



Revision of Fertilisers Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003

Meeting of Coordinators of EU funded projects on Land, Soil,
Desertification and Urban Issues

**Chemical and microbial Contaminants in Fertilisers and
related products**

22nd October 2012

Only mineral fertilisers covered by the current (EC) Fertilisers Regulation N° 2003/2003

Fertiliser types listed in Annex I

- ***Primary nutrient fertilisers (N,P,K)***
- ***Secondary nutrient fertilisers (Ca, Mg, Na, S)***
- ***Micro-nutrient fertilisers (B, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, Zn)***
- ***Straight, complex and blended fertilisers (NP, NK, NPK,...)***
- ***Solid and fluid fertilisers***
- ***Additives such as chelating and complexing agents, nitrification and urease inhibitors***

Why changing the 2003/2003 Regulation ?

- Level playing field for fertilisers = **FULL HARMONIZATION**
- More emphasis on **environmental concerns** (limits for contaminants)
- More **Innovation** (lengthy procedure for the introduction of new fertiliser types in Annex I)
- **Reluctance** of authorities and some economic operators to apply **the Mutual Recognition Regulation** for 'national fertilisers'

2012 : preparatory works to support the revision

- Gather technical details for different policy options and support the development of an Impact Assessment Report
- Objectives of working groups: safety and quality criteria for all fertilising materials, procedures, safeguard mechanisms, structure of future proposal, prepare mandate for CEN about necessary analytical standards

Likely extension of the scope to...

- Inorganic fertilisers (those not yet covered at EU level)
- Organic fertilisers: digestates, manure ?,...
- Organo-mineral fertilisers
- Soil improvers: (including certain industrial by-products) peat, composts, manure, bio-char
- Liming materials
- Growing media
- Plant biostimulants (improving nutrient uptake and nutrient use performance, regulators under stress conditions)

Quality criteria under development to reach the objectives of the future legislation

Quality criteria for each category, and information for users:

- ***minimum nutrient content or other criteria (such as minimum organic matter content) where relevant***
- ***forms of nutrients to be declared (e.g. various forms of N and P, hence, facilitating a.o. farmers implementation of Nitrate Directive)***
- ***other parameters to be declared***
- ***agronomic efficiency criteria for plant biostimulants and for additives (e.g. nitrification/urease inhibitors, slow release fertilisers)***

Safety criteria under development to reach the objectives of the future legislation

Safety criteria: maximum contaminants contents:

- ***Heavy metals: Cd, Ni, CrVI, Cr total, Hg, Pb, As***
- ***+ Cu, Zn and Se in organic fertilisers and organic soil improvers***
- ***Organic contaminants: PCBs, dioxins, PAHs, PFCs***
- ***Microbial contaminants: based on Animal By-products and Plant Health regulations + project on invasive species***
- ***Plant propagules***
- ***Physical impurities***
- ***Ad hoc approach for plant biostimulants and additives***

Safety criteria

- Current proposed limits: mainly based on current practices in MS and existing or upcoming Union legislation, such as ABP Regulation, EoW criteria for bio-wastes
- Risk-based limits are preferable in the longer term: WE NEED RESEARCH SUPPORT !
- Potential call in HORIZON 2020 : "Study on contaminants for fertilising materials and related potential risks for plants, food chain and the environment."
- Some first elements from FERTIPLUS and REFERTIL projects

The future...

- Aim: complete harmonisation of the EU fertiliser market for inorganic and organic fertilisers, organic soil improvers, liming materials, growing media and plant biostimulants
- National fertilisers laws are repealed. No more need for mutual recognition of national fertilisers
- Manufacturers can only market fertilisers that comply with EU rules (or with specific national rules for the local market only).
- Member States could further develop provisions for the use of fertilisers (e.g. application rates)

Timing...

- o Commission proposal adopted during the 1st semester 2013
- o Adoption by the European Parliament and the Council in ordinary regulatory procedure (up to 2 years)

Thanks for your attention !

For further information:
eric.liegeois@ec.europa.eu

Please consult also:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/documents/specific-chemicals/fertilisers/index_en.htm

