

## Technical News

### New EU regulation – 834/2007

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The following information is still subject to change due to a recent development within the Commission. We suggest that you do not make any changes to your labels/packaging at this stage and we will endeavour to update you as soon as we can.

Following on from the article in the October edition of the newsletter we can now update licensees on the latest developments with the new European Organic Regulation. As detailed in the last newsletter this new regulation "Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007" is due to come into force on the 1st January 2009.

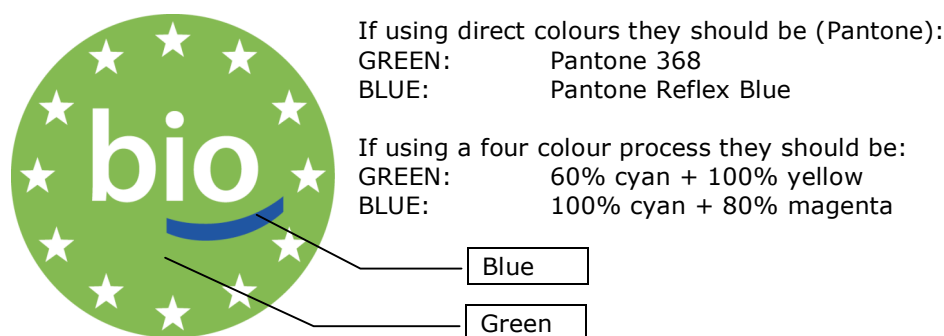
One significant area of discussion has, to date, centred on the new EU Community Logo.

This logo will be obligatory on all organic pre-packed food produced within the community (EU). It can also be used on a voluntary basis on non pre-packed food produced within the community and any organic products imported from third countries.

The logo should not be used on products labelled as in-conversion or processed foods where less than 95% of the agricultural ingredients are organic. When the logo is used the labelling of the packaging must also indicate the place where the agricultural ingredients that make up the product were produced. This must be in the same visual field as the logo and be in the following form:

- 'EU Agriculture', used where the agricultural ingredients have been farmed within the EU.
- 'Non-EU Agriculture', to be used where the agricultural ingredients have been farmed in third countries.
- 'EU/non-EU Agriculture', to be used where part of the agricultural ingredients have been farmed in the EU and a part of it in third countries.

If all of the agricultural ingredients in a product are farmed within the same country in the EU the wording may be changed to state that it is a product of that country i.e British.



There has been considerable concern within the UK organic sector that in the UK the word bio is not recognised as meaning organic and DEFRA has conveyed this to the Commission. As a result of this, and concerns raised by a number of other member states, the Commission have decided that the logo may be supplemented with graphic or textual elements referring to organic farming under the condition that they do not change or modify the logo. This amendment would allow, for example, the words "organic product" to be placed around the logo.

The logo has been introduced at this stage in order that any packaging and labelling can be amended in time for its official introduction on the 1st January 2009. However the commission have stated that labels and

packaging, produced before the 1/1/09, using the current EU logo, can continue to be used after the 1/1/09 and until stocks are exhausted. It is not yet clear if labels and packaging that do not use the current EU logo can also continue to be used after the 1/1/09.

If you require further information on the new logo please contact Steve Clarkson, Certification Manager at OF&G.

## Permitted Food Additives – Amends to the EU Organic Regulation

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In the December newsletter we reminded you of the changes to the Annex VI regulation on permitted food additives, this contained an extract on additives for cured meat products and stated that the inclusion of sodium nitrite and potassium nitrate would be re-examined before 31/12/07 (see below).

### **Cured Meat Products**

Sodium nitrite (E250) and Potassium nitrate (E252) are now allowed for use in organic meat products throughout the EU. (Previously each EU country was allowed to derogate the use of these preservatives as it saw fit.) Indicative ingoing amount of either substance is 80 mg/kg; maximum residual amount is 50mg/kg (expressed as NaNO<sub>2</sub> for nitrite and KNO<sub>3</sub> for nitrate).

However the new regulation includes the statement that the inclusion of these substances shall be re-examined before 31/12/07 with a view to limiting or withdrawing their use. This is in line with the European Food Safety Authority's drive to reduce the use of nitrites and nitrates generally, but without compromising food safety.

The commission have now re-examined this regulation and a new draft regulation has been published. A panel of experts has concluded that potassium nitrate and sodium nitrite should be withdrawn from the regulation within a specified time period. The time period they have given means that these processing aids can still be used as listed in the December newsletter for the period up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. This will allow for an assessment of the impact of withdrawing these products from the regulation.

Those processors using these products that are concerned by their proposed withdrawal are asked to send any relevant information they have on their use to Steve Clarkson at OF&G. Steve will forward this to DEFRA in order that they can compile any evidence for keeping these and present them to the commission expert panel at the relevant time.

An amendment has also been made in Annex VI re the inclusion of Annatto for cheddar production. The original amended version of Annex VI stated that Annatto could be used as indicated below.

