



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

August 26 2016

Amendment to the Canadian Organic Standards

All organic producers and processors are invited to comment the proposed modifications before September 25 2016

In order to clarify the scope of some clauses or to make them compatible with the practices of the industry, modifications are proposed to the two Canadian Organic Standards, CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015 – *Organic Production Systems– General Principles and Management Standards* and CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015 – *Organic Production Systems – Permitted Substances Lists*, published November 25th 2015.

The sector is invited to comment these proposed modifications under the public review coordinated by the Canadian General Standards Board which will run from August 26 to September 25 2016.

To consult the 2016 amended draft, click on the following links:

- [General Principles and Management Standards](#)
- [Permitted Substances Lists](#)

The CGSB Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture will meet September 27 2016 in order to analyze the proposed modifications taking into account comments issued by the stakeholders and the public.

Proposed modifications – Summary

Here is a list of the proposed modifications are presented, excluding grammatical corrections.

General Principles and Management Standards

- **III. Organic practices** – Addition of the following sentence

Certification Bodies shall allow a period of up to 12 months after the publication date of an amendment to CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311 for an applicant to come into compliance with any changes to the requirements.

- **Crop Production** – Addition of clause 4.4.6

If pest and disease control substances that are not listed in Table 8.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 are used under any mandatory government program, operator shall monitor and document their use.

Note: In the event of emergency pest or disease treatment, Canadian operators are required to notify their certification body, immediately, of any change that may affect organic product certification.

- **7.4 Sprouts, shoots and micro-greens production-** addition of the following sentence

Subclause 7.4 applies to crops that are generally harvested within 30 days of imbibition, either with roots attached (sprouts) or cut from the roots (shoots and micro-greens). **All relevant subclauses in this standard apply to sprouts shoots and micro-greens production where this subclause has no specific requirements, including 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.6 and 5.1.7.**

- **7.5 Greenhouse crops**

- Addition of a sentence to 7.5.1

7.5.1 All relevant subclauses in this standard apply to greenhouse production where this subclause has no specific requirements, including 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.6, and 5.1.7. In a permanent, in-ground soil system, prohibited substances shall not have been used for at least 36 months before the harvest of an organic crop.

- Modification of 7.5.5

7.5.5 The following conditions apply to containerized, staked crops (for example, tomatoes, sweet peppers, cucumbers, eggplant):

- a) at the start of production, the total volume of soil shall consist of at least 10% compost;
- b) **Additional** compost **applications** shall be included in the fertility program;
- c) the soil volume shall be at least 60 L/m² (1.2 gal./sq.ft), based on the total growing area. **If a soil volume smaller than 60 L/m² is used, then at least 70% of the nitrogen and 70% of the phosphorous needs of the plants shall be provided in the form of solid organic soil amendments that requires an active soil ecosystem to fulfill these needs.**

Permitted Substances Lists

- **Table 4.2 Modification to the following annotations**

- **Digestate, anaerobic**

Products of anaerobic digestion may be used for soil amendment, provided that the following conditions are met:

- a) the materials added to the digester shall be listed in Table 4.2. If feedstocks are obtained from off-farm sources, the digestate shall comply with the heavy metal restrictions in Table 4.2 *Compost from off-farm sources*;
- b) the criteria for raw manure land application specified in 5.5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.310 shall be met **if the digestate includes manure**;
- c) anaerobic digestate may be used as a compost feedstock if it is added to other substances which are then composted. See Table 4.2 *Compost feedstocks*.

- **Plants and plant byproducts**

Includes plant preparations of aquatic or terrestrial plants or parts of plants, such as cover crops, green manures, crop wastes, hay, leaves and straw. Parts of plants used as soil amendments and foliar feeds are permitted. Wastes from crops that have been treated or produced with prohibited substances may be used as composting feedstocks.

For processing of plant by-products, see Table 4.2 *Extractants*.

Sawdust, wood chips and shavings: **shall be** obtained or derived from wood that has not been treated with paint or substances **fortified or processed with synthetic chemicals such as herbicides, preservatives or glues**.

- **Sulphur, elemental**

Non-synthetic **or derived from non-synthetic sources** elemental sulphur may be used as a soil amendment where more buffered sources of sulphur are not appropriate, and as a foliar application. Chemically synthesized substances shall not be added. Chemical treatment is prohibited.

- **Table 4.3 Modification to the following annotations**

- **Biological organisms**

Biological organisms (living, dead or as extracts), such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, insects and nematodes. Some examples are *Bacillus thuringiensis*, spinosad and granulosis.

Antibiotics are prohibited.

Used to benefit plant production by reducing pest populations.

- **Copper**

The following copper products are permitted:

a) for use as a wood preservative or for disease control—**copper sulphate**, copper hydroxide;

b) for use as a fungicide on fruits and vegetables—copper sulphates, Bordeaux mix, copper oxychloride and copper oxide.

Shall be used with caution to prevent excessive copper accumulation in the soil. Copper buildup in soil may prohibit future use.

Visible residue of copper products on harvested crops is prohibited.

- **7 Permitted substances lists for cleaners, disinfectants and sanitizers**

7.1.3 Substances listed on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) shall be listed in Tables 7.3 or 7.4 **and shall comply with prohibitions in 1.4 of CAN/CGSB-32.310. Inactive (inert) ingredients in formulated cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants used without a removal event, directly on organic products or organic product contact surfaces, except for water, shall be limited to product stabilisers, e.g. HEDP (1-hydroxyethane 1,1-diphosphonic acid) or dipicolinic acid in formulations of hydrogen peroxide or peracetic acid cleaners. Other inactive (inert) ingredients, such as but not limited to dyes, fragrances, and chemical agents used to prevent physical separation of foams or emulsions, for example, shall be listed in Table 7.3.**

Table 8.2 – Addition of the following annotation

Diatomaceous earth **Direct contact with organic products in storage is permitted.**

To submit a comment

For submitting a comment on the proposed changes to either or both CAN/CGSB-32.310 General Principles and Management Standards and CAN/CGSB-32.311 Permitted Substances Lists, please use the following form:

[32-20 Comment Form - formulaire pour commentaire](#)