

Qualification and certification

How is it calculated?

Consumption data is processed by MPS. A number of aspects are taken into account to calculate the qualification, such as:

Company standard

The crops or crop groups cultivated at your company have been divided in environmental clusters. An environmental cluster consists of one or more crops or crop groups that are similar in terms of susceptibility to disease and manure and temperature requirements. Growers must register all environmental clusters with the associated areas as they are present on the last day of a period at the company in the growth plan. Standards have been determined for crop protection agents, fertilisers, energy and waste for each environmental cluster. Each environmental cluster therefore has its own standards. These standards serve as the basis for the company standard, which is calculated for each company individually.

MPS-Mind (environmental indicator)

MPS has developed a calculation method for calculating all your qualifications with respect to crop protection - the MPS-Mind. This environmental indicator not only looks at the number of kilograms of active ingredient used, it also examines the risks to the population and the environment. In so doing the environmental awareness of you is raised and, where possible, research can be done into a product with a lower risk.

All crop protection agents are divided into categories, namely: red, orange and green and white. An agent is red when per gram the active substance has a major negative impact on the environment and green when per gram the

active substance has a limited negative impact on the environment. Effective use of resources is important (1 x red may be more effective than a number of times green).

Environment zones

All MPS registered companies are divided into environmental zones. This means in general that MPS has described six types of cultivation environments with various characteristics. Each MPS grower is classified in the environmental zone that is relevant to its business. With the calculation of the qualification it is considered for each company what resources are used and in what categories of substances (red, orange, green and white) are used for the relevant environmental zone of the company. MPS-Mind applies for all subscribers, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

MPS-OEX

MPS-OEX stands for Oppervlakte Efficiency Index [Area Efficiency Index]. MPS-OEX is a supplementing registration of data on lighting and other cultivation factors. Based on this data the expected continued growth within the company is determined, whereby the operating standards of fertilisers and energy are increased. This provides a better comparison and it becomes more achievable for intensive, efficient companies to obtain the MPS-A qualification.

Required periods

Qualifications are only awarded if you registered for 13 consecutive periods (= four quarters) and scored the required points total. An initial company audit must also be completed and full payment must have been received.

More information and registration

You can get all the information you need about MPS-ABC (certification, vignette use, certification process, etc.) from your local agent or our Service & Support team in the Netherlands.

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MPS-ABC

Reliable data in a sustainable world

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MPS

MPS develops and manages sustainability certificates for the International Flowers and Ornamentals Industry and conducts certification through its sister organisation MPS-ECAS. The MPS-ABC certificate is recognised around the world as the international standard. While based in the Netherlands, MPS is active in 46 countries. In total, more than 3.000 growers participate in MPS-ABC around the world (4300 production locations).

MPS-ABC is the environmental certificate for sustainable operations. A participant's scores on the environmental score yardstick becomes clear when the use of crop protection agents, fertilisers, energy, water and waste are registered. The MPS-ABC certificate is a unique global industry standard in the world and it is used and recognised in most parts of the world. Besides being a monitoring and management tool, it is also a social responsibility and in the fresh food chain it is a marketing tool to demonstrate performance related to the environment.

MPS-ABC is the performance indicator on industrial level. MPS-ABC works like a yardstick with a scale of 0 to 110 points. The score is calculated real time per company and it is based on environmental aspects such as crop protection agents, fertilisers consumed, energy and water and the manner in which waste is dealt with.

The total consumption of the company is calibrated by comparing it to growers with similar crops and growing conditions. Points are awarded for each aspect. These points are added up and result in four qualifications: MPS-A+, A, B or C. Only A+ and A can be used as a vignette. MPS processes the captured data by auditing and MPS-ECAS then determines the business qualification.

MPS-ABC

How does it work?

Results achieved are sent to the auction and stated on the clock front. You start as a non-qualified member. The first certification is awarded when you achieve between 0 and 9.9 points following registration for three consecutive periods or thirteen months after registration. Companies with the lowest consumption rate are awarded the highest score.

- **Qualification A+:** at least 90 points, 3 additional requirements, see below.
- **Qualification A:** 70 <= 110 points
- **Qualification B:** 55 <= 69,9 points
- **Qualification C:** 10 <= 54,9 points

Only A+ and A can be displayed as a vignette.

