

**Formal Recommendation by the
National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
to the National Organic Program (NOP)**

Date: October 28, 2010

Subject: Sunset Review of phosphoric acid as listed on §205.605 (b), Nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

Chair: Daniel G. Giacomini

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Rulemaking Action X
Guidance Statement
Other

Statement of the Recommendation (Including Recount of Vote):

Phosphoric acid is listed on 205.605(b) with the annotation “cleaning of food-contact surfaces and equipment only.” This substance was scheduled to sunset off the National List in 2012, was reviewed by the NOSB, and a motion was made for the re-listing of this substance at the October 2010 meeting.

Rationale Supporting Recommendation (including consistency with OFPA and NOP):

The Handling Committee’s recommendation covering this material is attached. There were no public written or verbal comments opposing the committee’s recommendation, and the material was recommended for relisting by the full NOSB as shown below.

NOSB Vote:

Moved: Joe Dickson		Second: Tracy Miedema		
Yes: 14	No: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 0	Recusal: 0

**National Organic Standards Board
Handling Committee
Sunset Recommendation – 2012
Phosphoric Acid**

September 7, 2010

List: 205.605 Nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

(b) Synthetics allowed

Phosphoric acid —cleaning of food-contact surfaces and equipment only.

Committee Summary

Phosphoric acid is used in cleaning operations to remove encrusted surface matter and mineral scale found on metal equipments such as boilers and steam producing equipment. The chemical reaction of phosphoric acid with minerals found in deposits makes them water soluble and easy to remove. The original technical review found phosphoric acid to necessary for organic processing and to meet the OFPA 2119(m) criteria when used for the cleaning of food contact surfaces and equipment only.

Review of the original recommendation, historical documents, and public comments does not reveal unacceptable risks to the environment, human, or animal health as a result of the use or manufacture of this material. There is no new information contradicting the original recommendation which was the basis for the previous NOSB decision to list this material.

Committee Recommendation(s)

The handling committee recommends the renewal of the following substances in this use category as published in the final rule:

Phosphoric acid —cleaning of food-contact surfaces and equipment only.

Committee Vote

Motion: Joe Dickson	Second: Steve DeMuri		
Yes: 6	No: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 1