

## National List Recommendations -- 2000

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The National Organic Standards Board is aware of a number of substances presently used in organic production, handling and processing that have not been petitioned for inclusion on the National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances. As a result, the Board anticipates receiving a large number of materials petitions over the next 12 to 18 months. Since the accompanying Technical Advisory Panel reviews cannot be completed simultaneously, the NOSB has established the following draft criteria for prioritizing the order in which the substances are reviewed. These draft criteria are being made available to the public for feedback and informal comment to ensure a smooth and timely material review process.

### General Petition Guidelines

Any petition to reconsider a material would automatically go to the bottom of the list unless the petition was for removal of the substance from the List.

Any petition to remove a material presently on the list would be examined and moved to the top of the list if the NOSB concluded that the issue raised serious health or regulatory concerns.

### In prioritizing substance petitions the NOSB will consider the following criteria:

▶	Versatility	Is the substance used in a wide range of products and/or by a number of users?
▶	Proportionality	Is the substance selected from livestock, crops and processing in relationship to the numbers of materials petitioned and awaiting action, with some emphasis on livestock medications to prevent animal suffering?
▶	Acceptance	Is the substance acceptable in international trade?

### Background

The NOSB carefully considered the "essentiality" criterion for end users. In the course of its discussions, the Board became concerned that such a criterion is too subjective to be useful for prioritizing materials prior to a TAP review. It is the belief of the NOSB that "versatility" captures the critical aspects of "essentiality".

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### How To Comment:

This is an informal comment process sponsored by the NOSB. Please mark all comments "Petition Process". The comment period will close November 4, 2000. Comments may be submitted electronically and by mail or by fax as follows:

Electronically:      [bob.pooler@usda.gov](mailto:bob.pooler@usda.gov)

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