

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

Date: April 29, 2011

Subject: Lignin Sulfonate § 205.601(I) relisting for Sunset 2012

Chair: Tracy Miedema

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Rulemaking Action ☒ X
Guidance Statement
Other

Statement of the Recommendation (Including Recount of Vote):

The Board recommends the continued listing of Lignin Sulfonate on 205.601 (I)
As floating agents in post harvest handling.

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

There were concerns during the last round of sunset for this material about its fate in waste water when it is used as a flotation agent. On February 15, 2011 the Crops Committee addressed this concern with an annotation to relist lignin sulfonate on 205.601 (I) with the amended annotation: As floating agents in postharvest handling, subject to wastewater disposal documentation in the Organic Systems Plan to prevent adverse impact to aquatic life. It was also noted that there is a duplicate listing as a flotation agent in (j) As plant or soil amendments, so the Crops Committee is recommending relisting lignin sulfonate as plant or soil amendments with the annotation change: chelating agent, dust suppressant (see separate recommendation). The Crops Committee considered new public comment in reviewing this material, finding that existing regulatory oversight is adequate to the task of monitoring wastewater disposal concerns and recommended relisting this material as is.

Committee Vote:

Moved: John Foster		Second: Steve Demuri		
Yes: 14	No: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 0	Recusal: 0

**National Organic Standards Board
Crops Committee
2012 Sunset Proposed Recommendation
Lignin sulfonate**

April 29, 2011

List: §205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production.

- (l) As floating agents in postharvest handling.
 - (1) Lignin sulfonate.

Committee Summary

There were concerns during the last round of sunset for this material about its fate in waste water when it is used as a flotation agent. On February 15, 2011 the Crops Committee addressed this concern with an annotation to relist lignin sulfonate on 205.601 (l) with the amended annotation: As floating agents in postharvest handling, subject to wastewater disposal documentation in the Organic Systems Plan to prevent adverse impact to aquatic life. It was also noted that there is a duplicate listing as a flotation agent in (j) As plant or soil amendments, so the Crops Committee is recommending relisting lignin sulfonate as plant or soil amendments with the annotation change: chelating agent, dust suppressant.

The Crops Committee considered new public comment in reviewing this material, finding that existing regulatory oversight is adequate to the task of monitoring wastewater disposal concerns and did not reconsider the motion for the listing of this material as a crop or soil input.

Committee Recommendation

Relist lignin sulfonate on § 205.601(l): As floating agents in postharvest handling (1) Lignin sulfonate

Committee Vote

Motion: Tina Ellor	Second: Steve Demuri			
Yes: 7	No: 0	Absent: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse: 0