

MPS-ABC Certification Standard

Terms and Definitions

The MPS-ABC Certification Standard consists of the following documents:

- MPS-ABC Certification Standard
- Method and Ground Rules
- **Terms and Definitions**
- MPS Governance
- MPS Active Substances Black List

MPS-ABC terms and definitions

Active substance	A component of a crop protection agent. The active substance determines the protection/control effect of a crop protection agent.
Agricultural operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cultivation of cut flowers, cut foliage, pot plants, tree nursery products, herbaceous perennials, bulb flowers (forced), flower bulbs (bulb cultivation), forced shrubs, fruit, vegetables, herbs, arable crops and starting material- Storage (chilled) of products- Drying/storage (including in ice) and preparation (particularly bulbs)- Disinfection of products- Disinfection of greenhouse, containers, seed trays, etc.- Processing/storage of natural products- Tissue culture
Calorific value (gas)	The amount of energy in a cubic metre of natural gas.
Certificate	The document, issued by the CB, that indicates that there is a legitimate expectation that the company named on the certificate acts in accordance with the requirements set out in the MPS-ABC certification criteria and on the basis of which it is granted the right to carry an MPS-ABC certificate.
Certification	The award of the MPS-ABC certificate to the participant by the CB when the requirements set out in the MPS-ABC certification criteria are met.
Certification Body (CB):	Organisation licensed by MPS to monitor compliance with the requirements of the certification standard and entitled to award MPS-ABC certificates.
Company	A legal entity with an independent set of accounts.
Company characteristics	Characteristics that exert an influence on the environmental risk posed by an active substance as a result of emissions to the living environment. Examples include use or absence of recirculation, protected/outdoor cultivation and the presence of a catch crop, a crop-free zone or a windbreak.
Company standard	The weighted average of the environmental cluster standards of the crops grown by the company, whereby account is taken of the areas under cultivation and the duration of cultivation of the crops.
Contractor	Grower/breeder cultivating products under contract to the MPS participant. Not necessarily an MPS participant themselves.

Conversion factor (gas)	The correction to the measured quantity of gas in relation to pressure and temperature. This conversion factor is usually stated on the energy bill.
Crop	A crop is a plant genus grown for the production of flowers or plants in horticulture or agriculture. Examples include rose, chrysanthemum, gerbera, anthurium, tulip, kalanchoe, turmeric etc.
Crop group	A crop group is a group of similar crops (plant types). Examples include cut flowers, pot plants, bedding plants, etc.
Crop schedule	Overview of plots and crops present in a set of sub-records.
Environmentally certified starting material	Starting material originating from suppliers of starting material who have environmental certification.
Environmental factors	Factors that exert an influence on the environmental risk posed by an active substance. Examples include: presence of surface water, groundwater depth, percentage of organic matter, temperature, slope of the plot, etc.
Full accounts	Complete set of all sale and purchase invoices for the entire audit period.
Independent sampling	A sample taken by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an employee of MPS - an auditor appointed by MPS - a person hired by MPS who has no relationship with the company in question which could give rise to an integrity issue and who is given free access to the grower's cultivation sites.
Indirect route	Active substances that have not been used by the participant but are found in the crop, for example because they were present in surface water.
Limit value	The limit value is a residue level in mg/kg. If the identified residue level of an active substance is higher than the limit value, it is assumed that the active substance in question has been used and should therefore be recorded.
Location	An independent production location at another address (with its own heating facility, fertilizer system and/or stocks of crop protection agents or fertilisers etc.). A location may consist of several sets of sub-records.
MPS	Owner of the MPS standards.
MPS number	Unique number assigned to the participant.

MPS period	<p>Four-week period for which records are kept.</p> <p>Period 1 = calendar weeks 1-4</p> <p>Period 2 = calendar weeks 5-8</p> <p>etc.</p> <p>Period 13 = calendar weeks 49-52</p> <p>If a year consists of 53 weeks, the final week will be added to period 13.</p>
MPS quarter	<p>Comprises 3 or 4 consecutive MPS periods:</p> <p>MPS quarter 1 = MPS periods 1-4</p> <p>MPS quarter 2 = MPS periods 5-7</p> <p>MPS quarter 3 = MPS periods 8-10</p> <p>MPS quarter 4 = MPS periods 11-13</p>
National authorisation	<p>This refers to crop protection agents and active substances. Nationally authorised means that the use of the crop protection agent (or active substance) in question is authorised in the country in which it is used.</p>
Natural products	<p>Products that are collected from nature with the permission of the owner and do not involve any form of cultivation and/or application of crop protection agents or fertilisers.</p>
Outdoor cultivation	<p>Crops cultivated outdoors or under gauze/netting covers and/or under temporary cover (plastic film, non-woven cloth, plastic tunnels, etc).</p>
Participant	<p>A client who takes part in the MPS-ABC certification standard.</p>
Production site	<p>Site owned or leased by one legal entity. Multiple crops can be grown at one site.</p>
Protected cultivation	<p>Cultivation of crops in permanent glass and/or plastic structures. (Greenhouses with netting and/or gauze covers fall under outdoor cultivation.)</p>
Qualify	<p>The calculation of the A+, A, B or C qualification based on the number of points obtained by the participant.</p>
Record-keeping	<p>The whole of the General Information Form, record-keeping preferences, crop schedule, energy meters and usages recorded in the MPS record-keeping environment.</p>
Reliability Index (RI)	<p>Method used to determine the reliability of an individual participant's record-keeping.</p>
Resale	<p>Horticultural products that are purchased to supplement the company's own offerings, intended for rapid resale.</p>
Sample A	<p>Part of the sample used by the laboratory for the first analysis.</p>

Sample analysis	Identification of the type (qualitative analysis) and quantity (quantitative analysis) of the components of a substance.
Sample B	Part of the sample used by the laboratory for the reanalysis.
Sampling	The taking of random samples from a crop, fruit, soil or growing medium.
Subcontractor	Individuals or organisations hired by the MPS participant to carry out certain work.
Sub-records	Separate set of records for recording usage by a particular part of the company. This could be another location, but also protected or outdoor cultivation or a particular crop. Where a company has several locations, at least one set of sub-records is kept per location.
Uncultivated area	Temporarily uncultivated area that is immediately available for cultivation purposes. 'Temporary' means between one and six months, not including the crop changeover. Flower gardens, waste ground, meadows/grass fields etc. are not classed as uncultivated area and cannot be recorded as area in the crop schedule.
Up-to-date record-keeping	A usage record is up-to-date when all usage during any one MPS period has been recorded at application level within five working days of the end of the MPS period.

