

ECN-QAS

Rules for awarding the ECN-QAS Conformity and Quality labels and terms of use



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These rules describe the internal procedure for the ECN service unit "ECN-QAS", which is established to award and manage the ECN-QAS labels. It includes the procedure for recognition of national quality assurance schemes (NQAS) and their composting/digestion plants, based on the ECN-QAS Quality Manual in its latest edition.

1 Preface

The ECN-QAS rules for awarding the ECN-QAS conformity and quality labels describe the steps to:

- apply for
- grant
- use the ECN-QAS label and the liability rules of its use.

The ECN-QAS label can be awarded in two cases:

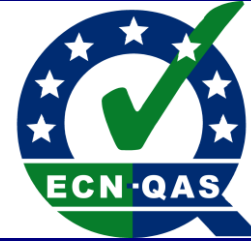
1. as a **CONFORMITY LABEL** to national quality assurance organisations (NQAO) for compost and/or digestate in respect to Part B of the ECN-QAS Quality Manual.
2. as a **QUALITY LABEL** to composting plants or digestion plants participating in an ECN conformity assessed national quality assurance organisation in respect to Part C of the ECN-QAS Quality Manual.

2 Objectives of ECN-QAS

The European Compost Network ECN e.V. was founded with the main objective to support the development of sustainable management schemes for organic waste in Europe. A key element herein was the establishment of a common and professional approach for the definition and assurance of the quality of input, treatment and final product (compost/digestate), as pre-requisite for the successful establishment of a European wide market for recycled products from organic resources. Consequently, ECN e.V. develops a concept for a European Quality Assurance Scheme including requirements for national quality assurance organisations and for the production of quality compost and digestate.

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The scope of the ECN-QAS includes

- to harmonise the quality requirements for compost and digestate across Europe to build up an European-wide market for compost and digestate,
- to harmonise the existing quality assurance schemes across Europe and
- to support national quality assurance organisations (NQAO) establishing quality assurance schemes for compost and digestate.

3 Competent bodies within the ECN-QAS

The competent bodies of ECN are:

- 1) ECN General Assembly of Members
- 2) ECN Board
- 3) ECN-Quality Committee
- 4) ECN-QA Manager
- 5) National quality assurance organisation

3.1 Definition and tasks of the competent bodies

3.1.1 ECN General Assembly of Members

The General Assembly of Members approves the ECN-QAS.

3.1.2 ECN Board

The ECN Board supervises the ECN-QAS and votes experts for the ECN-Quality Committee and the ECN-QA Manager. The certification fee schedule is also approved by vote by the ECN Board. In both voting cases the simple majority of the present persons entitled to vote.

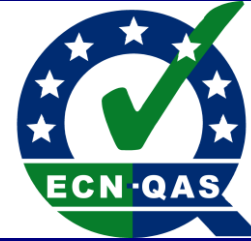
3.1.3 ECN-Quality Committee and its Chairman

The ECN-Quality Committee consists of a minimum of three experts nominated by national quality assurance organisations (NQAO) and voted by the ECN Board. It is responsible for the certification of national quality assurance organisations (NQAO). The nomination of experts for the ECN-Quality Committee will be renewed every four years.

The ECN-Quality Committee has to nominate and vote a chairman and a vice chairman (by majority of the present votes), who is responsible for signing the certificate of conformity in agreement and confirmation with the ECN Board. The nomination of the chairman and the vice chairman will be renewed every four years by voting.

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The ECN-Quality Committee is responsible for:

- elaboration of guidelines for inspection, control and sanction measures necessary to exercise the management of the ECN-QAS,
- preparing proposals for the further development of the ECN-QAS,
- preparing necessary revisions and amendments of the ECN-QAS Quality Manual.

3.1.4 ECN-QA Manager

The ECN-QA Manager is nominated by the ECN Board. The ECN-QA Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation and for auditing of national quality assurance organisations. The ECN-QA Manager shall be impartial and reports to the ECN-Quality Committee.

The ECN-QA Manager responsible to the ECN-Quality Committee has to carry out the day-to-day operations in such a way as to be free of any influence by those who have a direct interest in the services provided.

3.1.5 National Quality Assurance Organisation (NQAQO)

The NQAQO shall be an external supranational, national or regional organisation approving quality assurance in a specialised body or has contracted - under its responsibility - the quality assurance to qualified service providers. The NQAQO establishes, manages and monitors (area-wide) an independent quality control system (quality assurance scheme) for composting and/or digestion plants, their operation, work flows and products. It provides standardised documents of the results with the aim to award a quality label for composting and/or digestion plants and their products in compliance with the set of minimum standards and criteria.

