



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Brussels,
 BD/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2020)1109679

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 17/1/2019 (ARES(2019)264547). Please accept my apologies for the very late reply.

In your letter you, as a control body, request clarification on the status of latex removers for bananas used by operators in third countries. You explained the process in which bananas are washed after harvest in a bath to which these products have been added. In your letter you suggest that such a treatment might be considered as either a post harvest treatment of a plant protection product, or a cleaning treatment or an additive. Such a treatment is currently not registered for bananas in the EU neither in general agriculture nor in organic farming and it is therefore difficult to say anything about equivalence of such a treatment in third countries.

After exchanging views and information with DG SANTE, products for banana latex removal are not considered as plant protection products. None of the products you mention, D-limonene, sodium sulfonate, sodium hypochlorite, and other preservatives, are authorised for use for that purpose in organic farming. Sodium hypochlorite is authorised for use as a cleaning and or disinfectant agent for buildings and installations in animal production. D-limonene is a terpene plant extract which, because of its properties might qualify as a plant protection product in organics. In organics only products for cleaning or disinfection of buildings and installations can be authorised in plant production, so that category is also excluded.

Therefore we consider that these substances are used for other purposes than those set out in Article 16(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007¹, in which case Article 16(5) is applicable, and after 1 January 2021 Article 9 (3), 5th indent of Regulation (EU) No 848/2018² will be applicable for substances for other purposes than covered by the latter Regulation. These substances “shall be allowed provided that their use complies with the [organic] principles laid down in Chapter II” of that Regulation. To assess compliance with the organic principles, it is necessary to submit a dossier with information about the substance. It should have a similar format as the format for plant protection products or

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32007R0834>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R0848&from=EN>



cleaning/disinfectants, which you can find on the AGRI organic website³. The Commission will ask for expert advice and will decide on whether use of the substance complies with the organic principles.

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



³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/organic-farming/co-operation-and-expert-advice/egtop-dossiers_en