



AgLime Quality Standard

Outline

The AgLime Quality Standard (AQS) is an industry initiative targeted to address four key issues:

- To guarantee the regulatory quality of AQS certified agricultural liming products on the UK market.
- To provide clear concise independent analysis and certification.
- To provide impartial advice for the evaluation, benefits, value and knowledge of AQS products.
- Setting the first unique assurance benchmark within the UK fertiliser sector for guaranteed agricultural lime products.

AQS guarantees calcium products produced for the UK environmental and agricultural industries have proven to be compliant with UK national or EU regulatory standards and declarations. Providing assurances for product quality, fitness for purpose, and a clear measure of Reactivity in the soil through the determination of neutralising value and granulometric analysis as discernible efficacy indicators. Producers achieving the AQS standards will be awarded a certification mark to mark their quality standard and identify their achievement.

It further aims to increase the understanding of calcium products role in underpinning soil health, environment and long term sustainability, providing the optimal platform for maximising the margins of inputs and yield.

Terms & Agreement

- The standard will be known as the **"AgLime Quality Standard"** (AQS).
- AQS is the property of (trademarked by) the Mineral Products Association (MPA), the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries - registered office 38-44 Gillingham Street, London, SW1V 1HU - and the initiative of the Agricultural Lime Association Council (ALA), a constituent part of the MPA.
- AQS Registration is available to any producer of agricultural liming products currently listed in UK and/or E.U. Regulations. AQS registration will solely be available through Kiwa.
- ALA Council have agreed registration for MPA members will be mandatory for all sites and all grades of agricultural liming products.
- MPA have appointed Kiwa of The Inspire, Hornbeam Square West Harrogate, HG2 8PA – hereafter referred to as Kiwa, as qualified independent administrators of AQS.
- Kiwa will maintain strict member confidentiality and identity through registration numbering.
- Promoting regulatory and quality assured agricultural calcium products, AQS will initially operate on a cost neutral basis.
- AQS development will be by membership agreement. The Agricultural Lime Association in conjunction with Kiwa will facilitate member meetings to review operation and development.
- Registered sites will retest all agricultural lime products on a 12 monthly basis. Should the 12 month dateline for any element(s) expire prior to the renewal date, the site will be required to conduct a full retest.
- For sites registered with AQS producing more than one category or grade of agricultural liming products; each product must be registered and tested individually on a 12 monthly basis.

- k. The AQS database will be administered solely by Kiwa; access being available through the Kiwa or ALA website(s). Members are encouraged to deploy their analysis for sales/marketing exercises.
- l. Members understand the Kiwa terms and conditions, sampling and AQS agreements by signature to those agreement(s) as a conditional basis for registration.
- m. Alliance Technical Laboratories have been appointed as the independent laboratory to undertake sample analysis. Producer members with qualified in-house laboratory facilities may undertake their own analysis, only with agreement from Kiwa and in accordance with the AQS specifications and regulatory benchmarks. Additionally, producers with in-house facilities may, in agreement with Kiwa use Alliance Technical to undertake part-analysis. Analysis reports from both Alliance Technical and Members in-house testing will be reported directly to Kiwa.
- n. Analysis for the UK national standard will be in accordance with The Fertilisers (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations 1996 specifying requirements for products in Schedule 1 Section A Group 5(a) and (b) in The Fertilisers Regulation 1991. With the addition of BS EN 13971 the EU Hydrochloric Acid Reactivity Standard. See Table A.
- o. Analysis for EU Regulation will be in accordance with EU – Commission Regulation (EU) No 2003/2003 making the optional Magnesium, reactivity, moisture and fineness declarations mandatory. The applicable EU standards (EN's) are listed in Table B.
- p. Prescribed methodology details for The Fertilisers (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations 1996 can be obtained and available on request from ALA.
- q. Any sample failing to achieve the standard can be resubmitted for a full re-chargeable retest following production corrections.
- r. Following an initial development period; and member agreement, the scheme will be promoted to the UK agricultural and environmental agencies as a new benchmark in fertiliser purchasing for determining the quality, value and benefits of AQS certified products as outlined in the developmental objectives.
- s. Promoting AQS quality and compliance a “certification logo” will be awarded to qualifying members; to promote their products. Failure to retest products on a 12 monthly basis will result in withdrawal of the certification.
- t. As the standard develops and members acclimatised with AQS standards a section of the ALA website will be developed to accommodate reports, aimed specifically to promote and expand compliant producer information on a region basis.
- u. Registered and certified members will be encouraged to use reports in sales and marketing exercises.
- v. Failure to undertake 12 monthly re-testing will result in deletion from the standard.
- w. QS relies on the support of members to maintain its standards as a basis for improving the quality, and benefits from AQS certified agricultural liming products.

Regulatory Grading Guidelines					
Sieve	UK 1991 Regs		EU Limestone		EU Chalk
	Dry Sieving		Wet Sieving		Wet Sieving
	Limestone	Chalk	Standard	Fine	All Grades
45mm		✓			
25mm					✓
6.30mm		✓			
5.00mm	✓				
3.35mm	✓	✓			
3.15mm			✓		✓
2.00mm				✓	✓
1.00mm	✓	✓	✓	✓	
.600mm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
.500mm			✓		
.315mm		✓		✓	✓
.150mm	✓	✓	✓	✓	
.100mm				✓	

Batch size of 3 or more samples received at any one time will be discounted at 10%.

For further information contact Stephen Hill, Manager Agricultural Lime Association

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The ALA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.

For further MPA information visit www.mineralproducts.org

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