

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Government Buying Standard for horticultural and park services

Version	Date	Notes
6.0	October 2015	Minor amendments to criteria where market availability of better performing products and/or standards and labelling have changed.
5.0	January 2013	Introduction of criterion specifying that plants must not be supplied in or with growing media containing peat, to bring the GBS into line with Government policy on peat.
4.0	March 2011	Revises the requirement in the 2009 criteria for growing media and organic ingredients. It also requires compliance with the latest version of the Horticultural Code of Practice covering invasive non-native plants.
3.0	July 2010	Introduction of Green Public Procurement criteria for soil products.
2.0	April 2009	Introduction of specification banning peat for soils products.
1.0	May 2008	Introduction of best practice specifications, Green Public Procurement and Ecolabel criteria.

Mandatory level

Soil improvers	<p>Soil improvers must not contain peat or sewage sludge</p> <p>Bidders must provide the detailed composition of the product, the origin of organic matter and a declaration of compliance with the above requirements.</p> <p>Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report of an independent body, will also be accepted.</p>
Media Products	<p>Growing media must not contain peat.</p> <p>Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report of an independent body, will also be accepted.</p>
Invasive non-native species	<p>All products and services procured should comply with the latest version of the Horticultural Code of Practice covering invasive non-native plants: https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?pageid=299</p>
Hazardous Substances	<p>Growing media should meet quality standards as set out in PAS100 and the Quality Protocol: http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/bsi-pas-100-compost-specification</p>
Plants	<p>From 2015 plants must not be supplied in or with growing media containing peat. It is accepted that a residual amount of peat may remain from its use in the original propagation of a plant.</p> <p>Verification: Bidders must provide a signed declaration that they will meet this criterion.</p>

Best Practice Level

<p>Organic Ingredients</p>	<p>1. Organic matter content must be derived from the processing and/or re-use of waste (as defined in Council Directive 2006/12/EC of 5 April 2006 on waste and its Annex I).</p> <p>2. (Non-sewage) sludges are allowed only if they are identified as one of the following wastes according to the European list of wastes (as defined by Commission Decision 2001/118/EC of 16 January 2001 amending Decision 2000/532/EC as regards the list of wastes and when these have not been mixed with effluents or sludge outside the specific production process):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 020305 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. • 020403 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in sugar processing. • 020502 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in dairy products industry. • 020603 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in baking and confectionery industry. • 020705 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa). <p>Maximum concentrations of heavy metals in the waste before treatment (mg/kg dry weight) must meet the requirements of the next criterion on hazardous substances.</p> <p>Verification (for specifications 1 & 2): Bidders must provide the detailed composition of the product, the origin of organic matter and a declaration of compliance with the above requirements. Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report of an independent body, will also be accepted.</p> <p>3. Hazardous substances</p> <p>In the final product, the content of the following elements shall be lower than the values shown below, measured in terms of dry weight:</p> <p>Element – mg/kg (dry weight)</p> <p>Zn – 300; Cr – 100; Cu – 100; Mo (*) – 2; Ni – 50; Se (*) - 1.5; Cd – 1; As (*) – 10; Pb – 100; F (*) – 200; Hg - 1</p> <p>Verification: Bidders must provide the relevant test reports (EN 13650, ISO 16772 or equivalent) demonstrating that the above criterion is met. Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report of an independent body, will also be accepted.</p>
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	<p>4. The Ecological requirements for the EU Ecolabel for soil improvers must be met (full criteria documents available at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32006D0799&from=EN)</p> <p>Verification: The EU Ecolabel will be accepted as proof of compliance, as will any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.</p>
Ornamental Plants	<p>1. Plant containers</p> <p>Plants must be delivered in reusable, recyclable or biodegradable containers. If plant containers are reusable, the company must take them back after the planting of the plants/trees. If plant containers are biodegradable, they must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be made of 100% biodegradable (compostable) substances, such as straw, cork, wood flour, maize starch. • not contain synthetic plastic materials, plasticisers or biocide substances, such as found for example in biocides or preservatives. <p>Verification: If containers are reusable, bidders must present a signed declaration stating that they will take back the plant containers selectively collected by gardening staff. If containers are biodegradable, bidders must provide a list of the product ingredients and their respective shares together with a declaration that the specifications are met. Plant containers carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirements will be deemed to comply as well as products classified as biodegradable and compostable according to the EN 13432:2000 standard or equivalent.</p> <p>2. Packaging</p> <p>Small plants must be supplied in returnable crates or boxes.</p> <p>Verification: Bidders must provide a signed declaration that they will meet this criterion.</p>
Irrigation Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The irrigation system must be adjustable in terms of volume of dispensed water by zones. 2. The irrigation system must have adjustable timers, to programme the watering period. 3. The irrigation system must have hygrometers that measure soil humidity levels and automatically block irrigation when the humidity level of soil is high enough (for example after rain). <p>Verification (for specifications 1, 2 & 3): Bidders must provide appropriate technical documentation demonstrating that these criteria are met.</p>
Garden Machinery	<p>Note: The following criteria apply only to the following gardening machines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn-mowers (incl. lawn tractors) and scarifiers • Brush saws • Chainsaws • Strimmers • Trimmers and hedge trimmers • Leaf collectors and leaf blowers • Auto-scythes

- Auto-hoes
- Rotary cultivators
- Compost shredders

1. Fuel types

If the machine has a combustion engine, this shall be designed so that it can be run on one or more of the following fuel grades: unleaded petrol with a benzene content of <1.0 % by volume, alkylate petrol, class A diesel oil, or biofuel-based engine fuel.

Verification: Bidders must present a signed declaration of compliance. Machines carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirement will be deemed to comply.

2. Noise emissions

The noise emission level of the machine shall be below the noise levels outlined in the table below.

The machine shall be tested for noise output in accordance with the general standard specified in the EU Noise Directive (2000/14/EC), EN-ISO 3744/2009 and by a testing laboratory qualified under Article 15 of the same Directive.

Verification: The bidder must present the laboratory test results or an appropriate technical dossier demonstrating compliance. Machine carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirements will be deemed to comply.

Machine	Details L = cutting width	Maximum admissible value of sound power level LWA
Lawn-mowers (incl lawn tractors), scarifiers	L < 50 cm	94 dB/1pW
	50 < L < 120 cm	98 dB/1pW
	L < 120 cm	103 dB/1pW
Brush saws	1.5 kW	107 dB/1pW
	1.5 kW	110 dB/1pW
Chainsaws	2.5 kW	105 dB/1pW
	2.5 kW	110 dB/1pW
Strimmers	Electric engine	94 dB/1pW
	Combustion engine	104 dB/1pW
Trimmers and hedge- trimmers	Electric engine	96 dB/ 1pW
	Combustion engine	103 dB/1pW
Leaf collectors and leaf blowers	For professional use	105dB/1pW
Auto-scythes	1.5 kW	107 dB/1pW
	1.5 kW	110 dB/1pW
Auto-hoes		96 dB/1pW
Rotary cultivators		93 dB/1pW

	<p>Verification:</p>
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The bidder must present the laboratory test results or an appropriate technical dossier demonstrating compliance. Machine carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirements will be deemed to comply.