NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATION ADDENDUM NUMBER 27 CHILEAN NITRATE SPECIAL USE GUIDELINES

Date adopted: November 1, 1995

Location: Austin, Texas

Recommendation:

The use of Chilean Nitrate (16-0-0) in organic crop production is limited to not more than 20 percent of total nitrogen supplied to a crop. The producer's Farm Plan shall contain specific provisions and strategies designed to substantially reduce the use of Chilean Nitrate over time. The amount and timing of these reductions will be consistent with documented site specific constraints. The Farm Plan will seek to explore each and every alternative to the routine use of Chilean Nitrate in the farming system. These alternatives include, but are not limited to: composting, improvement of compost, leguminous cover crops, interplanting, rotations, microbial enhancements, animal manures, varietal selections, planting date alterations, and reducing amounts of applied supplemental nitrogen. The timing and efficiency of Chilean Nitrate applications shall be optimized and documented in the Farm Plan. Certifiers will monitor progress in the reduction of Chilean Nitrate use and will decertify farmers that develop long term dependence on this material. Strong farmer commitment, aggressive action, and measurable results are all necessary elements of this special use of Chilean Nitrate.

This policy shall be reviewed within two years.