

Keenan Recycling achieve Initial Validation

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Keenan Recycling's VCU™ In Vessel Composting facility, in New Deer Aberdeenshire, has successfully achieved initial validation under the EU Animal By Products Regulations (1774/2002). The regulations lay down strict controls for the treatment of waste from the food chain including meat and dairy-inclusive waste.

The initial validation follows successive sampling of output from the VCU™ which has shown to be clear of Salmonella and enterobacteria, as well as temperature measurement validation to ensure that all material has reached the time-temperature requirement of 70°C for at least 1 hour.

The initial validation, under the guidance of DEFRA's Animal Health agency, allows positive release of material composted up to the day of sampling. This means the compost can be sold for use on agricultural land and in gardens as a fertiliser/soil conditioner.

The approval clears the way to start the final validation stage, which will involve further sampling from the VCU™ whilst maintaining temperature, batch identity and location records.

Following successful completion and clear Bacteriology results, the microbiological testing element of validation will be deemed successful and the plant will be eligible for recommendation for full approval.

The facility, which is the largest VCU site in Europe, commenced operation in Nov 2008 and allows Keenan Recycling to expand their existing greenwaste operation by the addition of up to 25,000 TPA of kitchen waste and commercial food wastes.

Mel Keenan a Director of Keenan Recycling said “The VCU™ system is producing an excellent product. Our compost is rich in NPK nutrients particularly potash which currently cost farmers £550 per tonne from chemical fertilizer suppliers so you can see why they are keen to secure supplies of our product at a fraction of this cost”