

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 (AGRI-SIC).

The objective of the Committee is to provide to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Office interpretive guidance on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311).



Below are proposed answers to questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

The proposed responses are subject to a 30-day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to cfia.opr-rpb.acia@canada.ca.

Public Comment Period

From November 25 to December 28, 2025

Table of contents

Organic principles and management standards

Definition of salt	2
Honey harvested from wild bees	2

Permitted Substances Lists

Hay preservative containing prohibited substances.....	2
Fumed silica	2

Organic principles and management standards

Definition of salt

Does the definition of salt in CAN/CGSB 32.310 - 3.67 include any compound defined as a salt in chemistry, and allowing its use with or without a specific listing in the CAN/CGSB 32.311 - 6 Permitted substances lists for preparation; and excluding its content in the calculation of the percentage of organic ingredients in CAN/CGSB 32.310 – 9.1.3? (653)

No. The definition refers to sodium chloride or potassium chloride as indicated in Table 6.4 Salt listing. Any other “salts” used in a product composition must be listed in Tables 6.3 – 6.5, used according to the table category and Origin and usage annotation, and be included in the calculation of the percentage of organic ingredients as per CAN/CGSB 32.310 – 9.2.1 or 9.2.2.

Honey harvested from wild bees

Can honey harvested from wild bees be certified to 7.1 Apiculture or 7.6 Wild Crop ? (382)

No. Wild bee products are not covered by the Canadian Organic Standards.

Permitted Substances Lists

Hay preservative containing prohibited substances

If a hay preservative containing prohibited substances is applied while baling, and the hay is being sold as non-organic, does the field lose its organic status? (445)

Yes. The field would lose organic status as there is means to ensure the field will not become contaminated to some degree. Only hay preservatives approved for organic use or those containing active ingredients listed in Table 4.2 are permitted, or hay preservatives listed in Table 5.2 if they are applied while baling.

Fumed silica

Is the use of fumed silica, a processed form of silicon dioxide, restricted by CAN/CGSB-32.310 1.4 b) as a product of nanotechnology? (660)

No. Fumed silica is not considered a product of nanotechnology and is permitted as a food additive or a processing aid per CAN/CGSB 32.311 Tables 6.3 and 6.5 Silicon dioxide listings.