



**EU Ecolabel
growing media,
soil improvers
and mulch.**

User Manual

European Commission

EU Ecolabel User Manual Growing media, Soil
improvers and Mulch

August 2017 Version 1.4



Contents

Using this manual..... **5**

Part A: General Information **7**

1 Introduction 7

1.1 Is my product eligible for the EU Ecolabel? 7

1.2 Aims of the criteria 7

1.3 Who can apply for the EU Ecolabel? 7

1.4 Where do I apply?..... 8

1.5 What does an application/contract cover? 8

1.6 How do I extend or make changes to my EU Ecolabel licence? 8

1.7 Continuous control – the responsibility of the applicant 9

1.8 Assessment of compliance with the criteria 9

1.9 Costs 9

2 The application process 10

Step 1: Contact your Competent Body (CB) 10

Step 2: ECAT registration..... 11

Step 3: Information, testing and verification requirements 11

Step 4: Compile and submit dossier and application form 11

Step 5: Assessment 12

Step 6: Award of licence 12

2.1 Revision of criteria 12

2.2 Checklist: How to apply 14

Part B: Product Assessment and Verification **15**

1 Scope 15

2 Definitions..... 16

3 Product group criteria 16



4	Assessment and verification	18
	Requirements.....	18
	ⓘ How to determine the test frequency scheme for the application year	21
	Criterion 1: Constituents	24
	Criterion 2: Organic Constituents	25
	Criterion 2.1 Peat	25
	Criterion 2.2 Organic constituents	25
	Criterion 2.3 Sludges	25
	Criterion 3: Mineral Growing Media and Mineral Constituents	27
	Criterion 3.1 Energy consumption and CO ₂ emissions	27
	Criterion 3.2 Sources of mineral extraction	30
	Criterion 3.3 Mineral growing media use and after use	32
	Criterion 4: Recycled/recovered materials and renewable materials in growing media	33
	Criterion 5: Limitation of hazardous substances	34
	Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals	34
	Criterion 5.2 Limits for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	35
	Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures	36
	Criterion 5.4 Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006	39
	Criterion 5.5 Limits for <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp.	40
	Criterion 6: Stability.....	41
	Criterion 7: Physical contaminants.....	42
	Criterion 8: Organic matter and dry matter	43
	Criterion 9: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules	44
	Criterion 10: Plant response.....	45
	Criterion 11: Growing media features	46



Criterion 11.1 Electrical conductivity.....	46
Criterion 11.2 pH.....	46
Criterion 11.3 Sodium content	46
Criterion 11.4 Chloride content.....	46
Criterion 12: Provision of information	47
Criterion 12.1 Soil improvers.....	47
Criterion 12.2 Growing media	47
Criterion 12.3 Mulch	48
Criterion 13: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel.....	49
Part C: Application Form.....	50
Part D: Declarations	55
Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a.....	58
Declaration: Criterion 3.2.....	60
Declaration: Criterion 3.3.....	61
Declaration: Criterion 4b.....	62
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers.....	63
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch	69
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)	75
Declaration: Criterion 5.1 for organic constituents of Growing media	81
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants.....	82
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media	88
Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4.....	92
Declaration: Criterion 12.....	100
Declaration: Criterion 13.....	101
Part E: Checklist.....	102
Appendix 1: Sampling and test frequency for the application year	108





Appendix 2: Sampling and test frequency for the following years 111




Using this manual

This manual guides you through the process of applying for an EU Ecolabel licence, in accordance with the applicable criteria requirements. The following symbols are used throughout:

 = Notable or important information.

 = Clarification of a key point.

 = Required documentation to verify compliance with criteria, including links to declarations where needed.

The manual is structured as follows:

Part A: General Information – Provides information about the EU Ecolabel (including a summary of the criteria), details of the application process, and answers to frequently asked questions about applying.

Part B: Product Assessment and Verification – Outlines the criteria for a specific product group set out in the Commission Decision. An example from this section is shown below:

Product group criterion

Important information


Clarification of a key point in the criterion

Outline of documentation needed for application, to show compliance with the criterion – including link to a template declaration form


3(c) Adhesion

Pigmented masonry primers for exterior uses shall score a pass in the EN 24624 (ISO 4624) pull-off test where the cohesive strength of the substrate is less than the adhesive strength of the paint, otherwise the adhesion of the paint must be in excess of a pass value of 1,5MPa.



Floor coatings, floor paints, floor undercoats, interior masonry primers, metal and wood undercoats shall score 2 or less in the EN 2409 test for adhesion.

 Transparent primers are not included in this requirement.

The applicant shall evaluate the primer and/or finish alone, or both applied together. When testing the finish alone this shall be considered the worst case scenario concerning adhesion.

 **Interpretation of criterion:** *The important adhesion characteristics here are for a 'system' that would be applied by a user. If a finish, that requires a recommended primer, is being assessed for the EU Ecolabel this 'system' should be tested (regardless of whether the primer is an EU Ecolabelled product). If the finish does not require a primer, only the finish should be tested. If it is the primer that is being assessed, the test should be performed on this paint only.*

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Adhesion

-  The applicant shall provide a test report using the method EN ISO 2409 or EN 24624 (ISO 4624) as applicable.
-  [Template declaration: Adhesion](#)

Part C: Application Form – This application form should be completed by all applicants.

Part D: Declarations – These declarations are to be completed as part of the application process. The relevant sections of Part B (Product Assessment and Verification) should be referred to when completing these declarations. An example declaration is shown below:

Title and reference to relevant criterion

Declaration, including sections to be completed by the applicant and/or supplier(s)

Information to be completed by the person responsible for this declaration

Declaration: Criterion 2 – TiO_2 declaration of non/low use to be completed by the applicant	
<i>(Please complete if the paint or varnish contains less than 3.0% w/w TiO_2)</i> As the manufacturer/importer/retailer for paints and varnishes that comply with the EU Ecolabel, I, the undersigned, _____, (1) hereby declare that the product formulation contains less than 3.0% w/w of titanium dioxide.	
Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

⚠ Please read this manual all the way through before completing and submitting the application form or any other documentation. EU Ecolabel Competent Bodies can help licence holders understand the EU Ecolabel criteria and can provide guidance on how to assemble an application dossier.

Part A: General Information

1 Introduction

This User Manual¹ is designed to help you apply for the EU Ecolabel. It includes an outline of all data, tests and documentation that are required to demonstrate compliance.

The basis for the manual is a Commission Decision establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for a specific product group. A copy of the criteria can be found at:



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html>



Please read the criteria document carefully before filling in the application form

1.1 Is my product eligible for the EU Ecolabel?

Information on which type of products are included in the scope of the product group can be found in Article 1 of the Commission Decision establishing the ecological criteria, as well as which products are not eligible for the EU Ecolabel.

1.2 Aims of the criteria

The EU Ecolabel seeks to minimise the various environmental impacts at each stage of a product's life. The criteria are set at levels that promote products which have a lower overall environmental impact.

The validity of the EU Ecolabel criteria can be found at:



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html>

1.3 Who can apply for the EU Ecolabel?

Manufacturers, importers and service providers may submit applications for the award of the EU Ecolabel. Traders and retailers may also apply, but may only submit applications for products marketed under their own brand names.

¹ This User Manual is for guidance only; it does not have any legal standing and does not, in any way, replace the Commission Decision or any relevant legislation. In case of doubt on specific points in the Manual, please refer directly to the national Competent Body.

1.4 Where do I apply?

EU Ecolabel applications are made via a single application that covers all of the European Economic Area (EEA).

Every country has a representative, known as a Competent Body, which assesses the applications. The choice of which country you should apply to is determined by the EEA Member State in which the product originates. If your product originates from outside the EEA, you should apply to the EEA Member State in which the product is (or is about to be) placed on sale.

All EEA Member States assess applications against the same criteria, but individual States have slightly different procedures and fee levels for handling applications. For contact details for each Member State's Competent Body, please visit:



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/competent-bodies.html>

1.5 What does an application/contract cover?

An application for an EU Ecolabel can cover a single product or a range of products, regardless of how many different names or brands are used for that product(s). Therefore, the applicant must report all the trade names or manufacturer's internal reference numbers of the product(s) in question during the process of application. In the case of a formulation, all chemical substances and mixtures used in the product must be submitted as part of the application.

1.6 How do I extend or make changes to my EU Ecolabel licence?

Once the EU Ecolabel has been awarded, if the licence holder wants to extend the range of products covered by the licence, the following conditions apply:

- Extension with new manufacturer's internal reference numbers/trade names, which do not affect compliance with the criteria: In this case, the relevant information should be sent to the Competent Body. After scrutiny, and if approved, the Competent Body will issue a revised licence with the new/additional manufacturer's internal reference numbers/trade names added.
- Extension or modification with new technical characteristics which affect compliance with the criteria (for example new materials): These must be approved by the Competent Body before use. A request for extension must be sent to the Competent Body together with all the necessary supporting documentation as required in the *Assessment and verification* section(s) of the relevant affected criterion/criteria.
- Addition or substitution of new suppliers: Any new supplier(s) must be approved by the Competent Body. The Competent Body shall be provided with appropriate documentation proving the suppliers' compliance with the criteria. In addition, an updated list of suppliers



must be provided to the Competent Body.

- Any other changes which do not affect compliance with the criteria shall also be reported to the Competent Body.

1.7 Continuous control – the responsibility of the applicant

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the product(s) or service(s) once awarded the EU Ecolabel, always remain in compliance with the EU Ecolabel criteria.

After an EU Ecolabel licence has been granted, the licence holder must keep the application dossier up to date. In cases where continued tests or measurements are required, the licence holder is responsible for keeping a record of the test results and other relevant documentation. This documentation may not need to be sent to the Competent Body, unless there is a specific requirement to do so (which will be set out in the relevant criterion), but must be available at any time if requested.

If at any time during the validity period of the EU Ecolabel licence the product is no longer in compliance with the criteria, this must be reported to the Competent Body immediately, together with a statement of the reasons for non-compliance. The Competent Body will decide what action to take, e.g. a demand for additional measurements, suspension of the licence, etc.

1.8 Assessment of compliance with the criteria

The Competent Body may undertake any necessary investigations to monitor the licence holder's ongoing compliance with the EU Ecolabel criteria and the terms of use and provisions of the contract. To this end, the Competent Body may request, and the licence holder shall provide, any relevant documentation to prove such compliance.

Furthermore, the Competent Body may, at any reasonable time and without notice, request, and the licence holder shall grant, access to the premises.

1.9 Costs

The applicant is responsible for compiling the application and obtaining all the necessary supporting evidence, which may include tests, etc.

In addition, the applicant must pay an application fee², and an annual licence fee where this is asked for by the Competent Body. In some cases, applicants may be charged for an on-site verification, which may include travel and accommodation costs. Subsequent to the award of the EU Ecolabel licence, Competent Bodies may also charge for extension/modification fees and on-site inspections. Further information can be found at:



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/eu-ecolabel_fees.pdf

² According to the Commission Regulation (EU) No 782/2013 of 14 August 2013 amending Annex III to the Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the EU Ecolabel (OJ L 219, 15.8.2013, p. 26).

2 The application process

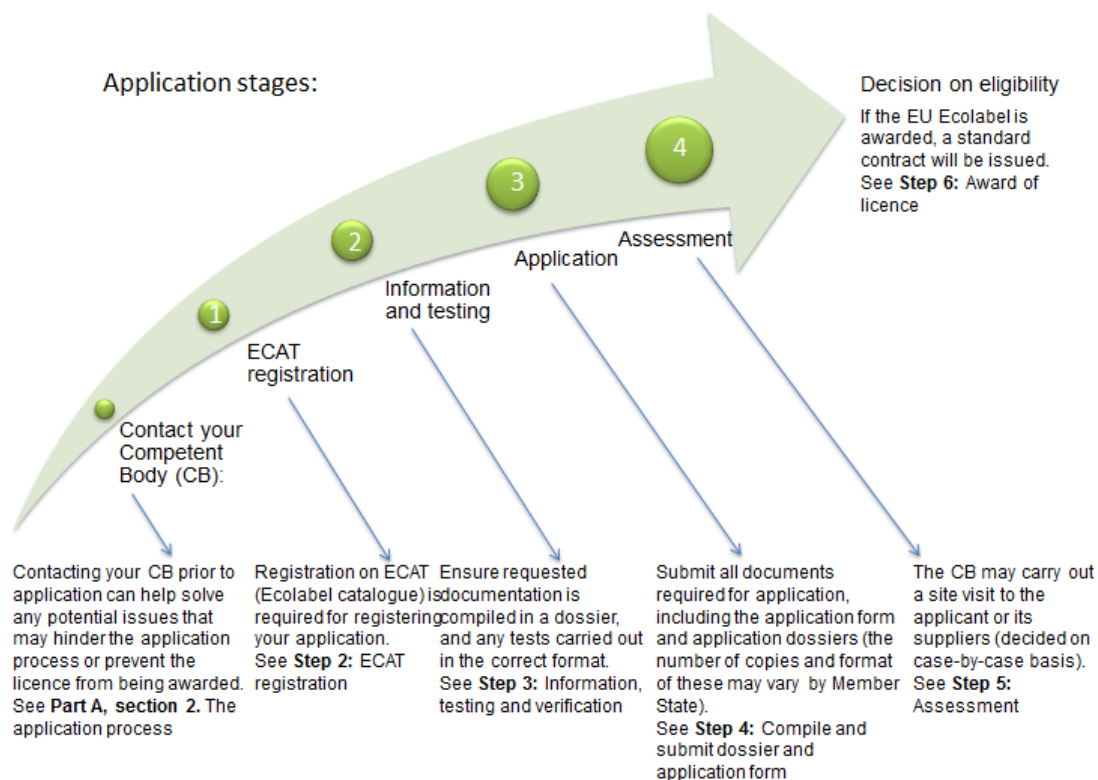
The first step in starting the application process is to contact your Competent Body, as they can help you compile your application. See section above 'Where do I apply?' to find out which Competent Body(ies) you should apply to.

The contact details of all the EU Ecolabel Competent Bodies are available at:



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/competent-bodies.html>

The figure below outlines the stages involved in applying for the EU Ecolabel³. Further detail is given in the explanations that follow.



