

Suggested Environmental Considerations for Processed Food

Use one or more of the suggested environmental disclosure questions in your RFI/RFP to help inform your purchasing decisions.

General Ingredient Questions

Include these questions for all processed products.

#	Environmental Questions	Preferred Answer	Definition	Rationale
1.	Is this product or any product ingredients USDA certified organic or Food Alliance Certified? (Yes/No)	Yes	<p>Certified USDA Organic - Product must meet the federal organic standards as determined by a USDA-approved certifying agency. Organic products are produced without synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics or added hormones.</p> <p>Food Alliance certification ensures that farmers/producers use safe and fair working conditions, humane livestock handling practices, cannot use hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics, cannot use or produce GMOs, reduce pesticide use, implement water and soil conservation and habitat protection practices</p>	<p>Ingredients may have been produced with synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics, or added hormones (organic certification would avoid this).</p> <p>Grains/legumes, meat, dairy, eggs, and produce may have been produced utilizing unfair labor/working conditions. Animal welfare may not have been taken into consideration and high levels of toxic pesticides and fertilizers may have been used to produce these foods. Products with grains, corn, soy and canola may be genetically engineered. Farming practices may be wasteful or harmful to water, soil and habitat health (Food Alliance certification would avoid this)</p>
2	Is this product produced without genetically modified ingredients? (Yes/No)	Yes	This product was not made with ingredients from genetically engineered/modified (GE/GM) ingredients.	<p>Processed foods that contain corn, soy, canola and their derivatives (e.g., oil, high fructose corn syrup, corn meal, soy protein, etc) may have been produced from GMO seeds. Prefer products labeled "No genetically engineered ingredients."</p> <p>GMO containing foods or ingredients are not adequately assessed for their credible adverse effects on human or animal health, or on the environment in which they are produced. Also of concern is the threat posed by genetic engineering to environmentally sustainable food production and the threat to the economic livelihood of farmers pursuing sustainable food production.</p> <p>See related fact sheet:</p>

				http://www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/food/Genetic_Engineered_Food_Stmnt.pdf
3.	Is this product free of artificial dyes or flavoring? (Yes/No)	Yes	Artificial additives are used to enhance or alter the color or flavor of food.	Products may contain artificial food dyes or flavorings. Some of these additives raise health concerns. Prefer products that do not contain ingredients from the "Avoid List" put out by Center for Science in the Public Interest. View the Avoid list and learn more about specific additives and related concerns here: http://www.cspinet.org/reports/chemcuisine.htm

Packaging Questions

Include the following questions for packaged products

#	Environmental Questions	Preferred Answer	Definition	Rationale
1.	Is this product's package recyclable? (Yes/No)	Yes	Any claims of recyclability indicates the supplier can demonstrate that at least 60% of the hospitals in the U.S., or in the product distribution area, have access to an established recycling program for this item, or there is an existing take-back program by the vendor of the manufacturer that has been in operation at least one year and covers the indicated percentage of hospitals and will recycle the product.	Recyclable products, those that are recyclable in communities in the U.S., reduce materials going to the waste stream and their associated costs. Although FTC has not finalized definitions to prove this claim, we are utilizing the FTC draft definition for 'substantial majority' to mean at least 60% and adding what it means to the health care community to ensure the needs of facilities who strive to divert materials from their waste stream.
2.	Is this product packaged without polystyrene? (Yes/No)	Yes	Polystyrene (CAS 9003-53-6) is a plastic polymer from the monomer styrene. It comes in many forms: sheet, expanded or extruded foam, or as oriented polystyrene. What is commonly known as Styrofoam™ refers only to the extruded form of polystyrene. Packaging refers to all materials (primary, secondary, etc) used to transport and protect a product from damage.	Also referred to as 'PS' with the SPI (Society of the Plastics Industry) resin code 6, polystyrene is difficult for hospitals to recycle and there are alternatives. Polystyrene is made with styrene. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies styrene as a possible carcinogen. Foam blowing agents (called hydrochlorofluorocarbons, HCFCs) used to make polystyrene foam are compounds that have an ozone depletion potential.

Dairy

Include the following questions for processed foods that contain dairy.

#	Environmental Questions	Preferred Answer	Definition	Rationale
1.	If this product contains dairy, is it produced	Yes	Recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH) or recombinant bovine	rBGH or rBST has the potential to cause illness in the cows increasing

