



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Brussels,
BD/nb(2019)7110029

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail concerning imports of organic limes from Brazil. You explain that, according to Commission Directive 2000/29 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community¹, measures have to be taken to prevent the spread of citrus canker and that organic limes imported from Brazil should be treated to prevent the risk of this plant disease to be introduced in the EU. In your understanding organic limes should be treated with clove oil of organic origin.

The rules on the treatment of organic products with plant protection products are laid down in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007² and Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008³. According to the referred provisions, only products and substances authorised and listed in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 may be used inorganic production.

One of the product authorised and listed in the referred Annex are plant oils; clove oil is a type of plant oil approved in the EU⁴. It is not required that plant oils, including clove oil are organic or obtained from organic raw material. Therefore, you may use clove oil and not necessarily organic clove oil or oil from organic cloves.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 14 January 2019 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

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1571149424023&uri=CELEX:02000L0029-20180401>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1571149621028&uri=CELEX:02007R0834-20130701>

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32008R0889>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/public/?event=activesubstance.selection&language=EN>



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,