Step 1: Contact your Competent Body (CB)

The EU Ecolabel Competent Bodies can help potential licence holders to understand the EU Ecolabel criteria and can provide guidance on how to assemble an application dossier.

³ Since the structure of EU Ecolabel Competent Body varies across Member States, application fee deadlines are not outlined within this diagram. Applicants should contact their Competent Body directly for fee deadlines.

Step 2: ECAT registration

The online tool **ECAT** (the online EU Ecolabel E-Catalogue), must be used to initially register your application for an EU Ecolabel licence.



Follow the instructions on the E-Catalogue User Manual which you can download from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/ecat_user_manual/en.pdf

This user manual outlines the process for registration, which includes registering products and services under the European Commission Authentication Service (ECAS) system. If you encounter problems with the ECAT system, contact the [EU Ecolabel Helpdesk](#).

Step 3: Information, testing and verification requirements

Use the criteria document, and the information and checklists in this User Manual, to assemble a dossier containing all the information and test results needed to show how the product has met each criterion. Each criterion will include a section setting out the *assessment and verification* requirements which may include product tests, declarations of compliance, or independent verification. It is essential that data is accurate and substantiated; further checks may be carried out by the Competent Body if deemed appropriate.

Whenever the assessment and verification of EU Ecolabel criteria requires product tests, those tests should be preferably performed by laboratories that meet the general requirements of EN ISO 17025 or equivalent, for that specific test. More information can be found in the “Guidelines for a procedure for checking the criteria in respect of applications: use of test laboratories”. Contact your [Competent Body](#) if you need any additional information concerning which laboratory to use.



All test and independent verification costs must be met by the applicant. You should factor in these costs before you decide to apply.

Step 4: Compile and submit dossier and application form

Please note that a dossier, comprising an application form with all the above supporting documentation, will need to be submitted to the relevant Competent Body. If your application is successful, you will be expected to retain a copy of the dossier and keep it up to date for the duration of your licence.



For information on the specific format and additional guidance documents, please contact your Competent Body.

Step 5: Assessment

After receiving an application, the Competent Body examines the documentation including any material sent directly by suppliers and respond to the applicant within two months of receipt of an application. The Competent Body may make a list of any additional documentation required in order to comply with the EU Ecolabel product group criteria. This list will be forwarded to the applicant who must ensure that the relevant documentation is provided.

It should also be noted that a Competent Body can reject an application if sufficient documentation is not received within six months of any request for further information.

After all the documentation has been approved, the Competent Body may carry out an on-site visit to the applicant and/or its suppliers. The Competent Body makes this judgement on a case-by-case basis and may charge a fee for it. Again, please contact your Competent Body for details.

Step 6: Award of licence

When the application has been assessed and is approved by the Competent Body, a contract is issued, which sets out the range of products covered, including any trade names or manufacturer's internal reference numbers. This contract sets out the terms of use of the EU Ecolabel, following the standard contract in Annex IV of the Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of 25 November 2009.

Once the contract is signed by the applicant, a certificate can be asked for/will be sent, depending on the Competent Body. This certificate will detail:

- the licence number that can be used with the EU Ecolabel logo;
- the legal name of the applicant;
- the range of products awarded the EU Ecolabel;
- all relevant trade names under which the product is sold.


The Competent Body will advise on when the EU Ecolabel logo and licence number can be used on the relevant products.

The logo must be used in accordance with the EU Ecolabel Logo guidelines, which can be found at:



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/logo_guidelines.pdf

2.1 Revision of criteria

 The criteria for each product group are revised every three/four years, and existing EU Ecolabel holders have to re-apply when these new, revised criteria come into force. Therefore, it is advisable to consider the timing of your application to avoid consecutive application and then re-application against new criteria. A transition period for adjusting the product(s) and applying for re-assessment is usually allowed for and is set out in the new criteria document.



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL

GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099



For more information about the application process visit the EU Ecolabel website at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/how-to-apply-for-eu-ecolabel.html>



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

2.2 Checklist: How to apply

Reference	Requirement	Tick when complete
1.1	Ensure product is eligible for the EU Ecolabel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Web link	Download the relevant product group criteria	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4	Identify the Competent Body in the relevant Member State you can apply to	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4	Contact the relevant Competent Body and notify them of your intention to apply for an EU Ecolabel licence	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1	Check if the criteria relating to your product(s) or service are due to be revised or updated in the near future ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Step 1	Request information on application forms from your Competent Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Step 2	Register on ECAT	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.6	If only submitting a change to products or suppliers, identify the nature of the change and submit supporting documentation	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁴ For information about the criteria revision, please visit

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html>


Part B: Product Assessment and Verification

1 Scope

The product group 'soil improvers, growing media and mulches' shall comprise growing media, organic soil improvers and organic mulch.

The following definitions shall apply to references throughout this User Manual:

- 'Growing medium' means a material used as a substrate for root development, in which plants are grown.
- 'Mineral growing medium' means a growing medium totally composed of mineral constituents.
- 'Soil improver' means a material added to soil in situ the main function of which is to maintain or improve the soil's physical and/or chemical and/or biological properties, with the exception of liming materials.
- 'Organic soil improver' means a soil improver containing carbonaceous materials the main function of which is to increase soil organic matter content.
- 'Mulch' means a type of soil improver used as protective covering placed around plants on the topsoil, the specific functions of which are to prevent the loss of moisture, control weed growth, and reduce soil erosion.
- 'Organic mulch' means mulch containing carbonaceous materials derived from biomass.
- 'Biomass' means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste.

 Organic soil improver or organic fertiliser: in terms of definitions, the main difference between organic soil improver and organic fertiliser is the function of the product. While the main function of the organic soil improver is increasing soil organic matter content, the fertiliser's is providing nutrients to plants. Based on these functions, the ongoing revision of the EU Fertiliser Regulation is to set minimum contents of nutrients in the organic fertilisers that these products will have to comply with to be marketed as fertiliser. For organic soil improvers, the minimum is to be set on organic matter content, which the EU Ecolabel Decision defines as 15 % dry weight. Since the organic soil improvers also contain nutrients, the boundary between organic soil improver and organic fertiliser is quite blurred. This means that a product can comply with the minimum contents of nutrients and organic matter, and be marketed as organic soil improver or organic fertiliser. It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to choose which definition suits better to their products, and how it will be marketed. If the product is marketed as organic soil improver and it fulfils the organic matter criterion, the product shall be considered under the EU Ecolabel scope.



Note: Mineral growing media are eligible only for professional uses.

2 Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to references throughout this User Manual:

- 'Constituent' means any input material that can be used as an ingredient of the product.
- 'Organic constituent' means a constituent composed of carbonaceous materials.
- 'Product family' means the range of products composed of the same constituents.
- 'Annual output' means annual production of a product family.
- 'Annual input' means the annual amount of materials treated in a waste or animal by-product treatment plant.
- 'Batch' means quantity of goods manufactured by the same process under the same conditions and labelled in the same manner, assumed to have the same characteristics.
- 'Bio-waste' means biodegradable garden and park waste, food and kitchen waste from households, restaurants, caterers and retail premises and comparable waste from food processing plants.
- 'Biomass' means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste.

3 Product group criteria

Criteria for awarding the EU Ecolabel to 'soil improvers, growing media and mulches' are:

Criterion 1	Constituents
Criterion 2	Organic constituents
Criterion 3	Mineral growing media and mineral constituents
Criterion 3.1	Energy consumption and CO ₂ emissions
Criterion 3.2	Sources of mineral extraction
Criterion 3.3	Mineral growing media use and after use
Criterion 4	Recycled/recovered and organic materials in growing media
Criterion 5	Limitation of hazardous substances
Criterion 5.1	Heavy metals
Criterion 5.2	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
Criterion 5.3	Hazardous substances and mixtures
Criterion 5.4	Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006
Criterion 5.5	Limits for <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp.



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Criterion 6	Stability
Criterion 7	Physical contaminants
Criterion 8	Organic matter and dry matter
Criterion 9	Viable weed seeds and plant propagules
Criterion 10	Plant response
Criterion 11	Growing media features
Criterion 12	Provision of information
Criterion 13	Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

4 Assessment and verification

Requirements

The specific assessment and verification requirements are indicated within each criterion.

Where the applicant is required to provide declarations, documentation, analyses, test reports, or other evidence to show compliance with the criteria, these may originate from the applicant and/or their supplier(s) as appropriate.

Competent Bodies shall preferentially recognise attestations which are issued by bodies accredited according to the relevant harmonised standard for testing and calibration laboratories and verifications by bodies that are accredited according to the relevant harmonised standard for bodies certifying products, processes and services.

Where appropriate, test methods other than those indicated for each criterion may be used if the Competent Body assessing the application accepts their equivalence.

Where appropriate, Competent Bodies may require supporting documentation and may carry out independent verifications.

As pre-requisite, the product must meet all respective legal requirements of the country (countries) in which the product is intended to be placed on the market. The applicant shall declare the product's compliance with this requirement.

The sampling shall be carried out according to EN 12579 (Soil improvers and growing media. Sampling). Samples shall be prepared according to EN 13040 (Soil improvers and growing media. Sample preparation for chemical and physical tests, determination of dry matter content, moisture content and laboratory compacted bulk density).

For the application year, the sampling and test frequency shall fulfil the requirements set in Appendix 1. For the following years, the sampling and test frequency of final products shall fulfil the requirements set in Appendix 2. Different sampling and testing frequencies are set for the following types of plants:

- Type 1: Treatment plants for waste or for animal by-products.
- Type 2: Product manufacture plants using materials from Type 1 plants.
- Type 3: Product manufacture plants not using materials derived from waste or from animal by-products.

For Type 2 plants, the sampling and test frequencies for the application year and the following years will be the same as the frequencies set for Type 3, if their waste/animal by-product-derived materials' suppliers comply with the EU Ecolabel criteria for soil improvers. The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with the test reports from the suppliers, together with the documentation to ensure the compliance of the suppliers with the EU Ecolabel criteria. The Competent Body may recognize the sampling and testing frequencies within the national or regional legislation and standards as valid to ensure the compliance with the EU Ecolabel criteria of the suppliers of waste or animal by-products derived materials. In case when a



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

product constitutes or contains material of animal origin reference shall be done to microbiological standards and animal and public health controls set out in Regulation (EU) No 142/2011⁵.



Other test frequencies stipulated by national or regional standards for composting may be also valid, if the Competent Body recognizes their equivalence to the test frequency schemes set out in this EU Ecolabel Decision. An equivalent test frequency is the one that requires the same or more annual samples to be tested.

⁵ Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 (OJ L 54, 26.02.2011, p. 1).

Table 1 - Applicability of the different criteria to products

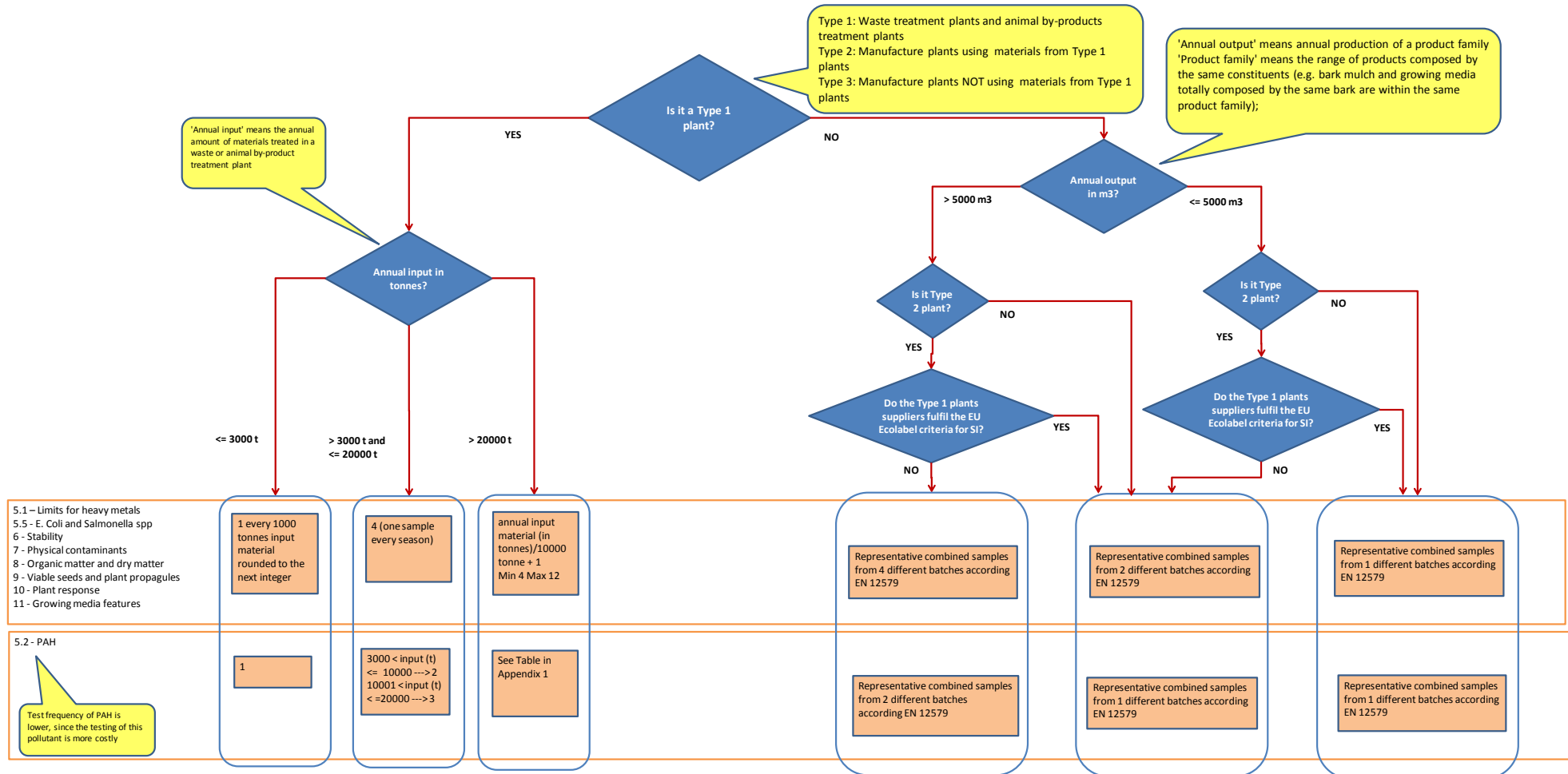
Criterion	Growing Media, not mineral GM	Mineral growing media	Soil Improvers	Mulch
Criterion 1 Constituents	x	x	x	x
Criterion 2 Organic constituents	x		x	x
Criterion 3.1 Mineral growing media and mineral constituents: Energy consumption and CO2 emissions		x		
Criterion 3.2 Mineral growing media and mineral constituents: Sources of mineral extraction	x	x	x	x
Criterion 3.3 Mineral growing media and mineral constituents: Mineral growing media use and after use		x		
Criterion 4 Recycled/recovered materials and renewable materials in growing media	x	x		
Criterion 5.1 Limitation of hazardous substances – Heavy metals	x	x	x	x
Criterion 5.2 Limitation of hazardous substances – Persistent Organic Pollutants	x		x	x
Criterion 5.3 Limitation of hazardous substances – Hazardous substances and mixtures	x	x	x	x
Criterion 5.4 Limitation of hazardous - substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006	x	x	x	x
Criterion 5.5 Limitation of hazardous substances – Limits for E. coli and Salmonella spp.	x		x	x
Criterion 6 Stability	x		x	x
Criterion 7 Physical contaminants	x		x	x
Criterion 8 Organic matter and dry matter			x	x
Criterion 9 Viable weed seeds and plant propagules	x		x	
Criterion 10 Plant response	x	x	x	
Criterion 11 Growing media features	x	x		
Criterion 12 Provision of information	x	x	x	x
Criterion 13 Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel	x	x	x	x



