

Task Group on Chemical Processes
Teleconference Meeting Summary
July 28, 2025

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Participating Members:

David Herbst (Berje Inc.)
Dianne Hennelly (Oregon Tilth, Inc.)
Gay Timmons (Oh, Oh Organic)

Bob Durst (Simple Organic Solutions, LLC)
Amy Melgar (Ogee)
Curt Valva (Sunstate NPC)

Absent Members:

David Bronner (Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps)
Abbott Stark (Ogee)

Jack Corley (Custom Essence Inc.)
James Hahn (TerrEssentials)

Participating observers:

Al Rose (NSF)
Ewelina Pitusiak (Ogee)

Angela Diesch (Amin Talati Wasserman)

Supplemental Materials Referenced

- [Agenda - Chemical Processes - TG - 2025-07-25](#)
- [OPC-2025-01 - Ethylhexylglycerin.pdf](#)

D.Herbst is the TG Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. A.Rose read the anti-trust statement and took attendance. Six of the 10 voting members were present (60%), representing a quorum.

Meeting notes:

- **Ethylhexylglycerin Issue Paper:**

- **Natural Source:** A.Melgar explained that ethylhexylglycerin, previously prohibited due to its petroleum-based origin, now has a natural source, making it suitable for their products.
- **Preservation Importance:** A.Melgar emphasized the importance of ethylhexylglycerin for preservation, especially in higher pH formulations, which are crucial for their products like sunscreens and color cosmetics.
- **Technical Details:** E.Pitusiak provided technical details on the ingredient, explaining its role in microbial protection and stability in formulations with a broad pH range.
- **Flow Chart:** A.Melgar shared a flow chart from the supplier, Adika, showing the innovative fermentation process used to produce ethylhexylglycerin from sugar cane.

- **Non-GMO Verification:**

- **Non-GMO Concern:** G.Timmons raised a concern about the non-GMO status of ethylhexylglycerin, suggesting that a certificate verifying its non-GMO source would be necessary.
- **Supplier Statement:** E.Pitusiak agreed to obtain the required statement from the supplier to confirm that the ingredient is not derived from genetically modified organisms.

- **Illustrative List Clarification:**

- **List Update:** D.Hennelly suggested updating the illustrative list to clarify that ethylhexylglycerin made from petroleum-based substances is prohibited, but the natural version could be allowed.

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- **Certification Process:** D.Hennelly explained that this clarification would help avoid confusion and streamline the certification process for companies using the natural version of the ingredient.
- **Certification and Approval Process:**
 - **Raw Material Certification:** C.Valva emphasized the importance of having the raw material certified to avoid repeated verification and streamline the approval process.
 - **Certifier Review:** B.Durst highlighted the need for certifiers to review the process and inputs to ensure compliance with the standards.
 - **Independent Review:** The group discussed the role of independent review by certifiers, ensuring that the certification decisions are made at the certifier level, not by auditors.
 - **European Standards:** They also discussed the importance of checking European standards like Cosmos for acceptable ingredients, which could support the approval process.
- **European Standards:**
 - **European Acceptance:** Ewelina confirmed that ethylhexylglycerin is acceptable in certain certified natural and organic cosmetics in Europe, including Cosmos.
 - **Support for Approval:** This acceptance in European standards supports the argument for its approval under the NSF standard, indicating its safety and compliance.
- **Decision to Move Forward:**
 - **Revision Agreement:** The group agreed to revise the issue paper to include the asterisk indicating that only the natural version of ethylhexylglycerin is allowed.
 - **Paper Update:** A.Melgar will update the issue paper with the necessary revisions and send it to A.Rose.
 - **Ballot Preparation:** A.Rose will prepare the ballot for the JC, ensuring the revised issue paper is ready for voting.
- **Living Document:**
 - **Living Document:** C.Valva and A.Rose emphasized that the NSF standard is a living document that should be updated regularly to encourage innovation and adapt to new developments.
 - **Frequent Updates:** They acknowledged the need for more frequent meetings and updates to keep the standard relevant and effective.

Action Items:

- **Issue Paper Revision:** Revise the issue paper to include the asterisk indicating that ethylhexylglycerin made from petroleum-based substances is prohibited, but the naturally derived product is allowed, and send it to A.Rose. (A.Melgar)
- **Send to JC as Approval Ballot:** A.Rose