



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H. Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development
H.3. Organic farming

- 5 JUL. 2013

Brussels,
RL/sam agri.ddg3.h.3(2013)2713895

Subject: Use of conventional yeast in organic products

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2013 requesting clarification on the use of conventional yeast in organic products.

Article 23(4)(a)(ii) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007¹ provides that processed food can be labelled as organic (in the sales description) where at least 95% by weight of ingredients of agricultural origin are organic. This means, in other words, that a maximum of 5% of ingredients of agricultural origin can be non-organic.

As of 31 December 2013, the calculation of ingredients of agricultural origin will have to take into account yeast and yeast products (Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008², Article 27(2)c)), in the same way as food additives listed in Annex VIII of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and marked with an asterisk must currently be taken into account.

As you rightly point out, organic yeast shall not be present in food or feed together with non-organic yeast (Regulation 834/2007, Article 20(2)).

It follows from the above-mentioned provisions that, subject to respect of the EU organic legislation, it will be possible to use non-organic yeast up to 5% by weight of the total ingredients of agricultural origin, provided that the other 95% ingredients of agricultural origin, which must be organic, do not include organic yeast.


¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.(O.J. L 189 , 20/07/2007, p. 1.)

² Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control.(O.J. L 250 , 18/09/2008, p. 1.)

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The present information is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your letter and on the understanding that in the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned above the printed name.

João ONOFRE