

Organic Food Labeling in Canada - The "Canada Organic Regime" will " ... come into force on December 14, 2008 ..." according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency - The regime " ... is the Government of Canada's response to requests by the organic sector and consumers to develop a regulated system for organic agricultural products. The Organic Products Regulations (the Regulations) define specific requirements for organic products to be labelled as organic or that bear the Canada Organic Logo ... Certification Bodies will be accredited based on the recommendation of CFIA recognized Accreditation Bodies. The Certification Bodies are responsible for verifying the application of the National Standard for Organic Production Systems ..."

Document Title: The title of the March 20, 2008 Health Canada News Release is "Canada Organic Regime: A Certified Choice; Information for Organic Stakeholders"

Organization: Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Summary: The following information is taken from the March 20, 2008 CFIA News Release

The Canada Organic Regime is the Government of Canada's response to requests by the organic sector and consumers to develop a regulated system for organic agricultural products. The Organic Products Regulations (the Regulations) define specific requirements for organic products to be labelled as organic or that bear the Canada Organic Logo. The Regulations will come into force on December 14, 2008.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of the Regulations. Under the Regime, Certification Bodies will be accredited based on the recommendation of CFIA recognized Accreditation Bodies. The Certification Bodies are responsible for verifying the application of the National Standard for Organic Production Systems.

Why do organic products need regulation?

The Canada Organic Regime has been developed to:

- * Protect consumers against misleading or deceptive labelling practices;
- * Reduce consumer confusion about the definition of organic;
- * Facilitate the access of Canadian organic products to foreign markets that require regulatory oversight; and

* Support further development of the domestic market.

What is an organic product?

An organic product is an agricultural product that has been certified as organic. A product can be certified if it is produced using the methods outlined by the National Standard for Organic Production Systems. For more information on the Standard, please visit http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html

Beginning on December 14, 2008, products that make an organic claim must be certified by a Certification Body that has been accredited, based upon the recommendation of a CFIA recognised Accreditation Body. The Certification Body must certify the product to the National Standard for Organic Production Systems. The CFIA is working with Accreditation Bodies to accredit Certification Bodies under the Canada Organic Regime.

How do products get certified under the new Canada Organic Regime?

Operators must develop an organic production system based on the National Standard and have that system certified by a Certification Body recognized and accredited under the Canada Organic Regime.

How do I recognize an organic product?

As of December 14, 2008, any product with an organic claim must comply with the requirements of the Organic Products Regulations.

Only products with organic content that is greater than 95% may be labelled as: "Organic" or with the Canada Organic Logo and/or the designations "Canada Organic" and "Biologique Canada".

Multi-ingredient products with 70-95% organic content may have the declaration: "% organic products." These products may not use the Canada Organic Logo and/or the designations "Canada Organic" and "Biologique Canada".

Multi-ingredient products with less than 70% organic content may only contain organic claims in the product's ingredient list. These products may not use the Canada Organic Logo and/or the designations "Canada Organic" and "Biologique Canada".

Certified organic products must also bear the name of the certification body that has certified the product as organic. Organic products sold within the province of origin are subject to provincial organic regulations, the Consumer Packaging and

Labelling Regulations and the Food and Drug Regulations. The provinces of Quebec and British Columbia have organic certification systems in place, while other provinces are considering developing their own system. Products bearing organic claims will be expected to be certified as meeting the National Standard for Organic Production Systems. All organic products bearing the Canada Organic Logo or the designations “Canada Organic” and “Biologique Canada” must comply with the Organic Products Regulations.

Canada Organic Logo

Use of the Canada Organic Logo is voluntary.

When you see this logo, it will mean that the product has organic content that is greater than 95% and has been certified according to Canadian requirements for organic products.

Imported products must meet the requirements of the Canada Organic Regime. Should imported products bear the Canada Organic logo or the designations “Canada Organic” and “Biologique Canada”, the statement “Product of”, immediately preceding the name of the country of origin, or the statement “Imported from”, must appear in close proximity to the logo or the designations. When will the Canada Organic Regime be implemented?

The Organic Products Regulations come into full force on December 14, 2008. The CFIA is working with stakeholders to have the Regime in place by this date.

The Regulations may be found at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s website at: www.inspection.gc.ca

Questions

Should you have any questions regarding the Canada Organic Regime, you may contact the Canada Organic Office.

Canada Organic Office
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1-800-442-2342
www.inspection.gc.ca

Source: March 20, 2008 CFIA News Release

Web site: The March 20, 2008 CFIA News Release is posted at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/stainte.shtml>

The regulations are posted on the web site of the Canadian General Standards Board at

<http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/home/index-e.html>

specifically at

http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html

Contact: The manager of the CFIS Organic Office is Michel Saumur who may be reached at 613 221 7165; fax: 613 221-7296; e-mail:

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