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

① How to determine the test frequency scheme for the application year

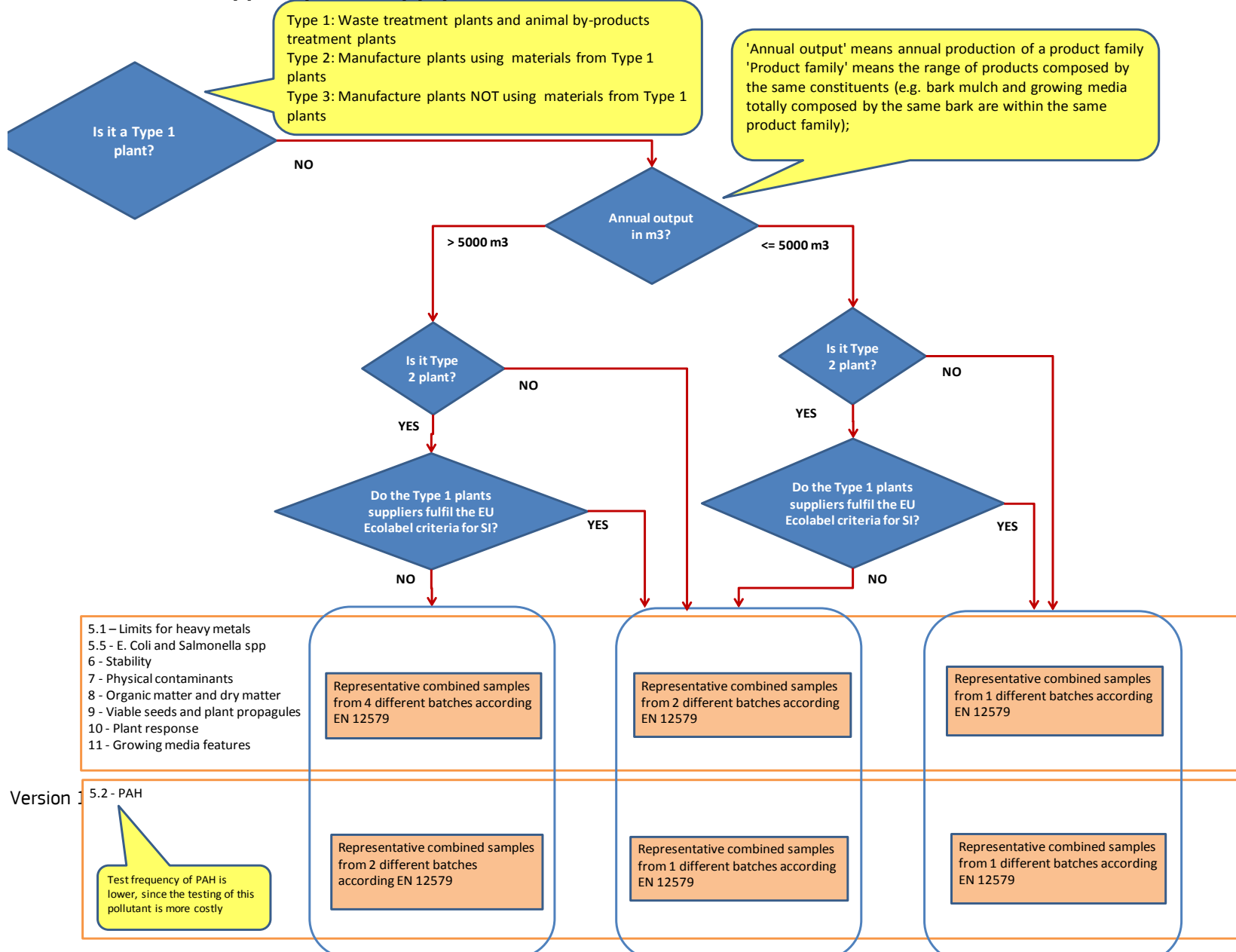




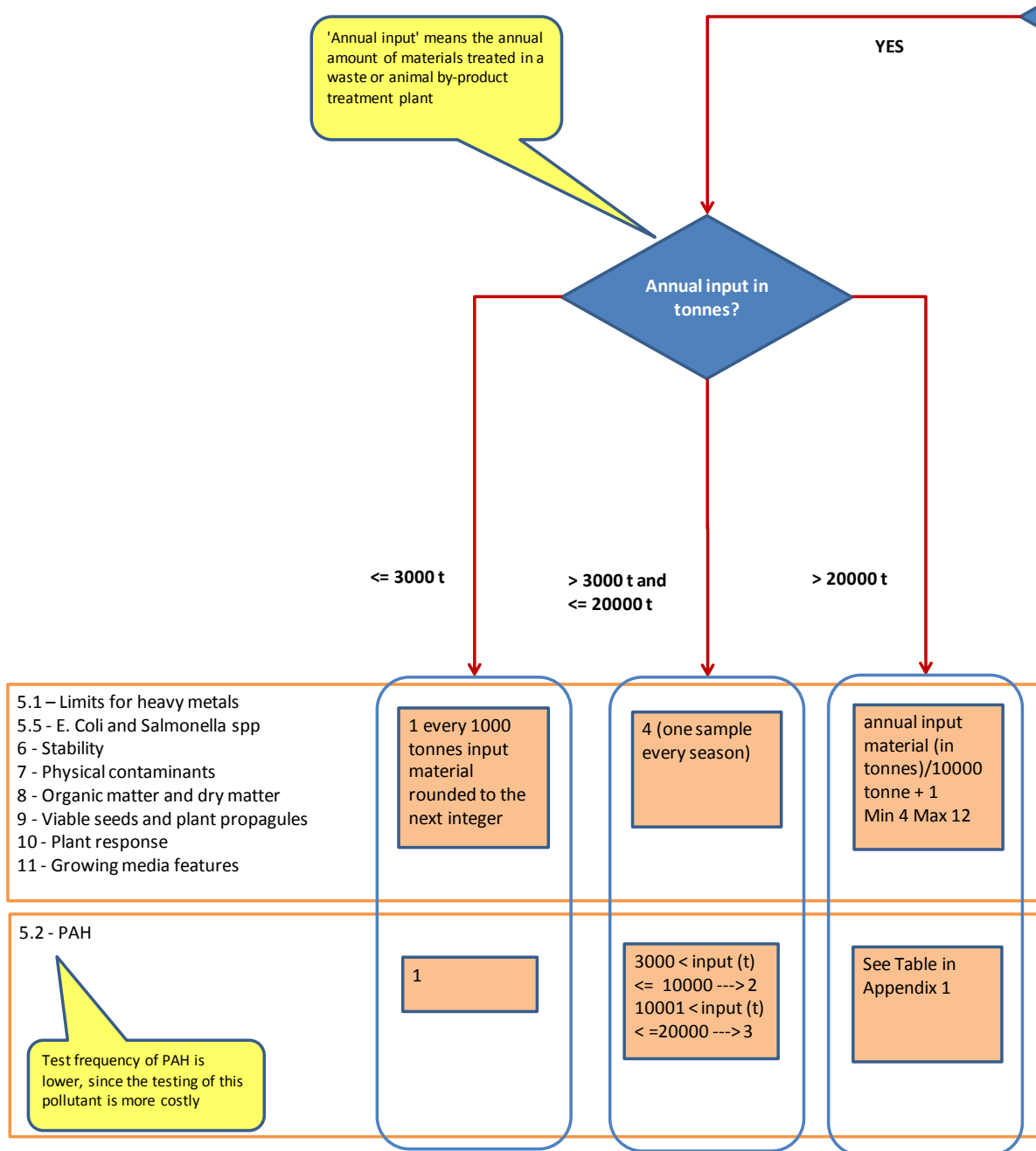
EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

❶ If it is NOT a Type 1 plant, apply this decision tree:



❶ If it is a Type 1 plant, apply this decision tree:



Criterion 1: Constituents



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch.

The constituents admitted shall be organic and/or mineral constituents.



= The Organic constituents that are allowed are further defined in Criterion 2.2.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification



The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with the list of constituents of the product.



[Declaration template](#)

Criterion 2: Organic Constituents



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch.

Criterion 2.1 Peat

A final product shall not contain peat.

Criterion 2.2 Organic constituents

1) The following materials are allowed as organic constituents of a final product:

- Materials derived from the recycling of bio-waste from separate collection, as defined in Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶;
- Materials derived from category 2 and 3 animal by-products as laid down in Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷ and technical standards which are laid down by implementing Regulation (EU) 142/2011;
- Materials derived from faecal matter, straw and other natural non-hazardous agricultural or forestry material as defined in Article 2.1(f) of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- Materials derived from any other biomass by-products, as defined in article 5 of Directive 2008/98/EC, that are not mentioned above, subject to the provisions of 2) and sub-criterion 2.3;
- Materials derived from recycling or recovery of any other biomass waste not mentioned above, subject to the provisions of 2) and sub-criterion 2.3.

2) The following materials are not allowed as organic constituents of a final product:

- Materials totally or partially derived from the organic fraction of mixed municipal household waste separated through mechanical, physicochemical, biological and/or manual treatment;
- Materials totally or partially derived from sludges derived from municipal sewage water treatment and from sludges derived from the paper industry;
- Materials totally or partially derived from sludges other than those allowed in Criterion 2.3;
- Materials totally or partially derived from category 1 animal by-products according to Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

Criterion 2.3 Sludges

⁶ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3).

⁷ Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, p. 1).

Materials derived from recycling or recovery of sludges are only allowed if the sludges comply with the following requirements:


- (a) They are identified as one of the following types of wastes according to the European List of Wastes, as defined by Decision 2000/532/EC⁸ presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Sludges allowed and their codes according the European List of Wastes

Code	Description
0203 05	sludges from on-site effluent treatment in the preparation and processing of fruit, vegetables, cereals, edible oils, cocoa, coffee, tea and tobacco, conserve production, yeast and yeast extract production, molasses preparation and fermentation
0204 03	sludges from on-site effluent treatment in sugar processing
0205 02	sludges from on-site effluent treatment in the dairy products industry
0206 03	sludges from on-site effluent treatment in the baking and confectionery industry
0207 05	sludges from on-site effluent treatment in the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)

- (b) They are single-source separated, meaning that there has been no mixing with effluents or sludges outside a specific production process.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification:

 The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with the information about the origin of each organic constituent of the product, and a declaration of compliance with the above requirement.

 [Declaration template](#)

⁸ Commission Decision 2000/532/EC of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste (OJ L 226, 06.09.2000, p. 3).

Criterion 3: Mineral Growing Media and Mineral Constituents

Criterion 3.1 Energy consumption and CO₂ emissions



Note: This criterion applies to mineral growing media only

The manufacture of expanded minerals and mineral wool shall fulfil the following energy consumption and CO₂ emissions thresholds:

- Energy consumption / product ≤ 11 GJ/t product
- CO₂ emissions / product ≤ 0.8 t CO₂/t product

The ratio energy consumption/product shall be calculated as an annual average as follows:

$$\text{ratio} \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Product}} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Production}_i} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \left(F + 2.5 \cdot El_{\text{grid}} + \left(\frac{H_{\text{cog}}}{\text{Ref } H\eta} + \frac{El_{\text{cog}}}{\text{Ref } E\eta} \right) \cdot (1 - PES_{\text{cog}}) \right)_i$$

where:

- n is the number of years of the period used to calculate the average
- i is each year of the period used to calculate the average
- Production is the production of mineral wool or expanded minerals in tonnes in the year i
- F is the annual consumption of fuels in the production process in the year i
- El_{grid} is the annual electricity consumption from the grid in the year i
- H_{cog} is the annual consumption of useful heat from cogeneration in the year i
- El_{cog} is the annual consumption of electricity from cogeneration in the year i
- $\text{Ref } H\eta$ and $\text{Ref } E\eta$ are the reference efficiencies for the separate production of heat and electricity as defined in the Directive 2012/27/EU⁹ of the European Parliament and of the Council and calculated according to the Commission implementing Decision 2011/877/EU¹⁰ of the European Parliament and Council
- PES_{cog} is the primary energy saving of the cogeneration plant as defined in the Directive 2012/27/EU, in the year i

The ratio CO₂ emissions/product shall be calculated as an annual average as follows:

$$\text{ratio} \frac{\text{CO}_2 \text{ emissions}}{\text{Product}} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Production}_i} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{Direct CO}_2 + \text{Indirect CO}_2)_i$$

where:

⁹ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 1).

¹⁰ Commission Implementing Decision 2011/877/EU of 19 December 2011 establishing harmonised efficiency reference values for separate production of electricity and heat in application of Directive 2004/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Decision 2007/74/EC (OJ L 343, 23.12.2011, p. 91).

