



## Materials for OCal Cannabis Production

### 1. Purpose

This instruction is intended to assist OCal producers and certifying agents with complying with the OCal regulations by cataloguing and describing resources that help to determine whether an input material is allowed for use in OCal production.

### 2. OCal Regulations, Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (3 CCR)

3 CCR § 10201. OCal system plan.

3 CCR § 10203. Crop nutrient practice standard.

3 CCR § 10206. Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.

3 CCR § 10105. Allowed and prohibited substances and methods in OCal production.

### 3. Background

3.1. The organic industry typically uses the words “material” and “substance” interchangeably. Therefore, “substance” and “material” are synonymous and used interchangeably throughout this document.

3.2. Sections § 205.601 and § 205.602 of The National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) are incorporated into the OCal regulations under 3 CCR § 10105.

3.3. The National List contains an itemization of each synthetic substance that is permitted and each nonsynthetic (natural) substance that is prohibited for use in organic production and subsequently OCal production:

a. Synthetic materials are prohibited unless allowed and listed in 7 CFR § 205.601.

b. Nonsynthetic (natural) materials are allowed unless prohibited and listed in 7 CFR § 205.602.

### 4. Policy

4.1. General Policy for Materials



Agricultural input materials are allowed for use on a case-by-case basis by the certifying agent.

All input materials used by certified OCal operations must comply with the OCal regulations.

A list of inputs used must be included on a producer's OCal system plan (OSP). Registered certifying agents must evaluate this list to determine compliance with OCal regulations and communicate acceptance of the materials to the operation prior to use.

All ingredients within a formulated input material must be evaluated by the certifying agent and determined compliant with the OCal regulations prior to use.

National List annotations and OCal regulations § 10203 and § 10206 specify the source, identity, restrictions and use(s) for which a specific material is permitted. These annotations and restrictions must be followed to be in compliance with the OCal regulations. Specific restrictions are summarized in 4.2 and 4.3, below.

#### 4.2. Plant and Animal Materials for Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrient Management

According to the OCal regulations § 10203(c), the cultivator must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of cannabis, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.

#### 4.3. Pest Control Materials

According to the OCal regulations § 10203(e), biological and botanical pesticides, and pesticides containing materials in § 205.601 of the National List, are permitted for use in OCal cannabis production, provided that the use of cultural, physical, and mechanical management practices for pest, weed, and disease control proves insufficient to prevent or control the target pest.

### 5. Procedure

#### 5.1. Resources for Determining the Acceptability of an Agricultural Input

- a. The National List, 7 CFR § 205.601 and § 205.602
- b. OCal 3012 Material Review. The criteria and process registered certifying agents must follow when approving substances for use in OCal production.

- c. OCal 5033 Classification of Unique Materials. Clarifies how materials that are the result of naturally occurring biological processes, separation and extraction, and burning and combustion are classified.
- d. OCal 5033-1 Decision Tree for Classification of Materials. Describes the procedure used to classify input materials for OCal cannabis production as nonsynthetic (natural) or synthetic.
- e. OCal 5034-1 List of Materials for OCal Cannabis Production. An illustrative list of allowed nonsynthetic (natural) and synthetic materials for OCal cannabis production.
- f. OCal 5034-2 Appendix of Prohibited Materials for OCal Cannabis Production. An illustrative list of synthetic materials prohibited for use in OCal cannabis production.

Producers should always check with their certifying agents regarding the status of any material prior to its usage.

## 5.2. Information Regarding Nonsynthetic (Natural) Materials

Allowed nonsynthetic (natural) materials for OCal cannabis production are identified as nonsynthetic (natural) materials in OCal 5034-1, Materials for Use in OCal Cannabis Production. The use of the material must comply with any restrictions noted.

Prohibited nonsynthetic (natural) materials, with the exception of any annotations provided, are included on the National List at § 205.602.

Prohibited nonsynthetic (natural) materials are included in OCal 5034-2, List of Materials Prohibited for Use in OCal Cannabis Production.

## 5.3. Information Regarding Synthetic Materials

Allowed synthetic materials are included on the National List at § 205.601 and must be used in accordance with any annotations provided.

Allowed synthetic materials are identified as synthetic in OCal 5034-1, Materials for Use in OCal Cannabis Production.

Prohibited synthetic materials (those rejected by the National Organic Standards Board for



inclusion on the National List as allowed) are included in OCal 5034-2, List of Materials Prohibited for Use in OCal Cannabis Production.

#### 5.4. Materials Not Included on the National List or in OCal Guidance

Producers should check with their certifying agents to determine if a prospective input material not addressed by the National List or OCal guidance may be allowed for use in OCal production as a nonsynthetic (natural) input material.

### 6. References

**National Organic Program Regulations**, Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 205)

7 CFR § 205.601. Synthetic Substances Allowed for Use in Organic Crop Production.

7 CFR § 205.602. Nonsynthetic Substances Prohibited for Use in Organic Crop Production.