

Making available on the market of CE marked fertilising products

2016/0084(COD) - 25/07/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection adopted the report by Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz (EPP, HU) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules on the making available on the market of CE marked fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety as well as the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, exercising their prerogatives as associated committees in accordance with [Article 54 of the Rules of Procedure](#), also gave their opinions on the report.

As a reminder, the proposal for a Regulation on fertilisers in the context of the circular economy package aims to harmonise European rules for organic waste products and by-products. It modernises conformity assessment and market surveillance in accordance with the ‘new legislative framework’ for product legislation.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows.

Definitions: it is proposed to replace the term ‘fertilising product’ with ‘**plant nutrition product**’, while clarifying this definition, as well as the definition of ‘substance’.

Recycled or organic materials: Members seek to promote increased use of recycled nutrients in order to further contribute to the development of the circular economy while reducing the Union’s dependence on nutrients imported from third countries.

Facilitating market access for innovative organic fertilisers: Members suggest facilitating compliance of phosphate fertilising products with the requirements of this Regulation and boosting innovation by providing incentives for the development of relevant technologies, in particular **decadmiation** and the **management of cadmium-rich hazardous wastes** through the financial resources available under the Horizon 2020 program, the LIFE programs and the Circular Economy Platform through the European Investment Bank (EIB) or other financial instruments. The Commission should report annually to the European Parliament and the Council on the incentives and the Union funding provided for decadmiation.

Provide limits for contaminants: the traceability of products which are sensitive to organic pollution from certain potentially problematic sources (or perceived as such) should be ensured back to the source of the organic material. This is necessary in order to secure consumer confidence and to limit damage if local contamination occurs.

Obligations of economic operators: in order to protect the health and safety of consumers and the environment, manufacturers shall carry out sample testing of fertilising products made available on the market and inform distributors and market surveillance authorities of any such monitoring.

Only compliant CE marked fertiliser can be imported into the Union and placed on the Union market.

Importers shall indicate the third country manufacturers on the packaging of the CE marked fertilising product. Distributors shall verify that the required information is provided in a document accompanying the fertiliser.

Members considered it important that the **labelling is clear and comprehensive** and that it includes all the information on the available nutrients and their solubility. The Commission shall publish a guidance document giving details and examples to manufacturers and market surveillance authorities about the appearance of the label.

The **CE marking** should be affixed in a visible, legible and indelible manner on the package

The report stated that the Regulation does not prevent Member States from maintaining or adopting provisions which are in compliance with the Treaties, concerning the use of CE marked fertilising products for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment, provided that those provisions do not require modification of CE marked fertilising products which are in compliance with this Regulation and do not influence the conditions for making them available on the market.

Assessment and report: Members introduced a **review clause** requiring the European Commission to assess (42 months after the date of application of the Regulation):

- the functioning of the internal market for fertilisers, including the conformity assessment and market surveillance effectiveness;
- the application of restrictions of **contaminant levels** as set out in Annex I to this Regulation and any new relevant scientific information on the toxicity and carcinogenicity of contaminants;
- developments in **decontamination technologies**;
- trade impacts on the sourcing of raw materials, including the availability of **phosphate rock**.

One year after the date of entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission shall present an evaluation of the scientific data used to establish the agronomic and environmental criteria to define **end-of-livestock manure** criteria in order to qualify the performance of products containing or consisting of processed livestock manure.

Lastly, five years after the date of entry into force of the Regulation at the latest, the Commission shall review the conformity assessment procedure of micro-organisms.