



Notification: 1902
Date: 2nd October 2019
Category: Certification Body Guidance
Title: Salt as a Certified Allowed Input

Background

Australian Organic Ltd issued a notification to Industry on 22nd June 2018, detailing that salt and water products could no longer be certified as Approved Products.

The notice was issued as these products are not of agricultural origin – hence cannot be reasonably described as being produce from Organic agriculture.

The Australian Certified Organic Standard 2019 v1 and the National Standard for Organic and Bio-dynamic Produce 3.7 clearly exclude water and salt from certification as organic, for the same reason.

However, naturally occurring mineral salt is allowable for use as a crop and livestock input (ACOS Annex I & II) and accordingly, can be certified as an Allowed Input. Where such salt products include the word “Organic” in the brand or product name, the requirements stipulated in ACOS 2019 v1 section 9.5.2 (as updated by Notification 1901), will apply.

There exists a potential for intentional or inadvertent misleading representation of salt in the marketplace as Organic.

Guidance for Certification Bodies:

Where a salt or salt product is a Certified Allowed Input for Organic Production, in addition to compliance with Section 9.5.2, additional care should be taken especially with regard to label approvals – to ensure such products are not being marketed for human consumption, or intended to imply that the salt is Certified Organic.

Consideration of pack size, label design, and intended market may be appropriate.

Example:

If a Certified Allowed Input for Organic Production rock salt with brand name, “ABC Organic Rock Salt” is being packed into 50gram grinder destined for retail supermarket or health food shop shelves – this could be considered a misleading use of the Allowed Input certification – and should be disallowed.

Implementation

The above changes come into effect immediately upon publishing of this Notification.

END