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>
**Animal Husbandry** | **Livestock Management** | **Recognition of the broader role livestock plays in an integrated approach.**

* Note: The Livestock Management section is still under development and will be included in the second round of v17 public consultation in July 2024.

**Format**

- 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 aims to address how local and national legislation can provide context-specific rules and guidance that are important for producers to follow for certain sustainability issues.

- **CP 1.9** All equipment is appropriately maintained and calibrated. (Core)
  - CP aims to require appropriate maintenance of equipment across the entire business to ensure efficiency and safety, as historically this was only required in the Plant Health and Protection section for PPP equipment.

- **CP 1.10** Risk Assessments are conducted to identify business and environmental risks. (Core/Advanced)
  - CP collates all risk assessments (health and safety, climate, pollution, financial) in one section for clarity and to support integrated planning across the rest of the sections and areas of the business.

- **CP 1.10.d** Risk assessment identifies economic risks within the business, including risks related to factors such as: enterprises, number of staff, debt, costs, profit margins, diversity of market opportunities, consideration of external economic factors that impact the business, availability of external funding. (Advanced I)
  - CP encourages producers to identify economic risks to their business and strategies to mitigate these risks, in order to support financial viability and identification of new economic opportunities.

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 has been moved from the Landscape and Biodiversity section to the Business Planning and Resilience section because it applies to the whole farm/business and should be accounted for in business planning and agreements.
  - CP has also been changed to specify that the business has an agreement to require tenants/contractors to manage the land sustainably.

- **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)
o Added to climate risk assessment control point 1.10
o CP aims to facilitate tracking of extreme weather events and assessing their impacts on the business. The information can help the business reflect on strategies to mitigate these events in the future (e.g., what strategies are effective/not effective).

**Soil and Substrate Management**

**New Control Points**

- **CP 2.1.2** There is a Substrate Management Plan. (Core)
  - This Control Point has been added for relevance to businesses that do not grow in soil and ensure that growing media is managed sustainably.

- **CP 2.7** Measures are taken to avoid soil salinisation. (Core)
  - This Control Point aims to ensure producers are aware of and take measures to prevent and mitigate soil salinisation and its negative impacts on soil condition.

- **CP 2.8** Peat-free growing medium is considered by the business. (Advanced I)
  - This Control Point is relevant to businesses growing in substrate. It has been added to encourage producers to review how they can phase out the use of peat-based growing media and ensure sustainable alternatives to peat are used.

**Major Edits**

- **CP 2.3** Soil health is measured at least annually. (Core)
  - In V16.1: CP 2.14 Soil health is measured. (Essential)
  - This Control Point now requires producers to measure soil health annually. The aim of this change is to ensure producers monitor and understand the condition of their soil, so that they can optimise their soil management decisions.

- **CP 2.6** Measures are taken to avoid soil degradation. (Core)
  - The Control Point title has been changed, and the verification text was combined with new requirements to ensure the business takes action to reduce compaction, slumping, poaching, erosion, runoff, or leaching.

**Plant Health and Protection**

**Major changes**

- **CP 3.1** There is a Plant Health and Protection Plan. (Core)
  - The wording of this Control Point was modified to improve clarity. It aims to ensure the Management Plan covers all aspects of Integrated Pest Management.

**Waste and By-Product Management**

**New Control Points**

- **CP 4.6** Waste or by-products are utilised. (Advanced I)
  - This Control Point aims to ensure that measures are taken to reduce or repurpose waste and by-products to reduce the amount of waste and prevent unnecessary disposal (for example to landfill).
• **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)
  - **Definition of food waste:** “Food waste” can also be referred to as “food surplus and waste” or “food loss and waste”. Whilst not identical, these terms are quite similar. They all refer to food that was intended directly for human consumption but which, for one reason or another, was diverted and ended up in one of several specific alternative destinations. Note that non-food crops (including crops grown specifically for animal feed) are excluded.
  - These Control Points have been added to ensure businesses are identifying causes of food waste on farm and taking measures where necessary to reduce the food waste. Where possible and appropriate, businesses are encouraged to record the amount of food waste being produced on farm so that they can monitor the effectiveness of their management strategies to reduce the food waste – though this is a difficult requirement for many businesses to implement, so it is an optional “Advanced II” requirement.

