

*Last modification date: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021*

## POSITION PAPER

### EWGL-21-09

#### Use of Yeast Extracts in Organic Processed Foods under Regulation (EU) 2018/848

- **Organic yeast extracts** are suitable to be used in organic processed foods with no restrictions.
- As an alternative, **non-organic yeast extracts** are also suitable to be used in organic processed foods (with the exception of products of the wine sector) when they are used up to 5% (by weight) of the total ingredients of agricultural origin and the other 95% ingredients of agricultural origin are organic.
- Organic and non-organic yeast extracts **cannot be used together** in the same organic processed food.

#### 1. Introduction

This document provides EURaSYP's regulatory position on the use of yeast extracts in organic processed foods under Regulation (EU) 2018/848<sup>1</sup>, the New Organic Regulation. This position also takes into account the letter issued by the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) dated 10th October 2019<sup>2</sup>.

The position presented in this document does not take into account the standards of individual certifiers. Therefore, we advise that all organic processed food manufacturers review their formulations with their certifiers.

#### 2. Use of Yeast Extracts in Organic Processed Foods

- Yeast extracts normally used in food processing are suitable to be used in organic processed foods under Regulation (EU) 2018/848.
- Organic yeast extracts are suitable to be used in organic processed foods with no restrictions.
- As an alternative, non-organic yeast extracts are also suitable to be used in organic processed foods (with the exception of products of the wine sector) when they are used up to 5% (by weight) of the

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007



EU\_COM\_Letter.pdf

total ingredients of agricultural origin and the other 95% ingredients of agricultural origin are organic.

Terms referring to organic production may be used for processed foods, when at least 95% - by weight - of the agricultural ingredients of the processed food is organic<sup>3</sup>. Thus, only a maximum of 5% - by weight - of the agricultural ingredients can be non-organic, but only non-organic ingredients permitted by Regulation (EU) 2018/848. Ingredients that are not of agricultural origin are not included in the calculation. Yeast and yeast products (including yeast extracts) are calculated as agricultural ingredients<sup>4</sup>.

- Organic and non-organic yeast extracts cannot be used together in the same organic processed food. Using organic and non-organic versions of the same ingredients in processed organic foods is prohibited by 2.1(b) of Annex II Part IV of the Regulation (EU) No 2018/848. It is our understanding that this rule also applies to yeast extracts.

### **3. Labelling of yeast extracts when used in organic processed foods**

When used as an ingredient in organic processed foods, both organic or non-organic yeast extracts should be declared in the list of ingredients by their descriptive names, e.g., “organic yeast extract” and “yeast extract”, respectively.

---

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/848, Recital 75 and Article 30

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/848, 2.2.4(c) of Annex II Part IV