

Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

**Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

**Canada Organic Regime**

*Saskatoon – November 2008*

**Our vision:**  
To exist as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

**Our mission:**  
Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

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Canada

**Canadian Organic Sector Overview**

Fastest growing food sector: 15 - 20% growth in industry per year

3618 certified organic farms (2005)

531,919 hectares organic crop production / 47,955 hectares in transition

approximately 800 processors / handlers / traders

2 provincially regulated systems (Qc and BC)

4 accreditation agencies / 28 certification bodies (approx.)

2003 Approximate Canadian organic retail value: over \$1 billion

2003 export value: \$63.1 million (estimate)

Approximately 80% of Canada's organic products, sold at retail, are imported.

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**Background to Regulations**

**1990** – Federal government and industry begin discussions

**1995** – AAFC drafts regulations: *No consensus, regulations not implemented.*

**1999** – Standards Council of Canada approves Canadian General Standards Board national voluntary standard for organic agriculture

**2002** - AAFC sponsors revision to standard under auspices of Canadian General Standards Board (completed 2006)

**2003** – Consultation and writing of the Regulatory Proposal Assessment

**2004** – Formation of **Organic Production System Task Force**

**2006** – **Organic Products Regulations** published in *Canada Gazette, Part II*

**2007** – *Organic Products Regulations are an ongoing living document and are subject to review and amendments under a rigorous regulatory process.*

**2009** – *Pre-publication of OPR 2009*

**2009** - *June 30, 2009 coming into force of the OPR*

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**Canada Organic Regime**

**Principles:**

- Build on existing system (third-party service delivery for accreditation and certification)
- Revised Canadian standards for organic agriculture form the basis for the regulatory regime

**Purpose/Mission:**

- Effective **consumer protection** against deceptive and misleading labelling practices
- Continued **market access**
- **Development** of domestic market
- **Level playing field** for domestic and imported products

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**What will the regulations do?**

The regulations will require mandatory certification to the National Organic Standard (*Canadian Organic Production Systems Standards: General Principles and Management Standards CAN/CGSB 32.310 and Permitted Substances Lists CAN/CGSB 32.311*) (or any standards deemed to be equivalent) for agricultural products represented as organic in interprovincial and international trade, or that bear the federal organic agricultural product legend (logo).

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**Organic Products Regulations – Labelling Requirements**

The Regulations define specific requirements for organic products, namely:

- Organic products with organic content of greater than 95% may be labelled with the Organic Logo.
- Multi-ingredient products with 70%-95% organic content may have the declaration: “% organic products.”
- Multi-ingredient products with less than 70% organic content: organic claims may be identified in the product's ingredient list.

Products falling in the first two categories must be certified organic by a CFIA accredited Certification Body.

Also, the name of the Certification Body must appear on the label.

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## Amendments to OPR (2009)

### Incorporation of ISO standards

ISO 17011 and ISO 65

### Scope of OPR

Limited to products under the mandate of CFIA

Fertilizers – out - sector not ready

Aquaculture – out - not an agriculture product and no organic standards

CFIA will work with other departments to integrate future commodities within the COR.

## OPR (2009)...

### Logo

- New design for comments

### Import

- Authority to negotiate equivalency determination with foreign countries

## OPR (2009) ....

### Export

- Option to export-only goods to Canadian standards and import requirements, or just import requirements
- Products not organic in Canada
- Product can not be re-imported as organic in Canada

## System structure

**CFIA is competent authority** → agreements with accreditation bodies, and accredits certification bodies based on their recommendation.

Canada Organic Office

**Authorized Accreditation bodies** → assess certification bodies

5 AB have been evaluated.

Agreements are being developed.

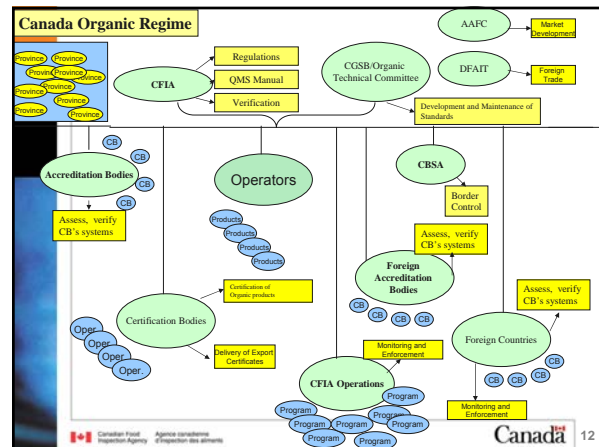
## System structure

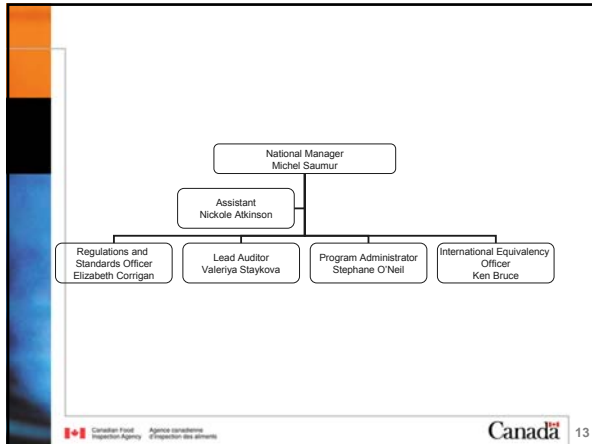
Certification bodies → inspect for on-farm/facility compliance with organic standard requirements

Operators → apply and maintain procedures in standards

CFIA → enforces regulations

- System audits to verify ABs and CBs operating as intended
- Complaint response
- Investigation and enforcement activities (14 programs)





### Foreign Country Equivalency Determination

61 countries have been identified - trading with Canada in Organic Products

21 (15 from EU) have applied for equivalency determination - EU (15), US, Japan, Australia, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Switzerland

Elements of comparison: Regulations, Administration Accreditation Certification, Standards and Monitoring and Enforcement

### Next steps

- Pre-publication of OPR 2009...
  - New version of Organic Standards (Dec. 2008)
- Completion of Label Review Decision Tree and training tool. (Dec. 2008)
- Agreements with accreditation bodies...list of ABs and CBS on CFIA website. (Dec. 2008)
- Agreements with some foreign countries (EU, US, Japan etc....)(April 2009)
- Public Awareness Campaign

### Outstanding Issues

- Resources - Cost recovery or self funding
- Integration of other commodities within COR i.e. aquaculture, fertilizers, cosmetics, NHP, etc...
- Logo – coordinating work with the OVCRT
- Export issue – consultation with the industry
- Signing of agreements with ABs
- List of ABs and CBs on website
- Stream of Commerce Policy – finalize – on website

### References and Contacts

**Organic Products Regulations:**  
 CFIA Website: [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)  
 Canada Gazette Website: [www.canadagazette.gc.ca](http://www.canadagazette.gc.ca)

**Organic Production Systems Standards:**  
 Canadian General Standards Board Website:  
[www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb)

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