



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0201 – Room 3071-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

DATE: August 6, 2008

TO: All USDA Accredited Certifying Agents

FROM: Barbara C. Robinson, Director
National Organic Program

SUBJECT: Ginger contaminated with Aldicarb—**UPDATE**

This updates a message sent to you from the National Organic Program (NOP) on July 31, 2008, concerning the status of organic ginger found to contain metabolites of the insecticide Aldicarb. On July 25, 2008, Frontier Natural Products Coop (Frontier Spice) voluntarily issued an urgent recall notice (called a “mandatory Class 3 recall”) to all of their customers who received the contaminated ginger or products containing this ginger. As a result, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that “...there will be no need for FDA to collect and analyze an official sample.”

We are now urging all certifying agents (ACAs) to examine their client records and contact any clients/operations certified to the NOP that have purchased the products listed in the attached. These products do not meet the NOP standards for organic and may not be used, from the date of this letter forward, in any product certified under the NOP. We consider these products to have been purchased in good faith and have, therefore, determined that the use of these products prior to the date of this letter is not a violation of the NOP. Certified operations must, however, immediately cease using these products.

Operations certified to the NOP, that have purchased or received the products listed in the attached, must amend their organic systems plan to update the sourcing of ginger and products containing ginger. As a reminder, multi-ingredient products containing conventional agricultural ingredients shall not be labeled as organic under the NOP unless listed in section 205.606 of the National List and determined commercially unavailable. Ginger is not listed in section 205.606.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following NOP staff: barbara.robinson2@usda.gov; thomas.colson@usda.gov; mark.bradley@usda.gov; valerie.schmale@usda.gov; or richard.mathews@usda.gov.

[Distributor Recall letter Ginger 7-25-08](#)