- n is the number of years of the period used to calculate the average
- i is each year of the period used to calculate the average
- *Production* is the mineral wool production in tonnes in the year i
- *Direct CO₂* is the CO₂ emissions as defined in Commission Regulation (EU) No 601/2012¹¹, in the year i
- *Indirect CO₂* is the indirect CO₂ emissions due to final energy consumption in the year i , and shall be calculated as:

$$\text{Indirect CO}_2 \text{ emission} = FE_{grid} \cdot El_{grid} + FE_{fuel cog} \cdot \left(\frac{H_{cog}}{Ref H\eta} + \frac{El_{cog}}{Ref E\eta} \right) \cdot (1 - PES_{cog})$$

where:

- FE_{grid} is the EU average carbon intensity of the electricity grid, according to MEErP¹² methodology (0.384 tCO₂/MWh = 0.107 tCO₂/GJe)
- $FE_{fuel cog}$ is the CO₂ emission factor of the fuel consumed in the cogeneration plant
- The direct CO₂ emissions shall be monitored according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 601/2012

The period to calculate the ratios energy consumption/product and CO₂ emissions/product shall be the last 5 years before the application. If the operation period of the plant is less than 5 years at the date of application, the ratio shall be calculated as an annual average of that operation period, which shall be at least one year.

Required documentation for assessment and verification: Energy consumption and CO₂ emissions



The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a declaration which includes the following information:

- Ratio Energy consumption (GJ)/product (tonne)
- Ratio CO₂ emissions (tonne)/product (tonne)
- Direct CO₂ emissions (tonnes) for each year of the period to calculate the average
- Indirect CO₂ emissions (tonnes) for each year of the period to calculate the average
- Fuels consumed, consumption of each fuel (GJ), sub-process/es of the manufacture process where they are consumed for each year of the period to calculate the average
- Electricity consumption from the grid (GJ final energy) of each year of the period to calculate the average
- Useful heat consumption from cogeneration (GJ final energy) for each year of the period to calculate the average
- Electricity consumption from cogeneration (GJ final energy) for each year of the period to calculate the average





¹¹ Commission Regulation (EU) No 601/2012 of 21 June 2012 on the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 181, 12.07.2012, p. 30–104).

¹² Methodology for the Ecodesign of Energy-related Products (<http://www.meerp.eu/>)

- Reference efficiencies for separate production of heat and electricity
- Primary energy saving (PES) (%) of the cogeneration for each year of the period to calculate the average
- Identification of fuels used in cogeneration and their share in the fuel mix, for each year of the period to calculate the average

 Declaration – Spreadsheet (this spreadsheet is both a calculation tool and a declaration)

The following documents shall be provided together with the declaration:

-  Annual emissions report according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 601/2012, for each year of the period to calculate the average
-  Verification report finding the annual emissions report satisfactory according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 600/2012¹³, for each year of the period to calculate the average
-  Records of electricity consumption from the grid provided by the supplier, for each year of the period to calculate the average
-  Records of the useful heat and electricity consumption from cogeneration, both on-site and purchased, for each year of the period to calculate the average



Note: This criterion shall be fulfilled by each factory where the product is manufactured.



Note: Two levels for applicants and license holders are set to comply with this criterion:

- *Factories that have been operating at least 5 years prior the application/renewal: the applicant/license holder should calculate the averages of the data within that 5 years period*
- *Factories that have been operating less than 5 years prior the application/renewal: the applicant/license should calculate the averages of the data within the operation period, and update the calculation once the factory is operating for 5 years.*



Note: If the factory/ies is/are not located in the country where the product is placed on the market, the applicant shall provide to the Competent Body with the documentation requested to fulfil this criterion together with its translation to the official language of the country where the product is sold

¹³ Commission Regulation (EU) No 600/2012 of 21 June 2012 on the verification of greenhouse gas emission reports and tonne-kilometre reports and the accreditation of verifiers pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 181, 12.07.2012, p. 1–29).

Criterion 3.2 Sources of mineral extraction



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch

Extracted minerals can be used as constituents of the product provided that:

- 1) (Within the EU): If they are extracted from Natura 2000 network areas, composed of Special Protection Areas under Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, and Special Areas of Conservation under Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, extraction activities have been assessed and authorised in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC and taking into account the EC Guidance document on non-energy mineral extraction and Natura 2000¹⁴.
- 2) (Outside the EU): If they are extracted from protected areas designated as such under the national legislation of the sourcing / exporting countries, the extraction activities have been assessed and authorised in accordance with provisions that provide assurances equivalent to those under 1).

Required documentation for assessment and verification: Sources of Mineral Extraction

In case mineral extraction activities have been carried out in Natura 2000 network areas (in the EU) or protected areas designated as such under the national legislation of the sourcing / exporting countries (outside the EU), the applicant shall provide a declaration of compliance with this requirement issued by the competent authorities or a copy of their authorisation issued by the competent authorities.



[Declaration template](#)

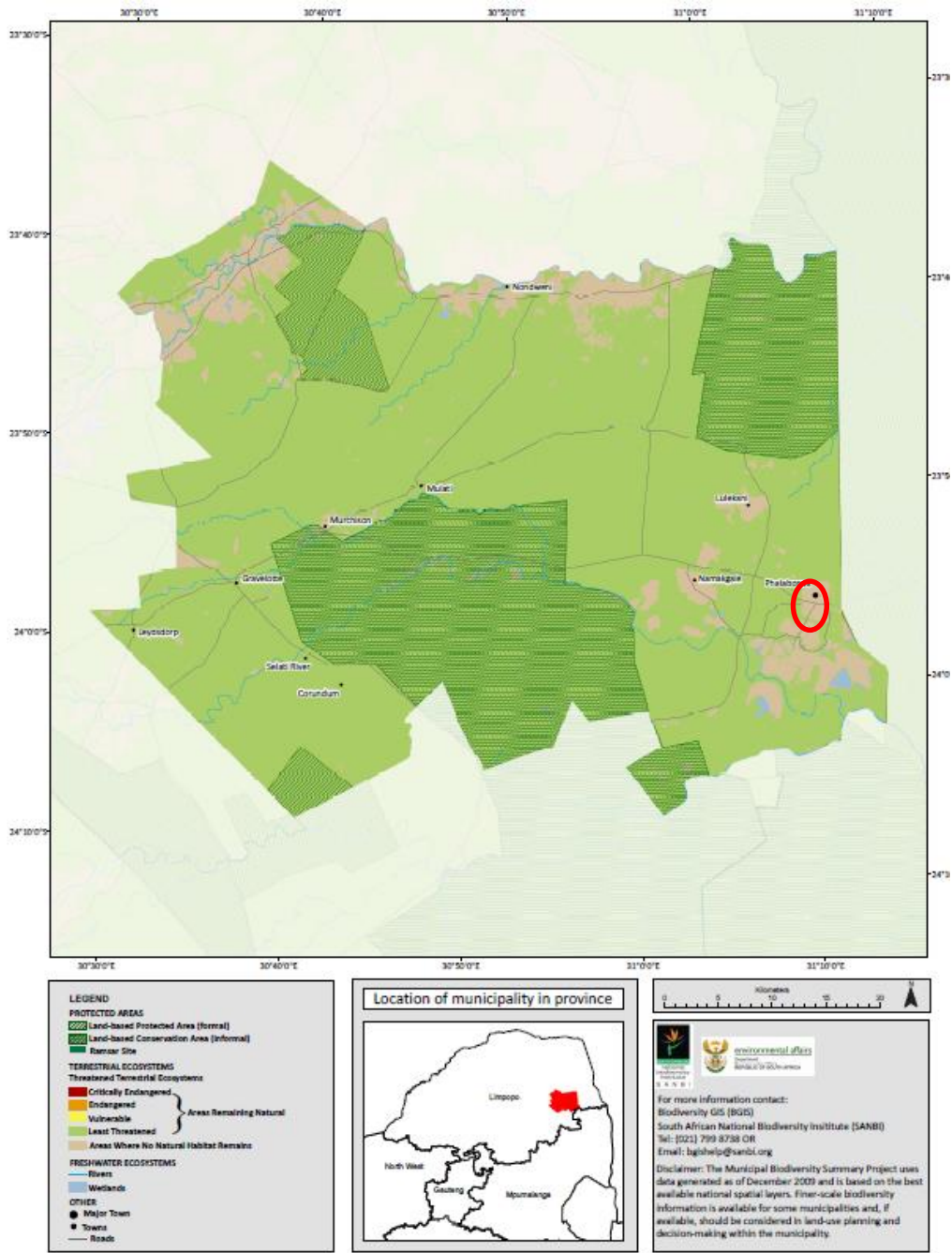


Note: for mineral extraction sites outside the EU, the protected areas are the ones designated as such under the national legislation of the sourcing / exporting countries. More information about protected areas located outside EU can be found at the UN list of protected areas compiled by UNEP (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/united-nations-list-of-protected-areas>).



Note: most minerals used in growing media and soil improvers (perlite, pumice, clay, basalt) are extracted in EU countries, except the vermiculite. The main exporter of vermiculite is South Africa, where one of the biggest open pit mines is located at Phalaborwa. The location of Phalaborwa mine is shown in following figure, as it can be observed, is not located in protected area, and therefore, this criterion does not apply.

¹⁴ EC Guidance on undertaking new non-energy extractive activities in accordance with Natura 2000 requirements (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/nee_n2000_guidance.pdf)



The mine is located in an area where 'no natural habitat remains', according to the legend. The protected areas are coloured in dark green, and they can be consulted at the website of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (<http://bgis.sanbi.org>)

Criterion 3.3 Mineral growing media use and after use



Note: This criterion applies to mineral growing media only

The mineral growing media shall only be offered for use for professional horticultural applications.

The applicant shall offer customers a structured collection and recycling service which may use third party service providers. The collection and recycling service shall cover a minimum of 70% v/v of the applicant's sales across the European Union.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Mineral growing media use and after use

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a declaration that the mineral growing media is only offered for use in professional horticultural applications. A statement about the professional horticultural application of the product shall be included in the information provided to the end-user.

The applicant shall inform the Competent Body about the option(s) on offer of structured collection and recycling service and the results of the option(s) implemented. In particular, the applicant shall provide the following documentation and information:

- *Contract documentation between the manufacturer and the service providers;*
- *Description of collection, processing and destinations;*
- *Annual overview of the total sales volume of growing media in the European Union Member States and an annual overview of the sales volumes in areas of those Member States where collection and processing are on offer.*
- *In case of new entrants, an estimation of the annual overview of the total sales volume of growing media in the European Union Member States and an estimation of the annual overview of the sales volumes in areas of those Member States where collection and processing are on offer, shall be provided. Real data shall be provided one year after the EU Ecolabel license is awarded.*



[Declaration template](#)

Criterion 4: Recycled/recovered materials and renewable materials in growing media



Note: This criterion applies to growing media only

Growing media products shall contain a minimum percentage of recycled/recovered content or renewable content, as follows:

- (a) The growing medium shall contain a minimum of 30% of organic constituents (expressed as volume of organic constituent per total volume of the final product), or
- (b) The mineral growing medium shall contain mineral constituents manufactured from a process using at least 30% of recycled materials (expressed as the dry weight of recycled/recovered materials per total dry weight of the input materials)

Required documentation for assessment and verification: recycled/recovered materials and renewable materials in growing media

The applicant shall declare the following information:

- *For the case (a): volume of organic constituents declared in criterion 1 per total volume of the final product, or;*
- *For the case (b): dry weight of recycled/recovered materials per total dry weight of the input materials.*

For the case (b) the applicant shall also declare the following information about the mineral constituents:

- *Identification of raw material inputs, dry weight of the raw material input per total dry weight of the input materials, and origin, for each raw material input, and*
- *Identification of recycled/recovered material inputs, dry weight of recycled/recovered material input per total dry weight of the input materials and origin, for each recycled/recovered material input.*



[Declaration template](#)

Criterion 5: Limitation of hazardous substances

Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch

- a. Soil improvers and mulch and organic constituents of growing media

For soil improvers, mulch and organic constituents of growing media, the content of the following elements in the final product or constituent shall not exceed the values show in Table 3, measured in terms of dry weight (DW) of the product.

Table 3: Heavy metals limits for soil improvers and mulch and organic constituents of growing media

Heavy Metal	Maximum content in the product (mg/kg DW)
Cadmium (Cd)	1
Chromium total (Cr)	100
Copper (Cu)	100
Mercury (Hg)	1
Nickel (Ni)	50
Lead (Pb)	100
Zinc (Zn)	300

- b. Growing media

For growing media, including mineral growing media, the content of the following elements in the final product shall not exceed the values shown in Table 4, measured in terms of dry weight of the product.

Table 4: Heavy metals limits for growing media, including mineral growing media

Heavy Metal	Maximum content in the product (mg/kg DW)
Cadmium (Cd)	3
Chromium total (Cr)	150
Copper (Cu)	100
Mercury (Hg)	1
Nickel (Ni)	90
Lead (Pb)	150
Zinc (Zn)	300

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Limits for heavy metals

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with:



-  Test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in respective EN standards presented in Table 5. In the case of organic constituents of growing media, the test reports may be provided by the suppliers.

Table 5: Standard methods of extraction and measurement of heavy metals

Heavy Metal	Method of measurement	Method of Extraction
Cadmium (Cd)	EN 13650	For soil improvers, mulch, organic constituents of growing media and growing media, except mineral growing media:
Chromium total (Cr)	EN 13650	
Copper (Cu)	EN 13650	EN 13650 Soil improvers and growing media - Extraction of aqua regia soluble elements
Mercury (Hg)	EN 16175 ¹⁵	
Nickel (Ni)	EN 13650	For mineral growing media: EN 13651 Soil improvers and growing media - Extraction of calcium chloride/ DTPA (CAT) soluble nutrients and elements
Lead (Pb)	EN 13650	
Zinc (Zn)	EN 13650	

 [Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 5.2 Limits for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

 *Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch, with the exception of mineral growing media.*

The content of the following polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the final product shall not exceed the value shown in Table 6, measured in terms of dry weight of the product.

