

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

Date: October 29, 2015

Subject: Reclassification of Carnauba Wax to §205.606

NOSB Chair: Jean Richardson

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Rulemaking Action: X

Guidance Statement:

Other:

Statement of the Recommendation:

Rationale Supporting Recommendation

Evaluation Question #2 of the 2014 TR goes into detail on how carnauba wax is extracted from palm trees. The subcommittee compared this process with the Draft Guidance on Classification of Materials (NOP Guidance 5033) and determined that carnauba wax should be considered agricultural based on the definition of "agricultural product" at §205.2 of the Federal rule. Furthermore, there is some organically grown carnauba on the market.

NOSB Vote:

Motion to classify carnauba wax as agricultural and move its listing to section §205.606

Motion by: Zea Sonnabend

Second: Tracy Favre

Yes: 12 No: 1 Abstain: 1 Absent: 0 Recuse: 0

Outcome: Motion Passed

**National Organic Standards Board
Handling Subcommittee Proposal
Re-classification of Carnauba Wax to §205.606
August 4, 2015**

Introduction

In the course of the Sunset 2017 Review of Carnauba Wax, information from the Technical Report (TR) from 2014 indicates that this is an agricultural substance.

Background

During the creation of the National List, Carnauba was included in the review of "Fruit Waxes" under the Crops Committee because it was considered a post-harvest handling substance. It was never classified as either agricultural or non-agricultural at that time. When the rule came out it was on the Handling section of the National List at 205.601(a).

Carnauba wax is an exudate from the leaves and buds of the palm tree *Copernicia cerifera*, also known as *Copernicia prunifera*, which grows almost exclusively in northeastern Brazil. It is used to coat fruit and vegetables, candies and as a base for chewing gum.

Relevant areas in the Rule

§205.605(a) and §205.606.

Discussion

Evaluation Question #2 of the 2014 TR goes into detail on how the Carnauba wax is extracted from the palm trees. The subcommittee compared this process with the Draft Guidance on Classification of Materials (NOP Guidance 5033) and determined that carnauba wax could be considered agricultural based on the definition of "agricultural product" at §205.2 of the Federal rule. Furthermore, there is some organically grown carnauba on the market.

When the question of re-classification was posed in the first round of public comments, no comments were received that posed concerns about this change.

Subcommittee Vote

Motion to classify Carnauba Wax as agricultural and move its listing to section §205.606

Motion by: Zea Sonnabend

Second: Tracy Favre

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 Recuse: 0

Approved by Tom Chapman, Subcommittee Chair, to transmit to NOSB August 25, 2015