



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

December 28, 2009

Fertilizing Materials Industry Notice

Dear Fertilizing Materials Licensee,

Disclosure of Ingredients for Fertilizing Materials

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has amended Section 2300 and adopted Section 2300.1, 2300.2 and 2300.3 of Article 1, Chapter 1, Division 4, Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations relating to the full disclosure of ingredients and the protection of trade secrets for fertilizing materials. This rulemaking action has been completed and approved by the Office of Administrative Law and becomes effective on January 1, 2010.

CDFA's Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program will be implementing the full disclosure of ingredients and the protection of trade secrets for fertilizing materials on a case by case basis. Therefore, please send in product ingredient information regarding a fertilizing material, for verification of product safety or efficacy, only if requested by the program registration staff.

Assembly Bill 856 Implementation – Fertilizing Material: Organic Input Material

On October 11, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 856 (AB 856) into law. The bill, introduced by Assembly Member Anna Caballero, provides CDFA with the authority to regulate organic input materials used for the production of organic food and crops, in accordance with guidelines set forth by the National Organic Program (NOP).

The misdemeanor penalty provisions of AB 856 will be implemented starting January 1, 2010. However, Organic Input Material label review and registration, site inspection, and civil penalty provisions will not be implemented until January 1, 2011. This implementation date is required to allow the program adequate time to acquire the necessary resources and promulgate regulations. Meanwhile, we will continue accepting NOP recognized third party review and certification of Organic Input Materials.

You can find complete text of AB 856 and full disclosure of ingredients regulation by visiting the program webpage: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fflders/fertilizer.html>

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Amadou Ba, Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program manager at the number below if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Asif Maan, Ph.D. Branch Chief II
Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs, and Egg Regulatory Services

