



# Organic Food Federation

## Explanatory Note 328

*These notes are intended to help applicants comply with Organic EC Regulation 2092/91. They are not exhaustive and are for explanation only. In cases of doubt the Regulation or the OFF should be consulted.*

### AQUACULTURE Feeds for Fin-Fish

**Feed Mills must be approved and licensed by a recognised organic certification body whether or not the feeds supplied for organic enterprises have an organic content.**

**Feeds supplied to organic fish farming enterprises must comply with the standards below.**

**Where a feed processor is adding medication to feeds, they must have a dedicated line for handling them.**

#### **1. LABELLING**

1. Feed Rations can only be labelled as organic if they comply fully with organic requirements ie 95% of the feed materials are certified organic.
2. Where a feed contains organic ingredients but less than 95% organic is used in the ration, the label must state the percentage of the latter which is from certified organic source/s, using the form of words **“x% of the ingredients used have been produced in accordance with EC Rules of Organic Agriculture”**.
3. The ration must also include the statement “ xxxxxxxx ration approved for use in organic aquaculture/mariculture by the Organic Food Federation” where xxxxxxxx = the name of the species for which the ration is intended.  
*Feed compounders may only use this statement if their premises, ingredient specifications and systems have been inspected and approved by the Organic Food Federation.*
4. The ingredients in the ration must be listed indicating which, if any, are organic
5. The Protein, Lipid and Ash fractions must be declared. There must also be an indication of vitamin content. If there has been vitamin or mineral supplementation it must be in accordance with sections 2.9 and 2.10 below.

#### **2. DIET AND NUTRITION**

1. Diets for aquaculture production must meet the nutritional needs of the species appropriate to the stage in the life cycle.
2. The feed manufacturing premises and feed formulations must be inspected and certified as conforming to these Standards.
3. Preference should be given to feed ingredients that are not used for human consumption or are by-products of food for human consumption.
4. Feed ingredients of agricultural origin must be derived from certified organic origin. In organic aquaculture a minimum of 95% of the agricultural or agriculturally derived ingredients in the total compounded feed used in the complete cycle of production should be of organic production except for species which derive their entire diet from aquatic or marine sources (*eg shellfish*)
5. A minimum of 50% of the feed ingredients of aquatic origin must be derived from the by-products of wild caught fish for human consumption. The balance not derived from such by-product must be derived from wild marine resources independently certified as sustainable by an appropriate certification body (such as through the Marine Stewardship Council).

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6. In order to meet the nutritional needs of the stock, mineral and vitamin supplementation may be included in the diet in accordance with the general standards for organic livestock feeds.
7. The feed should be offered using methods that are appropriate to the species, its life stage, and natural feeding behaviour and minimising stress during feeding operations. Feeding behaviour must be monitored whilst feeding is in progress. Automatic feeding systems must be regularly checked and maintained in good working order.

## **Recommended**

- a) Encouragement of an access to natural sources of feed (*when possible*.)

## **Permitted**

- a) Vitamins, minerals and supplements from natural origin.
- b) For salmonids only, as a source of astaxanthin, shrimp shell or Phaffia yeast products, subject to there being regulatory approval and there being no GMOs used in the culture.
- c) Natural binders.

## **Restricted**

The following are permitted only when prescribed by a qualified veterinarian and when added to a feed must be blended in a dedicated medicated feed line.

- a) Chemically synthesised vitamins, minerals and supplements.
- b) Antioxidants and preservatives.
- c) Antibiotics approved by VMD

The medicated feeds used must be sufficient only to comply with the prescription, and must be used only for a single course of treatment. For stock of age 2 or more years it is not permitted to have more than three treatments in their lifetime.

## **Prohibited**

- a) Fishmeal from dedicated fishmeal harvesting and manufacturing operations that are not independently certified as sustainable.
- b) Fishmeal or other processed ingredients derived from the same species or from farmed fish or terrestrial animals.
- c) Artificial, synthetic or nature identical pigmentation.
- d) Growth regulators, hormones or appetite stimulants.
- e) Feedstuffs derived by solvent extraction.
- f) Genetically modified organisms or products/ingredients derived from them.
- g) Synthetic binders.
- h) High-energy diets -defined as more than 28% oil (for salmonids) and 15% oil (for gadoids) aimed at enhancing fish production or fast tracking.
- i) Any other substance or material not specified in OFF Aquaculture and Livestock Standards.

Please note that ingredients that are not mentioned are generally not permitted.

Where there is a requirement on health, safety or humane grounds, the OFF Aquaculture Standards Committee will evaluate a case for inclusion in future standards only if supported by documentation of the need and evidence from an independent expert.

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