

National Organic Standards Board Meeting, May 6-8, 2002, Austin, Texas

Processing Committee Final Recommendation: Orange Shellac (unbleached)

Introduction:

Orange Shellac (unbleached) is petitioned primarily for use as a coating agent. It is also used as a color diluent, surface finishing agent, glazing/polishing agent and for use in confectionary, food supplement tablets as well as chewing gum.

Background:

Shellac is derived from the hardened secretion of the lac insect. The TAP reviewers were split with 2 categorizing it as nonsynthetic and 1 as synthetic. The reviewer determining orange shellac (unbleached) as synthetic did state that impure shellac appeared to be a natural product and that a strong argument could be made for its compatibility with organic handling principles. After reviewing the information included in the TAP review the processing committee determined orange shellac (unbleached) to be a nonsynthetic agricultural material.

Recommendation:

Orange Shellac (unbleached) to be listed in 205.606 Nonorganically produced agricultural products allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic” (specified ingredients or food group(s)).

Committee Vote:

Approved – 4
Disapproved – 0
Absent – 1

Conclusion:

This recommendation determines orange shellac (unbleached) to be an agricultural product to be listed in 205.606 for use in products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic.”