



## Latest Updates from BCS

- **BCS Number and Certification Codes Guidance**
- **Minimum sample quantities for testing**
- **Provision of site contact details**

### **BCS Number and Certification Codes Guidance**

To help operators more easily identify crucial information for sampling and testing digestate for certification purposes, please note the following:

Your BCS number for your process follows the format BCSXXXXCXXX.

- The first XX represent the month the certification was first acquired (e.g., 01 for January, 12 for December)
- The second XX represent the year the certification was acquired (e.g., 23 for 2023)

The Certification Code for the certified digestate output(s) uses the format XX-XX-XX. Where the first two letters refer to the organisation name, the second two letters refer to the site name, and the last two letters refer to the output type (e.g., WD for whole digestate, SL for separated liquor, SF for separated fibre).

Accurate and consistent use of these details on the PAS 110 Analysis Request Forms is crucial. Inaccuracies or inconsistencies can cause delays in the test result reporting process and may result in your test results not counting towards certification.

REAL is currently creating a comprehensive visual guide to further assist operators in locating and understanding their certification information. This guide will feature exemplar certificates from each Certification Body.

These visual guides will be available to on the BCS website and we'll circulate to all scheme participants. We encourage all operators to make use of this resource when it becomes available to ensure test results are submitted to our database for certification purposes.

### **Minimum sample quantities for testing**

We want to ensure all operators are aware of the minimum sample quantities required for the testing of different materials, as we have been informed by the Approved Laboratories that sample volumes are not always large enough. Please note that while we're providing general guidelines on minimum quantities, specific laboratories may have additional requirements.

The BCS sampling guidance with minimum quantities can be found [here](#) and advises that incremental samples are combined to create a minimum 10-litre sample for testing.

This guidance is designed to ensure operators collect slightly more material than laboratories typically need for a full suite of tests. This approach guarantees sufficient material for all required tests, preventing potential delays or resampling needs. By following our guidance, you'll always be prepared, even if you find you have some excess sample after filling the lab-provided sample containers.

If you have any questions about sampling procedures, please contact your Certification Body or REAL directly.

### **Provision of site contact details**

REAL is addressing concerns of ineffective communications around audit scheduling, specifically cases in relation to cases where reliance on a single site contact has led to communication breakdowns. These issues typically arise when:

- The sole site contact changes roles within the organisation
- The main contact switches to a different team or department

- The main contact leaves the company entirely

To improve our communication channels, if possible, please look to provide multiple contact addresses to be registered for your site. It would be helpful to designate backup contacts who can be reached if the primary contact is unavailable.

We kindly request that you inform your Certification Body immediately if there are any changes to your primary site contact, regardless of the reason. This will help maintain seamless communication and prevent any delays in the audit scheduling process.

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