



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
The Director



I would like to thank you for your email¹ of 8 March 2021, which concerns the possibility to use the feed additive “choline chloride” in organic production.

Feed additives for use in organic livestock production have to be authorised in accordance with point (d)(iv) of Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007². In accordance with point 3(a) of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008³, vitamins and provitamins are authorised under the following conditions:

“derived from agricultural products.

If derived synthetically, only those identical to vitamins derived from agricultural products may be used for monogastric animals and aquaculture animals.

If derived synthetically, only vitamins A, D and E identical to vitamins derived from agricultural products may be used for ruminants; the use is subject to prior authorisation of the Member States based on the assessment of the possibility for organic ruminants to obtain the necessary quantities of the said vitamins through their feed rations.”

Choline chloride is a feed additive authorised in conventional agriculture in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 795/2013⁴. In accordance with the Report of the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition on the classification of vitamins⁵, Choline chloride is listed under ‘Vitamins and Provitamins’. Choline chloride does not correspond to a provitamin, as it is not converted within the body to a vitamin.

Consequently, Choline chloride used for animal nutrition is considered as a vitamin and is authorised in organic production under the conditions mentioned above.

¹ Ares(2021)1685670

² [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation \(EEC\) No 2092/91 \(OJ L 189, 20.07.2007, p. 1\)](#)

³ [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control \(OJ L 250, 18.9.2008, p. 1\)](#)

⁴ [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 795/2013 of 21 August 2013 concerning the authorisation of choline chloride as a feed additive for all animal species \(OJ L 224, 22.8.2013, p. 1\)](#)

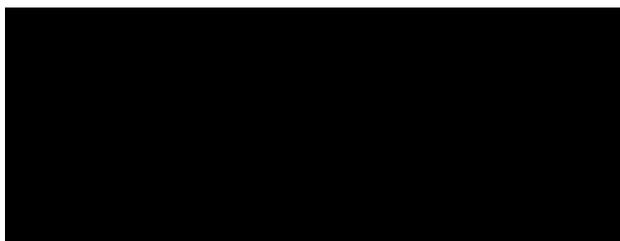
⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/sci-com_scan-old_report_other-05.pdf



Please note that similar provisions on vitamins and provitamins authorised as feed additive in organic production exist in the draft Commission Implementing Regulation authorising certain products and substances for use in organic production and establishing their list that is currently under discussion and based on Article 24(9) of the Regulation (EU) No 2018/848⁶.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email of 8 March 2021 and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,



⁶ [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 \(OJ L 150, 14.6.2018 p.1 \)](#)