• **CP 4.8** There is no burning or incineration of waste unless justified by the business. (Core)
  - The aim of this CP is to prevent pollution caused by the burning and incineration of waste.

• **CP 4.9** Waste is disposed of responsibly and as a last resort after all other options to reuse or recycle are exhausted. (Core)
  - The aim of this CP is to ensure measures are taken wherever possible to prevent, reduce and reuse waste first before a business decides to dispose of waste.

**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)
  - This requirement has been added to CP 5.4. It aims to encourage businesses to consider Scope 2 emissions in their carbon footprint. However, since this is likely difficult for many businesses to complete, it will be categorised as an Advanced II requirement.

**Water Management**

**New Control Points**

• **CP 6.4** Water is harvested and reused. (Advanced I)
  - This Control Point aims to encourage businesses to take a circular approach to water management and reduce reliance on external sources of water.

• **CP 6.5** Water is stored securely in appropriate storage facilities. (Core/Advanced)
This Control Point aims to reduce the risk of water losses to improve efficiencies and protect resources.

- **CP 6.6** Measures are taken to mitigate flooding risks and impacts. (Core)
  - This Control Point aims to ensure businesses are planning and preparing for flooding conditions to reduce the negative impact of flooding on the farm.

- **CP 6.8** Water outlets are monitored to prevent or reduce water loss. (Core)
  - This Control Point aims to reduce water losses to improve efficiencies.

- **CP 6.9** Quantity of water used is monitored to improve efficiency. (Advanced I)
  - This Control Point aims to encourage producers to monitor water use across the business to improve efficiencies.

- **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)
  - This Control Point was added to ensure the business prevents pollution of waterbodies, including from discharged water.

**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. (Core)
  - This addition aims to ensure businesses are considering their catchment context, the water challenges that impact the catchment and potential opportunities to engage in catchment level work.

**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)
  - This Control Point aims to encourage businesses to collaborate with their landlords where appropriate and participate in activities to improve habitats and biodiversity.

- **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)
  - These Control Points have been added to address peatland conversion and degradation in the standard. The Control Points aim to prevent peatland degradation, and improve / restore peatland where possible to mitigate climate change impacts (release of CO2).

- **CP 7.8.2** The business integrates additional trees or shrub/scrub. (Advanced I)
  - This CP aims to encourage businesses to incorporate additional trees or shrub/scrub onsite to provide supportive functions, such as weather breaks,
shade for crops or livestock, supporting water retention in soils, providing habitat.

• CP 7.12.1 5% or more of the farm/site’s land is managed as a habitat area. (Core)
  o This Control Point has been added to ensure businesses are providing areas for habitat and biodiversity on site. Where habitat area is less than 5%: a justification and targets to reach 5% must be recorded in the Landscape and Biodiversity Plan, and there must be more than 0% habitat area on the farm/site.

• CP 7.13 Measures are taken to improve the connectivity of habitats. (Advanced I)
  o This Control Point has been added to support a more integrated approach to managing habitat areas and to allow the natural movement of species.

• CP 7.17 Measures are taken to monitor and manage invasive species. (Advanced I)
  o This Control Point has been added to address the significant impacts invasive species have on yields and biodiversity. It aims to encourage producers to identify the invasive species, be aware of potential risks and impacts, implement control management and compliance with legislation for management.

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)
  o Two control points were combined to create this control point. This CP now applies more broadly to protected species, instead of only nesting species, to increase the relevance to all producers and contexts.

• 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)
  o This Control Point has been modified to require that two species are monitored instead of one species or habitat. One species must be a pollinator due to the importance of pollinators on farm.

• 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)
  o This is now an independent Control Point – in v16.1 it is part of CP 8.27. This Control Point aims to encourage businesses to improve their understanding of the condition of habitats on site, in order to inform enhancement strategies.

Engaging Society

New Control Points

• CP 8.1. The business engages in knowledge-sharing and learning activities. (Core)
o This Control Point aims to encourage different forms of engagement related to learning and knowledge sharing, especially peer to peer learning which supports new relationship building and sharing experiences.

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.