Table 6: Limit for PAHs


Pollutant	Maximum content in the product (mg/kg DW)
PAH ₁₆	6

PAH₁₆ = sum of naphthalene, acenaphthylene, acenaphthene, fluorene, phenanthrene, anthracene, fluoranthene, pyrene, benzo[a]anthracene, chrysene, benzo[b]fluoranthene, benzo[k]fluoranthene, benzo[a]pyrene, indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene, dibenzo[a,h]anthracene and benzo[ghi]perylene

¹⁵ EN 16175 Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of mercury. Part 1: Cold-vapour atomic absorption spectrometry (CV-AAS) and Part 2: Cold-vapour atomic fluorescence spectrometry (CV-AFS)

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Limits for POPs

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with:

 The test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in CEN/TS 16181 Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) by gas chromatography (GC) and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or equivalent.

 [Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch.



Note: This criterion is not applicable to those products totally composed by:

- Materials with the status of waste, as defined in the Waste Framework Directive.
- Compost, when it reaches the End of waste status, defined as solid particulate material that has been sanitised and stabilised through the action of micro-organisms and that result from the composting of any biowaste capable of undergoing aerobic decomposition in its entirety
- Naturally occurring substances as such: means, substances obtained, for example, from plants, micro-organisms, animals, or certain inorganic matter such as minerals, provided they are not chemically modified. For example, some biomass by-products as bark, sawdust, coir pith mechanically extracted, agricultural and forestry material.



Note: This criterion is particularly relevant for mineral wool.

The final product shall not be classified and labelled as being acutely toxic, a specific target organ toxicant, a respiratory or skin sensitiser, or carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction hazardous to the environment, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁶.

The product shall not contain substances or mixtures classified as toxic, hazardous to the environment, respiratory or skin sensitisers, or carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and as interpreted according to the hazard statements listed in Table 7. Any intentionally added ingredient present at a concentration above 0.010% w/w (in terms of wet weight) in the product shall meet this requirement. Where stricter, the generic or specific concentration limits determined in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 shall prevail to the cut-off limit value of 0.010% w/w (in terms of wet weight) mentioned above.

Table 7: Restricted hazard classification and their categorisation

¹⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1).

Acute Toxicity	
Category 1 and 2	Category 3
H300 Fatal if swallowed	H301 Toxic if swallowed
H304 May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways	H311 Toxic if in contact with skin
H310 Fatal in contact with skin	H331 Toxic if inhaled
H3330 Fatal if inhaled	EUH070 Toxic by eye contact
Specific Target Organ Toxicity	
Category 1	Category 2
H370 Causes damage to organs	H371 May cause damage to organs
H372 Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure	H373 May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
Respiratory and skin sensitisation	
Category 1A	Category 1B
H317 May cause allergic skin reaction	H317 May cause allergic skin reaction
H334 May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled	H334 May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled
Carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction	
Category 1A and 1B	Category 2
H340 May cause genetic defects	H341 Suspected of causing genetic defects
H350 May cause cancer	H351 Suspected of causing cancer
H350i May cause cancer by inhalation	
H360F May damage fertility	H361f Suspected of damaging fertility
H360D May damage the unborn child	H361d Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H360FD May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child	H361fd Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H360Fd May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child	H362 May cause harm to breast fed children
H360Df May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility	

Hazardous to the aquatic environment	
Category 1 and 2	Category 3 and 4
H400 Very toxic to aquatic life	H412 Harmful to aquatic life with long-lasting effects
H410 Very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects	H413 May cause long-lasting effects to aquatic life
H411 Toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects	
Hazardous to the ozone layer	
H420 Hazardous to the ozone layer	

The most recent classification rules adopted by the Union shall take precedence over the listed hazard classifications and risk phrases. In accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, applicants



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

shall therefore ensure that any classifications are based on the most recent classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

The hazard statements and the risk phrases generally refer to substances. However, if information on substances cannot be obtained, the classification rules for mixtures shall apply.

Substances or mixtures which change their properties through processing and thus become no longer bioavailable or undergo chemical modification in a way that removes the previously identified hazard are exempted from criterion 5.3.

This criterion does not apply to those products composed of:

- Materials not included in the scope of the Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006¹⁷ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), according to its Article 2(2).
- Substances covered by Article 2(7)(b) of the Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, which sets out criteria for exempting substances within Annex V of this Regulation from the registration, downstream user and evaluation requirements.

In order to determine if this exclusion applies, the applicant shall screen any intentionally added substance present at a concentration above 0.010% w/w (in terms of wet weight).

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Hazardous substances and mixtures

The applicant shall screen the presence of substances and mixtures that may be classified with the hazard statements or risk phrases reported in this criterion. The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a declaration of compliance with this criterion for the product.

That declaration shall include related documentation, such as declarations of compliance signed by the suppliers, on the non-classification of the substances, mixtures or materials with any of the hazard classes associated to the hazard statements referred in Table 7 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, as far as this can be determined, as a minimum, from the information meeting the requirements listed in Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

The information provided shall relate to the forms or physical states of the substances or mixtures as used in the final product.

The following technical information shall be provided to support the declaration of classification or non-classification for each substance and mixture:

- for substances that have not been registered under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 or which do not yet have a harmonised CLP classification: information meeting the requirements listed in Annex VII to that Regulation;*
- for substances that have been registered under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and which do not*

¹⁷ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1)

meet the requirements for CLP classification: information based on the REACH registration dossier confirming the non-classified status of the substance;

- iii. for substances that have a harmonised classification or are self-classified: safety data sheets where available. If these are not available or the substance is self-classified then information shall be provided relevant to the substances hazard classification in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006;*
- iv. in the case of mixtures: safety data sheets where available. If these are not available then calculation of the mixture classification shall be provided according to the rules under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 together with information relevant to the mixtures hazard classification in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.*

Safety data sheets shall be provided for the materials composing the final product and for substances and mixtures used in the formulation and treatment of the materials remaining in the final product at a concentration above a cut-off limit of 0.010 % w/w (in terms of wet weight) unless a lower generic or specific concentration limit applies in accordance with the Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008

Safety data sheets shall be completed in accordance with the guidance set out in sections 10, 11 and 12 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (requirements for the compilation of safety data sheets). Incomplete safety data sheets shall require supplementing with information from declarations by chemical suppliers.

Information on intrinsic properties of substances may be generated by means other than tests, for instance through the use of alternative methods such as in vitro methods, by quantitative structure activity models or by the use of grouping or read-across in accordance with Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

The sharing of relevant data across the supply chain is strongly encouraged.

*In the case of **mineral wool**, the applicant shall also provide the following:*

- (a) Certificate awarded for the right to use the European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products trademark to demonstrate the compliance with the Note Q within the Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008.*
- (b) Test report according to ISO 14184-1 Textiles - Determination of formaldehyde - Part 1: Free and hydrolysed formaldehyde*



[Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 5.4 Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006


The final product shall not contain any intentionally added substances of very high concern and included in the list provided for in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, present in the final product in concentrations > 0.010% in terms of wet weight.

Required documentation for assessment and verification: Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006

Reference to the latest list of substances of very high concern shall be made on the date of application. The applicant shall provide a declaration of compliance with criterion 5.4, together with related documentation, including declarations of compliance signed by the material suppliers and copies of relevant SDS for substances or mixtures in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 for substances or mixtures. Concentration limits shall be specified in the safety data sheets in accordance with Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 for substances and mixtures.

 [Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 5.5 Limits for *E. coli* and *Salmonella* spp.

 *Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch with the exception of mineral growing media.*

The content of primary pathogens in the final product shall not exceed the levels set in Table 8.

Table 8: Limit value for pathogens

Pathogen	Limit
<i>E. coli</i>	1,000 CFU/g fresh weight
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Absent in 25g fresh weight

CFU = colony forming units

Required documentation for assessment and verification: Pathogens

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with test report(s) conducted in accordance with the testing procedure indicated in Table 9.


 [Declaration templates](#)

Table 9: Standard test method for pathogens

Pathogen	Test method
<i>E. coli</i>	CEN/TR 16193 Sludge, treated biowaste and soil. Detection and enumeration of <i>Escherichia coli</i> or equivalent
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	ISO 6579 Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp.

CFU = colony forming units

Criterion 6: Stability

 *Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch, with the exception of mulch totally composed of lignocellulosic constituents and mineral growing media. Examples of lignocellulosic constituents of mulch are bark and straw.*

Soil improvers and mulch for non-professional applications and growing media for all applications, shall meet one of the requirements presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Stability requirements of soil improvers and mulch for non-professional applications and growing media intended for all applications

Stability Parameter	Requirement
Maximum Respirometric index	15 mmol O ₂ /kg organic matter/h
Minimum Rottegrad, where applicable	IV (self-heating test temperature rise of maximum 20°C above ambient temperature)

Soil improvers and mulch for professional applications shall meet one of the requirements presented in Table 11.

Table 11: Stability requirements of soil improvers and mulch for professional applications

Stability Parameter	Requirement
Maximum Respirometric index	25 mmol O ₂ /kg organic matter/h
Minimum Rottegrad, where applicable	III (self-heating test temperature rise of maximum 30°C above ambient temperature)


Required documentation for assessment and verification: Stability

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with the test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in Table 12.

Table 12: Standard test method for stability

Parameter	Test Method
Respirometric index	EN 16087-1 Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of the aerobic biological activity. Oxygen uptake rate (OUR)
Rottegrad	EN 16087-2 Soil improvers and growing media. Determination of the aerobic biological activity. Self heating test for compost

 [Declaration templates](#)

 *Note: Rottegrad test according to EN 16087-2 is applicable to compost, but not to other materials, for example coir pith.*

Criterion 7: Physical contaminants



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch with the exception of mineral growing media.

The content of glass, metal and plastic with mesh size of >2mm in the final product shall not exceed 0.5%, measured in terms of dry weight.


Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Physical Contaminants

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with test report(s) conducted in accordance with the testing procedure indicated in the Technical Specification CEN/TS 16202 Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of impurities and stones), or another equivalent testing procedure authorised by the Competent Body.



[Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 8: Organic matter and dry matter

 *Note: This criterion applies to soil improvers and mulch.*

The organic matter as loss on ignition of the product shall be at least 15% dry weight (% DW).

The dry matter content of the product shall be at least 25% fresh weight (% FW).

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Organic matter and dry matter

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Standard test methods for Dry matter and Organic matter

Parameter	Test Method
Dry matter (%FW)	EN 13040 Soil improvers and growing media. Sample preparation for chemical and physical tests, determination of dry matter content, moisture content and laboratory compacted bulk density
Organic matter as Loss on Ignition (%DW)	EN 13039 Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of organic matter content and ash

 [Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 9: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules



Note: This criterion applies to growing media and soil improvers, with the exception of mineral growing media.

Final products shall not contain more than two units of viable weed seeds and plant propagules per litre.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a test report(s) in accordance with the testing procedure indicated in the Technical Specification CEN/TS 16201 (Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of viable plant seeds and propagules), or another equivalent testing procedure authorised by the Competent Body.



[Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 10: Plant response



Note: This criterion applies to growing media and soil improvers.

Final products shall not adversely affect plant emergence or subsequent growth.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a valid test in accordance with testing procedure indicated in EN 16086-1 (Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of plant response – Part 1: Pot growth test with Chinese cabbage).



[Declaration templates](#)



Note: The test report according to the EN 16086 declares the abnormalities in comparison to the control sample, where symptoms are described precise as possible with reference to for example:

- leaf colour and morphology
- shoot morphology
- roots colour and morphology
- roots death.

If abnormalities were reported, the product would not meet this criterion.



Note: If the average germination in the control sample is below 85% after five days, the test is not valid.

Criterion 11: Growing media features



Note: This criterion only applies to growing media.

Criterion 11.1 Electrical conductivity

The electrical conductivity of the final product shall be below 100 mS/m.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Electrical conductivity

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in EN 13038 (Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of electrical conductivity).



[Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 11.2 pH

The pH of the final product shall be in the range 4-7.



.In the case of mineral wool, the pH test will be carried out at normal conditions of professional use, i.e. after pre-soaking the material with a nutrient solution at a pH of 5.5



.Due to the variety of materials that are used as constituents of growing media, a tolerance of +/- 1 is permitted to comply with this criterion. This means that products with pH equal to 3 or 8 are deemed to comply.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: pH

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with the test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in EN 13037 (Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of pH).



[Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 11.3 Sodium content

The sodium content in water extracts of the final product shall not exceed 150 mg/l fresh product.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Sodium content

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with the test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in EN 13652 (Soil improvers and growing media - Extraction of water soluble nutrients and elements).



[Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 11.4 Chloride content

The chloride content in water extracts of the final product shall not exceed 500 mg/l fresh product.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Chloride content

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with the test report(s) conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in EN 13652 Soil improvers and growing media - Extraction of water soluble nutrients and elements.

 [Declaration templates](#)

Criterion 12: Provision of information



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulch.

The following information shall be provided with the product either on the packaging or in accompanying fact sheets.

Criterion 12.1 Soil improvers

- a. The name and address of the body responsible for marketing;
- b. A descriptor identifying the product by type, including the wording "SOIL IMPROVER";
- c. A batch identification code;
- d. The quantity (in weight);
- e. Range of moisture content;
- f. The main materials (those over 5% by weight) from which the product has been manufactured;
- g. The recommended conditions of storage and the recommended 'use by' date;
- h. Guidelines for safe handling and use;
- i. A description of the purpose for which the product is intended and any limitations on use, including a statement about the suitability of the product for particular plant groups (e.g. calcifuges or calcicoles);
- j. pH (reference of the test method used);
- k. Organic carbon content (%), total nitrogen content (%) and inorganic nitrogen content (%) (reference to the test method used);
- l. Carbon/Nitrogen ratio;
- m. Total phosphorus (%) and total potassium (%) (reference to the test method used);
- n. For products for non-professional use, a statement about the stability of organic matter (stable or very stable);
- o. A statement on recommended methods of use;
- p. In non-professional applications: recommended rate of application expressed in kilograms of product per unit surface area (m²) per annum.

