

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Addendum to the draft Guidance Note for operators on the EU organic testing procedure within the UK: Consultation version - September 2012

October 2012

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The following sections of the draft Guidance Note have been revised to clarify the position in respect of a product previously certified as EU organic:

1. Principles applicable to the testing procedure (page 1)

The first sentence of paragraph 3 should be replaced with the following wording:

“Operators should be aware that, in accordance with this approach, where a product has been certified as EU organic and its physical characteristics are unchanged, neither the operator nor the operator’s Control Body should test the product to assess its EU organic integrity unless the operator or the operator’s Control Body has a suspicion that the product may contain a prohibited substance.”

2. Section A Testing (page 1)

A first and second paragraph have been inserted ahead of the previous paragraph 1:

“1. Where a product has been previously certified as EU organic, an operator must not test it to assess its EU organic integrity unless its physical characteristics have changed or the operator has a suspicion that the product may contain a prohibited substance. An operator’s Control Body must not test a product that has been certified by a different Control Body, nor must a Control Body require operators to undertake testing of a product that has been certified as EU organic by a different Control Body, unless it has a suspicion that the product may contain a prohibited substance, the product’s physical characteristics have changed or where it is to look at compliance against its own private standards .

2. Testing a product to assess its EU organic integrity involves specifically testing a product against the requirements of the EU Organic Regulations. By way of illustration, Defra would consider that a test for permitted inputs would, in the absence of a suspicion that the product may contain a prohibited substance, constitute testing a product to assess its EU organic integrity and is not permitted. An operator may test a product for reasons other than assessing its EU organic integrity, and examples of testing which may be carried out for this reason are listed in paragraphs 3 and 4 below. By way of example, if, for the purposes of food safety an operator or Control Body were to test a product for pesticide residues (i.e., against Maximum Residue Levels), this test would not be to assess a product’s EU organic integrity and would therefore be permitted. ”

The paragraph numbers in Section A have been amended to accommodate this insertion.

No further changes have been made to the document.

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