



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Deputy Director General, in charge of Directorates A, B and C

Brussels,

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According to Article 12(1)(h) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 plant protection products (PPP) may only be used if they have been authorised for use in organic production under Article 16. Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 lists active substances of the plant protection products authorised for use in organic farming.

According to the last paragraph of Article 16(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 "Products and substances contained in the restricted list may only be used in so far as the corresponding use is authorised in general agriculture in the Member States concerned in accordance with the relevant Community provisions or national provisions in conformity with Community law." Thus, authorisation for the use of PPPs is granted nationally according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, and the conditions for use and the composition of the PPP may differ among the Member States. Some Member States may not authorise the use of a PPP for general agriculture in their territory.

Nevertheless, when a PPP is used in one or more Member States, residues of the active substance are covered by the EU legislation on Maximum Residue Levels (Regulation 396/2005) and Member States have to accept treated products if these residues are at or lower than the MRL fixed. Pyrethrins, a natural plant extract, are an active substance that forms the basis of PPPs used to control insects. EU MRLs are fixed for pyrethrins and you can find information on the pesticide database¹ on the EU MRLS and on the approval of pyrethrins in individual Member States²

Piperonyl butoxide (PPB) is an adjuvant, which is a component of a PPP. It is added to an active substance, such as pyrethrins, to make it more effective (a synergist). Pyrethrins are allowed in organic farming, but only according to the conditions specified in the national authorisations for use according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, which could include the addition of PPB.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/public/?event=activesubstance.detail&language=EN&selectedID=1798>

² pyrethrins are currently authorised in the following Member States: AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LU, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, UK

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Since adjuvants are not active substances there are no EU MRLs fixed at EU level in Regulation (EC) 396/2005. According to Article 81 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 in the absence of EU rules, Member States may apply national provisions for the authorisation of adjuvants, within their territory, provided that they notify the Commission and the other Member States.

Lastly, please note that the present information is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email 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 Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

