

## **Guideline No. P1/2015**

### **Pacific Organic Standard(POS) Use of Formic Acid**

#### **1. Purpose**

This guideline provides clarification on the use of Formic Acid under the Pacific Organic Standard.

#### **2. Scope**

This guidance applies to all POETCom Approved Certification Partners (ACPs) and Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

#### **3. Background**

Queries have been made as to the use of Formic Acid as a preservative or stabilizer in the production of fish waste based fertilizer.

The POS Appendix 1 provides an indicative list of substances permitted for use in organic production under the POS. Formic Acid is allowable as a cleaning agent as listed in Table 4.

The POS 5.9.11 permits use of Formic Acid for pest and disease control in Bee hives.

Formic acid is not allowed for the purpose of stabilizing or preserving under NASAA or BioGro Organic Standards. In other standards it is less clear but interpreted as not allowed.

#### **4. Guidelines**

Formic acid is not allowed for use as a stabilizer or preservative under the POS.

Micro organisms, citric, phosphoric and sulphuric acids are permitted for this purpose.

#### **5. References**

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)

National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Organic Standard (2012)

BioGro Organic Standard (2014)