

December 9 2016

Standards Interpretation Committee

New members and a new public comment

The OFC is happy to present the [2016-2017 Standards Interpretation Committee](#): Jean Duval, Rochelle Eisen, Janine Gibson, Amy Kremen, François Labelle, Kelly Monaghan and Rob Wallbridge. We have a great team with many years of experience in organic production and preparation among them.

The agenda is very busy with more than 40 questions waiting to be addressed. Moreover, 'old' Q&As already posted as Final Q&As have been brought back to the attention of the SIC as a result of the preparation of the *User's Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards*. The *User's Guide* is currently being produced by the Canadian Organic Growers (COG).

The guide's writers, who are experts in the Canadian Organic Standards (COS), were asked by the OFC to incorporate the content of existing Final Q&As into the body of the guide to ensure the harmonization of the *User's Guide* with the SIC interpretation. In doing so, the writers have identified some SIC answers that need to be reconsidered.

- We invite all organic stakeholders to consult [the proposed answers to the questions](#) which were raised by the sector under the request for public comments launched December 8, 2016.
- The report about the last request for public comments (October-November 2016) [can be consulted here](#).
- Also, all The Q&As of the Apiculture clause – [7.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310](#) – have been reworded to clarify organic apiculture requirements.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is funding the work of the SIC.
The *User's Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards* will be published in 2017.

News from Ted Zettel

The OFC would like to thank Ted Zettel, who chaired the SIC since its creation in 2009. Ted managed the SIC with great attention and dedication and we always enjoyed sharing thoughts and expressing opinions with him.

Ted is now back to farming with his family. You can watch the beautiful video, **Zettel Family Farms - Established 1860**, on [Youtube](#).



Use of synthetic methionine in pork production

A new request for modification added to the COS amendment process

The revised Canadian Organic Standards (COS), which were published on November 25th 2015, came into force November 25 2016. The [Canadian Inspection Food Agency](#) advised the Canadian organic sector that a number of clauses of the enforced 2015 version of the COS are not immediately applicable as they are being amended (the process will be concluded in 2017).

However, a new request for modification has been added to the amendment process: the Livestock PSL Working Group is requesting to amend the annotation of Amino acids, in Table 5.2 of the Permitted Substances Lists (PSL).

The annotation for Amino Acids –Table 5.2 in the published version of CAN/CGSB 32.311 -2015 is:

Non-synthetic sources. Amino acids are considered non-synthetic if they are produced by plants, animals and micro-organisms and are extracted, or isolated, by hydrolysis or by physical or other non-chemical means.

Exceptions:

- a) L-lysine extracted using biofermentation and not produced from genetically engineered organisms shall be permitted if the need to supplement hog or poultry feed with lysine can be demonstrated; and*
- b) DL-methionine, DL-methionine—hydroxy analog and DL-methionine—hydroxyl analog calcium 15 (CAS#'s 59-51-8, 853-91-5, 4857-44-7, and 922-50-9) may be used in organic poultry production.*

NOTE These exceptions shall be reviewed at the next full revision of the standard.



In reviewing the discussions and recommendations of the Livestock PSL Working Group, it was revealed that the Livestock PSL WG never recommended the removal of the use of synthetic methionine in pork production. The removal of the use of synthetic methionine is an editorial error that was never noticed by the industry, though submitted to public comment and balloted in 2015. Consequently, the Livestock PSL Working Group is requesting to amend the Amino acids annotation and to allow the use of synthetic methionine for pork until a clear decision about that issue has been made.

This last amendment request will complete the amendment process undertaken during the summer 2016.

The amended version of the annotation for Amino acids would read as follows:

Non-synthetic sources. Amino acids are considered non-synthetic if they are produced by plants, animals and micro-organisms and are extracted, or isolated, by hydrolysis or by physical or other non-chemical means.

Exceptions:

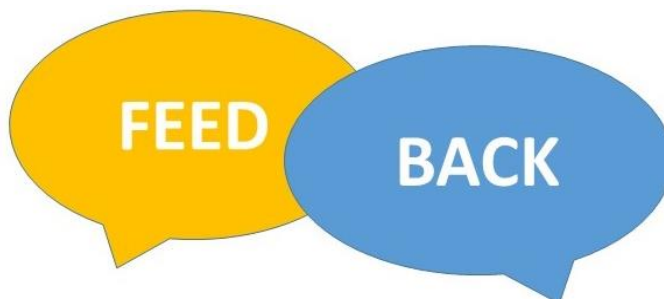
- a) L-lysine extracted using biofermentation and not produced from genetically engineered organisms shall be permitted if the need to supplement hog or poultry feed with lysine can be demonstrated; and*

- b) ~~synthetic~~ DL-methionine, DL-methionine—hydroxy analog and DL-methionine—hydroxyl analog calcium ~~15~~ (CAS#'s 59-51-8, 853-91-5, 4857-44-7, and 922-50-9) may be used in organic poultry production.*

NOTE These exceptions shall be reviewed at the next full revision of the standard.

OFC SURVEY
What about non-compliance?

HAVE YOUR SAY!



Canadian operators wishing to label their products as organic have to comply with the Canadian Organic Standards (COS), referenced by the Organic Products Regulations (OPR). The operators have to be inspected every year to demonstrate that they apply the standards faithfully. The annual inspection is a very significant moment of their farming/processing activities.

In order to help operators succeed in their certification process, the OFC wants to know how easy or difficult the process is. Are there many non-compliances, and if so, is it difficult to resolve non-compliances? Are operators well informed about the Canadian Organic Standards and about the OPR requirements?

[Click here](#) to respond to the survey.

Knowing the difficulties and challenges encountered through the certification process will help facilitating the process. Thanks for your participation!



The Canadian organic sector presents its needs to the Canadian government

Every five years, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) conducts a national consultation process with the agricultural sector. The purpose of this process is to gather policy and program recommendations that ensure Canadian agriculture continues to thrive and adapt to new research, environmental challenges and consumer trends. This process will help inform the Government of Canada's [Next Agricultural Policy Framework](#) – a set of policies and programs that will steer Canadian agriculture from 2018-2023.

The Organic sector is a burgeoning industry that requires specific tools to maintain its growth.

[Our recommendations](#) present the various needs and priorities that we want to see addressed in Canada's Next Agricultural Policy Framework This document is a collaborative effort, written by some of Canada's main national organic associations: *Canadian Organic Growers, Canada Organic Trade Association, Organic Federation of Canada* and *USC Canada*. This report was submitted to the AAFC on November 30th.



Organic Federation of Canada – Fédération biologique du Canada