

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

July 20 to August 20, 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

Burning of crop residue

COMMENTED - NOT MODIFIED

Does the prohibition of burning crop residue (Clause 5.4.6 of CAN/CGSB-32.310) refer only to burning by fire, or does it also prohibit chemical burning with a permitted herbicide substance, such as acetic acid? (666)

CAN/CGSB 32.310 5.4.6 refers to the removal of crop residue by fire. Chemical burning with an herbicide is permitted using production aids listed in CAN/CGSB-32.311 Table 4.2 Column 2 when the use of organic management practices alone cannot control pests as per CAN/CGSB-32.310 5.6.1 & 5.6.2.

Parasiticide treatment for meat birds

Can meat birds retain their organic status if they are treated with a parasiticide? (678)

Yes. Meat birds under 12 months of age can receive one treatment of a parasiticide as per 6.6.11 g) of CAN/CGSB-32.310, as long as the conditions outlined in 6.6.11 a) to d) are met.

Glue boards for pest control

COMMENTED - NOT MODIFIED

Is it permitted to use pest control devices with glue boards:

a) that monitors both insects and rodents? (673.1)

No. Glue boards are not permitted for monitoring rodents, only for insects.

b) that monitor insects and include mechanical traps to monitor rodents? (673.2)

No, if the rodents can be caught on the glue boards. Yes, if the rodents cannot be caught on the glue boards.

Glue boards are not permitted for monitoring rodents and can only be used to manage a demonstrated rodent infestation as per Clause 8.3.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.310.

Permitted Substances Lists

Cellulose based polymers

COMMENTED - REWORDED

Can cellulose based polymers be used in micronutrient fertilizers or soil amendments? (680)

No. Cellulose based polymers would require a specific listing per Table 4.2 Formulants used in soil amendments listing because they are not considered to be from biological or mineral sources.

Acetic acid in mushroom production

Is acetic acid considered an agricultural material and therefore required to be organic to use it in mushroom production? (670)

No. Acetic acid is not considered an agricultural ingredient, as it is more than minimally processed, and may be used in mushroom production per the listing and annotation in Table 4.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311.

Potato starch permitted as a drying powder

Is non-organic potato starch permitted as a drying powder for direct application to piglets and the farrowing area? (679)

Yes. It is permitted per Table 5.3 Botanical compounds of CAN/CGSB-32.311, providing it complies with prohibitions in CAN/CGSB 32.310 Clauses 1.4 and 1.5