

Handling Committee

Sunset 2013 Carrageenan and Cellulose

We support the Organic Trade Associations comments on carrageenan and cellulose. Carrageenan has been allowed for use in organic products since 1995 and cellulose since 2003. In August 2011, the National Organic Program solicited comments on materials due to sunset in 2013. All comments on carrageenan and cellulose were in support of relisting. It is our understanding that carrageenan is used in quite a few organic consumer products ranging from frozen foods, juices, plant based beverages and dairy products. Cellulose is also used by several companies as a processing aid as well as an anti-caking agent and sausage casing. Based on this information, we support the Handling Committee's recommendation to relist carrageenan and cellulose.

Choline Petition

We support the Organic Trade Association's comments on choline, and believe the nutrient, if it meets the requirements for addition to the National List, should be allowed for use in all organic products. The Organic Trade Association has submitted comments with research showing that choline is essential to all humans, not just infants. We ask the Board to please take into consideration all the research brought forth by the OTA as well as other organizations.