### **Colours for cheeses**

Vegetable carbon (E153) will be allowed in Ashy Goat Cheese and Morbier Cheese

Annatto, (alternatively Bixin or Norbixin) (E160b) will be allowed in the following cheeses:- Red Leicester, Double Gloucester, Scottish Cheddar and Mimolette

Due to a mistake this has now been amended to state that Annatto can be used for the production of Cheddar Cheese and not just Scottish Cheddar.

If you require any further information this can be obtained from the OF&G Offices.

## Feeding Livestock in simultaneous conversion

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Over the past few months the OF&G Certification Committee have seen a number of operators taken to the committee following problems with feeding requirements during simultaneous conversion (simcon). Where an operator is in simcon the livestock must be fed in accordance with the organic feed requirements from the start of the land conversion, this means that any compound feed brought in, for ruminants, must be a registered feed from a mill registered with a certification body and must contain no non-organic feed. Straight feeds must also be either fully organic or in-conversion and must be accompanied with documentation proving its status. Any feed that is produced on the holding for feeding back to the simcon livestock is classed as organic for those simcon livestock only. If this is sold to another organic farmers it is subject to the normal conversion periods stated in section 7 of the OF&G Control Manual.

## Miscellaneous

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### **Business support from organic trust**

OF&G has been made aware of The Dean Organic Trust; a small trust set up to give organic, or would-be organic, farmers and growers a small interest free loan to assist them in their farming or growing enterprises. The trust was established in 1993 and has already helped several farmers to expand and gain other funding. Where appropriate loans can be approved which run into thousands of pounds, presenting a real opportunity to make a difference to a business. For further details please contact David Oakley on 01767 262312 or e-mail [darl@oakacorns.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:darl@oakacorns.fsworld.co.uk)

## FABBL

All OF&G licencees who have joint FABBL and OF&G inspections should note that OF&G will invoice for the discounted FABBL fee with the OF&G annual fee. Remittance should be made to OF&G. The FABBL renewal form will need to be completed fully and returned to the FABBL offices in Milton Keynes in the prepaid envelope. FABBL will issue certificates directly. They will NOT issue a new certificate if this form is not returned. Please note: licencees should give at least a week for the paperwork to pass through the system.

## Licensee news

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### Fully signed-up!

First off, there's a big thumbs-up for licensee Andrew Charlton, who farms at Stow Bridge in south west Norfolk. Andrew managed to get himself photographed for his Farmers Weekly Farmer Focus column with an OF&G sign visible prominently over his shoulder. Obviously this is something we love to see. Good job Andrew! Anyone care to take up the challenge and see if they can go one better..?

### Directing farm traffic

Also gracing the pages of the FW for all the right reasons is licensee David Thompson, who farms near Alnwick, Northumberland. David has been made assistant director of The Country Trust which co-ordinates farm visits for schools, working with farmers, parents and teachers to make it all happen. Excellent work and something we're all keen to promote. Find out more at [www.countrytrust.org.uk](http://www.countrytrust.org.uk).

### Quality counts

Jack Turner and family, of Croasdale Farm, near Blackburn, were declared District Winners in the Dairy Farmers of Britain Annual Milk Quality Hygiene Awards for 2007. This was achieved by having the lowest combined figures for bactoscan and somatic cell count in their area (average results for the year: bactoscan, 18.33; cell count, 80.75). The Turners received a framed certificate and the thanks of DFoB; plus congratulations from us!

## OF&G in the news

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### Showing off

OF&G will be taking part in the Natural and Organic Products show this year, along with three OF&G licencees. The event is being held at Olympia on April 13 and 14 and is a key event in the diary for the natural and organic products world. Joining OF&G on a specially planned stand will be Glebe Farm, producer of stoneground flour and bread mixes, Harrisons and Crosfield Tea and Trevarno Organic Skincare. In addition we may be taking sample items or literature from other licencees, so if you would like to be considered please contact our Development Officer, Steven Jacobs.

## Staff News

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The OF&G team has been boosted by three new faces recently, and we'd like to introduce them all to you.

**Lucille Crundell** has joined us as company accountant. Qualified as a Chartered Accountant, Lucille has spent a number of years working for an accountancy practice. Lucille confesses to loving the outdoor life, specifically in the form of camping and music festivals, and came to OF&G because she was looking for an all-round role in industry.

The OF&G Processor Department has undergone something of a radical overhaul in recent weeks and is now stronger than ever and being run by an enthusiastic new team, **Ruth Lamb** and **Joanna Gleeson**. Both bring years of practical experience in the food industry.

28-year-old Ruth holds a BSc (Hons) in Food Science and Food Technology from the University of Lincoln. Her career includes key roles at McCain Food GB, variously in production, ongoing improvement and the commissioning of new lines. As a mum of one Ruth said she was particularly enjoying the fact that life at OF&G doesn't entail working shifts!

Joanna, 29, has a degree in Food Business and a masters in Nutrition and HIV, from University College, Cork. She began her career in the UK with Cargill, in Wolverhampton, working in supplier assurance. She moved on to Dairy Crest in a similar role before latterly taking on ingredients development with First Milk. Joanna is a keen runner, swimmer and cyclist.

