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THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

July 17 2018

Standards Interpretation Committee

REPORT – Public comment period – April 25 to May 25 2018

- Can urine from unmedicated individuals be added into compost which is used in organic certified production?
- Is the soil container volume criteria outlined in 7.5.5 (32.310) applicable to containerized microgreen production (7.4)?
- When liquid ingredients are composed of solids dissolved in added water, is the added water excluded or included in the percent organic calculation?
- Does running a non-synthetic mineral fertilizer through an ion-exchange system render the mineral fertilizer synthetic?

...and many other questions.

The report from the Standards Interpretation Committee can be consulted [here](#).

Under SFCR, slaughterhouses will not have to be certified, but...

There is no requirements for mandatory certification of transporters , warehouses and slaughterhouse under Part 13 of the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) that will be enforced in January 2019. But there are many potential scenarios to be considered.



The organic integrity of all products has to be maintained and the SFCR will require that the methods that are used and the control mechanisms that are in place for every organic product meet the requirements and the general principles of the applicable Canadian Organic Standards (CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311)

So there will be options for the verification of compliance of transportation, storage and slaughtering activities:

1. the activities will be included in the organic plan of the organic operator and will be inspected as part of the organic product certification.

OR

2. they will be validated by an [attestation of service](#) in accordance with the Canada Organic Regime [Operating Manual](#). Attestations of service are issued by Certification bodies after verification that the operation complies with CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311.

But there could be an obligation of certification of the slaughterhouse if the slaughterhouse packages and labels the meat products.

3. If an operator has his livestock slaughtered at a facility that slaughters the animals and then packages and labels the final products, this facility would need to be certified. It is not the facility but the final organic product that has been packaged and labelled that will be certified.
4. A facility that slaughters the animals, cuts them in quarters and gives the quarters back to the operator without packaging and labeling them would not have to be certified. In this particular situation, scenarios 1 or 2 would apply. The slaughter facility will need to have an attestation of service confirming that the methods that are used and the control mechanisms that are in place for every organic product meet the requirements and the general principles of the applicable Canadian Organic Standards (CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311). Or the slaughtering activity will be included in the organic plan of the organic operator and will be inspected as part of the organic product certification.

The Canadian Organic Standards made easy

COG publishes the GUIDE TO THE CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS

The standards are the base of the flourishing Canadian organic industry, but they can be challenging to read and apply. To help readers and operators understand the standards and the reasoning behind them, the Canadian Organic Growers has published the GUIDE TO THE CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS in [English](#) and [French](#).

The GUIDE explains in a plain language what the standards means, provides background information, and gives examples that are relevant to producers and operators applying them.

As the GUIDE complements the Canadian Organic Standards, readers should refer first to the [Standards](#) and [Permitted Substances Lists](#) before they use it. It also reflects the current interpretation of the standards by the [Organic Standards Interpretation Committee \(SIC\)](#), which is managed by the [Organic Federation of Canada](#) and funded by the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#).

The OFC welcomes the publication of the COG's Guide: reading the guide will surely help stakeholders get ready for the review of the Canadian Organic Standards!

Revision of the Canadian Organic Standards

Call for petitions

The OFC invites you to propose modifications to the COS.

Any grower, stakeholder or consumer can suggest modifications as the standard review process is based on transparency and consensus.

CLOSING DATE – JULY 31 2018

In order to prepare for the review of the Canadian Organic Standards, we need to know what modifications the industry is proposing. To submit a modification request:

- you need to use the forms that are attached
 - one [specific form](#) for modifications to [CAN/CGSB/32.310-2015 – General Principles and Management Standards](#),
 - and one [specific form](#) for [CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015 – Permitted Substances Lists](#).
- your proposed modification has to be substantiated – your arguments have to be clearly stated.

Please note that:

- The Canadian Organic Standards (COS) are national standards that ensure Canadian agricultural production is sustainable; they are the backbone of our growing domestic and export-oriented industry.
- They are referenced by the [Organic Products Regulations](#) and, as all 'national' standards, they have to be reviewed every five years to maintain their 'national' status and
 - To ensure that they remain valid, applicable,
 - Are in tune with latest research developments, and
 - comparable to the standards of our trading partners.

The next review of the COS (2015 version) needs to be completed by November 2020.

Revision of the Canadian Organic Standards

Are you interested in joining a working group?

We need crop, livestock, processing, honey, greenhouse, sprouts, maple products producers and experts to share principles and practices with us!



The Working Groups play an essential role in the process of the review of the organic standards – they analyze the modification requests and draft the recommendations that will be submitted to the Committee on organic agriculture of the Canadian General Standards Board. Afterward that, the committee will vote on whether to adopt the recommendations.

The meetings of the Working Groups are held by conference calls; the working documents are shared on the Web.

And we already know that the issue of parallel production is back to the list – has the stakeholders' position changed since 2010?

Visit [OFC's Blog](#) launched in February 2010 to read the passionate debate about parallel production!

If you are interested in joining a Working Group, please send an email at info@organicfederation.ca and specify the section of COS that you are familiar with.

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