilience section to Engaging Society section because they focus on engagement with others.