

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).



Public Comment Period

June 18 to July 18, 2026

REPORT

All of the following Questions and Answers have been moved to the [Final Questions and Answers](#) section on the OFC website on August 26, 2026.

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Organic principles and management standards

Under public comment

Electric collars

COMMENTED-NOT MODIFIED

Are electric collars for virtual fencing systems permitted in organic production systems? (671)

Yes, providing the relevant Code of Practice or regulation does not prohibit their use.

Adhesive on a protective sleeve

COMMENTED-REWORDED

Is it permitted to apply a protective sleeve bonded with bitumen to a post ~~treated with prohibited substances and~~ installed on organic soil within the root zone of organic crops (for example, as a trellis), if the outer surface of the sleeve is made of an authorized plastic (i.e., other than polyvinyl chloride)? (676)

Yes. Protective sleeves are a permitted alternative per Clause 5.2.3 a). There is no restriction to the adhesive or substance used on a protective sleeve, providing the adhesive it does not come in contact with the soil, soil water or roots of the crop. The post with protective sleeve shall be installed in a manner that ensures the plastic cover remains intact and 100% watertight during the life of the post eliminating the bitumen from contaminating the water or soil.

Glass bead filtration system for sap

Are glass bead filtration systems permitted for sap filtration in organic maple syrup production? (674)

Yes, providing the filtration is done before processing and does not compromise the sap's inherent qualities as per Clause 7.2.12.1.

For information

Pâturage - volaille

This revised Q&A complies with Canadian Organic Standards 2026

Does Clause 6.3.4 apply to pasture used for poultry? In other words, can the raising of poultry be timed to coincide with the transition of land rather than waiting until the pasture is certified organic to start a new flock? In this case, if poultry hatched when the range was only partway through the 3-year transition of land, are birds allowed to forage on this land for the last twelve months of transition? (99)

Clause 6.13.1.b.1 states that outdoor areas have to be granted organic status; but, as Clause 6.3.4 allows use of land in the third year of transition for a transitioning livestock production unit without excluding poultry as an exception, poultry may have access to pasture under the third year of transition.

Heating temperature for the bottling or processing of honey

What is the maximum heating temperature for the bottling or processing of honey? (625, 669)

The temperature when bottling or processing honey shall not exceed 47 °C (116.6 °F), the maximum temperature for decrystallization. If heated above this temperature, the honey can only be used as an ingredient in a multi-ingredient product as per Clause 7.1.16.4 of CAN/CGSB-32.310.