Criterion 12.2 Growing media

- a. The name and address of the body responsible for marketing;
- b. A descriptor identifying the product by type, including the wording "GROWING MEDIA";
- c. A batch identification code;

- d. The quantity (in volume or number of slabs, in case of mineral wool, specifying the dimensions of the slab);
- e. Range of moisture content;
- f. The main materials (those over 5% by volume) from which the product has been manufactured;
- g. The recommended conditions of storage and the recommended 'use by' date;
- h. Guidelines for safe handling and use;
- i. A description of the purpose for which the product is intended and any limitations on use, including a statement about the suitability of the product for particular plant groups (e.g. calcifuges or calcicoles);
- j. pH (EN 13037);
- k. Electrical Conductivity (1:5 extraction);
- l. Germination inhibition (EN 16086-1);
- m. Growth inhibition (EN 16086-1);
- n. A statement about the stability of organic matter (stable or very stable);
- o. A statement on recommended methods of use;
- p. For mineral growing media, a statement about the professional horticultural application.

Criterion 12.3 Mulch

- a. The name and address of the body responsible for marketing;
- b. A descriptor identifying the product by type, including the wording "MULCH";
- c. A batch identification code;
- d. The quantity (in volume);
- e. Range of moisture content;
- f. The main materials (those over 5% by volume) from which the product has been manufactured;
- g. Guidelines for safe handling and use;
- h. A description of the purpose for which the product is intended and any limitations on use, including a statement about the suitability of the product for particular plant groups (e.g. calcifuges or calcicoles);
- i. pH (reference of the test method used);
- j. A statement about the stability of organic matter (stable or very stable), where applicable, for non-professional uses;
- k. A statement on recommended methods of use;
- l. In non-professional applications: recommended rate of application expressed in mm.

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Provision of information

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a sample of the product packaging showing the label, together with a declaration of compliance with this criterion.

 [Declaration template](#)



Criterion 13: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

The optional label with text box shall contain the following text:

- promotes the recycling of materials
- promotes the use of renewable and recycled materials

For soil improvers and mulch, the additional information shall be included:

- reduces soil and water pollution, by limiting heavy metals concentrations

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/logo_guidelines.pdf

Required documentation for Assessment and verification: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

The applicant shall provide the Competent Body with a sample of product showing the label, together with a declaration of compliance with this criterion.



[Declaration template](#)

Part C: Application Form



Please contact your Competent Body to learn how your completed application form and supporting documentation should be submitted.

See section 1.4 in Part A, “Where do I apply?” for further details of where to send your application once completed.



*Applicants should also provide a technical dossier of laboratory test reports and send this **in duplicate** to the Competent Body, and keep an up-to-date file on their premises showing continuing compliance with the criteria. Equivalent test methods, others than the ones indicated by the formal Commission Decision may be used provided the test methods have been approved by the awarding Competent Body.*



Applicant information	
<i>Applicant's full company name and address:</i>	
<i>Contact person:</i>	
<i>Position:</i>	
<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Fax:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
<i>Website:</i>	
<i>VAT number or equivalent if relevant:</i>	
<i>If relevant, existing licence number: XX/YYYY</i>	
<i>In what capacity are you applying for the EU Ecolabel (tick as appropriate):</i>	Manufacturer.... <input type="checkbox"/> Importer.... <input type="checkbox"/> Service provider.... <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaler.... <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer.... <input type="checkbox"/>
Product Information	
<i>What product sub-group are you applying for?</i>	<i>Soil Improver</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Non-professional</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Professional</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mulch</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Non-professional</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Professional</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Growing Media</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mineral growing Media for professional uses</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please give general specification of the product(s), including registered name(s) i.e. Trade name, trademarks, product type/description</i>	
<i>Name and address of manufacturing site(s) (if different from above)</i>	



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

<i>In case the product is made outside the European Economic Area market (European Union plus Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway), please confirm the country where it has been or will be placed on the market.</i>	<i>[insert name of country where application is received]</i>
<i>Please state EU countries in which this product is sold <u>in the same form</u> (if sold under different names, please state names to be registered)</i>	
Information on the application	
<i>Is this the first application for the EU Ecolabel for the product(s) specified above</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If no, please state when and where the first application was made, and with what outcome</i>	
<i>Is this an application to add a new product (i.e. with a technical formulation not covered by an existing Ecolabel that you hold) to a licence for a product range already covered by an Ecolabel? (if so, please give details of the existing Ecolabel)</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
<i>Please indicate if an application for the same product has been successful under other environment label schemes (e.g. the Nordic Ecolabel or Blue Angel)</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Does the laboratory where the tests were conducted meet the general requirements expressed in standard EN ISO 17025</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/>

Application fees:



An invoice will be sent when the application and the attached declarations are received. Before the application can be processed, the applicant must pay the application fee relevant for the company. Please refer to your Competent Body for fees.



This declaration is to be used so that the Competent Body can set the appropriate application and annual licence fees for the EU Ecolabel cf. Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of The European Parliament and of The Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel appendix III.

All questions below have to be answered before handling of the application can begin.

Declaration: Type of Company	
<i>Is the company a micro sized company as defined in the Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC - i.e. under 10 employees and an annual turnover or total annual balance not exceeding 2 million euro?</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Is the company a small or medium sized company as defined in the Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC – i.e. under 250 employees and an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro or total annual balance not exceeding 43 million euro?</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Is the company situated in a developing country (as defined in the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's list of countries receiving development aid)?</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Is the company registered under EMAS and/or certified under ISO 14001 and has the company in its environmental policy, committed to maintain compliance of its EU Ecolabel products with the EU Ecolabel product group criteria throughout the contract's period of validity?¹⁸</i>	Yes... <input type="checkbox"/> No... <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Company Name:</i>	
<i>Company Stamp:</i>	
<i>Responsible person's signature</i>	
<i>Print in capitals the name of above signatory</i>	

¹⁸ If confirmed the company must send a copy of the annual affirmative environmental statement (EMAS) or valid ISO 14001 certificate and copy of the companies environmental policy and objectives (ISO 14001) in connection with the application and information on the annual turnover.



Applicant's undertaking

As the applicant for an EU Ecolabel, I hereby declare that:

I understand and accept the provisions of Regulation EC No. 66 / 2010 on the EU Ecolabel scheme, and in particular Article 6, paragraph 6, which states that the EU Ecolabel may not be awarded to goods containing substances or preparations/ mixtures meeting the criteria for classification as toxic, hazardous to the environment, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMR), in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures [11], nor to goods containing substances referred to in Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency. (Note that article 7 enables the Commission to adopt measures to grant derogations from paragraph 6 under certain conditions);

I undertake to ensure that the product complies with the EU Ecolabel criteria at all times and to notify

*[**

_____] immediately of any significant modification to it or to the production processes.

I take responsibility for the correct and proper use of the EU Ecolabel logo.

Signed:

Name in capitals:

Position in company:

Date:

Company stamp:

* Insert name of Competent Body



Part D: Declarations

Summary of declarations:

Growing media, not mineral growing media	
Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a	Criterion 1: Constituents Criterion 2: Organic Constituents Criterion 4: Recycled/recovered materials and renewable materials in growing media
Declaration: Criterion 3.2	Criterion 3.2 Sources of mineral extraction
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)	Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals Criterion 5.2 Limits for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) Criterion 5.5 Limits for <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. Criterion 6: Stability Criterion 7: Physical contaminants Criterion 9: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules Criterion 10: Plant response Criterion 11: Growing media features
Declaration: Criterion 5.1 for organic constituents of Growing media (to be provided by the applicant or the supplier)	Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals
Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 (*)	Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures Criterion 5.4 Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006
Declaration: Criterion 12	Criterion 12: Provision of information
Declaration: Criterion 13	Criterion 13: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

(*) Please check the exemptions in the Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures

Mineral growing media	
Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a	Criterion 1: Constituents
Declaration: Criterion 4b	Criterion 4: Recycled/recovered materials and renewable materials in growing media
Declaration: excel sheet	Criterion 3.1 Energy consumption and CO ₂ emissions
Declaration: Criterion 3.2	Criterion 3.2 Sources of mineral extraction
Declaration: Criterion 3.3	Criterion 3.3 Mineral growing media use and after use
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media	Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals Criterion 10: Plant response Criterion 11: Growing media features
Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 (*)	Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures Criterion 5.4 Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006
Declaration: Criterion 12	Criterion 12: Provision of information
Declaration: Criterion 13	Criterion 13: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

(*) Applicable to mineral wool, for other mineral growing media, please check the exemptions in the Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099



Soil improvers

Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a	Criterion 1: Constituents Criterion 2: Organic Constituents
Declaration: Criterion 3.2	Criterion 3.2 Sources of mineral extraction
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers	Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals Criterion 5.2 Limits for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) Criterion 5.5 Limits for <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. Criterion 6: Stability Criterion 8: Organic matter and dry matter Criterion 9: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules Criterion 10: Plant response
Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 (*)	Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures Criterion 5.4 Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006
Declaration: Criterion 12	Criterion 12: Provision of information
Declaration: Criterion 13	Criterion 13: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

(*) Please check the exemptions in the Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures

Mulch

Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a	Criterion 1: Constituents Criterion 2: Organic Constituents
Declaration: Criterion 3.2	Criterion 3.2 Sources of mineral extraction
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch	Criterion 3.2 Sources of mineral extraction Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals Criterion 5.2 Limits for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) Criterion 5.5 Limits for <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. Criterion 6: Stability Criterion 8: Organic matter and dry matter
Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 (*)	Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures Criterion 5.4 Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006
Declaration: Criterion 12	Criterion 12: Provision of information
Declaration: Criterion 13	Criterion 13: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

(*) Please check the exemptions in the Criterion 5.3: Hazardous substances and mixtures

Organic constituents

To be provided by the supplier of materials from Type 1 plants for a reduction of the test frequency

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants	Criterion 5.1 Limits for heavy metals Criterion 5.2 Limits for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) Criterion 5.5 Limits for <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. Criterion 6: Stability Criterion 8: Organic matter and dry matter Criterion 9: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules Criterion 10: Plant response
--	--

Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a

Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a – All Constituents and the Sources and percentage of Organic Materials

Applicant

 *Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulches.*

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the list of constituents below (or appended as a separate sheet in the same format referencing this criterion) is accurate.

Name of Product or Product Family:				
Description of constituent	(O)rganic or (M)ineral	Percentage of total volume (v/v)	If organic, origin of the constituent according to sub-criterion 2.2 (e.g. waste, by-product etc.)	If origin is sludge, industry of origin according to sub-criterion 2.3

Name of Product or Product Family:				
Description of constituent	(O)rganic or (M)ineral	Percentage of total volume (v/v)	If organic, origin of the constituent according to sub-criterion 2.2 (e.g. waste, by-product etc.)	If origin is sludge, industry of origin according to sub-criterion 2.3

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)
[Back to Criterion 1 / Criterion 2.2 / Criterion 4\(a\)](#)



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Declaration: Criterion 3.2

Declaration: Criterion 3.2 - Sources of mineral extraction Applicant

 *Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulches.*

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that that the extracted minerals used as constituents, as shown in the table below, comply with one or both of the following conditions:

- a) (Within the EU): If they are extracted from Natura 2000 network areas, composed of Special Protection Areas under Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, and Special Areas of Conservation under Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, extraction activities have been assessed and authorised in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC and taking into account the EC Guidance document on non-energy mineral extraction and Natura 2000¹⁹.*
- b) (Outside the EU): If they are extracted from protected areas designated as such under the national legislation of the sourcing / exporting countries, the extraction activities have been assessed and authorised in accordance with provisions that provide assurances equivalent to those under (a) above.*

Name of Mineral Constituent	Country where extraction occurs	Attached evidence e.g. authorisation for extraction issued by a competent authority
		Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
		Yes/No
		Yes/No
		Yes/No
		Yes/No

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	


[Back to Declarations list](#) / [Back to Criterion 3.2](#)

¹⁹ EC Guidance on undertaking new non-energy extractive activities in accordance with Natura 2000 requirements (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/nee_i_n2000_guidance.pdf)

Declaration: Criterion 3.3

Declaration: Criterion 3.3 - Mineral growing media use and after use

Applicant (Mineral growing media only)

 *Note: This criterion applies to mineral growing media only.*

I the undersigned, hereby declare that the mineral growing media is only used for professional horticultural applications as outlined below:

Description of the professional horticultural application of the product, extracted from the information provided to the user (or attach copy of the information made available to the user e.g. leaflet, web screen shot etc.)

I also declare that we offer customers a structured collection and recycling service, as detailed in the attached document (NB this can include a service provided by a third party) and this covers _____% (please insert the percentage of sales in volume terms across the EU or an estimate if no actual figures are available).

Please also indicate which of these relevant documents are attached as supporting evidence.

Supporting Documents	Yes	No
<i>Copies of the most recent contract documentation with the service provider(s)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Description of the collection and recycling processes and the destinations of collected products;</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>List of EU Member States and/or areas within EU Member States where a collection and recycling service is offered</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Annual total sales volume of growing media across the EU and the annual sales volumes in those EU Member States and/or areas within EU Member States where a collection and recycling service is offered. If no actual figures are available please attach estimates and explain how they are calculated.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other (Please state)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#) / [Back to Criterion 3.3](#)

Declaration: Criterion 4b

Declaration: Criterion 4b - Recycled/recovered materials in growing media

Applicant (Mineral Growing media only)

 *Note: This criterion applies to growing media only.*

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the mineral growing medium contains mineral constituents manufactured from a process using at least _____% w/w (insert percentage) of recycled materials.

Description of recovered/recycled material	Origin	Amount (as a percentage of total dry weight of input materials)

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 4](#)



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Application year Applicant (Soil Improvers only)



**EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH**

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099

**Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Application year
Applicant (Soil Improvers only)**

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.

