



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy  
**B.4. Organics**

Brussels,

██████████/agri.ddg1.b.4(2016)7433580

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Thank you for your concern about specific precautions to be taken with respect to cleaning and disinfection of organic food processing facilities. The hygiene package<sup>1</sup> is the relevant legislation regarding products that are allowed for cleaning and disinfecting of food processing facilities and equipment (see [http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/food\\_hygiene\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/food_hygiene_en)). The current EU regulation on organic agriculture does not give any specific rules in relation to cleaning products that can be used in food processing facilities which deal with organic food (the only exception concerns milking facilities; Annex VII of Commission Regulation 889/2008<sup>2</sup>). However, the operators have to comply with the rules set out in Article 26(4) (b) of Regulation 889/2008. Notably, they shall implement suitable cleaning measures, monitor their effectiveness and record these operations.

For your interest, the EU legislative framework on organic production is composed by Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>3</sup> and its implementing rules (Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008<sup>4</sup>).

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 29 July 2016 and on the understanding that in the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulations (EC) No 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products – Official Journal of the EU L 189 of 20/07/2007.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries.

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European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

