

Guideline No. P1/2016

Pacific Organic Standard(POS) Preservatives and stabilizers for fish waste fertilizers

1. Purpose

This guideline provides clarification on allowable stabilisers and preservatives for fish waste fertilizers under the Pacific Organic Standard.

2. Scope

This guidance applies to all POETCom Approved Certification Partners (ACPs) and Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

3. Background

Queries have been made as to the use of various acids, in particular Formic Acid as a preservative or stabilizer in the production of fish waste based fertilizer.

The POS Appendix 1 provides an indicative list of substances permitted for use in organic production under the POS. Formic Acid is allowable as a cleaning agent as listed in Table 4.

The POS 5.9.11 permits use of Formic Acid for pest and disease control in Bee hives.

Formic acid is not allowed for the purpose of stabilizing or preserving under NASAA or BioGro Organic Standards. In other standards it is less clear but interpreted as not allowed.

The USDA National Organic Programme allows restricted use of citric, phosphoric and sulphuric acids.

4. Guidelines

Formic acid is not allowed for use as a stabilizer or preservative under the POS.

Citric, and phosphoric acids are permitted for this purpose.

Other non acid options include micro organisms.

The amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower the pH to 3.5.

5. References

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)

National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Organic Standard (2012)

USDA National Organic Programme

BioGro Organic Standard (2014)