



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Brussels
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I would like to thank you for your email¹ of 14 June 2021 regarding the use of sodium carbonate as processing aid in organic processed food.

As mentioned in your e-mail, sodium carbonates (E 500) are allowed as food additive, this include the use of the 3 forms referred to in Regulation (EU) No 231/2012²; i.e: sodium carbonate, E 500 (i), sodium hydrogen carbonate, E 500 (ii) and sodium sesquicarbonate, E 500 (iii).

However, as regards processing aids, only the sodium carbonate E 500 (i) is authorised as a processing aid in accordance with section B of Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008³ following the specific evaluation of sodium carbonate (Na₂CO₃) carried out by the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) and mentioned in their report on food I⁴.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email of 14 June 2021 and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours faithfully,

¹ Ares(2021)3894725

² [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 231/2012 of 9 March 2012 laying down specifications for food additives listed in Annexes II and III to Regulation \(EC\) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council \(OJ L 083, 22.3.2012, p. 1\)](#)

³ [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control \(OJ L 250 18.9.2008, p. 1\)](#)

⁴ EGTOP report on food I (2012)