

## Guideline No. POS1/2014

### Pacific Organic Standard(POS): Use of human waste in production systems

#### 1. Purpose

This guideline provides clarification with regard to the use of human excrements (urine and faeces) under the Pacific Organic Standard.

#### 2. Scope

This guidance applies to all POETCom Approved Certification Partners (ACPs) and Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

#### 3. Background

*The POS states:*

*4.4.4 Manures containing human excrement (Faeces and urine) are prohibited for use on crops for human consumption.*

#### 4. Guidelines

There are known health risks associated with use of human excrement in agriculture and without regular testing for risks such as coliform density and pathogens such as rota virus in human waste based compost the risk to human health is deemed too great to allow this input in organic food production systems.

Use of human excreta in any form including from composting toilets is prohibited on food crops under the Pacific Organic Standard.

Compost from toilets can be used on non-food crops such as plants grown for fibre or non edible oils (eg. Tamanu, *Calophyllum Inophyllum*).

#### 5. References

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)