

July 2012



How does the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act](#) apply to “organic” products that are not certified under the Canadian Organic Regulations?

There are no intraprovincial organic regulations in the majority of Canadian provinces but the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for the administration of the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act which applies to food and feed. In section 7 of the Labelling Act, it is said that:

7. (1) No dealer shall apply to any prepackaged product or sell, import into Canada or advertise any prepackaged product that has applied to it a label containing any false or misleading representation that relates to or may reasonably be regarded as relating to that product.

Section 20 goes on to describe the punishment measures when an offence is committed:

20. (1) Subject to subsection (2.1), every dealer who contravenes any of sections 4 to 9 is guilty of an offence and liable

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

The OFC and the Canada Organic Office are currently discussing how CFIA inspectors are trained to conduct an audit when a retailer, trader or producer is accused of falsely adding the “organic” designation to a non certified product that does not seem to comply with the organic standard. While organic inspectors are trained to recognize whether a product can be labelled as organic, CFIA inspectors who inspect products may not be familiar with the Canadian Organic Standards.

“It is of great importance that our sector gain confidence in the system of enforcement and be able to defend it when accusations of fraudulent activity arise” says Ted Zettel, President of OFC. The results of the coming discussions will be shared.

In the meantime, anyone can lodge a complaint if a non-certified “organic” product does not seem to be complying with the organic standards by visiting the CFIA website at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/contacts/eng/1300275138875/1300275631949>

Organic Value Chain Roundtable

The Bulletin from the May 7-8, 2012 Meeting is now on the [AAFC Website](#)

Questions & Answers

about Canadian Organic Standards

open to comment

Can inputs that have been produced using substrates from GE plants be used in organic food production?

Do topical applications of antibiotics in milking cows require a 30 day withdrawal?

Is crop rotation mandatory in organic systems? Is the training of staff working in organic facilities mandatory?

Mandated by the Canada Organic Office, the Canada Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is proposing answers to these and other pertinent questions, All Canadian organic stakeholders are invited to issue their comments. All received comments will be assessed by the SIC.

[Please click here](#) to read and comment on the Q&As submitted for the current public comment period. The deadline for issuing your comment at OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca is **September 17th 2012**.

Why organic?

Yum yum ...

A total of 52 809 585 kg of pesticide active ingredients were reported as being sold for use in the agricultural sector in Canada in 2008

Since 2006, registrants to Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) have been required to annually submit the total volume of all their products registered with the PMRA that were made available for sale to users.

The [first report published by PMRA](#) reveals that:

The overall pesticide sales in Canada for 2008 were 87 522 435 kg a.i.

The top ten active ingredients (a.i.) made up for 61 836 154 kg a.i. They consist of: glyphosate, oil-borne heavy duty wood preservatives, elemental copper, sodium hypochlorite, 2,4-D, mancozeb, chromic acid, glufosinate ammonium, MCPA and mineral oil.

Of the quantity of pesticides sold for use in the Agricultural sector, herbicides accounted for 79.4% of the pesticide sales, followed by fungicides at 12.5%, insecticides at 5.7% and antimicrobials at 0.5%*.



Antibiotics cause superbugs in chicken and threatens women's health

Dr Marc Siegel, a US physician is clear: 25% of women with urinary infection are resistant to the kind of antibiotics that are typically used. Dr Siegel thinks that it is because “we are giving too many antibiotics to our animals as 80% of the antibiotics that are prescribed go to animals”. “Eating organic meat is a great suggestion”, along with implementing good hygiene practices, confirms Dr Siegel. As well, he adds, eating organic helps to improve the living conditions of chickens, that can have an otherwise poor life. [On Yahoo News!](#)

NO GOOD NEWS ABOUT GMOS

The Union of Concerned Scientists, a American nonprofit organization of citizens and scientists for environmental solutions, says it all.

- Monsanto's version of 21st century farming relies on engineered seeds that require more pesticides, reduce biodiversity, and increase costs for farmers.
- Roundup Ready crops have increased herbicide use by an estimated 383 million pounds.
- Researchers estimate that Monarch butterflies have laid 81 percent fewer eggs due to the loss of habitat on farms since Monsanto's Roundup Ready crops were introduced.
- Thirteen years of genetically engineering soybeans has improved U.S. farmers' yields only slightly if at all.
- Monsanto's Roundup Ready crop and herbicide systems have helped to create "superweeds" that infest millions of acres of farmland.
- Studies show that using organic farming methods could improve drought-year yields by up to 96%. By contrast, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has said that Monsanto's so-called "DroughtGard" corn seeds won't help farmers withstand extreme droughts or reduce water use.

To read more, visit: http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_agriculture/science_and_impacts/impacts_genetic_engineering/monsanto-fails-at-improving.html

Support your organic representatives, working to develop sustainable agricultural practices in Canada!



Click on <http://organicfederation.ca/ofc-voting-members>
to view the list of the Canadian organic associations
supporting the implementation of organic agriculture in Canada!

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