



## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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### All programmes

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#### **Approval and certification of nitrogen fertilisers for use in organic agriculture**

Many of you will be aware that earlier this year (February 20th) the National Organic Program in the USA issued new [guidelines](#) for the approval of high (> 3%) nitrogen fertilisers specifically requiring on-site inspection (where before this hasn't been the practice) of the input manufacturer following a case in which, as the NOP phrased it, they were 'no longer confident that the ..... (two) liquid fertiliser products can be shown to be compliant with the NOP regulations'.

Given that synthetic nitrogen fertilisers are clearly prohibited by most organic standards and the advantage that can be gained by their use, knowingly or unknowingly, the IOAS would like to draw attention to this threat and heighten vigilance by CBs on a global level.

We would like to point out that any 'organic' fertiliser with nitrogen levels of 3%+ should immediately be considered high risk and should be subject to additional scrutiny. Therefore the IOAS are requiring that any CB that is either certifying or approving a high nitrogen fertiliser product should assure themselves during 2009 that the nitrogen sources in such products are from permitted sources..The IOAS will be verifying these measures during 2010.

This does not mean however that lower %N products are automatically low risk as enhancement with synthetic N can lead to significantly lower production costs to the manufacturer. At the same time we are not suggesting that all 'organic' fertilisers are suddenly highly suspect.

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