

Quality Manual

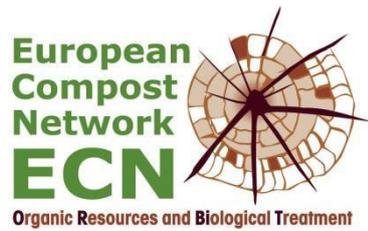
ECN-QAS

European Quality Assurance Scheme for Compost and Digestate

European Compost Network ECN e.V.

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IMPRINT

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Issue-No. 02_14
Date: 15.10.2014

ISBN: 978-3-00-047599-3

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Acknowledgement

We are grateful to the following people for their technical input during the development of the ECN-QAS Manual:

Florian Amlinger¹, Josef Barth², Angelika Blom³, Massimo Centemero⁴, Alberto Confalonieri⁵, Christoph Gareis⁶, Marina Himanen⁶, Franz Kirchmeyer⁷, Horst Müller⁸, Henrik Lystad⁹, Anneleen Rotering¹⁰, Maria Thelen-Jüngling¹¹, Adrie Veeken¹², David Wilken¹³, Kiara Zennaro¹⁴

Further the authors would like to thank all ECN members of Working Group 2 'Quality Assurance' and Working Group 4 'Anaerobic Digestion' and EBA members, who were involved in the development of the ECN-QAS Quality Manual, for their contributions and exchange during the elaboration of this 2nd edition, particularly with regard to part C II 'European Quality Assurance for Digestate'.

¹ ARGE Kompost & Biogas, Austria

² INFORMA, Germany

³ Avfall Sverige, Sweden

⁴ Italian Compost Council, Italy

⁵ Scuola Agraria del Parco di Monza, Italy

⁶ Biolaitosyhdistys c/o Agropolis Oy, Finland

⁷ European Biogas Association,

⁸ Kompost Güteverband Österreich, Austria

⁹ Avfall Norge, Norway

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¹² Dutch Waste Management Association, The Netherlands

¹³ Fachverband Biogas e.V., Germany

¹⁴ Renewable Energy Association, United Kingdom

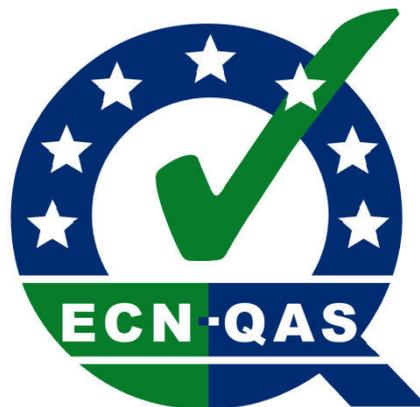
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**Trade mark for certified quality assurance organisations, compost
and digestate products according to ECN-QAS**

Preface

Quality assurance schemes for compost and digestion products have successfully been established in the last 20 years in various European Member States as key elements for the sustainable recycling of organic residues. The market and demand for quality composts and as well for digestate increased on account of the beneficial properties of organic fertilisers and soil improvers, the need for organic matter and continuously increasing prices for mineral fertilisers.

The development of End-of-Waste Standards for compost and digestate by the European Commission and the revision of the European Fertiliser Regulation led to a demand for a European uniform quality standard for composting and anaerobic digestion plants and composted/digested products. The European Compost Network ECN met this challenge and developed a concept for a European quality assurance scheme within its working groups 'Quality Assurance' and 'Anaerobic Digestion'. It includes proposals for quality standards of compost and digestate required by the Commission for a free cross-border movement of goods in the EU.

The target of setting up an EU-wide quality assurance scheme for organic resources is mainly to define this Europe-wide standard for quality management and quality organic products like compost and digestate. The pre-condition for a consistent compost and digestate quality is to harmonise the parameters of the treatment process and to check them regularly by an independent control. In addition this ECN-QAS project should show a common basis for the existing quality schemes in Europe and should support Member States to define their own quality standards and to develop a quality assurance scheme for composts and digestate.

Dr. Stefanie Siebert

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