4 Requirements for granting the ECN-QAS label

4.1 Requirements for granting the ECN-QAS Conformity label to NQAQO

Based on its European Quality Assurance Scheme the **ECN** grants the ECN-QAS Conformity label to **national quality assurance organisations** if they

- are members of ECN,
- agree with the general objective and structure of the ECN-QAS (see Part A – ECN-QAS Quality Manual),
- meet the ECN requirements for a NQAQO for composting and/or digestion plants (see Part B – ECN-QAS Quality Manual),
- implement the essential requirements into their national quality assurance scheme (see Part C – ECN-QAS Quality Manual),

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- pay their audit and certification fee according to the ECN-QAS certification fee schedule (Case 1).

4.2 Requirements for granting the ECN-QAS Quality label to composting plants by ECN approved national quality assurance organisations

Based on the European Quality Assurance Scheme the **NQAO** grants the ECN-QAS quality label to composting and/or digestion plants if they

- are members of the NQAO,
- meet the ECN-QAS requirements for composting and digestion plants (ECN-QAS Quality Manual Part C),
- are controlled and approved by the NQAO for complete compliance with the ECN-QAS for composting and/or digestion plants (ECN-QAS Quality manual Part C).
- meet all requirements of the national quality assurance system, if applicable
- carry the NQAO quality label, if applicable.

The national quality assurance organisation shall inform the ECN-QA Manager about the participating composting and digestion plants in the ECN-QAS. In the annual report of the national quality assurance organisation the compliance of composting and digestion plants with ECN Quality label shall be documented.

5 The ECN-QAS Conformity and Quality label

The ECN-Quality Committee grants the ECN-QAS Conformity label to national quality assurance organisations which demonstrate that they execute the quality assurance according to the ECN-QAS Quality Manual.

ECN publishes a continuously updated list of recognised NQAOS on the ECN-QAS website. The recognition description includes basic data and information about the participating composting and digestion plants in the corresponding QAS, and their products.

The ECN-QAS quality label can be granted to composting and digestion plants which demonstrate that the operation quality of the composting and/or digestion plants and the quality of the products meet the requirements of ECN-QAS (Part C ECN-QAS Quality Manual).

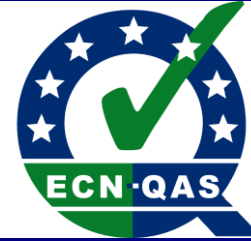
5.1 Terms of use of the ECN-QAS Conformity and Quality label

The European Compost Network ECN e.V. is exclusively authorised to award the conformity and quality label of ECN-QAS. This includes the wording “ECN-QAS” as well as the labels.

The European Compost Network ECN e.V. is exclusively authorised to produce labelling material in printed or digital form with the ECN-QAS logo of the Trade Mark, the ECN-QAS Conformity label and the ECN-QAS Quality label.

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The users of the conformity label of ECN-QAS may use the Conformity label only in the case, if they fulfil the requirements of ECN-QAS (Part B ECN-QAS Quality Manual).

The users of the ECN-QAS Quality label for products (compost/digestate) are allowed to use the label only for quality products which fulfils the requirements of ECN-QAS (Part C ECN-QAS Quality Manual). The label is awarded through the NQAO on the product certificate and can only be used in combination with the product declaration.

For advertisement (like placing the ECN-QAS logo on the website) conformity assessed national quality assurance organisations and quality labelled composting/digestion plants in ECN-QAS should use the logo of the registered Trade Mark of ECN-QAS.

5.2 Monitoring of the use of the ECN-QAS conformity and quality label

The Members of the ECN-Quality Committee are authorised and responsible for monitoring the correct use of the ECN-QAS logo, conformity label and quality label. Any identified irregularity in the use of the conformity and quality label shall submit to the ECN-QA Manager.

The users of the conformity and quality labels are responsible on their own to guarantee the compliance with the ECN-QAS requirements.

The ECN-Quality Committee and the ECN-Quality Manager are authorised to control the compliance of the conformity assessed national quality organisations and composting/digestion plants at any time by means of an inspection or by ordering relevant documents.

If any deficiencies are revealed the costs of the control have to be covered by the conformity assessed national quality assurance organisation or composting/digestion plant. If no deficiencies can be detected the costs of control are paid by ECN e.V.