



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

November 2008

Certification of Canadian Exported Products

The Organic Federation of Canada is requesting that all exported Canadian products must be certified under the Canadian Organic Standards

In respect to the work relating to the new version of the *Regulations on Organic Products*, the members of the Organic Federation of Canada (OFC) unanimously adopted the following resolution at the meeting of the board held on October 14:

The OFC believes that Canadian organic products intended for export should be first certified as compliant with the Canadian Organic Standards, then, certified by the established standards of the importing country by certification organizations accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

By presenting this position to the Canada Organic Office (COO), the OFC seeks to ensure the promotion of the Canadian Standards, to establish a normative uniformity within the Canadian organic sector and to ensure that the quality of the environment, which the Standards aims to protect, is the same all across the world.

Interpretation and preservation of the Standards

The OFC conveys proposals to the Canada Organic Office

Once implemented, the Canadian Standards will be applied by producers and processors of organic products under the supervision of accredited certifiers of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). To ensure the application of the written Standards, the OFC works with the COO regarding the implementation of an Interpretation Committee in order for the COO to have access to the expertise of the sector and for the decisions of the Committee to benefit from the CFIA authority.

Further to the establishment of an Interpretation Committee, an OFC Committee responsible for structuring the mechanisms for the preservation and the revision of the Canadian Standards in the long term, developed an organization chart which describes the participants involved in the permanent management of the Canadian Standards (COO, CGSB and its working groups, OFC, Interpretation Committee), as well as scenarios of interactions among these participants. The OFC and the COO are coordinating their efforts to implement structures which will enable the sector to produce organic products within a stimulating environment. To follow ...

Funding for this project was provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program. AAFC is pleased to participate in this project and is committed to working with industry partners to increase public awareness of the importance of the agriculture and agri-food industry to Canada. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the OFC and not necessarily those of AAFC



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

The OFC Annual General Assembly will be held on November 19, 2008 in Saskatoon

Thanks to the support of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program, the OFC members will meet at the Annual General Assembly to be held November 19, at 9:00, in the Van Gogh room of the Senator Hotel in Saskatoon. The agenda includes several topics: committees' reports of activities, update of the internal procedures and long term financing of the OFC, powerful topics such as the equivalence agreements to be established by Canada with countries importing or exporting organic products, and the implementation of regulations in the provinces which are not governing the production and the sale of organic products in their domestic markets. The agenda of the Annual General Assembly can be found at:

<http://www.organicfederation.ca/html-en/info-bio.html>

The General Assembly of the OFC is a public event. Should you wish to attend, confirm your presence with the coordinator of the OFC at 514-488-6192, or via email to: info@organicfederation.ca. Places are limited.

Brief news

... The meetings of the Liaison Committee and the Canada Organic Office will resume shortly as they were interrupted temporarily for the election period. The organic sector and Canada Organic Office teleconferences, held every second Monday, are very instructive and available to all. We will advise you of the resumption date of these meetings very shortly..

...The OFC hired a technical agent to analyse the gaps between the Canadian Standards and the standards of the Canadian commercial partners. Mrs. Priscilla Reimer, an experienced inspector in Manitoba, accepted the position. She will also collaborate on the revision of the Permitted Substances List.

... Thanks to new funds granted by the Provincial, Territorial and commercial organic development program, the Filière biologique du Québec has a new web site: <http://www.filierebio.qc.ca/fr>, which will soon be available in English.

... The OFC invites you to visit its web site at www.organicfederation.ca. The list of the Federation members is available at: www.organicfederation.ca/html-en/members_voting.html

By joining the organization representing your Province or Territory, you participate in the development of the organic regulations as well as in the establishment of productive relationships between the organic sector and the Canadian government.

Organic Federation of Canada

www.organicfederation.ca - info@organicfederation.ca

514-488-6192



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

To be aware of the latest news

A few e-newsletters from the organic sector

Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia

<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews.htm>

Going Organic Network of Alberta - GO News

http://www.goingorganic.ca/go_newsletter.htm

Ministry of Agriculture Food & Rural Affairs of Ontario

On Organic e-newsletter

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network - ACORN Enews

<http://www.acornorganic.org/newsletters.html>

Organic Food Council of Manitoba

http://organicfoodcouncil.org/index.php#home_news

Organic and related news

La Filière biologique du Québec

http://www.filierebio.qc.ca/pages/page_293.asp

Les Actualités (in French)

Certified Organic Producers Co-op - COPC Organic Enews

email@organicpei.com (for being on the distribution list of COPC newsletter)

Centre d'agriculture biologique du Canada/Organic Agriculture Center of Canada

http://www.oacc.info/FriendsE-zines/april2008_f.asp#cyber1

Canadian Organic Growers / Cultivons Biologique Canada

http://www.cog.ca/e-news/cog_e_0809.html#section1

Organic Consumers Association Canada

<http://organicconsumers.org/canada/index.cfm>

Organic Federation of Canada

www.organicfederation.ca - info@organicfederation.ca

514-488-6192