

LATEST ON THE CANADA ORGANIC STANDARD

In the hopes of keeping everyone informed of what standards changes maybe coming down the road, I have attempted to summarize the results of the last CGSB Technical Committee meeting held 15, 16 April 2009, which was the 10th Meeting of the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture.

Suggested changes were completed for both CAN/CGSB 32.310 General Principles and Management Standards & CAN/CGSB 32.311 Permitted Substance List (PSL). In most cases I have included the recommended revised section versus writing an interpretation of what the suggesting amendment was hoping to accomplish. Also I have not covered housekeeping recommendations which do not change the intent of the standard, nor have I included any changes made in the Maple Syrup section.

These amendments will be voted on shortly (proposed completion before June 30, 2009). Most are friendly amendments and the Canada Organic Office will be advising "CBs to accept the certification of operators who are using substances that have been approved through the April ballot but are not yet officially published by CGSB". Underline indicates an addition, ~~striketrough~~ deletion, *italicizations* indicate my editorial notes.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND MANAGEMENT STANDARDS CAN/CGSB 32.310

PROPOSED CHANGES for Section 1 - SCOPE

New item to be added into the Prohibited Substances, Methods or Ingredients in Organic Production and Handling section. Prohibited 1.4.1 I. intentionally manufactured nano-technology products, or nano-processes involving intentional manipulation of matter at the nano scale to achieve new properties or functions that are different than properties and functions of the materials at the macro scale, except naturally occurring nano sized particles, or those produced incidentally through normal processes such as grinding flour, or nano sized particles used in a way that guarantees no transference to product.

PROPOSED CHANGES for Section 3 - DEFINITIONS and TERMINOLOGY

New item to be added into the definitions Input (intrans) - Substances which are used or directly applied to the organic production system: particularly fertilizers, feed supplements, pesticides, soil amendments, veterinary treatments, processing additives or aids, sanitizing and cleaning materials.

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*Revision proposed for **Planting Stock** (Matériel de reproduction végétale) - Any plant or plant tissue, other than annual seedlings but including rhizomes, shoots, leaf or stem cuttings, roots or tubers, bulbs or cloves, used in plant production or propagation.*

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR Section 5 – CROP PRODUCTION

*New clause to be added **5.4.2 b. iv** - Animal manures which have been processed using physical (e.g. dehydration), biological or chemical treatment only with substances permitted by CAN/CGSB-32.311 Organic Systems – Permitted Substance Lists. Techniques for processing animal manure shall minimize the loss of nutritional elements.*

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR Section 6 – LIVESTOCK

*Suggested revisions for **6.7.2 c** - The following procedures are allowed under the conditions specified in par. 6.7.2 ~~a. and b.~~:*

- i. castration of piglets, lambs and calves
- ii docking of lambs' tails
- iii. branding and ear tagging
- iv.** dehorning and debudding (use of anaesthetics or sedatives is required for dairy calves).

*Suggested revisions for **6.7.5 - Milk Products** from sick animals or those undergoing treatment with restricted substances ~~cannot~~ shall not be organic or fed to organic livestock.*

*Suggested revisions for **6.7.9** - Organic livestock operations shall have a comprehensive plan to minimize ~~internal~~ parasite problems in livestock.*

6.7.9 b.- By way of derogation, when preventive measures fail (because of climatic conditions or other uncontrollable factors), the operator may use ~~anthelmintics (parasiticides)~~ not listed in CAN/CGSB-32.311, Organic Production Systems — Permitted Substances Lists, provided that

- i.** observation of the animal or fecal samples as appropriate for the species indicate the livestock is infected with parasites;

6.7.9 b. iii - withdrawal times shall be twice the ~~legal~~ label requirement or 14 days whichever is longer;

6.7.9 b. iv - there shall be only one treatment for slaughter animals under a year old and a maximum of two treatments ~~per year~~ for older slaughter animals. Slaughter animals that require further treatment will lose organic status;

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6.7.9 b. v - Dairy animals requiring more than two treatments per year (of combined antibiotics and parasiticides) will lose organic status and shall go through a 12-month transition. These dairy animals shall never be organic for slaughter purposes;

6.7.9 b. v-vi - under this derogation, a dam may be treated during gestation;

6.7.9 b. vii - Treatment of a poultry flock is allowed. Laying hens requiring more than one treatment of parasiticides per 12 month period will lose organic status;

6.7.9 b. viii - the operator shall ~~provide~~have a written action plan (including timing), describing how they will amend their parasite control plan, to avoid similar emergencies.

