



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate H - Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development
H.3. Organic farming

Brussels, **22 DEC. 2011**
AGRI H3/SC/lp D(2011) 1493587

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail dated 17 August 2011 asking for information on the EU legislation on organic production, in particular about additives authorised for use in organic food. You also ask if an organic apple certified under the EU standards may be sprayed with colouring or preservatives after it has left the place of production and before it enters the place of sale. Furthermore, you would like to know if packaging is included in the scope of the EU organic legislation and if there are specific rules on the types of material used.

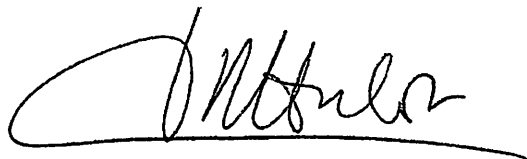
Article 21(1) and (2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 stipulates that additives and processing aids first have to be evaluated in line with the objectives, principles and criteria laid down in the Regulation and then authorised and included on a restricted list which may be used in organic production. You can find this list, which include some preservatives and anti-oxidants, in Annex VIII to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

As regards possible post-harvest treatments of plant products with plant protection products used to control the spreading of moulds, I inform you that in the relevant restricted list in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 are not included products for that use, apart from ethylene that can be used on Citrus fruits as a part of a strategy for the prevention of fruit fly damage.

As far as colouring is concerning, I would like to stress that this treatment is permitted, in accordance with EU legislation, in the case of stamping meat and in the case of eggshells and traditional decorative colouring of the shell of boiled eggs (please see Articles 27(1)(d) and 27(4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, respectively).

Finally, Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 does not specifically rule the type of packaging to be used on organic food. In this regard, organic food is covered by the European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hulot', written over a horizontal line.

Jean-François HULOT
Head of Unit

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