



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H. Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development  
**H.3. Organic farming**

**- 5 JUL. 2013**

Brussels,  
RL/sam agri.ddg3.h.3(2013)2713895

**Subject: Use of conventional yeast in organic products**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2013 requesting clarification on the use of conventional yeast in organic products.

Article 23(4)(a)(ii) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>1</sup> provides that processed food can be labelled as organic (in the sales description) where at least 95% by weight of ingredients of agricultural origin are organic. This means, in other words, that a maximum of 5% of ingredients of agricultural origin can be non-organic.

As of 31 December 2013, the calculation of ingredients of agricultural origin will have to take into account yeast and yeast products (Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008<sup>2</sup>, Article 27(2)c)), in the same way as food additives listed in Annex VIII of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and marked with an asterisk must currently be taken into account.

As you rightly point out, organic yeast shall not be present in food or feed together with non-organic yeast (Regulation 834/2007, Article 20(2)).

It follows from the above-mentioned provisions that, subject to respect of the EU organic legislation, it will be possible to use non-organic yeast up to 5% by weight of the total ingredients of agricultural origin, provided that the other 95% ingredients of agricultural origin, which must be organic, do not include organic yeast.

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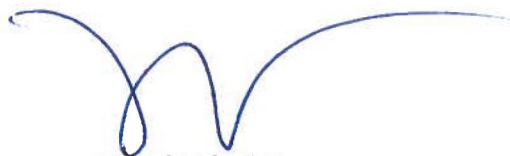
<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.(O.J. L 189 , 20/07/2007, p. 1.)

<sup>2</sup> 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.(O.J. L 250 , 18/09/2008, p. 1.)

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The present information is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your letter and on the understanding that in the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours faithfully,



João ONOFRE