



defra

Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

Defra Organic Team
Area 8E, Millbank
C/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Date: 29 October 2012

Dear Consultee

Consultation on draft UK Guidance on the testing procedure for prohibited substances in organic products

On 28 September 2012 Defra published a public consultation on draft UK Guidance on the testing procedure for prohibited substances in organic products. I attach an addendum to the document 'Guidance note for operators on the EU organic testing procedure within the UK', which inserts wording in respect of the position on testing by operators or Control Bodies of products previously certified as EU organic.

Section 3.2 of the consultation document explains that where a product has been previously certified as EU organic by a Control Body, an operator must not carry out tests to assess its organic integrity, but that testing may take place where there is a suspicion that a product contains a prohibited substance or where the product's physical characteristics have changed since it was certified. Owing to an oversight the draft Guidance Note for Operators did not include wording on this issue. The Addendum addresses this point and also clarifies the difference between testing for the organic integrity of a product and general pesticide residue analysis.

We apologise for any confusion that may have been caused. No further changes have been made to the consultation package and the consultation period remains open until 21 December 2012.

Yours Faithfully

Kevin Ruston

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

