

# EU Regulation on Safe and effective fertilisers on the EU market

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Regulation (EU) 2019/1009

## Dates

**Date of document:** 05/06/2019; Date of signature

**Date of effect:** 15/07/2019; Entry into force Date pub. +20 See Art 53

**Date of effect:** 15/07/2019; Application Partial application See Art 53

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**Deadline:** 16/07/2024; Review See Art 50

**Deadline:** 16/07/2026; See Art 49

## Summary of the Regulation

- It opens the single market for fertilising products which are not currently covered by harmonisation rules, such as organic\* and organo-mineral\* fertilisers, soil improvers\*, inhibitors\*, plant bio-stimulants\*, growing media\* or blends\*.
- It lays down common rules on safety, quality and labelling requirements for fertilising products.
- It introduces limits for toxic contaminants for the first time. This will guarantee a high level of soil protection and reduce health and environmental risks while allowing producers to adapt their manufacturing process to comply with the new limits.
- It maintains optional harmonisation, as it does not prevent non-harmonised fertilising products from being made available on the internal market in accordance with national law and the general free-movement rules.

## Scope of the Regulation

The Regulation covers 7 categories of fertilising products:

1. fertilisers:
  - a. inorganic fertilisers,
  - b. organo-mineral fertilisers,
  - c. organic fertilisers,
2. soil improvers,
3. liming materials,
4. growing media,
5. inhibitors,
6. plant bio-stimulants, and
7. fertilising product blends.

It will replace **Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003** which does not include fertilisers produced from recovered or organic materials.

The new Regulation does not apply to:

- [animal by-products](#) or derived products which are subject to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No [1069/2009](#) when made available on the market
- plant protection products covered by the scope of Regulation (EC) No [1107/2009](#)

The rules apply to the design, manufacture and placing on the EU market.. The Regulation does not apply to the use or the mode of application of the EU fertilising products.

## Requirements for the fertilisers

A. The regulation sets out rules for EU fertilising products carrying the CE marking including requirements for:

- maximum levels of contaminants and pathogens (disease-causing microorganisms)
- minimum content of nutrients and other relevant characteristics depending on the category of the product
- labelling

- B. Testing the conformity of EU fertilising products must be performed in a reliable and reproducible manner

### Free movement

Two rules on free movement of fertilisers:

1. EU countries cannot restrict the free movement of EU fertilising products for reasons relating to composition, labelling or other aspects covered by this regulation if those products comply with this Regulation's rules.
2. EU countries can maintain or adopt rules relating to human health and the environment (which comply with the [EU treaties](#)) which concern the use of EU fertilising products, as long as they do not require EU compliant products to be modified or influence the conditions for making them available on the market.

### Repeal

The Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 repeals Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 as of 16 July 2022.

### Key terms of the Regulation

- **Organic:** fertilisers derived from plant residues or livestock manure.
- **Organo-mineral:** a fertiliser obtained by the mixing of one or more organic fertilisers with one or more inorganic fertilisers (e.g. nitrogen or phosphorus).
- **Soil improver:** a material to be added to the soil to maintain or improve its properties.
- **Inhibitors:** a substance added to a fertiliser which extends the time a component, such as nitrogen, is released into the soil.
- **Plant biostimulants:** substances and micro-organisms which can stimulate natural processes to improve nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency and crop quality.
- **Growing media:** solid or liquid materials in which plants grow; substrate.
- **Blends:** the mixing of fertiliser inputs tailored to crop requirements.