

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

Date: October 30, 2020

Subject: Ion Exchange Filtration Process and Materials Used

NOSB Chair: Steve Ela

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Other: None

Statement of the Recommendation:

The NOSB vote on the proposal on Ion Exchange Filtration Process and Materials Used failed.

Rationale Supporting Recommendation:

Ion exchange filtration is widely used in the organic processing industry. Following conflicting interpretations as to whether only the recharge materials or both recharge materials and resins need to be on the National List, the National Organic Program asked the NOSB to evaluate which approach would be appropriate. The attached NOSB recommendation that only recharge materials be on the National List was voted down by the full NOSB board. This was based on stakeholder testimony calling into question the legal interpretations of food contact substances and questions on whether the resins degrade and are present in the final organic product. While this recommendation was not passed by the full NOSB board, the NOSB would like to continue working on a recommendation for the Spring 2021 board meeting. The recommendation would incorporate and respond to stakeholder comments from the Fall 2020 meeting.

NOSB Vote:

Motion to approve the recommendation on ion exchange materials

Motion by: Steve Ela

Seconded by: Scott Rice

Yes: 9 No: 6 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0

Motion Failed

[\[Fall 2020 Original Subcommittee Proposal - Ion Exchange Filtration Process and Materials Used\]](#)