



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
B.4. Organics

Brussels,
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Dear Mr Bergada Parra,

Thank you for your email of 11 September 2017 on organic certification for fertilisers. Please accept my apologies for the late reply.

You explain in your email that you are a manufacturer of fertilisers and that you have two products which have been certified for use in organic farming by a certifying agency. You intend to sell these fertilisers to a foreign customer but this latter is asking for the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture to certify that these products can be used in organic farming. You ask whether the Commission can help you on this matter.

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007¹ and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008² lay down general and detailed rules on organic production and labelling.

Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 states that *"This Regulation shall apply to the following products originating from agriculture, including aquaculture, where such products are placed on the market or are intended to be placed on the market:*

- (a) live or unprocessed agricultural products;*
 - (b) processed agricultural products for use as food;*
 - (c) feed;*
 - (d) vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation.*
- The products of hunting and fishing of wild animals shall not be considered as organic production."*

Fertilisers are not included in this list of products and therefore cannot be certified as organic under Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. However, the use of fertilisers in organic farming is regulated by the above mentioned Regulations. Under paragraph 1 of Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, the Commission authorises fertilisers for use in organic production and include them in a restricted list. Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 lays down the list of fertilisers that may be used in organic production in the EU.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02007R0834-20130701&qid=1511453272627&from=EN>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02008R0889-20170521&qid=1511453219912&from=EN>

Mr Sergio Bergada Parra

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In addition, paragraph 2 of Article 16 requires that *"products and substances contained in the restricted list mentioned above may only be used in so far as the corresponding use is authorised in general agriculture in the Member States concerned in accordance with the relevant Community provisions or national provisions in conformity with Community law"*.

Therefore, I invite you to take contact with the Competent Authorities of the Member State in which you intend to market your product as the demand from your customer may arise from the need to verify that the use of these fertilizers is authorised in general agriculture in Spain.

A list of these authorities is provided, per Member State, on the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system_en

Yours Sincerely,



Nicolas VERLET
Head of Unit