Suggested revisions for 6.7.8 e - antibiotics to meat animals and birds for egg production;

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR Section 7.5 – Greenhouse Crop Production

Suggested revision for 7.5.2 - The operator may use supplemental heat with proper exhaust of burnt gasses, and supplemental lighting. Supplemental nutrition may be used in accordance with CAN/CGSB-32.311. ~~However, composted animal manure shall be the primary source of nutrients.~~

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR Section 8 - PROCESSING

Suggested revision for 8.2.1.a - Solid Products: Divide the total net mass (excluding water and salt, and supplemental calcium in the case of livestock feeds) of combined organic ingredients in the formulation or finished product, whichever is more relevant, by the total mass (excluding water and salt) of all ingredients.

New paragraph to be added into 8.2.1 - When calculating the organic percentage of a product, all ingredients shall be broken down into their constituent parts to distinguish between organic and non-organic in each ingredient. The calculation must account for all constituents in the product.

Suggested revision for 8.3.3 - All non-organic processing aids of agricultural origin not listed in section 6.6 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 are subject to the requirements of par. 1.4.1 a., 1.4.1 d., 1.4.1 h., 1.4.1 j. and 1.4.1 k. Processing aids shall meet the requirements of par. 8.1 regarding ionizing radiation.

Clarifying language was added to 8.3.4 iii to make it clearer that components of both food additives and processing aids cannot contain prohibited substances unless these items are listed in the PSL. Suggested revision reads as 8.3.4 iii - they contain no other substance prohibited by par. 1.4.1, except as specified in CAN/CGSB-32.311, Organic Productions Systems—Permitted Substances Lists

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Suggested revision for 8.3.9 - Organic products, ~~in accordance with this standard,~~ shall be segregated or otherwise protected at all times (i.e. during processing, storage, bulk and unbound stages) from non-organic products, to prevent commingling.

Suggested revision for 8.4.3 - If the practices given in par. 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 are ineffective, the operator may use pest control substances not listed in CAN/CGSB-32.311, *Organic Production Systems - Permitted Substances Lists*, ~~outdoors only.~~ ~~The operator shall ensure that any pest control substances used, including fumigants, do not come in contact with organic products, and shall record the use and disposition of all such substances.~~ In situations in which pest control substances not listed in CAN/CGSB-32.311, *Organic Production Systems - Permitted Substances Lists* are used indoors, the operator shall ensure that no organic products or packaging materials for those products are present. Documentation shall be maintained showing the movement of organic products in order to avoid contact with these substances and to record the use and disposition of all such substances.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR Section 9 – EMERGENCY PEST OR DISEASE TREATMENT

Suggested revision for 9.1 - Operators shall monitor ~~their establishments for~~ and document the application of substances, prohibited by par. 1.4.1, ~~due to~~ applied under any governmental program for the treatment of pests and diseases.

Suggested revision for the note in 9.1 - Note: ~~In the event of an emergency pest or disease treatment, the reader should be aware that in Canada the operator is required to immediately notify the certifying certification body without delay of any change that may affect the certification of and that organic products and/or operations may lose organic status and/or a transition period may be required.~~ In the event of an emergency pest or disease treatment, the reader should be aware that in Canada the operator is required to immediately notify the certifying certification body without delay of any change that may affect the certification of organic products and/or operations may lose organic status and/or a transition period may be required.

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PERMITTED SUBSTANCE LIST (PSL) CAN/CGSB 32.311

PROPOSED PSL CHANGES for CROP

Table: 4.2 **Soil Amendments and Crop Nutrition** — Unless otherwise specified, the soil amendments and crop nutrients listed below shall not contain substances prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards*, or not permitted by this standard.

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Biodynamic preparations for soil and plants	Horn manure spray (Prep 500) or horn silica (Prep 501). See also par. 4.3 for other biodynamic preparations.
Peat moss	Shall not contain synthetic wetting agents.
Sawdust, <u>and wood chips and shavings</u>	Shall be from untreated and unpainted wood. Derived from n Natural substances, or those derived from natural substances, shall <u>not</u> be from wood, <u>trees or logs that have been treated with paint or that has not been treated with</u> substances prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, <i>Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards</i> .
Wood chips and shavings	From untreated and unpainted wood only.

Table: 4.3 **Crop Production Aids and Materials** — Unless otherwise specified, the crop production aids and materials listed below shall not contain substances prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards*, or not permitted by this standard.

