



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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Food processing - addition of minerals, vitamins and other isolated ingredients

Ifoam Basic Standard 6.2.3 requires that CB standards shall require that:

'Minerals (including trace elements), vitamins and similar isolated ingredients shall not be used unless their use is legally required or where severe dietary or nutritional deficiency can be demonstrated.'

A recent discussion within the IOAS addressed the specific component of this requirement relating to being 'legally required' and the issue of products being shipped to external markets.

The question was whether if in the place of production there was a legal requirement for a certain substance but the (or one of the) market(s) for that product did not have that same legal requirement, then could the manufacturer use the substance in question?

The IOAS concluded not. It is the law in the the market, not the place of production, that should govern the possible use of such substances. By extension, if a manufacturer was supplying the product to various markets in which the laws differ on this topic, then the manufacturer should be required to produce different formulations, with or without the added substance.

The same would apply to the other reason for possible use mentioned in the standard, that of 'demonstrated severe dietary or nutritional deficiency'. The evidence for such relates to the market not the place of production.

Ifoam accredited certification bodies are required to apply this consideration immediately but may give time for clients to adapt.

End