

Labeling Recommendations -- 1994

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATION GENERAL ORGANIC FOOD LABELING STANDARDS

Adopted: June 5, 1994
Location: Santa Fe, New Mexico

[NOTE: All foods must conform to federal food labeling regulations. For foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, see Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21; for foods regulated by the Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, see Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9.]

1. CALCULATION OF THE TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED INGREDIENTS

A. This section applies to any food that purports to be organic or to contain organically produced food ingredients (i.e., the product label or labeling bears the term "organic" or makes any direct or indirect representation that the food is organic or contains organically produced ingredients).

B. The total percentage of organically produced ingredients in the food shall be calculated from the actual amounts of the listed ingredients:

1. By weight or optionally by fluid volume if all the ingredients of the food are liquid;
2. By excluding the ingredients air, water and salt (sodium chloride) from the calculation; and
3. On the basis of single-strength concentration for food concentrates reconstituted with water, if the food is identified as being from concentrate on the principal display panel or in the product identity statement.

C. The total percentage of organically produced ingredients in a food shall be declared by the words "Contains ____percent (or %) organic ingredients" or "____percent (or %) organic ingredients" or a similar phrase, with the blank filled in with the percentage expressed as a whole number not greater than the actual total percentage of organically produced ingredients in the food.

D. The total percentage of organic ingredients in a food purporting to be organic or to contain organically produced ingredients shall be considered mandatory labeling information.

E. The total percentage of organic ingredients in a food purporting to be organic or to contain organically produced ingredients shall be calculated by the handler and verified by a certifying agency accredited by the Secretary through documentary submissions and spot checks. Each handler shall be subject to not less than one spot check for each year of certification.

2. FOODS THAT ARE "ORGANIC FOODS" (I.E., THE COMMON OR USUAL NAME OF THE FOOD IS "ORGANIC **.")**

A. Composition and processing requirements:

The requirements for Section A are not accepted as of this time as a Board Final Recommendation.

B. Labeling

1. Requirements:

- a. Declare the total percentage of organic ingredients on the information panel above the ingredient listing;
- b. Identify each organic ingredient in the ingredient declaration with the words "organic" or "organically grown;"
- c. Identify the Certifying Agent (provide the name and address) who certified the Handler, immediately adjacent to the information identifying the manufacturer or distributor of the food as currently required by food regulations.

2. Prohibitions:

- a. Must not declare the percentage of organic ingredients on the principal display panel unless:

(i) the ingredient listing is on the principal display panel; or

(ii) the food is composed wholly of organic agricultural products, salt and water and the percentage of organic ingredients is 100%.

- b. Must not use any percentage modifying the organic nature of food or an ingredient on the principal display panel unless the food is composed wholly of organic agricultural products, salt and water and the percentage of organic ingredients is 100%.

- c. Must not use the term "organic when available."

3. Optional label statements (not an all inclusive list):

- a. A USDA organic emblem (shield), to be created by USDA;
- b. The seal, emblem or logo of the Certifying Agent

3. FOODS THAT ARE LABELED "MADE WITH ORGANIC INGREDIENT(S)".

A. Composition and processing requirements:

The requirements for Section A are not accepted as of this time as a Board Final Recommendation.

B. Labeling

1. Requirements:

- a. Declare the percentage of organic ingredients on the information panel above the ingredient listing;

- b. Identify each organic ingredient in the ingredient declaration with the words "organic" or "organically grown;"
- c. Identify the Certifying Agent (provide the name and address) who certified the Handler, immediately adjacent to the information identifying the manufacturer or distributor of the food as currently required by food regulations.

2. Prohibitions:

- a. Must not declare the percentage of organic ingredients on the principal display panel, other than above the ingredient listing;
- b. Must not use any percentage modifying the organic nature of food or an ingredient on the principal display panel;
- c. Must not use the term "organic when available."
- d. Must not use a USDA organic emblem (shield).
- e. Must not use the seal, emblem or logo of the Certifying Agent

3. Optional label statements (not an all inclusive list):

- a. On the Principal Display Panel, the term "organic" may be used only to identify clearly and unambiguously the organically produced ingredients and must not list both organic and non-organic ingredients in conjunction with the word organic. The type size of the term "organic" cannot be larger than three-fourths the size of the name of the food.

4. FOODS THAT ARE LABELED WITH AN INGREDIENT DECLARATION AS CONTAINING ORGANIC INGREDIENT(S).

A. Composition and processing requirements:

The requirements for Section A are not accepted as of this time as a Board Final Recommendation.

B. Labeling

The requirements for Section B are not accepted as of this time as a Board Final Recommendation.

5. INGREDIENT DECLARATIONS FOR FOODS PURPORTING TO CONTAIN ORGANICALLY PRODUCED INGREDIENTS.

A. Definitions.

1. Ingredient For the purpose of labeling foods purporting to contain organically produced ingredients, an "ingredient" is defined as any substance used in the preparation of the food product that is still present in the final product as consumed, even if in modified form.

2. Processing Aid For the purpose of labeling foods purporting to contain organically produced ingredients, a "processing aid" means a substance that is added to food during the processing of

such food but is removed from the food before it is packaged in its finished form, that meets the definition of 21 CFR101.100(a)(3)(ii)(a).