



# Latest News in Organic Certification

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**Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd.**  
*Celebrating 20 years of Service!*

# Overview

- Who is Pro-Cert?
- The National Organic Standards of Canada and Regulations.
- Equivalency Agreements and Organic Trade.
- Key Compliance Issues and Questions.



# Who is Pro-Cert?

- Pro-Cert is the main Canadian Organic Certifier with over 1700 certified clients (producers and processors) in Canada and the United-States.
- Pro-Cert is owned by the Hamm family located near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Hamm's are also producers of organic crops such as wheat, alfalfa, peas, oats and flax.
- Pro-Cert operates out of two offices: Head Office in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and an Eastern Branch Office in Cambray, Ontario.
- Pro-Cert is celebrating 20 years of Organic Service.



# Who is Pro-Cert?

Pro-Cert is Accredited to certify operators to the following Standards and Regulations:

- the National Organic Standards of Canada and Product Regulations;
- the EC Regulation 834/07 and 889/08;
- the USDA National Organic Program;
- the Quebec Organic Reference Standards;
- MAFF Japanese Regulations (JAS) (New in 2010).
- Bio-Suisse Document Completion



# The National Organic Standards of Canada and Regulations

**Came into effect on June 30, 2009 and includes the following:**

- Applies to food and drink intended for human consumption, livestock feed and the cultivation of plants.
- Applies to products sold or traded inter-provincially.
- All products claiming “Organic” must be certified and compliant to CAN.CGSB-32.310. 311 (Canadian Organic Standards).
- All imported organic products must be certified by a CFIA approved certifier, to the Canadian Standards or to the terms of an equivalency agreement with that country.



# The National Organic Standards of Canada and Regulations

**Came into effect on June 30, 2009 and includes the following:**

- A Stream of Commerce is in effect until June 30, 2011. Full enforcement by CFIA after June 30, 2011. (The Stream of Commerce is NOT a period of “rule bending”, it is the period of time to convert from your existing standard (NOP, EEC) ... to the COR.
- Claims of “organic” and “contains x % organic ingredients (between 70 and 95%)”.



# The National Organic Standards of Canada and Regulations

**Came into effect on June 30, 2009 and does NOT include the following:**

- Certification of Aquaculture, fertilizers, cosmetics, natural health products and pet food.
- Organic products sold intra-provincially.
- Claims of « 100% organic », « Made with Organic Ingredients » and products under 70% organic ingredients.



# Equivalency Agreements and Organic Trade

Few trade agreements are currently in place for organic trade:

- Canada - USA Equivalency Agreement.
- Canada - Quebec Agreement.
- USA - JAS (NOP/JAS) Agreement.



# Equivalency Agreements and Organic Trade

## Canada - USA Equivalency Agreements:

- Products certified as “organic”, imported into Canada, certified by a USDA-NOP accredited certifier, which was not produced with sodium nitrate, hydroponics or products from livestock not in accordance with NSC stocking rates.
- Products certified as “organic”, imported into the USA, certified by a CFIA accredited certifier, which is not an agricultural product derived from livestock treated with antibiotics (milk).
- The equivalency agreement does not include the following claims: 100% organic, Made with organic ingredients contains x % organic ingredients, products with less than 70% organic content. MORE INFORMATION TO COME?



# Equivalency Agreements and Organic Trade

## Canada - Quebec Equivalency Agreements:

- Products certified as “organic” or “contains x% organic” certified under the terms of the National Organic Standards of Canada and Regulations may be sold in Quebec without additional certification.
- Products certified as “organic” or “contains x% organic” certified in Quebec under the terms of the Quebec Organic Reference Standards may be sold in the rest of Canada without additional certification.
- The equivalency agreement does not apply to Maple products certified to the USDA-NOP (not permitted in Quebec), Aquaculture, natural health products, pet foods, cosmetics and products containing less than 70% organic ingredients.



# Equivalency Agreements and Organic Trade

## **USDA-NOP/JAS Import Agreement:**

- Organic bulk products imported to Japan from the US, certified as organic under the USDA-NOP, not produced using lignin sulfonate as a floating agent and alkali extracted humic acids.
- Organic products imported to Japan from Canada must be certified to the Japanese Organic Standards by an accredited certifier.