Provide the test results in the table below. Please consult Appendix 1 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, Type 3 plants, and Type 2 plants supplied by Type 1 plants that fulfil EU Ecolabel criteria for soil improvers, fewer than 4 samples are required:

Criterion	Parameter	Results				
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Method
5.1, 5.2, 5.5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
8	Dry matter % FW					EN 13040
	Organic matter % DW					EN 13039
9	Viable weed seeds (unit/L)					CEN/TS 16201



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Application year
Applicant (Soil Improvers only)

10	Plant response					EN 16086-1
----	----------------	--	--	--	--	------------

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.
(*) For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters
() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 1.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)
[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 8](#) / [Criterion 9](#) / [Criterion 10](#)



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL

GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch

Decision (EU) 2015/2099

**Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Following years
Applicant (Soil Improvers only)**



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Following years
Applicant (Soil Improvers only)

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.
 Provide the test results of each year of the validity period of the license in the table below, and duplicate this declaration for each year. Please consult Appendix 2 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, Type 3 plants, and Type 2 plants supplied by Type 1 plants that fulfil EU Ecolabel criteria for soil improvers, fewer than 2 samples are required:

Criterion	Parameter	Results of the year (please indicate the year)				Method
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
5.1, 5.2, 5.5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
8	Dry matter % FW					EN 13040
	Organic matter % DW					EN 13039
9	Viable weed seeds (unit/L)					CEN/TS 16201



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Following years
Applicant (Soil Improvers only)

10	Plant response					EN 16086-1
----	----------------	--	--	--	--	------------

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.
(*) For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters
() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 2.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)
[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 8](#) / [Criterion 9](#) / [Criterion 10](#)



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 – Application year
Applicant – declaration for Mulches only



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 – Application year
Applicant – declaration for Mulches only

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.
 Provide the test results in the table below. Please consult Appendix 1 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, Type 3 plants, and Type 2 plants supplied by Type 1 plants that fulfil EU Ecolabel criteria for soil improvers, fewer than 4 samples are required

Criterion	Parameter	Results				
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Method
5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
8	Dry matter % FW					EN 13040
	Organic matter % DW					EN 13039

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 – Application year
Applicant – declaration for Mulches only

(*) This criterion is not applicable to mulch totally composed by lignocellulosic materials. For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters.

() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 1.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:

Position held

Date:

Company Stamp:

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 8](#)



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL

GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch

Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 – Following years
Applicant – declaration for Mulches only



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 – Following years
Applicant – declaration for Mulches only

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.

Provide the test results of each year of the validity period of the license in the table below, and duplicate this declaration for each year. Please consult Appendix 2 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, Type 3 plants, and Type 2 plants supplied by Type 1 plants that fulfil EU Ecolabel criteria for soil improvers, fewer than 2 samples are required

Criterion	Parameter	Results of the year (please indicate the year)				Method
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
8	Dry matter % FW					EN 13040
	Organic matter % DW					EN 13039

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13650 Soil



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 – Following years
Applicant – declaration for Mulches only

Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.
(*) This criterion is not applicable to mulch totally composed by lignocellulosic materials. For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters.
() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 2.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 8](#)



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 – Application year Applicant – declaration for Growing Media only (not mineral GM)



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 – Application year
Applicant – declaration for Growing Media only (not mineral GM)

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.
 Provide the test results in the table below. Please consult Appendix 1 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, Type 3 plants, and Type 2 plants supplied by Type 1 plants that fulfil EU Ecolabel criteria for soil improvers, fewer than 4 samples are required.

Criterion	Parameter	Results				
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Method
5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
9	Viable weed seeds (unit/L)					CEN/TS 16201
10	Plant response					EN 16086-1
11	EC (mS/m)					EN 13038

**Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 – Application year**
Applicant – declaration for Growing Media only (not mineral GM)

pH					EN 13037.
Cl (mg/L FW)					EN 13652.
Na (mg/L FW)					EN 13652

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.

(*) For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters

() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 1.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:

Position held

Date:

Company Stamp:

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 9](#) / [Criterion 10](#) / [Criterion 11](#)



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL

GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch

Decision (EU) 2015/2099

**Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 – Following years
Applicant – declaration for Growing Media only (not mineral GM)**



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 – Following years
Applicant – declaration for Growing Media only (not mineral GM)

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.

Provide the test results of each year of the validity period of the license in the table below, and duplicate this declaration for each year. Please consult Appendix 2 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, Type 3 plants, and Type 2 plants supplied by Type 1 plants that fulfil EU Ecolabel criteria for soil improvers, fewer than 2 samples are required.

Criterion	Parameter	Results of the year (please indicate the year)				Method
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
9	Viable weed seeds (unit/L)					CEN/TS 16201
10	Plant response					EN 16086-1
11	EC (mS/m)					EN 13038

**Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 – Following years
Applicant – declaration for Growing Media only (not mineral GM)**

pH					EN 13037.
Cl (mg/L FW)					EN 13652.
Na (mg/L FW)					EN 13652

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.

(*) For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters

() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 2.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:

Position held

Date:

Company Stamp:

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 9](#) / [Criterion 10](#) / [Criterion 11](#)



Declaration: Criterion 5.1 for organic constituents of Growing media

Declaration: Criterion 5.1
Applicant/Supplier – declaration for organic constituents of Growing Media (not mineral GM)

Please indicate APPLICANT or SUPPLIER , and the organic constituent:

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.
 Provide the test results in the table below. Please consult Appendix 1 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants and Type 3 plants, fewer than 4 samples are required

Criterion	Parameter	Result				
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Method
5.1	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.
 (*) For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#) / [Back to Criterion 5.1](#)



**Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants
(for a reduction of the test frequency of Type 2 plants)**

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Application year

Supplier – declaration for organic constituents from Type 1 plants



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Application year
Supplier – declaration for organic constituents from Type 1 plants

Please insert the names of the organic constituent supplied:

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.
 Provide the test results in the table below. Please consult Appendix 1 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, fewer than 4 samples are required.

Criterion	Parameter	Results				
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Method
5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
8	Dry matter % FW					EN 13040



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Application year
Supplier – declaration for organic constituents from Type 1 plants

	Organic matter % DW					EN 13039
9	Viable weed seeds (unit/L)					CEN/TS 16201
10	Plant response					EN 16086-1

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.

(*) For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters

() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 1.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)
[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 8](#) / [Criterion 9](#) / [Criterion 10](#)



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL

GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch

Decision (EU) 2015/2099

**Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Following years
Supplier – declaration for organic constituents from Type 1 plants**



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Following years
Supplier – declaration for organic constituents from Type 1 plants

Please insert the names of the organic constituent supplied:

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.
 Provide the test results of each year of the validity period of the license in the table below, and duplicate this declaration for each year. Please consult Appendix 2 to determine the number of samples, and duplicate this declaration if more than 4 samples are needed. For small plants, fewer than 2 samples are required.

Criterion	Parameter	Results of the year (please indicate the year)				Method
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
5	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	PAH16 (mg/kg DW) (**)					CEN/TS 16181
	<i>E. coli</i> (CFU/g FW)					CEN/TR 16193
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. (25 g FW)					ISO 6579
6 (*)	Respirometric index (mmol O ₂ /kg OM/h)					EN 16087-1
	Rottegrad					EN 16087-2
7	Physical contaminants (%)					CEN/TS 16202
8	Dry matter % FW					EN 13040
	Organic matter % DW					EN 13039



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Following years
Supplier – declaration for organic constituents from Type 1 plants

9	Viable weed seeds (unit/L)					CEN/TS 16201
10	Plant response					EN 16086-1

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN13650 Soil Improvers and growing media – extraction of aqua regia soluble elements.

(*) For criterion 6, please choose one of the two parameters

() For criterion 5.2, PAHs, the test frequency is lower, please check Appendix 2.**

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:	
Position held	
Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)
[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 5.2](#) / [Criterion 5.5](#) / [Criterion 6](#) / [Criterion 7](#) / [Criterion 8](#) / [Criterion 9](#) / [Criterion 10](#)



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10, 11 – Application year Applicant – declaration for mineral growing media only

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.

Provide the test results in the table below. Please consult Appendix 1 to determine the number of samples. For small plants and Type 3 plants, fewer than 4 samples are required.

Criterion	Parameter	Results				
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Method
5.1, 5.2	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
10	Plant response					EN 16086-1
11	EC (mS/m)					EN 13038
	pH					EN 13037.
	Cl (mg/L FW)					EN 13652.
	Na (mg/L FW)					EN 13652

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13651 Soil improvers and growing media - Extraction of calcium chloride/DTPA (CAT) soluble nutrients and elements

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility

Position held



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10, 11 – Application year
Applicant – declaration for mineral growing media only

Date:

Company Stamp:

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 10](#) / [Criterion 11](#)

Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10, 11 – Following years

Applicant – declaration for mineral growing media only

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that information provided below is accurate.

Provide the test results of each year of the validity period of the license in the table below, and duplicate this declaration for each year. Please consult Appendix 2 to determine the number of samples. For small plants and Type 3 plants, fewer than 2 samples are required.

Criterion	Parameter	Results of the year (please indicate the year)				Method
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
5.1, 5.2	Cadmium (Cd) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Chromium total (Cr) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Copper (Cu) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Mercury (Hg) (mg/kg DW)					EN16175
	Nickel (Ni) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Lead (Pb) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
	Zinc (Zn) (mg/kg DW)					EN13650
10	Plant response					EN 16086-1
11	EC (mS/m)					EN 13038
	pH					EN 13037.
	Cl (mg/L FW)					EN 13652.
	Na (mg/L FW)					EN 13652

NB. For the testing of heavy metals, the method of extraction used must be based on EN 13651 Soil improvers and growing media - Extraction of calcium chloride/DTPA (CAT) soluble nutrients and elements

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility

Position held



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10, 11 – Following years

Applicant – declaration for mineral growing media only

Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 5.1](#) / [Criterion 10](#) / [Criterion 11](#)

Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4

Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 - Hazardous substances and mixtures

Applicant



Note: This criterion is not applicable to those products totally composed of:

- *Materials with the status of waste, as defined in the Waste Framework Directive.*
- *Compost, when it reaches the End of waste status, defined as solid particulate material that has been sanitised and stabilised through the action of micro-organisms and that result from the composting of any biowaste capable of undergoing aerobic decomposition in its entirety.*
- *Naturally occurring substances as such: means, substances obtained, for example, from plants, micro-organisms, animals, or certain inorganic matter such as minerals, provided they are not chemically modified. For example, some biomass by-products as bark, sawdust, coir pith mechanically extracted, agricultural and forestry material.*



Note: This criterion is particularly relevant for mineral wool.

Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 - Hazardous substances and mixtures

Applicant

I the undersigned, hereby declare that the final product:

1. is not classified and labelled as being acutely toxic, a specific target organ toxicant, a respiratory or skin sensitiser or carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction, hazardous to the environment, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁰

and

2. does not contain any intentionally added substances of very high concern included in the list provided for in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, present in the final product in concentrations >0.010% in terms of wet weight.

and

3. does not contain substances or mixtures (in the forms or physical state as used in the final product, including any remnants of substances and mixtures used in the formulation and treatment of materials) classified with any of the following hazard statements present at a concentration above 0.010% w/w (in terms of wet weight) except where stricter generic or specific concentration limits determined in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 are specified.

Acute Toxicity	
Category 1 and 2	Category 3
H300 Fatal if swallowed	H301 Toxic if swallowed
H304 May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways	H311 Toxic if in contact with skin
H310 Fatal in contact with skin	H331 Toxic if inhaled
H330 Fatal if inhaled	EUH070 Toxic by eye contact
Specific Target Organ Toxicity	
Category 1	Category 2
H370 Causes damage to organs	H371 May cause damage to organs
H372 Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure	H373 May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
Respiratory and skin sensitisation	
Category 1A	Category 1B
H317 May cause allergic skin reaction	H317 May cause allergic skin reaction
H334 May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled	H334 May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled
Carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction	
Category 1A and 1B	Category 2
H340 May cause genetic defects	H341 Suspected of causing genetic defects
H350 May cause cancer	H351 Suspected of causing cancer
H350i May cause cancer by inhalation	
H360F May damage fertility	H361f Suspected of damaging fertility
H360D May damage the unborn child	H361d Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H360FD May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child	H361fd Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child

²⁰ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1).



Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 - Hazardous substances and mixtures

Applicant

H360Fd May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child	H362 May cause harm to breast fed children
H360Df May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility	
Hazardous to the aquatic environment	
Category 1 and 2	Category 3 and 4
H400 Very toxic to aquatic life	H412 Harmful to aquatic life with long-lasting effects
H410 Very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects	H413 May cause long-lasting effects to aquatic life
H411 Toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects	
Hazardous to the ozone layer	
H420 Hazardous to the ozone layer	

and

4. I attach the following information:

- i. declarations of compliance by the suppliers of all substances and mixtures;
- ii. for substances that have not been registered under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 or which do not yet have a harmonised CLP classification: information meeting the requirements listed in Annex VII to that Regulation;
- iii. for substances that have been registered under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and which do not meet the requirements for CLP classification: information based on the REACH registration dossier confirming the non-classified status of the substance;
- iv. for substances that have a harmonised classification or are self-classified: safety data sheets where available. If these are not available or the substance is self-classified then information shall be provided relevant to the substances hazard classification in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006;
- v. in the case of mixtures: safety data sheets where available. If these are not available then calculation of the mixture classification shall be provided according to the rules under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 together with information relevant to the mixtures hazard classification in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and (if relevant).
- vi. in the case of mineral wool a certificate awarded for the right to use the European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products trademark to demonstrate compliance with the Note Q within the Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and a test report according to ISO 14184-1 Textiles - Determination of formaldehyde - Part 1: Free and hydrolysed formaldehyde.