Chief Executive, Richard Jacobs, said: "We really are very pleased to welcome all of the new team members on board. They bring the kind of experience and enthusiasm OF&G looks for and will help us to ensure we continue to grow. It's a very exciting time for us and particularly for the Processor Department, which is an important part of our business."

## Evaluation Scheme

The following products have recently been accepted into the OF&G Evaluation Scheme as 'Product Approved for Use in Organic Systems' or 'Product Approved for Restricted Use, Derogation Required'

Category	Name	Supplier	Telephone	OF&G Status	Cert Expiry Date
Animal Feed Supplement	Biotol SC Original	Biotol Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Rockies Natural	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	Red Rockies Mineralised Salt Licks	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	Yellow Rockies Mineralised Salt Licks	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	Rockies Mag Rich Mineralised Salt Licks	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	Rockies Phos Rich Mineralised Salt Licks	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	Baby Rockies Pure Salt Licks	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	Copper Cobalt Selenium Lick	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	Iodine Cobalt Selenium Lick	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
	ICS Plus Lick	Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	01606 595000	Approved	31/10/08
Animal Health Product	Orego-Stim Powder	Meriden Animal Health Ltd	01234 436130	Approved	28/2/09
	Orego-Stim Liquid	Meriden Animal Health Ltd	01234 436130	Approved	28/2/09
	Ly-San Green	Labtec Ltd	01270 214004	Approved	28/2/09
	Thermovite Plus	Probiotics International	01935 822921	Restricted	28/2/09
	Protexin Lifestart	Probiotics International	01935 822921	Restricted	28/2/09
	StartRight	Probiotics International	01935 822921	Restricted	28/2/09
	Protexin Concentrate	Probiotics International	01935 822921	Restricted	28/2/09
Disinfectant/ Cleaning agent	Aquaform	Aquaform Ltd	01942 720830	Approved	30/10/08
Fertiliser	Law's Calcium	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Law's High K	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Law's High N	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Law's Magnesium	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Laws Foliar N	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Laws High P	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Laws N Extra	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Restricted	31/8/07
	Laws Super P	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Restricted	31/8/07
Paper Crumble Lime	NDMR Ltd	01388 765544	Approved	30/10/08	
Ingredients	Traditionally Harvested Sea Salt	Taviusa Lda	00 351 281 322 960	Approved	30/9/08
Insect Control	Exomite Apis Hive Cleanser	Exosect Ltd	02380 603939	Approved	31/7/08
	Exosex CM Auto-Confusion	Exosect Ltd	02380 603939	Approved	31/7/08
	Laws Insecticide	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Restricted	31/8/07
	Agrilure	Agrimin Ltd	01652 688046	Approved	31/12/08
Packaging	Transfresh Tectrol Pallet Bag System	Transfresh Corporation	0208 441 0198	Approved	31/12/08
Plant Disease Control	Law's Seed Protector	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Laws K Repellant	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Approved	31/8/07
	Law's Fungicide	Law Fertilisers Ltd	01354 740740	Restricted	31/8/07
	Plocher Plant Vital	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09
	Plocher Plant Vital F1	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09
Plant Health Product	Plocher Plant Do	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09
	Plocher Plant Me	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09
	Plocher Active Leaf	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09

Category	Name	Supplier	Telephone	OF&G Status	Cert Expiry Date
Silage Additive	Axphast Gold	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Axcool Gold	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Biohay	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Wholecrop Gold	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Wholecrop Legume	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Biocrimp	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Biograin	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Maizecool Gold	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Supersile	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Biostable	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Biostraw	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Solomaize	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Wholecrop Gold Mill	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
	Axphast Gold Granular	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08
Supersile Granular	Biototal Limited	02920 475550	Approved	31/10/08	
Soil Conditioner	Microsoil	Biomasters Inc (USA)	01793 533031	Restricted	30/11/08
	Windbreak - Soil Stabiliser	Hanslope Land Link Ltd	01728 638287	Approved	30/11/08
	Watton Special	Hanslope Land Link Ltd	01728 638287	Approved	30/11/08
	Twin N	Mapleton International Ltd	01666 822718	Restricted	31/1/09
	Plocher Slurry Treatment	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09
	Plocher Komposter	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09
	Plocher Soil Activator	Swift Nature	01280 822188	Approved	31/1/09
Vitamins and Minerals	3 in 1 Bucket	Zintec	01568 708008	Restricted	31/5/08
	Tailormade Minerals	Zintec	01568 708008	Restricted	31/5/08
	Micronutrient Cattle In Feed	Zintec	01568 708008	Restricted	31/5/08
	Lump Rock Salt	Ball of Madley Ltd	01981 250301	Approved	30/11/08
	All-Trace for Organic Cattle	Agrimin Ltd	01652 688046	Approved	31/12/08
	Labtec Spectrum	Labtec Ltd	01270 214004	Approved	28/2/09
	Labtec Multivit-Plus	Labtec Ltd	01270 214004	Approved	28/2/09
Labtec Xtra D3	Labtec Ltd	01270 214004	Approved	28/2/09	
Weed Control	Gromax Gro-Clean Bio Mulch BI-OPL	Gromax Industries Ltd	01473 657555	Approved	31/12/08