



July 13, 2020

Notice to Fertilizing Material Licensees
Labeling and Enforcement of Products Guaranteeing Silicon

Dear Fertilizing Materials Licensee:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (CDFA-FMIP) has accommodated guarantees for silicon on fertilizing material labels. In the absence of accepted methods for quantifying soluble silicon, the program allowed guarantees for silica and monosilicic acid. A guarantee for soluble silicon better supports a benefit to plants that can be verified through sampling.

The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) adopted a method for quantification of soluble silicon in 2017 but the method was limited to dry products. Recently, the CDFA Center for Analytic Chemistry, in association with private laboratories, modified the method to allow for the analysis of soluble silicon in liquid products. The methods for analysis of liquid and dry products can be accessed at; www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/cac/pdfs/RA-SP-Silicon-R0.pdf. The Program will institute an investigational allowance for soluble silicon at 10% of the value guaranteed on the label.

The CDFA-FMIP is adopting new labeling standards for all fertilizing materials claiming silicon. Soluble Silicon will be the only guarantee allowed. All new labels submitted to the program after January 1, 2021, must follow the labeling format below. All currently approved labels in the channels of trade with silica, monosilicic acid, or silicon guarantees must comply with the new label format by January 1, 2024. This label modification will be considered a label update (no fee) and will not require a new registration application.

Auxiliary Soil and Plant Substance Products:
NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENT
__% Soluble Silicon (Si) (from {source} - *optional*)

Commercial (and Specialty Fertilizer) Products and Agricultural Minerals:
ALSO CONTAINS NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENT:
__% Soluble Silicon (Si) (from {source} - *optional*)

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (916) 900-5022 or at fertilizer@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY DALE WOODS



Dale M. Woods, Ph.D.
Environmental Program Manager