Summary of the proposed modifications to the Canadian Organic Standards submitted to ballot by the Canadian General Standards Board

October 2016

General Principles and Management Standards

- **III. Organic practices –** Addition of the following sentence

  Certification Bodies shall allow a period of up to 12 months after the publication date of an amendment to CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311 for an applicant to come into compliance with any changes to the requirements.

- **Crop Production –** Addition of clause 4.4.6

  If pest and disease control substances that are not listed in Table 8.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 are used under any mandatory government program, operator shall monitor and document their use.
  Note: In the event of emergency pest or disease treatment, Canadian operators are required to notify their certification body, immediately, of any change that may affect organic product certification.

- **7.4 Sprouts, shoots and micro-greens production-** addition of the following sentence

  Subclause 7.4 applies to crops that are generally harvested within 30 days of imbibition, either with roots attached (sprouts) or cut from the roots (shoots and micro-greens). All relevant subclauses in this standard apply to sprouts shoots and micro-greens production where this subclause has no specific requirements, including 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.6 and 5.1.7.

- **7.5 Greenhouse crops**

  - Addition of a sentence to 7.5.1

  7.5.1 All relevant subclauses in this standard apply to greenhouse production where this subclause has no specific requirements, including 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.6, and 5.1.7. In a permanent, in-ground soil system, prohibited substances shall not have been used for at least 36 months before the harvest of an organic crop.

  - Modification of 7.5.5

  7.5.5 The following conditions apply to containerized, staked crops (for example, tomatoes, sweet peppers, cucumbers, eggplant):

  a) at the start of production, the total volume of soil shall consist of at least 10% compost;

  b) additional compost applications shall be included in the fertility program;

  c) the soil volume shall be at least 60 L/m² (1.2 gal./sq.ft), based on the total growing area;

d) operators of an existing greenhouse production unit, which was under organic management in November 2016, and does not comply with 7.5.5 c) are allowed to continue producing staked crops using a soil volume smaller than 60l/m^2 (1.2 gal./sq.ft);

e) after November 2016, all new built greenhouses (production units), facility expansion or major renovation of existing operations are required to comply with the requirements of 7.5.5 a), b) and c), including the greenhouses of producers that are granted an exemption in 7.5.5 d).

- **Clause 8.1.6**

8.1.6 Organic product packaging shall

a) maintain organic product quality and integrity; and

b) be minimal in a manner that is consistent with 8.1.6 a). Packaging materials that minimize harm to the environment throughout their life cycle are preferred; and

c) comply with prohibitions in 1.4 ~~a),~~ b), and k).

Permitted Substances Lists

- **Table 4.2 Modification to the following annotations**

  - **Digestate, anaerobic**

Products of anaerobic digestion may be used for soil amendment, provided that the following conditions are met:

a) the materials added to the digester shall be listed in Table 4.2. If feedstocks are obtained from off-farm sources, the digestate shall comply with the heavy metal restrictions in Table 4.2 *Compost from off-farm sources*;

b) the criteria for raw manure land application specified in 5.5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.310 shall be met if the digestate includes manure;

c) anaerobic digestate may be used as a compost feedstock if it is added to other substances which are then composted. See Table 4.2 *Compost feedstocks.*

  - **Potassium**

The following potassium sources are permitted:

a) langbeinite, mined sulphate of potash magnesia and mined potassium salts (sylvinite and kainite);

b) potassium rock powder—includes basalt, biotite, mica, feldspar, granite and greensand;

c) potassium chloride (KCl)—muriate of potash and rock potash. KCl shall not cause salt buildup in soil through repeated application;

d) potassium sulphate—shall be produced by evaporating brines from seabed deposits or combining mined minerals. Potassium sulphate made using reactants (such as sulphuric acid or ammonia) is prohibited. Fortification with synthetic chemicals is prohibited.

- **Plants and plant byproducts**

  Includes plant preparations of aquatic or terrestrial plants or parts of plants, such as cover crops, green manures, crop wastes, hay, leaves and straw. Parts of plants used as soil amendments and foliar feeds are permitted. Wastes from crops that have been treated or produced with prohibited substances may be used as composting feedstocks.
  For processing of plant by-products, see Table 4.2 *Extractants.*
  Sawdust, wood chips and shavings: shall be obtained or derived from wood that has not been treated with paint or substances fortified or processed with synthetic chemicals such as herbicides, preservatives or glues.

