



Policy Memorandum

To: Stakeholders and Interested Parties

From: Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator

Subject: Labeling of Textiles That Contain Organic Ingredients

Date: Original Issue Date – May 20, 2011

The USDA regulates the term “organic” as it applies to agricultural products through the National Organic Program (NOP) Regulation, 7 CFR Part 205. Raw natural fibers, such as cotton, wool, and flax are agricultural products and are covered under the NOP crop and livestock production standards. The NOP regulations do not include specific processing or manufacturing standards for textile products. However, in keeping with NOP’s inclusive scope policy, any textile product produced in full compliance with the NOP regulations may be labeled as NOP certified organic and display the USDA organic seal.

The NOP does not restrict the use of the term “organic” in the labeling of textile products that are certified under third-party certification bodies as long as all of the fibers are produced in accordance with the NOP regulations.

