



Notes from COO Liaison Committee Meeting of May 25, 2009

Present: Betsy Hui, Gunta Vitins, Gordon Nodge, Rochelle Eisen, Tracy Innis, Stephanie Wells, Sherry Casey, Sally Blackman, Larry Leonardt, Keith Mussar, Dag Falck, Nicole Boudreau, Julie Belzile, Matthew Holmes, Sarah Bain, Byron Hamm, Lucienne Lemire, Ted Zettel, Claude Barthélemy, Kathleen Carroll, Priscilla Reimer, Dave Lockman

COO office: Elizabeth Corrigan, Michel Saumur.
DFAIT: Louise Burden

Regulations - The Regulatory process is progressing but the COO cannot answer any questions as the work is under Cabinet confidence. The intention is still to publish the OPR by June 30th. The Regulations can be published at any time, up to and including June 30th. The whole sector will be informed of the publication in Gazette II as soon as it happens. Questions and comments regarding the OPR that were submitted to the COO will be answered in the Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement, or via individual letters.

Standards and the PSL – Anne Caron at CGSB is preparing the ballot that should be sent early June. The ballot results will be compiled late June, and the results published in July. The results will be considered as being incorporated in the Standards and PSL, even if they are not yet officially published. The current version of the standards and PSL always prevail, but the Stream of Commerce Policy will allow the CFIA to accept modifications as soon as they are balloted. The COO is looking for funding for a 5th ballot to be held before the sunset of the Stream of Commerce Policy (which provides for the OPR to be fully enforced after a grace period of 2 years).

Conformity Verification Bodies – The five CVBs – CAEQ/CARTV, SCC, COABC, IOAS and DAP - will be sent their contractual agreements for signing. The COO has asked each CVB to produce a list of their accredited Certifying Bodies, under each country in which the CBs operate. The CBs accredited under the COR can do business anywhere in the world.

Equivalency agreement — Negotiations continue with the NOP and the COO hopes to have an agreement by June 30th. The COO is waiting for a response from the EU representatives. Japan has received documentation on the COR. South Korea shows no interest in equivalency with the COR. Taiwan has established a first contact.

The COR applies to imported and interprovincial trade. Operators must comply with further requirements introduced by provincial jurisdictions, such as labelling requirements. Keith Mussar asks if organic products will need to be certified to the Quebec Standards to be sold in the province of Quebec. Michel Saumur recommends contacting the Quebec government for this information.

[Follow-up: the CARTV CEO was contacted; the CARTV Board of Directors will meet May 29 and confirm Quebec's position regarding products certified under the Canadian standards to be sold in Quebec.]

Each province is under pressure to develop a provincial organic regime. New Brunswick is looking at setting up a regulation. Manitoba has published an organic regulation, but monitoring is still to be discussed.

COABC has adopted the Canadian Standards, not the regulation.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 1pm EST on Monday, June 8th.

Call-in Number is: 1-866-646-2080. Pass code is 2217165.