- **Sulphur, elemental**

  Non-synthetic or derived from non-synthetic sources elemental sulphur may be used as a soil amendment where more buffered sources of sulphur are not appropriate, and as a foliar application. Chemically synthesized substances shall not be added. Chemical treatment is prohibited.

- **Table 4.3 Modification to the following annotations**

  - **Biological organisms**

    Biological organisms (living, dead or as extracts), such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, insects and nematodes. Some examples are *Bacillus thuringiensis*, spinosad and granulosis.
    Antibiotics are prohibited.
    Used to benefit plant production by reducing pest populations.

  - **Copper**

    Copper sulphate, copper hydroxide, copper octanoate, Bordeaux mix, copper oxychloride and copper oxide.
    Permitted for use as a wood preservative, fungicide on fruit and vegetables or for disease control.
    Shall be used with caution to prevent excessive copper accumulation in the soil. Copper buildup in soil may prohibit future use.
    Visible residue of copper products on harvested crops is prohibited.

  - **Formulants**

    Formulants can only be used in conjunction with substances listed in Table. 4.3. Only formulants classified by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) as List 4A or 4B or that are non-synthetic may be used with substances listed in Table 4.3. Formulants classified as PMRA List 3 may be used with passive pheromone dispensers. Formulants classified as List 4A, 4B or 3 are not subject to CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015-1.4. PMRA List of Formulants classified as List 1 or List 2 are prohibited.

- **Table 5.3**
  - **Acids**

    Non-synthetic sources. Allowed for all uses including water treatment.

  - **Formulants (inerts, excipients)**

    Shall be used in conjunction with substances listed in Table 5.3. Formulants are not subject to 1.4, CAN/CGSB 32.310 2015 or 5.1.2, CAN/CGSB 32.311

- **Table 6.5**

  Ascorbic acid
  Synthetic and non-synthetic sources.
  For use as an anti-browning agent prior to the extraction or concentration of fruit or vegetable juice.

- **Sodium bicartbonate**

  6.3 Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)
  ~~If the non-synthetic form is not commercially available, the synthetic form is permitted.~~ No annotation.

  6.5 Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)
  ~~If the non-synthetic form is not commercially available, the available synthetic form is permitted.~~ No annotation.

  7.3 Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)
  ~~Non-synthetic sources.~~

  ~~See Table 7.4 Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), synthetic.~~ No annotation.

  ~~**7.4 Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), synthetic. No annotation.**~~

- **7 Permitted substances lists for cleaners, disinfectants and sanitizers**

  7.1.3 Substances listed on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) shall be listed in Tables 7.3 or 7.4 and shall comply with prohibitions in 1.4 of CAN/CGSB-32.310. Ingredients in formulated cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants used without a removal event, directly on organic products or organic product contact surfaces, shall be limited to listed Table 7.3 substances, water, and compounds used to treat drinking water, and product stabilisers, such as HEDP (1-hydroxyethane 1,1-diphosphonic acid) or dipicolinic acid, whose function is to prevent the chemical degradation of 7.3 substances, such as hydrogen peroxide or peracetic acid. Other ingredients, such as but not limited to dyes, fragrances, and chemical agents used to prevent physical separation of foams or emulsions, for example, shall be listed in Table 7.3.

- **Table 7.3 Alcohol, organic sources (added)**

- **Table 7.4 Hydrogen peroxide (added)**

  Permitted up to maximum label rates.

8 Facility management substances

8.1.1 Facility management substances are classified according to the following uses and applications:

a) Substances listed in Table 8.2 are pesticides (See *pesticides* definition in clause 3 of CAN/CGSB-32.310) that shall be used in and around facilities, as annotated and as specified in 8.3.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.310. These substances may be used in accordance with accepted best pest management practices if no usage annotation is specified, as well as in traps, lures and as repellents, unless indicated otherwise within substance annotations.

- **Table 8.2**

  - **Diatomaceous earth**
    Direct contact with organic products in storage is permitted.

  - **Baits for rodent traps (added)**
    Baits shall not contain synthetic substances.

  - **Pheromones and other sermiochemicals (added)**
    Synthetic and non-synthetic pheromones and semiochemicals are permitted.

    For pest control. Use in pheromone traps or passive dispensers. Formulants classified in PMRA List 3 may be used with passive pheromone dispensers.

- **Table 8.3**
  Repellents (added)

  Shall be derived from a non-synthetic source, such as sterilized blood meal, rotten eggs, hair or predator scents. Shall not contain synthetic additives.