



Oh, Oh Organic

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

Organic News Blip #25

TODAYS NEWS:

- 1 – Changes if you are NOP certified – allowed materials.***
- 2 – Thinking about Certification? EcoCert, Soil Association, and others.***
- 3 – Tip # 16.***

1 – Amendments to the USDA-National Organic Program (NOP) Regulation:

Some of you may remember the “Harvey Law Suit” – it resulted in changes to what can be used in the 5% of an “organic” certified product. The new list will be published soon in the Code of Federal Regulations. In the meantime, I thought I would share the info sent out by the NOP office:

“All agricultural products used as minor ingredients in the 5% of products labeled as “organic” must be (1) certified organic or (2) be listed on 205.606 and have been determined by the certifier as not being commercially available in organic form.

Products that have been produced and labeled as of midnight tonight (this was sent on 06/08/07) will be considered in the stream of commerce and may continue to be sold as organic until supplies are exhausted.

There is no provision for a grace period for this requirement; all products must be in compliance. Organic systems plans affected by this portion of the regulation must be in full compliance as of June 9th. Certified operations that use obsolete organic systems plans that provide for the use of products not listed on 205.606 in a non-organic form will be considered in violation of NOP regulations. “

2 – Thinking about Certification?

As an industry we are in desperate need of “rules” – so please hang on, there should be some good news in the next couple of weeks about a U.S. based Standard. Meanwhile, if you are looking at the EcoCert or Soil Association Standards, be aware of a few things:

- The USDA-Nat'l Organic Program (NOP) only recognizes products and raw materials that are certified to the NOP regulations. This means that “organic” materials that are EU certified may be perceived as NOT organic under US law (this may be true if you are making a product that is not NOP certified).
- These EU based Standards require the use of EU compliant materials, so you could have a “truth in labeling” issue in your ingredient declaration – as weird as that seems.
- The EcoCert and SA Standards are predicated on compliance with EU cosmetic laws. Work for you?
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3 – Tip #16 for buying organic ingredients – GET A CERTIFICATE (for the 3rd time!)

In the past two weeks I have heard 3 times where companies have been buying and using materials with the verbal assurance that the vendor was “organic”. Then they discovered that the vendor has no certificate. While there may be some delay for new products being added to a certificate, they should, at the very least, be certified and be able to demonstrate that they are working with a certifier through some sort of documentation.

Take care of the future now –

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