Update on Labelling Proposal
2 June 2014 Fertilisers Working Group

Version 1, 29 May 2014

With response to agenda item 6 (g) Labelling requirements for the different product categories

EBIC refers to its position on labelling submitted to WG4 in October 2012. The main elements of that position are included below, with a few minor refinements to reflect the evolution of relevant discussions since that time. Updates have been marked to make them more visible.

For straight biostimulants

In addition to requirements in other Community rules (e.g. CLP legislation), plant biostimulants should be labelled with the following information:

- An indication of EU registration (e.g. a European registration number, the words “EC Plant Biostimulant”...TBD)
- Product name
- Active...Main relevant constituents in descending order of abundance (some constituents may be expressed in general terms such as “natural plant extracts”)
- Registry claims (i.e. to which part(s) of the regulatory definition do the claimed benefits correspond?)
  Examples: “Enhanced tolerance to abiotic stress”, “Improves nutrient uptake”, “Improves crop quality”
- Minimum guaranteed content¹ (e.g. Number of colony-forming units or spores, minimum content (range) of marker substances...)
- Indications of the dose rates and suitable conditions of use
- Net mass or volume for fluid biostimulants at time of manufacture measured and expressed as kg or L
- Expiration date
- Storage and handling recommendations;

¹ Not necessarily active-the substances believed to confer the biostimulants properties of the product, as in the case of plant and seaweed extracts, where it would be the extract itself that is measurable, rather than the variable (and potentially multiple) active-biostimulant substances it may contain. The freedom for the producer to identify the appropriate markers is particularly important where synergies of substances may be at play.
- Brand mark (of the original manufacturer or placer on the market as appropriate) and the trade description of the product;
- Batch code
- Person responsible for placing the product on the European market (manufacturer, importer or distributor): name or trade name, address, and the trade description of the product.

In addition the following requirements may be relevant for some biostimulants, but not all:

- Detailed claims (where the applicant claims more detailed benefits than the general regulatory definition of biostimulants, e.g. What kind of quality improvements can be expected or which abiotic stresses are specifically tolerated)
  Examples: ”(Enhance tolerance to abiotic stress and crop quality) by increasing root growth and marketable grade”, “(Improves nutrient uptake) by increasing the root system”
- Any major nutrients (N, P\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{5}, K\textsubscript{2}O, MgO, CaO, SO\textsubscript{3}) that are present in amounts exceeding 1% shall be listed;
- Oligo-elements that are present in amounts exceeding 0,01% shall be listed;
- For the nutrients: specify type (e.g. inorganic or organic), performance characteristics (e.g. water soluble or chelated)
- Mark of quality (purely voluntary)

For biostimulants mixed with other products

In addition to requirements in other Community rules (e.g. CLP legislation), plant biostimulants should be labelled with the following information:

- An indication of EU registration
- Product name
- Registry claims (i.e. to which part(s) of the regulatory definition do the claimed benefits correspond?)
- Minimum guaranteed content (see footnote 1 on previous page) (e.g. Number of colony-forming units or spores, minimum content (range) of marker substances...)
- Concentration in the mixture expressed in kg/T or mL/L
- Indications of the dose rates and suitable conditions of use
- All labelling requirements for the other component of the mixture as outlined in the appropriate section of the revised regulation.
- Detailed claims (If relevant)
General requirements for labelling

➢ The items of information shall be **clearly separated by means of a printed border** from any other information provided, with the exception of the batch code which may be printed elsewhere on the package.

➢ If the plant biostimulant is packaged, the information shall appear on the packages or on labels attached. The labels printed on the package must be placed in a conspicuous position and must be and must remain visible, indelible and clearly legible.

➢ If the plant biostimulant is delivered in bulk, the same information shall appear on the accompanying documents. In the case of plant biostimulant delivered in bulk direct to the end-user by the manufacturer, the documents containing the labelling information shall accompany the goods and be accessible for inspection purposes, whether the goods are in loose form or in generic packaging.

➢ The labelling and the accompanying documents must appear in at least the national language or languages of the Member State in which the plant biostimulant is marketed.