	without the use of rBGH/rBST? (Yes/No/NA)		somatotropin (rBST) refers to bovine growth hormone that is genetically engineered in a lab. rBGH or rBST is a synthetic hormone given to dairy cows to increase milk production. After a cow calves, she produces milk for about twelve weeks, after which milk production tapers down, feed intake catches up, and her body rebuilds. By injecting with rBGH, a producer can postpone that crossover point for another 8 to 12 weeks and keep milk production at a high level for a longer period of time. ¹	the need for antibiotics potentially contributing to antibiotic resistance in humans. Additionally, some concerns have been raised about the potential for use of rBGH to increase rates of cancer in humans. Its use is not permitted in the European Union, Canada, and some other countries.
2	Does this product contain ingredients that hold an animal welfare certification? (Yes/No)	Yes	<p>There are two programs that certify products for humane animal welfare.</p> <p>Certified Humane Raised and Handled® - Meat and dairy products are raised humanely. No growth hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics used. Food, living, environmental, and slaughter standards in place.</p> <p>The Animal Welfare Approved program audits and certifies family farms raising their animals humanely, outdoors on pasture or range. Animals must be able to behave naturally and be in a state of physical and psychological well-being. Requires animals to be raised on range or pasture, prohibits dual production (i.e. raising animals under both an industrialized, factory-farm system as well as an alternative, higher-welfare system), certifies only family farmers, high standards for animal welfare.</p>	Dairy products may have come from cows treated with added hormones and non-therapeutic antibiotics (e.g., antibiotics used to prevent disease and promote growth) and raised in a setting that does not address humane living and slaughter standards.

Meat/Poultry-Based Ingredients

Include the following questions for processed foods that may contain meat-based ingredients.

#	Environmental Questions	Preferred Answer	Definition	Rationale
1	Does this product contain ingredients that hold an animal welfare certification? (Yes/No)	Yes	<p>There are two programs that certify animal welfare.</p> <p>Certified Humane Raised and Handled® - Meat and dairy products are raised humanely. No growth hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics used. Food, living, environmental, and slaughter standards in place.</p>	<p>Meat/Poultry products may have been produced with added hormones and non-therapeutic antibiotics (e.g., antibiotics used to prevent disease and promote growth) and raised in a setting that does not address humane living and slaughter standards.</p> <p>Studies show that meat from</p>

			<p>The Animal Welfare Approved program audits and certifies family farms raising their animals humanely, outdoors on pasture or range. Animals must be able to behave naturally and be in a state of physical and psychological well-being. Requires animals to be raised on range or pasture, prohibits dual production (i.e. raising animals under both an industrialized, factory-farm system as well as an alternative, higher-welfare system), certifies only family farmers, high standards for animal welfare.</p>	<p>grass-fed cattle, such as those raised by Animal Welfare Approved farmers, is less likely to harbor dangerous bacteria.</p>
2	<p>Does this product contain meat/poultry produced without added antibiotics? (Yes/No)</p>	Yes	<p>“Produced without the use of antibiotics” – Is a FDA label claim indicating that the animal was never treated with antibiotics. According to the FDA 80% of all antibiotics used in the United States are used in food animal production. Most of these are used not to treat disease but to prevent disease caused by poor living condition and/or promote growth. Injudicious use of antibiotics in animal agriculture can result in antibiotic resistance in humans</p>	<p>Meat ingredients in the product may have been produced with antibiotics.</p>
3	<p>Does this product contain meat produced without added hormones? (Yes/No)</p>	Yes	<p>“Produced without the use of added hormones” – Is a FDA label claim indicating that hormones were never administered to the animal. Hormones are commonly administered to bovine and sheep (lambs) to increase and speed up the growth of the animal.</p>	<p>Meat ingredients in the product may have been produced with added hormones.</p>
4	<p>Does this product contain meat that was grass-fed? (Yes/No)</p>	Yes	<p>Grass Fed is a USDA label/claim indicating that animals were raised on a lifetime of 100% grass-fed diet. Must have access to pasture most of the growing season and cannot be fed grain or grain crops.</p>	<p>According to the FDA 80% of all antibiotics used in the United States are used in food animal production. Most of these are used not to treat disease but to prevent disease caused by poor living condition and/or promote growth. Injudicious use of antibiotics in animal agriculture can result in antibiotic resistance in humans.</p> <p>The USDA Grass Fed standard only requires access to the outdoors during the growing season and does not cover humane animal welfare.</p>

Eggs:

Include the following questions for processed foods that are egg based or contain egg ingredients

#	Environmental Questions	Preferred Answer	Definition	Rationale
1	Does this product contain egg ingredients that are Certified Humane Raised and Handled?	Yes	Certified Humane Raised and Handled® - Poultry/Egg products are raised humanely. No growth hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics used. Food, living, environmental, and slaughter standards in place.	Egg ingredients may have been produced with added hormones and non-therapeutic antibiotics (e.g., antibiotics used to prevent disease and promote growth) and raised in a setting that does not address humane living and slaughter standards.
2	Does this product contain eggs produced without added antibiotics? (Yes/No)	Yes	“Produced without the use of antibiotics” – Is a FDA label claim indicating that the animal was never treated with antibiotics. According to the FDA 80% of all antibiotics used in the United States are used in food animal production. Most of these are used not to treat disease but to prevent disease caused by poor living condition and/or promote growth. Injudicious use of antibiotics in animal agriculture can results in antibiotic resistance in humans	Egg ingredients in the product may have been produced with antibiotics.

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ⁱ Meadows, Donella, RBGH - Not The Only Choice Comparing the full effects of chemically-generated increases in milk production—with a non-chemical alternative *The Ecology Of Justice* (IC#38) Spring 1994, Page 8 Copyright (c)1994, 1997 by Context Institute