# Equivalency Agreements and Organic Trade

- Currently no agreements with Europe (coming?).
- Organic Products certified to the National Organic Standards of Canada are approved in South Korea until December 31, 2010.
- No trade agreement with Switzerland. Producers require a Bio-Suisse certification.



# Key Compliance Issues and Questions

## Canadian Organic Standards:

- OMRI certificates for inputs are not a proof of compliance to the NSC; Canadian Certifiers must research all “brand name” substances for compliance.
- Parallel production of crops is not permitted (also not permitted under EU).
- Soil or plant testing is required for the use of micronutrient fertilizers (synthetic or natural).
- Compost must comply with the composting guidelines set forth on the PSL (Approved Feedstock, Category A, Acceptable Pathogens levels).
- Fertilizers cannot contain any prohibited additives such as anti-dusting agents.



# Key Compliance Issues and Questions

## Canadian Organic Standards:

- Cannot alternate fields in and out of organic productions.
- A non-organic, non-gmo, non-treated seed variety may be used IF that organically produced seed or planting stock variety is not available from the enterprise and not commercially available .
- Production, storage and marketing records must be maintained.
- Lot #'s must be assigned to all sales and should be included on invoices and trade documents to ensure traceability.



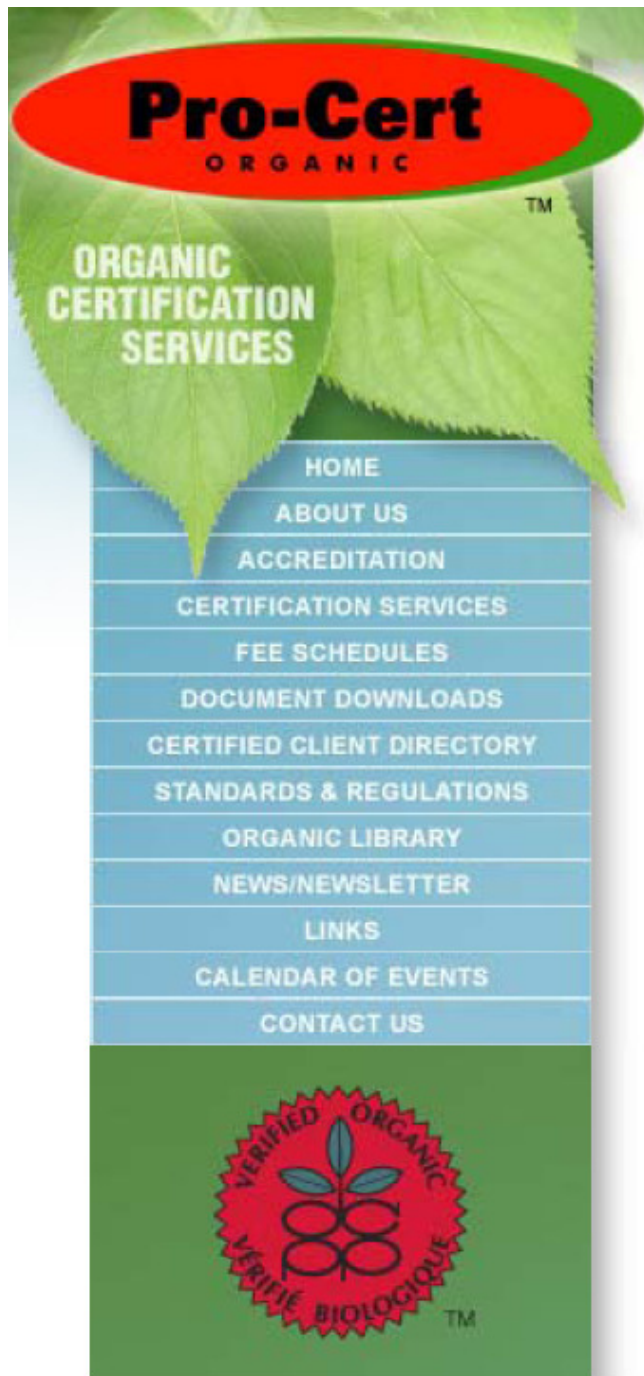
# Key Compliance Issues and Questions

Who Makes Interpretations of the Canadian Organic Standards?:

- The Certifiers.
- The Conformity Verification Bodies.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC).

*When an interpretation on an issue is not possible, it is returned to the Committee on Organic Agriculture for a revision of the Standards.*





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For Questions about Organic Certification in

Eastern North America

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