

# Info - bio

THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

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## **“Canada and EU agree organic equivalency”**

This announcement was made on the website [Fruit.net](http://Fruit.net).

“The review of each other’s rules for organic production and control systems have led to the conclusion that in the EU and Canada the rules governing production and controls of organic agricultural products are equivalent to those laid down in each other’s legislation,” the European Commission (EC) said in a statement on Friday 24 June.

So, organic products will circulate freely between the two jurisdictions. Reaching this agreement before the end of the Stream of Commerce Policy was particularly important: Canadian producers will not have to get the EU certification for exporting their products to the EU and importers of EU organic products will not have to require EU products to be certified to the Canadian standards. It is important for Canada to have its organic regime recognized and validated by major countries. More details about the EU/Canada agreement to be published soon!

## **No NOP certification in Canada : US faithful to the [US-Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement](#) (USCOEA)**

In a meeting of representatives from the Canada Organic Office (COO), the US National Organic Program (NOP) and the Filière biologique du Québec (FBQ) June 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Lévis, [Miles McEvoy](#), NOP Deputy Administrator, clearly stated that the NOP certification is no longer allowed for organic products grown in Canada, after he was informed that many American buyers or Asian importers are still requesting NOP certification for exported Canadian products. The NOP Deputy Administrator reaffirmed that information and communication are the key to the full USCOEA implementation and that traders have to comply with the import/export rules. Some finetuning of the agreement is still needed for the trade of ingredients but the COO and NOP will hold working sessions to resolve these.

## **Organic Maple Syrup: US and Canada standards not perceived as being equivalent**

Quebec maple syrup processors also met with Miles McEvoy, the COO and the FBQ June 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss about variances between the US and the Canada maple syrup standards. Variances for the maple syrup production were already identified when the USCOEA was signed in June 2009, but the sector decided not to include them in the agreement and to rather work to level out those variances. The US maple syrup production was quite low compared with the Canadian production and the variances between the two standards were not viewed as critical ones. But the US production is now raising; and the Quebec producers are now requiring to reconsider the variances between the two national standards, that are mainly related to the tapping practices, the

requirements for equipment and the cleaning operations. Maple syrup experts and producers from both countries will meet to assess how the variances could be attenuated.

### **Standards Interpretation Committee: CFIA and OFC signed the 2011-2012 contract**

The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is back to work: contract has been signed for 2011-2012 and [the SIC members](#) are back answering questions from organic stakeholders. The team is dynamic, well informed and the answers are regularly published on the [COO website](#). Questions should be addressed to the COO, as per directives described on the [COO Operating Manual](#).

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