## Consultation
## Use of organic ingredients in products with less than 95% organic ingredients

The Processing Standards Committee is clarifying that licensees making products with less than 95% organic ingredients should use organic ingredients in these products if they are available.

The EC regulation 834/2007 allows any non-organic agricultural ingredient to be used in a less 95% organic product (text from regulation copied below) even when organic ingredients are available. For example, non-organic beef could be used in a less than 95% organic product certified to the EU regulation, but this would not be permitted under Soil Association standards.

**Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007**
**On organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91**

**Article 23.4**
As regards processed food, the terms referred to in paragraph 1 may be used:

(a) in the sales description, provided that:
(i) the processed food complies with Article 19;
(ii) at least 95 % by weight, of its ingredients of agricultural origin are organic;

(b) only in the list of ingredients, provided that the food complies with Article 19(1), 19(2)(a), 19(2)(b) and 19(2)(d);

(c) in the list of ingredients and in the same visual field as the sales description, provided that
(i) the main ingredient is a product of hunting or fishing;
(ii) it contains other ingredients of agricultural origin that are all organic;
(iii) the food complies with Article 19(1), 19(2)(a), 19(2)(b) and 19(2)(d).

**Article 19**
1. The preparation of processed organic food shall be kept separate in time or space from non-organic food.

2. The following conditions shall apply to the composition of organic processed food:
(a) the product shall be produced mainly from ingredients of agricultural origin; in order to determine whether a product is produced mainly from ingredients of agricultural origin added water and cooking salt shall not be taken into account;
(b) only additives, processing aids, flavourings, water, salt, preparations of micro-organisms and enzymes, minerals, trace elements, vitamins, as well as amino acids and other micronutrients in foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses may be used, and only in so far as they have been authorised for use in organic production in accordance with Article 21;
(c) non-organic agricultural ingredients may be used only if they have been authorised for use in organic production in accordance with Article 21 or have been provisionally authorised by a Member State;
(d) an organic ingredient shall not be present together with the same ingredient in non-organic form or an ingredient in conversion;

SA Standard 40.10.06 lays down the labelling requirements for products with less 95% organic ingredients:

***40.10.6***
*For products where less than 95% of the agricultural ingredients are organic, you must only identify the organic ingredients in the ingredient panel:*
*> using the same colour, size and style of lettering as for the non-organic ingredients*
*> include the total percentage of organic ingredients (as a percentage of the agricultural ingredients), and*
*> using the symbol (but only here).*

Standard 40.8.4 states:
***40.8.4***
*You must use organic ingredients if they are available in sufficient quantity and quality.*

The Processing Standards Committee supports the use of organic ingredients when available for all products. It recommends that standard 40.8.4, requiring the use of organic ingredients if they are available, still applies when making products with less than 95% organic content. Such products are a small proportion of those that we certify, but using organic ingredients when available should be consistent principle.

Please send your feedback to us at consultation@soilassociation.org by Friday 25th May 2012.