

ORGANIC FARMERS & GROWERS LTD

Prohibited product contamination of organic produce (with reference to the cereal sector) – A certifiers perspective

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Contamination Issues

- Glyphosate in organic green lentils
- Phthalates in organic olive oil
- Benomyl, Carbendazim, Pyraclostrobin and Fenpropimorph in organic banana leaves
- Cypermethrin and Chlorpyrifos in organic quinoa

www.defra.gov.uk

Testing of Organic Products in the UK

**Draft Guidance on the testing procedure for
prohibited substances in organic products**

September 2012

Issues covered in Defra guidance

- Testing
- Sampling
- Accredited labs and tests
- Substantiated suspicion
- Communication
- Actions
- Timescales
- Trigger levels

Mutuality and Equivalence – Defra’s Interpretation

“Defra’s draft Guidance makes clear that a Control Body **must not carry out testing on any product that has been previously certified** as organic by another Control Body where its physical characteristics are unchanged, unless the Control Body has a suspicion that the product may contain a substance that is not permitted under the Regulations.”

From ‘Testing of Organic Products in the UK, Draft Guidance on the testing procedure for prohibited substances in organic products’ September 2012

Defra's examples of how certifier may gain a 'Suspicion'

- reliable information received from an operator, a member of the public, another organic Control Body, retailers or others in the supply chain;
- an alert from Defra, the Competent Authority, that a prohibited substance may be present in a batch of imported organic product;
- notification from another UK, Member State or EU authority that either an organic product contains prohibited substances or there is a risk that it contains prohibited substances;
- visual inspection of the product which indicates that contamination may have occurred e.g. damaged packaging, inaccurate labelling;

Defra's examples of how certifier may gain a 'Suspicion'

- visual inspection of the premises and equipment which indicates a significant risk that contamination may have occurred e.g. inadequate separation measures or clean-down practices;
- review of the documentation accompanying a product;
- Where a composite product has been tested to show positive residues of prohibited products.

From 'Guidance Note for Control Bodies on the EU organic testing procedure within the UK'
September 2012

Conclusion

- No increase in testing regime
- Organic certification not about product testing
- Organic is not just 'pesticide free'
- Monitoring and compliance of whole process
- Testing is a powerful tool

Thank you

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