



# USE OF NPE IN ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

## Guidance

---

Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPE) are industrial grade surfactants. NPEs are commonly used in the dairy industry, primarily in iodine teat dip formulations to complex the iodine raw material and help suspend it in the dip.

NPEs have become an issue of interest in the organic industry within the last few years. Teat dips containing NPE can leave an NPE residue in milk, and that residue may have health and environmental implications. Milk exported to China, Canada and the European Union is not allowed to contain NPE residue. Several cooperatives nationwide are currently asking their producer members to stop using products containing NPEs and to remove NPE residues from their farms to comply with international bans on NPE. PCO certified dairies – check with your milk shipper to see if you are required to become NPE free.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### WHAT PRODUCTS MIGHT CONTAIN NPEs?

- Teat Dips
- Udder Wash
- Footbath solutions
- Laundry Detergent
- Surface cleaners
- Dish detergents
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers

#### HOW CAN I GO NPE FREE?

Removing all traces of NPE can take months. If your dairy is required to be NPE-free, it is good to be proactive and to begin the process well in advance. Cleaners and sanitizers will not remove NPE residue. The only option is to discontinue using products that contain NPE and to replace components that came into contact with NPE.

The main source of NPE on dairy farms is iodine teat dips. Check to make sure that your teat dips are NPE-free. See the following page for some PCO approved NPE free teat dips.

Check all components of the teat dip delivery system. Anything that came into contact with a teat dip containing NPE should be replaced. Examples include hand pumps on teat dip, tubing, small containers used transport teat dip, teat dip cups, totes, poly tanks, drums, and cloth towels.

Check to make sure that the other products that you use from the list above, such as udder washes, footbath solutions, laundry detergents, and surface cleaners, are NPE free.

### APPROVED INPUTS

*All inputs must be reviewed and approved by PCO prior to use, so be sure to check with us or consult a current PCO Approved Materials List, OMRI, or WSDA list prior to purchasing or using a product. PCO does not endorse any of the products listed in this guidance document. This is not an all-inclusive list and other inputs may be allowed.*

*Please contact PCO if you have any questions on materials or restrictions.*

PCO allows the following NPE-free teat dips:

- PeroxyGuard 105 by AgroChem
- PeroxyGuard 110 by AgroChem
- DeLaval Prima by DeLaval
- Lactifence by DeLaval
- Lactisan Winter by DeLaval
- I Deal Nil NPE by Ecolab
- Assure Sanitizing Teat Dip by IBA
- Assure M Sanitizing Teat Dip by IBA
- Genesis 52 Sanitizing Teat Dip by IBA
- Genesis Barrier Teat Dip by IBA
- Genesis 110 Sanitizing Teat Dip by IBA
- Genesis 102 Sanitizing Teat Dip by IBA
- ICON 5000 Iodine Teat Dip by IBA
- ICON 10000 II Teat Dip by IBA
- ICON 10000 IV Teat Dip by IBA
- ICON 10000 V Teat Dip by IBA
- ICON 10000 X Teat Dip by IBA
- ICON 5000 IV Iodine Teat Dip by IBA
- ICON 5000 V Teat Dip by IBA
- Option One Teat Dip by IBA
- Blockade Teat Dip by West Agro
- Bovadine Sanitizing Teat Dip by West Agro
- QuarterMate Plus Sanitizing Teat Dip by West Agro