

# MPS-ABC Standard

## At a glance

This document provides an overview an overview of the MPS-ABC Standard.

The MPS-ABC standard is one of the several standard systems that are referenced in [Standards Map](#), the interactive web-based tool on private standards developed by the T4SD program of ITC.

## What is MPS-ABC

MPS-A, B and C are environmental qualifications awarded to MPS participants based on a scoring system according to their usage of crop protection agents, fertilisers, energy and waste. The qualification MPS-A stands for most environmentally-friendly cultivation. MPS (Milieu Programma Sierteelt or “Environmental Programme Floriculture”) began in 1995 as an environmental project of the Westland flower auctions, one of the municipalities of the Netherlands, and is now an international organisation active in more than 50 countries. It provides certification and training services with a focus on corporate social responsibility and sustainable production in the international horticulture sector.

## What products are covered by MPS program

The MPS-ABC standard covers floriculture, bulb, arboriculture, vegetable and fruit sectors.

## What are the key features of MPS-ABC

- The MPS-ABC system is accredited by the Dutch Accreditation Council.
- Organisations need to be MPS-A certified to obtain the international consumer label “Fair Flowers Fair Plants,” for sustainably-produced flowers and plants.
- A company’s MPS-ABC score is based on its use of fertilizers, energy and pesticides, and its management of waste. In some countries, water use is also taken into account.

From the growers’ perspective, the key characteristics of the MPS-ABC system are:

- MPS-ABC: covers environment; Crop protection, Energie, Fertilizers, Waste and Water.
- MPS-SQ: certification social criteria (such as safety, health and working conditions)
- MPS-GAP: certification for compliance with demands from the retail sector
- MPS-Q: covers all kinds of quality criteria

From the traders’ perspective, the key characteristics of the MPS-ABC system:

- Florimark TraceCert – certificate for traceability
- Florimark GTP (Good Trade Practice) – quality management system with supplementary requirements for traceability and social/environmental issues

## MPS-ABC: facts and figures

- MPS is active in more than 50 countries and has approximately 60 employees.
- MPS has two independently operating subsidiaries, MPS-ECAS and MPS-HCS, which provide certification and consultancy services respectively.
- A company’s MPS-ABC score is determined four times a year.

## Support

The MPS-ABC certification scheme document, participant application form and other MPS-ABC reference material are available free of charge from the MPS website.

### MPS-ABC Contact Details

#### MPS

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MPS-ABC standard system is currently operational in the following countries and regions

Detailed maps highlighting countries where certification / verification is possible and countries where certified products / services are sold can be generated on ITC's Standards Map website.



34 countries

**ASIA** China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka **AFRICA** Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia **CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN** Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua **EUROPE** Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain **NORTH AMERICA** Canada, United States of America **SOUTH AMERICA** Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru

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## How to become certified

- Step 1:** Register as an MPS participant by contacting the MPS country coordinator or the Service Team at MPS' head office. Receive a code and password to access the MPS participants' website.
- Step 2:** Log in to the MPS website and access the participants' page. Every four weeks, enter usage data on the participants' page and send the data to MPS.
- Step 3:** Four times per year, MPS calculates the company's qualification according to the total number of points obtained based on usage data of the previous year (52 weeks).

## What areas does the MPS-ABC standard system cover

The following table provides an overview of MPS-ABC principles and requirements and related compliance policies covering social, environmental and economic areas applied in production, processing and trade.

### Explanation of Standards Maps interpretation of compliance policies in the MPS-ABC standard system:

**Immediate Requirement:** The Standard Map database presents the MPS-ABC General requirements as “Immediate” and assessed as “Pass/fail” based on the following policy applied “Companies shall comply with the general requirements... and shall pass the initial audit with a positive outcome”.

**Short-term requirement:** The Standard Map database presents all MPS-ABC requirements (besides the General Requirements) as “Short term” based on the following policy applied “Companies (that)... have kept records for 13 consecutive periods... shall pass the initial audit with a positive outcome” (NB - One period is 4 weeks and 13 consecutive periods is effectively 1 year).

The Standard Map database presents requirements that fall into the Crop protection theme as following a “Traffic light” assessment based on the following policy applied “Regarding (the) environmental theme of crop protection, points will then be deducted for the red, orange and green sub-themes”.

All other themes besides Crop protection are presented as following a “Scoring” assessment based on the following policy applied “The result... is expressed in terms of points for each environmental theme.”

	Environment	Social	Economic
Immediate requirements	<p><b>Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use in areas of scarcity/high risks</li> </ul>		
Short-term requirements	<p><b>Soil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil conservation/erosion</li> <li>Soil related nutrients and fertility</li> </ul> <p><b>Chemicals / Natural Organic Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of prohibited chemicals</li> <li>Chemical substances                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pesticides/herbicides</li> </ul> </li> <li>Organic natural inputs                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pesticides/herbicides</li> </ul> </li> <li>Storage/disposal/waste of chemicals</li> </ul> <p><b>Waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste management - collection, treatment, disposal                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reuse of materials to reduce waste</li> <li>Recycle waste which cannot be prevented</li> </ul> </li> <li>Composting</li> <li>Disposal of waste                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire use to eliminate waste</li> <li>Chemicals use to eliminate waste</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined use/management strategies                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of water through prevention</li> <li>Reuse of materials to reduce waste</li> <li>Recycle water</li> </ul> </li> <li>Water quality                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water disposal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Energy Use/Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce energy use</li> </ul>		