



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

March 15, 2009

**NOTICE TO FERTILIZER MANUFACTURERS WITH PRODUCTS CONTAINING  
HUMIC ACID**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program is responsible for sampling fertilizing materials in the State of California. Over the past 18 months, the program discovered that over half of the humic acid products were deficient from the manufacturer's guaranteed analysis and in violation of the California Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations code 14682(b). CDFA allows a 10% variance for humic acids; therefore, solid and liquid humic acid products must meet 90% of the label guarantee. The program has recognized that some companies maybe using testing methods that are not consistent with the CDFA method for humic acid analysis.

In an attempt to standardize the humic acid testing method, CDFA is recommending the following:

**Institute an in-house or third party laboratory test that is consistent with the method used by CDFA for any product(s) that guarantee humic acid. A copy of the method used by CDFA is included with this letter. CDFA uses and recommends standards available from the International Humic Substances Society to determine the accuracy of the method.**

The program acknowledges that products may require re-labeling, new registration or reformulation to accurately reflect the humic acid guarantee. As a result, CDFA has instituted a six month grace period on all humic acid products. **All products with a humic acid guarantee must be in compliance by September 1, 2009.** Violations for humic acid after September 1, 2009, may be subject to immediate quarantine of product inventory or cancellation of the fertilizer license.

Please contact Dr. Amadou Ba, Research Manager at the number below if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Asif Maan, Ph.D.

Branch Chief

Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program

Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs and Egg Regulatory Services

