

Appendix 2: A Single Reference to Whole Foods in IFOAM Standards

The IFOAM Basic Standards for Organic Production and Processing, Version 2005

Appendix 1: Criteria for the evaluation of inputs, additions & processing aids for organic production & processing

B) Processing and Handling Criteria

Introduction

These criteria apply to the evaluation of food additives and food processing aids. Substances used for technical, sensory, and dietary purposes are subject to these criteria. The criteria may also apply to substances in contact with food. For food processing, an input, non-organic ingredient, additive, or processing aid shall be essential to maintain or improve human health, environmental safety, animal welfare, product quality, production efficiency, consumer acceptance, ecological protection, biodiversity, or landscape. Carriers and preservatives used in the preparation of additives and processing aids must also be taken into consideration. The following aspects and criteria should be used to evaluate additives and processing aids in organic food products. All of the criteria below shall be fully and positively documented in a dossier and review for an input to be allowed in organic processing.

1 Necessity and Alternatives

All dossiers shall document the necessity of the additive, processing aid, or carrier, its essential nature in organic processing and for the proposed application, and the availability of alternative methods, practices, and inputs.

Each substance shall be evaluated with respect to its specific uses and applications, and shall be added when it is demonstrated to be absolutely essential and necessary for the production of a specific food that is consistent with organic principles stated in the IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS).

1.1. All dossiers shall take into consideration the technical feasibility of the following alternatives:

- a. **Whole foods** that are organically produced according to the IBS.
- b. Foods that are organically produced and processed according to the IBS.
- c. Purified products of raw materials of non-agricultural origin, e.g. salt.
- d. Purified products of raw materials of an agricultural origin that have not been organically produced and processed according to the IBS but appear on Appendix 4.

1.2 If an ingredient is required to manufacture a processed food product to independently established minimum technical specifications recognized by consumers, and no organic substitute is available, then a non-organic ingredient can be deemed essential.