

Formal Recommendation
From: National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
To: the National Organic Program (NOP)

Date: October 30, 2020

Subject: Low Acyl Gellan Gum

NOSB Chair: Steve Ela

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Rulemaking Action: **X**

Statement of the Recommendation:

In reviewing materials provided by the petitioner, public comments received from the organic community, and technical information contained in the 2018 Technical Review on gums, the Board recommends the addition of low acyl gellan gum to the National List.

In its review, the Board finds that, with the exception of the USDA organic regulations, low acyl gellan gum is viewed from a regulatory and food safety perspective as identical to the high acyl form. From an environmental and human health perspective, the production of this substance does not present significant concerns. Low acyl gellan gum provides a vegetarian option in the production of capsules for supplements and vitamins.

Rationale Supporting Recommendation:

Low acyl gellan gum is a product of fermentation, a process through which no chemical change takes place. However, in the deacetylation stage of its final production, a chemical change does occur, deeming this substance synthetic. Because of this, the substance cannot technically be produced from a natural substance.

The production of low acyl gellan gum, its use, and its disposal have minimal adverse effects on the environment. Information presented by the petitioner indicates waste from the fermentation media will be discharged to the municipal sewage treatment plant and will be present in only trace amounts. A recovery procedure is used to reclaim isopropyl alcohol used in its manufacture.

While there are other gums included on the National List, low acyl gellan gum holds properties that are distinct enough from the other gums as to warrant its inclusion and as noted above, presents the ability to provide vegetarian options in the production of capsules.

NOSB Vote:

Classification Motion:

Motion to classify low acyl gellan gum as nonagricultural, synthetic

Motion by: Scott Rice

Seconded by: Jerry D'Amore

Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Recuse: 0

National List Motion:

Motion to add low acyl gellan gum to the National List at §205.605(b)

Motion by: Scott Rice

Seconded by: Jerry D'Amore

Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstain: 1 Absent: 0 Recuse: 0

Motion Passed

[\[Fall 2020 Original Subcommittee Proposal - Low Acyl Gellan Gum\]](#)