

**National Organic Standards Board
Handling Committee
2013 Sunset Proposal
Calcium Sulfate on § 205.605(a)**

March 20, 2012

Current National List Citation

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)).”

(a) Nonsynthetics allowed

Calcium sulfate—mined.

Committee Summary

Calcium sulfate can be chemically synthesized, or mined as gypsum. As a food additive, it is used as a coagulant in tofu production (the original petitioned use), and also as a nutrient, dough conditioner, sequestrant, jelling aid, firming agent, leavening agent, and pH buffer, among other uses. The use of gypsum as a tofu coagulant can be traced back at least 2000 years, according to the 2001 Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) review, which considered all food additive uses of this substance. The panel also found that the use of calcium sulfate was necessary for the production of certain types of tofu.

Processing of mined gypsum deposits into food grade calcium sulfate is minimal; mined deposits are crushed, screened, milled, graded and packaged in food grade facilities. The current annotation restricts the use of calcium sulfate to that from mined sources only.

Review of the original recommendation, the 2001 TAP review, historical documents, the 2007 sunset recommendation, and public comments does not reveal unacceptable risks to the environment, human, or animal health as a result of the use or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 decisions to list and again re-list this material.

Committee Recommendation(s)

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

Calcium sulfate – mined.

Committee Vote

Motion: Tracy Favre Second: Harold Austin
Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0 Absent: 1