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Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Science and regulation...
working together for Canadians

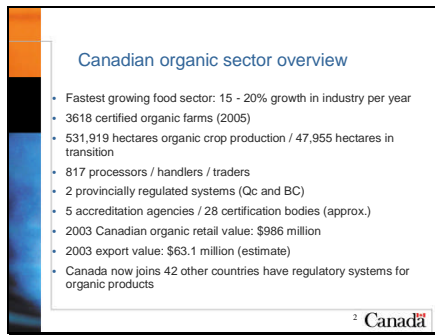
Implementation of the
CANADA ORGANIC REGIME

Canada Organic Office

Canada

12 March 24, 2007

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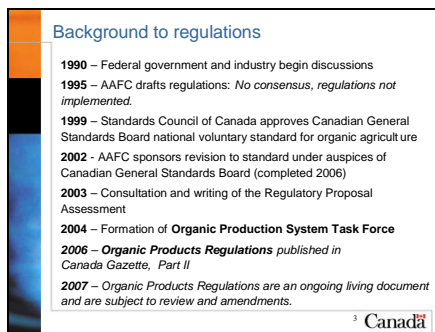


Canadian organic sector overview

- Fastest growing food sector: 15 - 20% growth in industry per year
- 3618 certified organic farms (2005)
- 531,919 hectares organic crop production / 47,955 hectares in transition
- 817 processors / handlers / traders
- 2 provincially regulated systems (Qc and BC)
- 5 accreditation agencies / 28 certification bodies (approx.)
- 2003 Canadian organic retail value: \$986 million
- 2003 export value: \$63.1 million (estimate)
- Canada now joins 42 other countries have regulatory systems for organic products

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Background to regulations

1990 – Federal government and industry begin discussions

1995 – AAFC drafts regulations: *No consensus, regulations not implemented.*

1999 – Standards Council of Canada approves Canadian General Standards Board national voluntary standard for organic agriculture

2002 - AAFC sponsors revision to standard under auspices of Canadian General Standards Board (completed 2006)

2003 – Consultation and writing of the Regulatory Proposal Assessment


2004 – Formation of **Organic Production System Task Force**

2006 – **Organic Products Regulations** published in *Canada Gazette, Part II*

2007 – *Organic Products Regulations are an ongoing living document and are subject to review and amendments.*

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Canada Organic Regime

Principles:


- Build on existing system (third-party service delivery for accreditation and certification)
- Revised Canadian standards for organic agriculture form the basis for the regulatory regime

Purpose/Mission:

- Effective **consumer protection** against deceptive and misleading labelling practices
- Continued **market access**
- **Development** of domestic market
- **Level playing field** for domestic and imported products


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What will the regulations do?

The regulations will require mandatory certification to the National Organic Standard (*Canadian Organic Production Systems Standards: General Principles and Management Standards CAN/CGSB 32.310 and Permitted Substances Lists CAN/CGSB 32.311*) for agricultural products represented as organic in interprovincial and international trade, or that bear the federal organic agricultural product legend (logo).

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Scope of the Organic Products Regulations

Products included in the scope of the regulations must:

1. Meet the definition of "agricultural product" in the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*:
 - (a) an animal, a plant or an animal or plant product,
 - (b) a product, including any food or drink, wholly or partly derived from an animal or a plant, or
 - (c) a product prescribed for the purposes of this Act
2. Have a national production standard* developed through a stakeholder-consensus process
3. Be a product that the CFIA already regulates.

*necessary for certification, monitoring and enforcement activities

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What happens to products not covered by the regulations?

During transition period:

- status quo

Following transition period:

- marketing restrictions on the term organic will apply

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Canada Organic Logo

When you see this logo, it will mean that the product has been certified according to Canadian requirements for organic products.

Imported products bearing this logo must also bear a country of origin declaration.



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System structure

- CFIA is competent authority → agreements with accreditation bodies
- Building upon the pre-regulated system, CFIA will continue to liaise and cooperate with provincial government authorities
- Authorized Accreditation bodies → accredit certification bodies
- Certification bodies → inspect for on-farm/facility compliance with organic standard requirements
- Operators → apply and maintain procedures in standards
- CFIA → enforces regulations
 - System audits to verify ABs and CBs operating as intended
 - Complaint response
 - Investigation and enforcement activities

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Organic Products Regulations – New Authorities

The Regulations define specific requirements for organic products, namely:

- Organic products with organic content of greater than 95% may be labelled with the Canada Organic Logo and/or the designations "Canada Organic" and "Biologique Canada."
- Multi-ingredient products with 70%-95% organic content may have the declaration: "% organic products."
- Multi-ingredient product with less than 70% organic content: organic claims may be identified in the product's ingredient list.

Products falling in the first two categories must be certified organic by a CFIA accredited Certification Body.

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New Authorities – cont'd.

The Regulations provide the CFIA with the authority to suspend or cancel an organisation's certification and/or accreditation.

The Regulations also provide the CFIA the authority to enter into agreements with foreign competent authorities and accreditation bodies.

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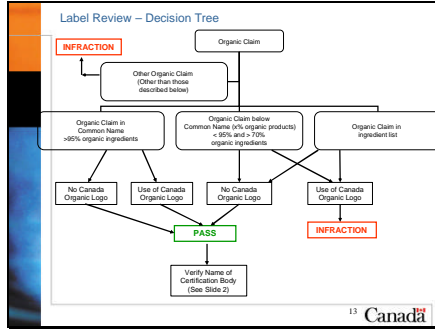
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Implementation – Next Steps for Government

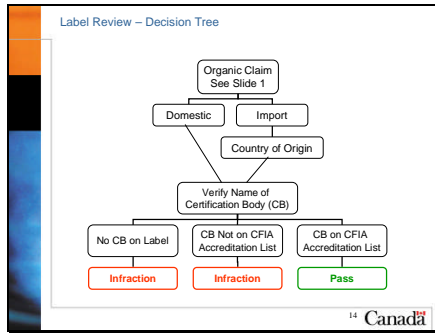
- Staffing of the organic office
- Develop administrative procedures (Quality Management System Manual for the Canada Organic Regime)
- Website, policy manual, training, communication
- Integrate organic requirements into CFIA's 15 commodity inspection programs for monitoring and enforcement activities (see Organic Label Review – Decision Tree)
- Evaluation of accreditation bodies and development of agreements
- Negotiation for recognition with key trading partners – EU and US

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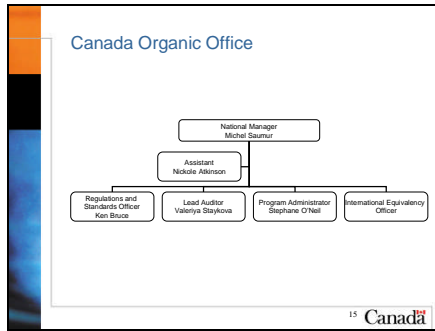
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Where to get them

Organic Products Regulations:
CFIA Website: www.inspection.gc.ca
Canada Gazette Website: www.canadagazette.gc.ca

Organic Production Systems Standards:
Canadian General Standards Board Website:
www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb

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