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THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2019

Canadian Standards Interpretation Committee

New Comment period – September 30 to October 30, 2019

Do seed coatings or treatments need to be considered when calculating the organic percentage of an organic seed product?

Can an operator use crops not covered under the Canada Organic Regime (COR) (tobacco or cannabis) as part of the operation's rotation and still keep the organic status of the fields?

Is the greenhouse clause (7.5) applicable to berries grown in protective shelters?

... and many other questions.

[Click here](#) to see the proposed answers to various questions raised by organic stakeholders regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture. **The proposed responses are subject to a 30-day comment period from September 30 to October 30, 2019.**

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

The report from the last public comment period – June 21 to July 21, 2019 - is available – [click here](#).

Updated posting of Final Q&As

All new Q&As will include the date of their publication

To comply with the directives of the [Canada Organic Regime operating manual](#), the Certifying Bodies (CB) and the certified operators have to *'adhere to the interpretations of the Canadian organic standards (CAN/CGSB 32.310, CAN/CGSB 32.311) provided by the SIC and considered official by the CFIA, to achieve uniform and consistent application of the rules to all operators through various CBs'* as per clause C.5.11 of the operating manual.

To help the CBs and the operators comply with this directive, all the Q&As that were finalized in 2019 and all future Q&As will include the date of when they are added to the Final Q&A section. The posted date will be used as a reference date by the CBs and operators to investigate and establish compliance of operations as soon as outstanding issues are clarified by the SIC.

It is election time!
**You are invited to submit nominations
for the Standards Interpretation Committee**

Deadline: November 4, 2019

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, in cooperation with the Organic Federation of Canada, has established the Canada Organic Regime to regulate all parties involved in the certification of organic products in Canada. An important element of this system is the [Standards Interpretation Committee \(SIC\)](#).

In accordance with [SIC Terms of Reference](#), the terms of three committee members, François Labelle, Rob Wallbridge and Kelly Monaghan, are ending in December 2019.

**You are invited to submit nominations for these three positions.
To be eligible, candidates should be experts in different sectors of organic agriculture including:**

- Crop production;
- Livestock production ;
- Processing (food manufacturers);
- Importation , Distribution and Retail;
- Certification and inspection;
- Verification Officers (inspectors).

[Other elected members](#) of the Standards Interpretation Committee include François Handfield, Gavin Wright, Étienne Nadeau and Allison Grant.

SIC nominations should be sent to the OFC at info@organicfederation.ca by October 30, 2019. Please contact the OFC if you have any questions or require further information.

About the SIC

Questions and Answers - National Standard on Organic Production Systems – [Click here](#)

Questions can be submitted to the committee by anyone (e.g. operator, CB, CVB) and shall be sent by email to the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#).

Guidelines to address a question to the SIC: [click here](#)

Call for expertise

The Standards Interpretation Committee
is recruiting experts.

To answer the many questions the SIC receives
about substances, processes and technologies,
they require chemical, biochemical,
microbiological and agronomic knowledge.
They are looking for experts in these fields to
provide consultation in a timely fashion

If you are interested in supporting organic
agriculture and processing by sharing your
expertise, please contact Nicole Boudreau,
nicole.boudreau@organicfederation.ca.

We can offer an hourly honorarium for
services



www.organfederation.ca