



Oh, Oh Organic

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Good Morning All -

Please tell me if you want off this list - happy to reduce stress derived from email!

TODAYS NEWS:

1 – Terms you may need to review – what does it mean in “organic-ese”?

2 – Highlight: Mixed tocopherol!!

3 – Tip #10 for buying organic ingredients.

1 – Terms to review – truth in labeling and . . . what does it mean in “organic-ese”?

If you make personal care products that use an “organic” label claim, you could be asked to justify those claims in terms of FDA “truth in labeling”. It helps to know a few of the definitions as established by the National Organic Program regulation (7CFR Part 205) when it comes to the ingredients used in your formulas.

Certified “Organic” means that 95% of the non-water content is from certified organic sources that are all (at least) themselves 95% “organic” and that the 5% is from a short list of non-organic “allowed”.

Certified “Made with organic” means that a minimum of 70% of the non-water content is from certified “organic” sources and that the 30% may not be from products that were irradiated or contain GMOs.

Non-certified personal care products using an “organic” or “made with organic” label claim could have to meet the criteria of “truth in labeling”- how would you prove that your product was compliant? Do you know, for example, if the extract you buy is certified or is it only made with “organic” herbs in propylene glycol (NOT organic!)?

And what about “**Non-GMO**” – do you know if your ingredients is from a non-GMO source or is it only “no GMOs detected” – there is an obvious difference – DNA material is all protein. Proteins are denatured in alcohol, or processed carbohydrates (like a caramel coloring) – this mean that the GMO could not be detected, even if the product was made from GMO Corn (which is usually the case for Vitamin E or “natural” fragrances in grain alcohol carriers. What exactly do you claim on your label?

2 – Highlight: Tocobiol™ - a lovely mixed tocopherol!!

What a great segue to tell you about my non-GMO source mixed tocopherol: Tocobiol™. Tocobiol contains not only the alpha, beta, and gamma tocopherols but a number of other wonderful constituents as well (ask for the spec!). The manufacturer, BTSA of Spain, has done some great research on the in-vitro efficacy of this product to extend shelf life. Please drop me a line if you’d like a copy of the paper – it looks at both stable and unstable oils (flax!) and substantiates extended shelf life claims. Using this lovely mixed tocopherol can save you money and help save the planet from additional demand for gmo-sourced ingredients (I have papers on that too – but they are mostly about on-farm research . . . not a formulator’s top subject area!).

3 – Tip #10 for buying organic ingredients.

At the risk of being redundant – **ASK FOR THE ORGANIC CERTIFICATE!** I recently started representing VegeTech – a manufacturer of certified organic extracts. When I asked Maria, (their fabulous customer service manager) if people ever asked for the certificates – she said “Never”. What is up with that? How can you know if you don’t ask?

To be really corny – truth in labeling is your responsibility and (to mix my metaphors) ignorance of the law is no excuse. While the FDA and DHS may not actively enforce, they do “reactively” enforce. Make sure you ask for documents.