MPS-A+ leader qualification

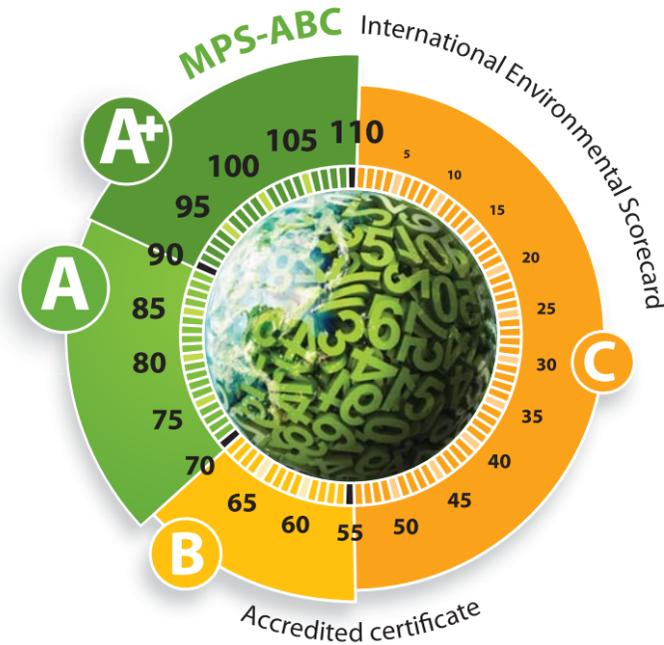
The top level of the MS-ABC system is MPS-A+. This is a leader qualification that indicates the best environmental performance. The score of the leader is at least 90 points and an achievement of at least 75% of the maximum score for fertilisers and energy and 85% of the maximum score for crop protection agents.

MPS-A Natural Protected

MPS-A Natural Protected is an MPS-A or MPS-A+ qualification in combination with crop protection agents that are only permitted in ecological cultivation (SKAL list/Netherlands).

Bonus points

When you work with environmentally certified parental material you can collect up to 10 bonus points.



What does MPS-ABC do in the fresh chain?

Performance indicator for transparent data and environmentally friendly operations

Green data becomes information

The environmental certificate MPS-ABC enables close monitoring of consumption data of pesticides, fertilisers, energy and waste. This tells you exactly how much they consume and where some adjustments are required. -> This often leads to more conscious use of resources and cost savings.

Green awareness

You can improve from participant status to an MPS A+ level, which stands for very environmentally friendly cultivation. This encourages participating companies to keep looking for environmentally friendly production methods. This setup makes MPS-ABC a unique assessment system that is internationally recognised and accepted.

Green sales

Your products are clearly identified in the chain when you apply the MPS-ABC vignette. Buyers can see at a glance whether the products they buy are from an MPS grower.

The unique number in the vignette means that the product is also traceable. Information have access to information on the website of MPS with this number and it is also shown on the clock face at flower auctions. There are two different vignettes, being MPS-A and MPS-A+. An increasing number of sales channels such as European retailers set MPS as a mandatory requirement for their suppliers. The MPS-A and MPS-A+ certificate, supplemented with a social certificate (e.g. MPS Socially Qualified) provides access to Fair Flowers Fair Plants, the international consumer label for flowers and plants cultivated with respect for people and the environment.

Green entrepreneurship

Based on consumption data from MPS-ABC you receive MPS qualification overviews and graphs. This information can be used to make business decisions. MPS-ABC provides real sales opportunities.

Green inspiration

The MPS-ABC certificate is also used to meet governmental requirements (Activiteiten Besluit [Dutch Greenhouse Decree], environmental permits, etc.). You also meet specific criteria set by the government on sustainable procurement.

Consumers are becoming more critical and they want to know where products that they purchased originated from and how they were grown. With MPS certificates certified companies can show exactly what they do and present themselves as companies that take social indicators seriously. -> This reinforces the individual image of the company and contributes to the image of the sector as a whole.

Registration

Registration in MY-MPS

Participants in MPS-ABC register through MY-MPS. This is a user-friendly website where users can get a total overview of the services that they purchase on one screen. The system remembers past input selections to make future input faster and easier for users.

In the customer portal, you can download your MPS-ABC qualification. This is a total overview of your input data. Participants can check based on the review whether or the registration data provided was correctly entered. If discrepancies are identified corrections can be requested by completing the change form within the stated period. The qualification is then recalculated. This second print-out is called the change run.

The MPS-ABC qualification overview with your score can be forwarded to your customer right from the portal. In this way you can easily show that you meet the demands of the market. Your vignettes are also here which you can use to profile itself as a sustainable company.

The underlying input programs are MPS-ACTRES Basic and MPS-ACTRES Top.

MPS-ACTRES Basic (four weeks registration)

This is the standard registration programme for submission through the Internet. In MPS-ACTRES Basic participants register the use of crop protection agents, fertilisers, energy, water and lighting every four weeks. This data is submitted by participants to MPS. With this registration form participants can calculate consumption themselves as registered in the programme every four weeks.

MPS-ACTRES Top (daily registration)

MPS-ACTRES Top is a more extensive version of MPS-ACTRES Basic. MPS-ACTRES Top is a registration programme on daily base and offers the possibility to register on location so the traceability is guaranteed. It is also possible to organize stock management. The program sends the registration automatically to MPS.

The system counts the consumption itself and the reviews on size can be exported to PDF and Excel. You meet the legislation (registering on day/location level) and it matches with other certificates as GLOBALG.A.P.

