

UPDATES TO THE NOP
June 2012

Organic products certified in the United States or European Union may now be sold as organic in either market, thanks to the new U.S.-EU equivalency partnership that became effective Friday, June 1.

Terms of the Arrangement. In addition to certification to the USDA organic regulations, all products traded under the organic trade partnership must meet the following requirements:

- Organic apples, pears, and ingredients from organic apples and pears must be produced without antibiotics. Antibiotics may not be used for at least 3 years prior to the harvest of the organic apple or pear.
- Products must travel with an EU import certificate (Certificate of Inspection) that has been completed by an NOP-accredited certifying agent.

Products must be either produced or have had final processing or packaging occur within the U.S.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5097062>

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/06/0176.xml&contentidonly=true>

On June 6, NOP published a final rule to address substances, including two listings for pectin, that were due to sunset or "expire" from the National List in 2012. The Sunset 2012 final rule removes the listing for "pectin -- low-methoxy" from the National List and revises the listing for "pectin -- high-methoxy" to read "pectin -- non-amidated forms only." In effect, the final rule requires that only non-amidated, non-organic pectin be used in organic processing if organic pectin is not commercially available. The effective date for the pectin amendments is June 27, 2012.

After publication of this rule, organic handlers conveyed a need for timely product reformulation which may be necessary for organic products to comply with the new listing for pectin. NOP is informing certified operations through the forthcoming Federal Register notice that the Agricultural Marketing Service will allow operations to reformulate their products until Oct. 21, 2012.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5099095>

The National Organic Program published a final rule renewing over 200 listings on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances that were scheduled to expire this year. The rule also makes changes to the following substances

(unless otherwise noted, all renewals and changes are effective June 27, 2012):

- Only non-amidated forms of non-organic pectin, typically added to thicken jams and jellies, will be allowed when organic pectin is not commercial available.
- The listing for iodine, which is used to fortify organic foods, has been clarified.
- The allowed use of chlorine materials in organic crop production has been clarified.
- The allowed use of lignin sulfonate in organic crop production has been clarified.
- The allowed use of non-organic colors in organic processed products has been clarified. Organic colors must be used if they are commercially available.
- The allowance for streptomycin to control infections in organic apple and pear orchards has been extended until October 21, 2014.
- Effective October 21, 2012, yeast used in baked goods and other processed organic products must be organic, if commercially available and intended for human consumption.
- Effective October 21, 2012, sulfur dioxide (smoke bombs) will no longer be allowed for rodent control in organic crop production.
- Effective January 1, 2013, hops, typically used in organic beer production, must be organic.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5098702>

Are you a certified organic farm or business? Did you know that you can be reimbursed for up to 75 percent of your certification costs?

The Organic Certification Cost Share Programs:

- Aren't competitive
- Only require a short application
- Are managed by your state's Department of Agriculture

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/NOPCostShareProgramParticipants>