



May 23, 2023

NOTICE TO FERTILIZING MATERIAL LICENSEES

Extraction Agents of “Seaweed Extract” and “Kelp Extract” on Fertilizing Material Labels

Seaweed and Kelp extracts have been used in fertilizing material products for many years. To ensure uniform labeling in California and provide accurate representation to consumers, the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) will be implementing standards for labeling of seaweed extract and kelp extract that conform to the recently adopted Official Terms by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) for the below ingredients, as per Food and Agricultural Code, Section 14681(d):

Seaweed Extract: The soluble fraction (which may be concentrated by evaporation) remaining from the chemical or enzymatic digestion of seaweed or from nondigestive treatments resulting in isolation of the soluble portion, including, but not limited to, cold-pressing or hydrolysis. This ingredient is a nutrient source and/or a soil amendment. **If the extraction agent is a source of nutrients (e.g., potassium hydroxide), it shall be included in the derivation statement.**

Kelp Extract: The soluble fraction (which may be concentrated by evaporation) remaining from the chemical or enzymatic digestion of kelp or from nondigestive treatments resulting in isolation of the soluble portion, including, but not limited to, cold-pressing or hydrolysis. This ingredient is a nutrient source and/or a soil amendment. **If the extraction agent is a source of nutrients (e.g., potassium hydroxide), it shall be included in the derivation statement.**

Beginning July 1, 2023, all new, updated, and renewal labels of Commercial Fertilizers, Specialty Fertilizers, and Agricultural Minerals must list the extraction agent of seaweed extract or kelp extract in the derivation statement if the extraction agent is a nutrient source (e.g., potassium hydroxide).

The following formats will be accepted in the derivation statement:

Seaweed [kelp] extract and potassium hydroxide

Seaweed [kelp] extract [species name, (e.g., *Ascophyllum nodosum*)] and potassium hydroxide

Seaweed [kelp] extract and potassium hydroxide (as an extractant)

Seaweed [kelp] extract and potassium hydroxide*
*as an extractant





CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

Please note that “seaweed [kelp] and potassium hydroxide” without the word “extract” will not be accepted.

After June 30, 2023, all product renewals affected by this notice must submit revised labels for approval within the renewal period. Label changes must be fully implemented in the channels of trade by the subsequent renewal cycle. Labels that previously did not include the extraction agent in the derivation statement and must now include it due to this notice will not require a new registration and will be treated as updated labels.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at fertilizer@cdfa.ca.gov

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY MARTIN BURGER

Martin Burger
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)

