

Skal paper on pesticide residues

Source: Skal-Certificatiegrondslagen Biologische Productie Nederland Skal-R21 of Stichting Skal 26 March 2009, under article 24 "interpretations", subarticle 16-1.

Article 16, part 1 "..... a limitative list of products and the substances that are allowed to be used in organic farming..."

Interpretation:

- Annex I, II, V, VI, VII list the substances that may be used in organic farming. The use of products and substances that are not mentioned in article 16 part 1 and part 4 of regulation EC 834/2007 are allowed in organic farming provided they comply with the goals en principles of title II (EC-Regulation 834/2007)
- For a definition of 'plant protection product', see Section 1.1, letter g of the Pesticides Act.
- For a definition of 'fertiliser', see Section 1 of the Fertilisers Act. Fertilisers are either included in the list of fertilisers or a general or special sales/trading exemption has been granted by LNV (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries) or RIKILT-DLO (Agricultural Research Department of the Institute of Food Safety).

Skal can analyse samples to assess whether a product contains prohibited substances. The analysis method employed must be accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. The result of the laboratory analysis is then adjusted with a measurement uncertainty of 50% between the laboratory results. In the event of a processed end product, the resulting values will be converted to those of a fresh product. This calculation yields a value.

- Values of less than 0.01 mg/kg⁵ constitute no grounds for further investigation. In that event, the product may be sold as organic. If Skal has evidence suggesting use/fraud, Skal will substantiate it and notify the affiliate.
- If this value is greater than or equal to 0.01 mg/kg, Skal will initiate a period of doubt. During this period, the products may not be sold, and Skal and the affiliate will have to supply information supporting a decision for release or rejection (decertification) in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) 889/2008, article 91. Skal bases its decision on the interpretation of the analysis results by the competent authorities, including the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority and accredited laboratories. Skal also uses information from monitoring programmes. Exceptions (persistent agents) are possible and are substantiated by the certification agency.

To assess how far into the chain the rejection/recall of processed products referring to the organic production method is to be pursued, Skal will solicit the advice of a crisis pool of representatives of farmers, processors, traders and consumers.

Explanation:

⁵ The value of 0.01 mg/kg is derived from the limit set for infant formulae (Directive 91/321/EEC of 14 May 1991 on infant formulae and follow-on formulae).