

Questions and Answers Regarding National Standards for Organic Agriculture

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, in partnership with the Organic Federation of Canada, has developed the Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC). The objective of the Committee is to provide, to the Canada Organic Office, interpretive guidance on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB32.311).



Comment period – June 30 to July 30, 2020

REPORT

Note: The questions and answers in this report were published in the Final [Questions and Answers – Canadian Organic Standard](#) on August 18, 2020.

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Organic Principles and management practices

6 Livestock production

Bloat treatment

TRANSFERRED TO FINAL QAS

Is the use of poloxalene allowed as a bloat treatment for dairy animals? (492)

No - unless the requirements of 6.6.10 of CAN/CGSB-32.310 are met.

Cleaning of dairy equipment

TRANSFERRED TO FINAL QAS

Is sodium phosphate tribasic dodecahydrate permitted for use as a cleaner, disinfectant and sanitizer on dairy equipment as a derivative of phosphoric acid? (493)

No. Cleaning substances, including derivatives, must be listed in Tables 7.3 or 7.4. (7.1.3 in CAN/CGSB-32.311, SIC [Final Questions and answers](#) -Q&A 453) unless the derogation in 8.2.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.310 is pertinent.

Propolis for health care

TRANSFERRED TO FINAL QAS

Can non-organic propolis and other bee products, except honey, be used as a livestock health care product? (496)

Yes. Non-organic propolis, pollen, royal jelly, beeswax and bee venom, may be used as a livestock health care product (*Homeopathy and biotherapies*, CAN/CGSB-32.311 Table 5.3). Honey though, if used for livestock health care, would have to be organic (*Honey*, CAN/CGSB-32.311 Table 5.3).

8 Maintaining organic integrity during cleaning, preparation and transportation

Use of electrolyzed water

COMMENTED – NOT REVISED -TRANSFERRED TO FINAL QAS

Is electrolysed water allowed as a cleaning and sanitizing substance per 8.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.310? (290) (491)

Electrolysed water (which may contain hypochlorous acid as a byproduct of either electrolysis or from the dissolution of chlorine compounds in water), is permitted for all production types except maple syrup. For maple syrup refer to 7.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.310.

Use of detergents to wash clothing of employees

COMMENTED – NOT REVISED -TRANSFERRED TO FINAL QAS

Must laundry detergents used to wash clothing of employees comply with the Canadian Organic Standards when they work in an operation manufacturing organic products? (489)

When clothing is in direct contact with organic food intentionally (i.e. fabric gloves), laundry detergents must comply with clause 8.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.310. Otherwise, the clothing is not considered a food contact surface, and is outside the scope of the standard.

Permitted Substances Lists

Use of piperonyl butoxide

TRANSFERRED TO FINAL QAS

Are pyrethrin products containing piperonyl butoxide as a synergist permitted for use in organic facility pest management programs? The annotation in 8.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 specifically prohibits piperonyl butoxide as a carrier. (490)

No. The annotation for pyrethrin is to prohibit its use if it contains piperonyl butoxide. When used as a synergist, piperonyl butoxide is considered an active ingredient under the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and would need to be listed in CAN/CGSB-32.311 to be acceptable in organic production.

Additional information

Rewording for clarity

Chlorine to disinfect ~~poultry~~ livestock carcasses

Can peracetic acid or chlorine be used to disinfect ~~poultry~~ all types of livestock carcasses? Are there alternative substances or processes? (254)

Yes. Livestock, including poultry carcasses, may be disinfected with peracetic acid (Table 7.3) or with chlorinated water, provided the concentration of chlorine does not exceed the maximum limits applicable under regulations for safe drinking water. See Table 7.3 - Chlorine compounds. As an alternative peracetic acid can be used at disinfecting rates (Table 7.3). Alternative physical processes such as steam, hot water or High Pressure Processing (HPP) are allowed.

Final decision on transition of GE field crop

The SIC received a petition requesting that the answer to question 459 be re-evaluated. A consultant was hired to submit the issue of the calculation of the transition period of GE crops to industry experts. The consultant's report indicated that most of the experts consulted supported the response issued by the committee in June 2019.

Transition of a GE crop field

When calculating the 36-month transition period, does it begin on the date that a prohibited GE crop was last sown? Or last harvested? (459a) - 21 June 2019- confirmed August 18 2020

The 36-month transition period is calculated from the date on which a prohibited GE crop was destroyed (e.g. harvested, tilled, ploughed).