NB. All Safety Data Sheets (SDS) shall be completed in accordance with the guidance set out in sections 10, 11 and 12 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (requirements for the compilation of safety data sheets). Information on intrinsic properties of substances may be generated by means other than tests, for instance through the use of alternative methods such as in vitro methods, by quantitative structure activity models or by the use of grouping or read-across in accordance with Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility	
Position held	



Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4 - Hazardous substances and mixtures

Applicant

Date:	
Company Stamp:	

[Back to Declarations list](#)
[Back to Criterion 5.3 / Criterion 5.4](#)

Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4: Hazardous substances and mixtures

Supplier



Note: This criterion applies to the supplier of any mixture and/or substance



Note: This criterion is not applicable to those products totally composed of:

- *Materials with the status of waste, as defined in the Waste Framework Directive.*
- *Compost, when it reaches the End of waste status, defined as solid particulate material that has been sanitised and stabilised through the action of micro-organisms and that result from the composting of any biowaste capable of undergoing aerobic decomposition in its entirety*
- *Naturally occurring substances as such: means, substances obtained, for example, from plants, micro-organisms, animals, or certain inorganic matter such as minerals, provided they are not chemically modified. For example, some biomass by-products as bark, sawdust, coir pith mechanically extracted, agricultural and forestry material.*

Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4: Hazardous substances and mixtures

Supplier

I the undersigned, hereby declare that the following substances and/or mixtures - please list name(s) of substance(s) or mixture(s):

1. is/is not (please delete as appropriate) a substance of very high concern included in the list provided for in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006

2. is/is not (please delete as appropriate) classified with any of the following hazard statements:

Acute Toxicity	
Category 1 and 2	Category 3
H300 Fatal if swallowed	H301 Toxic if swallowed
H304 May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways	H311 Toxic if in contact with skin
H310 Fatal in contact with skin	H331 Toxic if inhaled
H3330 Fatal if inhaled	EUH070 Toxic by eye contact
Specific Target Organ Toxicity	
Category 1	Category 2
H370 Causes damage to organs	H371 May cause damage to organs
H372 Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure	H373 May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
Respiratory and skin sensitisation	
Category 1A	Category 1B
H317 May cause allergic skin reaction	H317 May cause allergic skin reaction
H334 May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled	H334 May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled
Carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction	
Category 1A and 1B	Category 2
H340 May cause genetic defects	H341 Suspected of causing genetic defects
H350 May cause cancer	H351 Suspected of causing cancer
H350i May cause cancer by inhalation	
H360F May damage fertility	H361f Suspected of damaging fertility
H360D May damage the unborn child	H361d Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H360FD May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child	H361fd Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H360Fd May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child	H362 May cause harm to breast fed children
H360Df May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility	
Hazardous to the aquatic environment	
Category 1 and 2	Category 3 and 4



Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4: Hazardous substances and mixtures

Supplier

H400 Very toxic to aquatic life	H412 Harmful to aquatic life with long-lasting effects
H410 Very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects	H413 May cause long-lasting effects to aquatic life
H411 Toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects	
Hazardous to the ozone layer	
H420 Hazardous to the ozone layer	

and

3. I attach the following information:

- i. for substances that have not been registered under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 or which do not yet have a harmonised CLP classification: information meeting the requirements listed in Annex VII to that Regulation;
- ii. for substances that have been registered under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and which do not meet the requirements for CLP classification: information based on the REACH registration dossier confirming the non-classified status of the substance;
- iii. for substances that have a harmonised classification or are self-classified: safety data sheets where available. If these are not available or the substance is self-classified then information shall be provided relevant to the substances hazard classification in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006;
- iv. in the case of mixtures: safety data sheets where available. If these are not available then calculation of the mixture classification shall be provided according to the rules under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 together with information relevant to the mixtures hazard classification in accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and (if relevant).
- v. in the case of mineral wool a certificate awarded for the right to use the European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products trademark to demonstrate compliance with the Note Q within the Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and a test report according to ISO 14184-1 Textiles - Determination of formaldehyde - Part 1: Free and hydrolysed formaldehyde.

NB. All Safety Data Sheets (SDS) shall be completed in accordance with the guidance set out in sections 10, 11 and 12 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (requirements for the compilation of safety data sheets). Information on intrinsic properties of substances may be generated by means other than tests, for instance through the use of alternative methods such as in vitro methods, by quantitative structure activity models or by the use of grouping or read-across in accordance with Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

Material(s) referenced	
Signature of person bearing legal responsibility:	
Position held	
Date:	



Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4: Hazardous substances and mixtures

Supplier

Company Stamp:

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 5.3](#) / [Criterion 5.4](#)

Declaration: Criterion 12

Declaration: Criterion 12 - Provision of information



Note: This criterion applies to growing media, soil improvers and mulches.

I, the undersigned, hereby attach samples of the information provided to the user of the product (e.g. packaging, fact sheets etc.) and declare that our product(s) complies with the requirements of this criterion.

Signature of person bearing legal responsibility

Position held

Date:

Company Stamp:

[Back to Declarations list](#)

[Back to Criterion 12](#)

Declaration: Criterion 13

Declaration: Criterion 13 - Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

Applicant



Note: This criterion is OPTIONAL

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am using the optional label with text box in accordance with the EU Ecolabel logo guidelines²¹ and including the following text:

- *promotes the recycling of materials;*
- *promotes the use of renewable and recycled materials.*

For soil improvers and mulch (if relevant), the following text is included:

- *reduces soil and water pollution, by limiting heavy metals concentrations.*

Please provide the artwork or samples of the packaging.

Responsible person's signature:

Position held

Date:

Company Stamp:





[Back to Declarations list](#)













[Back to Criterion 13](#)
















²¹ Guidelines for the use of the EU Ecolabel 'logo' are on the website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/promo/pdf/logo%20guidelines.pdf>

Part E: Checklist
















Applicant's Checklist		
This checklist summarises the documentation to be provided for each criterion. This checklist must be completed by the applicant.		
	Mark when done	
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Part C: Application form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 1: Constituents (All)		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 2: Organic Constituents (All)		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion 3: Mineral Growing Media and Mineral Constituents		
3.1 Energy consumption and CO₂ emissions – Mineral growing media only		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Excel sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>














<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Annual emissions report according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 601/2012, for each year of the period to calculate the average.  Verification report confirming that the annual emissions report is satisfactory according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 600/2012, for each year of the period used to calculate the average.  Records of electricity consumption from the grid provided by the electricity supplier, for each year of the period used to calculate the average.  Records of the useful heat and electricity consumption from cogeneration, both on-site and purchased, for each year of the period used to calculate the average (if applicable) 		
3.2 Sources of Mineral extraction - All		
<p>Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declaration: Criterion 3.2 	Included	Does not apply
3.3 Mineral growing media use and after use - Mineral growing media only		
<p>Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declaration: Criterion 3.3 	Included	Does not apply
Criterion 4: Recycled/recovered materials and renewable materials in growing media - Growing media only		
<p>Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declaration: Criteria 1, 2 and 4a for growing media not mineral GM –OR-  Declaration: Criterion 4b for mineral growing media 	Included	Does not apply
Criterion 5: Limitation of hazardous substances - ALL		
5.1 Limits for heavy metals - ALL		
<p>Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers 	Included	Does not apply
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declaration: Criterion 5.1 for organic constituents of Growing media 		

 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants (in case of reduction of test frequency)		
 Test report(s) for Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Copper (Cu), Mercury (Hg), Nickel (Ni), Lead (Pb), Zinc (Zn) according to the standards indicated in the criterion		
5.2 Limits for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) - ALL		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants (in case of reduction of test frequency)		
 Test report(s) conducted in accordance with the testing procedure indicated in CEN/TS 16181		
5.3 Hazardous substances and mixtures		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4		
 Safety data sheets (SDSs) or other evidence of classification		
 Certificate awarded for the right to use the European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products trademark (if relevant)		
 Test report(s) according to ISO 14184-1 Textiles - Determination of formaldehyde - Part 1: Free and hydrolysed formaldehyde (if relevant)		
5.4 Substances listed in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 - ALL		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.3 and 5.4		
5.5 Limits for <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. - ALL (with the exception of mineral growing media)		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch		



Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants (in case of reduction of test frequency)		
Test report(s) according to CEN/TR 16193 for <i>E. coli</i>		
Test report(s) according to ISO 6579 for <i>Salmonella</i> spp.		
Criterion 6: Stability – ALL (with the exception of mulch totally composed of lignocellulosic constituents and mineral growing media)		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers		
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch		
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants (in case of reduction of test frequency)		
Test report(s) Respirometric index EN 16087-1 – OR-		
Test report(s) Rottegrad EN 16087-2 (just for compost)		
Criterion 7: Physical contaminants - ALL (with the exception of mineral growing media)		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers		
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch		
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants (in case of reduction of test frequency)		
Test report(s) according to CEN/TS 16202		
Criterion 8: Organic matter and dry matter - Soil improvers and mulches only		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers		

 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7 and 8 for Mulch		
 Test report(s) Dry matter (%FW) according to EN 13040		
 Test report(s) Organic matter (%DM) according to EN 13039		
Criterion 9: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules - Growing media (NOT mineral growing media) and soil improvers only		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants (in case of reduction of test frequency)		
 Test report(s) according to CEN/TS 16201		
Criterion 10: Plant responses - Growing media and soil improvers only		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Soil improvers		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for Organic constituents from Type 1 plants (in case of reduction of test frequency)		
 Test report(s) according to EN 16086-1		
Criterion 11: Growing media features - Growing media only		
11.1 Electrical conductivity		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media		
 Test report(s) conducted in accordance with EN 13038		

11.2 pH		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media		
 Test report(s) conducted in accordance with EN 13037		
11.3 Sodium content		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media		
 Test report(s) in accordance with EN 13652		
11.4 Chloride content		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for Growing media (not mineral GM)		
 Declaration: Criteria 5.1, 10 and 11 for Mineral growing media		
 Test report(s) in accordance with EN 13652		
Criterion 12: Provision of information - ALL		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criterion 12		
 Samples of the information provided to the user of the product (e.g. packaging, fact sheets etc.)		
Criterion 13: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel - OPTIONAL		
Documents to be submitted to the Competent Body:	Included	Does not apply
 Declaration: Criterion 13		
 Sample of product packaging		



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
 Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Appendix 1: Sampling and test frequency for the application year

Type of plant	Criterion	Annual input / output	Test frequency
Type 1: Treatment plants for waste or for animal by- products	5.1 – Limits for heavy metals 5.5 - Limits for E. coli and Salmonella spp 6 - Stability 7 - Physical contaminants 8 - Organic matter and dry matter 9 - Viable seeds and plant propagules 10 - Plant response 11 - Growing media features	Input (t) ≤ 3000	1 every 1000 tonnes input material rounded to the next integer
		3000 < input (t) ≤ 20000	4 (one sample every season)
		Input (t) > 20000	number of analyses per year = amount of annual input material (in tonnes)/10000 tonne + 1 Minimum 4 and maximum 12
	5.2 - PAH	Input (t) ≤ 3000	1
		3000 < input (t) ≤ 10000	2
		10000 < input (t) ≤ 20000	3
		20000 < input (t) ≤ 40000	4
		40000 < input (t) ≤ 60000	5
		60000 < input (t) ≤ 80000	6



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
 Decision (EU) 2015/2099

		80000 < input (t) ≤ 100000	7
		100000 < input (t) ≤ 120000	8
		120000 < input (t) ≤ 140000	9
		140000 < input (t) ≤ 160000	10
		160000 < input (t) ≤ 180000	11
		Input (t) > 180000	12
Type 2: Product manufacture plants using materials from Type 1 plants	5.1 – Limits for heavy metals 5.5 - Limits for E. coli and Salmonella spp 6 - Stability 7 - Physical contaminants 8 - Organic matter and dry matter 9 - Viable seeds and plant propagules 10 - Plant response 11 - Growing media features	Output (m ³) ≤ 5000	Representative combined samples from 2 batches according EN 12579 ²²
		Output (m ³) > 5000	Representative combined samples from 4 batches according EN 12579
	5.2 - PAH	Output (m ³) ≤ 5000	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579
		Output (m ³) > 5000	Representative combined samples from 2 batches according EN 12579

²² EN 12579 Soil improvers and growing media. Sampling



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL

GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch

Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Type 3: Product manufacture plants NOT using materials derived from waste or from animal by-products	5.1 – Limits for heavy metals 5.5 - Limits for E. coli and Salmonella spp 6 - Stability 7 - Physical contaminants 8 - Organic matter and dry matter 9 - Viable seeds and plant propagules 10 - Plant response 11 - Growing media features	Output (m ³) ≤ 5000	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579
		Output (m ³) > 5000	Representative combined samples from 2 batches according EN 12579
	5.2 - PAH	Regardless the input / output	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
 Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Appendix 2: Sampling and test frequency for the following years

Type of plant	Criteria	Annual input / output	Test frequency
Type 1: Treatment plants for waste or for animal by- products	5.1 – Limits for heavy metals 5.5 - Limits for E. coli and Salmonella spp 6 - Stability 7 - Physical contaminants 8 - Organic matter and dry matter 9 - Viable seeds and plant propagules 10 - Plant response 11 - Growing media features	Input (t) ≤ 1000	1
		Input (t) > 1000	number of analyses per year = amount of annual input material (in tonnes)/10000 tonnes + 1 Minimum 2 and maximum 12
	5.2 - PAH	Input (t) ≤ 10000	0.25 (once per 4 years)
		10000 < input (t) ≤ 25000	0.5 (once per 2 years)
		25000 < input (t) ≤ 50000	1
		50000 < input (t) ≤ 100000	2
		100000 < input (t) ≤ 150000	3
		150000 < input (t) ≤ 200000	4
		200000 < input (t) ≤ 250000	5
		250000 < input (t) ≤ 300000	6



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
 Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Type of plant	Criteria	Annual input / output	Test frequency
		300000 < input (t) ≤ 350000	7
		350000 < input (t) ≤ 400000	8
		400000 < input (t) ≤ 450000	9
		450000 < input (t) ≤ 500000	10
		500000 < input (t) ≤ 550000	11
		Input (t) > 550000	12
Type 2: Product manufacture plants using materials from Type 1 plants	5.1 - Limits for heavy metals 5.5 - Limits for E. coli and Salmonella spp 6 - Stability 7 - Physical contaminants 8 - Organic matter and dry matter 9 - Viable seeds and plant propagules 10 - Plant response 11 - Growing media features	Output (m ³) ≤ 5000	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579
		Output (m ³) > 5000	Representative combined samples from 2 batches according EN 12579
	5.2 - PAH	Output (m ³) ≤ 15000	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579, once each four years
		15000 < Output (m ³) ≤ 40000	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579, each two years
		Output (m ³) > 40000	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579, each year



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
 Decision (EU) 2015/2099

Type of plant	Criteria	Annual input / output	Test frequency
Type 3: Product manufacture plants NOT using materials derived from waste or from animal by-products	5.1 - Limits for heavy metals 5.5 - Limits for E. coli and Salmonella 6 - Stability 7 - Physical contaminants 8 - Organic matter and dry matter 9 - Viable weed seeds and plant propagules 10 - Plant response 11 - Growing media features	Regardless the input / output	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579
	5.2 - PAH	Regardless the input / output	Representative combined sample(s) from 1 batch according EN 12579, once each 4 years



EU ECOLABEL USER MANUAL
GROWING MEDIA, SOIL IMPROVERS AND MULCH

Commission Decision for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch
Decision (EU) 2015/2099