

Pacific Agricultural Certification Society



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28 April 2015

RE: Biodegradeable mulch films (e.g. Bio360, BioTelo and others)

To All PACS Clients:

On 24 April 2015, Dubois Agrinovation published a Canada-wide electronic newsletter claiming that Bio360 had received approval from the Organic Federation of Canada for biodegradeable mulch film to be used by organic operators. **This claim is false.** The OFC instructed them to remove the statement from their website, which they have now done.

The Standards Interpretation Committee proposed an amendment to their original ruling on biodegradeable mulch films. The proposed amendment is undergoing the required public comment period which lasts until 22 June 2015. If negative comments are submitted, the proposed amendment could be declined.

Within the same newsletter, Dubois Agrinovation also released a document confirming the presence of petroleum based polyester and petroleum based plasticizers in the film. At this time under the standard, that means that this film must be treated in the same manner as all other plastic mulch films – it must be removed at the end of the season.

Do not accept the Dubois Agrinovation newsletter as factual representation regarding biodegradeable mulches. These products will be reassessed by the CGSB Technical Committee and their decision will be released later in the year. PACS will distribute the information as soon as it is published. For now, nothing has changed – biodegradeable mulches are prohibited unless removed from your fields and discarded at the end of the season.

Sincerely,

PACS CC

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