



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, IN CHARGE OF DIRECTORATES A AND B

Brussels,  
RLcde/ARESAagri.ddg1.b.4(2015)861663

**Subject:       Organic glycerin**

Dear Dott. Mocciaro,

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2015 concerning organic glycerin.

Following a thorough internal discussion, we consider that glycerine (aka glycerol) is covered by the EU organic legislation when it is a processed agricultural product for use as food.

To be certified as organic, its production must be in line with the objectives, principles and rules of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>1</sup>. In particular, it shall be produced mainly from ingredients of agricultural origin. In addition, it shall not be produced using substances and processing methods that might be misleading regarding its true nature.

If those objectives, principles and rules are respected, glycerin may be certified as organic and bear the EU organic production logo, whether it is intended to be used as ingredient or additive in food. In order to be used as an additive in food, it has of course to be authorised according to Article 19 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

However, it should be clear that, if glycerin is produced for uses other than food (e.g. cosmetics), it is not covered by Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and can therefore not be certified according to this Regulation and cannot bear the EU organic production logo.

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<sup>1</sup> 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, 20.7.2007, p. 1)

Dott. Giacomo MOCCIARO  
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The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email of 9 January 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 European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Clarke', is positioned above the typed name.

John CLARKE po  
Monique PARIAT