



Notes from COO Liaison Committee Meeting of September 28th 2009

Present: Betsy Hui (CHFA), Nicole Boudreau (OFC/FBC), Deb Foote (CHFA), John Hollinger (MAFRI), Anne Macey, Tomas Nimmo, Gunta Vitins (Sunopta), Julie Belzile (FBQ), Ted Zettel (OFC), Priscilla Reimer (MOA), Larry Lenhardt, Jennifer Scott (CSI), Jodi Koberinski (OCO), Sally Blackman (CHFA), Dag Falck (Nature's Path), Stephanie Wells (OTA), Rochelle Eisen (COABC), Tiffany Priestley (OPAM), Jennifer Scott (CSI), Dave Lockman (ProCert), Byron Hamm (ProCert).

COO office: Michel Saumur, Valeriya Staykova and Ken Bruce.

Standards

The fifth ballot: The CGSB has submitted a timeline for carrying out the 5th ballot, to the COO and to the sector with the following key dates and tasks:

- Sept 30 : list of priority items provided to CGSB by the WGs;
- December 9: WG's draft wording and proposed amendments to CGSB;
- CGSB coordinates translation and finalizes proposed amendments;
- December 21: Proposed amendments distributed to TC members;
- Week of January 18: CGSB Technical Committee Meeting.

CGSB and the COO are planning to hire staff for the coordination of the work groups' meetings.

If there are items that need to take priority, stakeholders should contact the chairs of the WG.

PSL:	Dag Falck	DFalck@naturespath.com
Livestock:	Anne Macey	annemacey@telus.net
Crops:	TBD	
Processing:	Matthew Holmes	mholmes@ota.com

Cost of the Standards: The CGSB has agreed to itemize their projected costs for the standards maintenance. The COO is waiting for the CGSB outline. Rochelle asks if the sector should campaign for getting free access to the standards. Ted answers that it would not be a good use of resources to campaign now. It is better to wait for the results of the negotiations with CGSB. Jennifer (CSI) reports that, though the standards are not free, operators do have to get a copy of the standards. The CSI auditor was clear about that ISO 65 requirement; moreover, CBs have to verify that their clients have a copy of the standards; otherwise the CB accreditation could be jeopardized. Valeriya said that that issue will be discussed at the upcoming meeting between the COO and accredited CBs on October 27th.

Michel adds that CGSB has requested the number of operators per accredited CB in order to estimate the potential sales of the standards. CGSB has also asked the COO to add the purchase of standards as a requirement for certification. The CFIA cannot make the purchase of standards a requirement. The Guidance Document cannot be used as an official document. Furthermore, Byron Hamm comments that a CB and the Guidance Document can deliver different interpretations of a standard. Anne Macey suggests that CBs are responsible to provide clients with copies of the standards and other regulatory documents; so, operators are not obliged to buy copies of the standards.

The COO reassures the sector that negotiations with CGSB will continue.

The COO will hold a meeting with CBs on October 27th in Ottawa; so far, 20 CBs have confirmed their participation, in-person or by webconference; the agenda includes the role of the Standards Interpretation Committee, certification procedures, and a Q&A session. For the sake of efficiency, CBs are requested to send their questions in advance of the meeting so that the COO can prepare the appropriate answers.

Another meeting is scheduled for October 29th in Winnipeg, at which time the COO will meet with the Accrediting Bodies. The questions from the CBs will be brought to the meeting; the minutes of the meeting will be published on the Can Reg List.

Equivalency Agreement –

The COO has worked on the EU-Canada Standards critical variances and will request help from the CBs by sending them various questions related to the EU-Canada variances. CBs are asked to be on the lookout for these questions and encouraged to reply promptly.

The new Deputy Administrator of the USDA NOP Program has been selected: his name is Miles McEvoy. Terms of references for meetings and a draft agenda have been sent to NOP partners but no meeting has been scheduled so far.

Public Awareness Campaign: Michel Saumur will attend the CHFA Trade Show in Toronto, October 2, 3 &4.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 1pm EST on Monday, October 19th.

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