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Biodynamic preparations for compost	Chamomile (Prep 503), dandelion (Prep 506), oak bark (Prep 505), stinging nettle (Prep 504), valerian (Prep 507) and yarrow flowers (Prep 502).
<u>Ferric phosphate (Iron Orthophosphate, Iron Phosphate)</u>	<u>Permitted as molluscicide. To be used in such a way as to prevent runoff into water bodies. Shall not be in contact with crops.</u>
Quick lime	Also known as calcium oxide. Prohibited as a fertilizer <u>or soil amendment.</u>
Plant protectants, natural	Substances that protect plants from harsh environmental conditions such as frost and sunburn, infection, the buildup of dirt on leaf surfaces, or injury by a pest. Natural substances are allowed, including diatomaceous earth, kaolin clay, pine oil, pine resin and yucca. Interior latex paint and w <u>White wash are</u> allowed for use on trees to protect against sunburn and southwest disease.

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Table: 4.3 Crop Production Aids and Materials cont'd.....

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Tree seals	Plant or milk-based paints are recommended but interior latex paints may be used. Other petroleum substances may be used if there is no alternative. Shall not be combined with fungicides or other synthetic chemicals.
Virus sprays	Shall be evaluated on a product specific basis. Codling moth granulosis virus is acceptable. No viruses from genetic engineering are allowed.
Water, reclaimed	Reclaimed water shall comply with federal, provincial and local standards and shall be used only on non-edible parts of food crops and on crops not for human consumption. Use on edible plant parts and root crops is prohibited.

Table: 4.4 **Weed Management** — Unless otherwise specified, the weed management substances listed below shall not contain substances prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards*, or not permitted by this standard.

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Sawdust, and wood chips and shavings	Shall be from untreated and unpainted wood. Derived from n Natural substances, or those derived from natural substances, shall <u>not</u> be from wood, trees or logs that have been treated with paint or <u>that has not been treated with</u> substances prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, <i>Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards</i> .
Wood chips and shavings	From untreated and unpainted wood only.

----- PROPOSED PSL CHANGES for LIVESTOCK

Table: 5.2 Feed, Feed Additives and Feed Supplements

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
<u>Amino acids</u>	<u>Non-synthetic sources only. Exception granted for use of synthetic DL-methionine until October 1, 2010.</u>
<u>Antioxidants</u>	<u>Non-synthetic sources only. Water, alcohol, acid and base extracts permitted by this standard only.</u>
<u>Micro-organisms and yeasts</u>	
<u>Probiotics</u>	
Vitamins, natural	Used for enrichment or fortification of livestock feed. Synthetic vitamins may be used if non-synthetic sources are unavailable <u>not commercially available</u> . Vitamins from any source are allowed for medical use.

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Table: 5.3 Health Care Products and Production Aids

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
<u>Activated charcoal</u>	<u>Plant sources only.</u>
<u>Calcium borogluconate</u>	<u>For milk fever. No withdrawal required.</u>
<u>Sulfur</u>	<u>For control of external parasites.</u>
<u>Vitamins, natural</u>	Used for enrichment or fortification. If allowed by federal regulation, synthetic vitamins may be used if non-synthetic sources are unavailable. Vitamins from any source are allowed for medical use.

PROPOSED PSL CHANGES for PROCESSING

Table: 6.3 Non-organic Ingredients Classified as Food Additives

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Agar	<u>Water, alcohol, acid and base extracts which are permitted by this standard only, for livestock and bee products.</u>
<u>Argon</u>	
Calcium carbonate	<u>Prohibited as a colouring or anti-caking agent.</u>
<u>Calcium sulphate</u>	<u>From mined sources only. Sulphates produced using sulphuric acid are prohibited.</u>
<u>Carrageenan (Irish moss)</u>	<u>Water, alcohol, acid and base extracts permitted by this standard only.</u>
Potassium carbonate	<u>Allowed in cereal products, baked goods, confectionery, dairy products, fruit and vegetable products, and wine production.</u>
Potassium chloride	<u>For canned fruits and vegetables, frozen fruit and vegetables, vegetable sauces, ketchup and mustard.</u>
<u>Sodium acid pyrophosphate</u>	<u>For use as a leavening agent only.</u>
Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)	<u>As a NOI, allowed in baked goods and confectionery. Non-synthetic sources only.</u>
Sodium carbonate (soda ash)	<u>For cakes and biscuits or for confectionery. Non-synthetic sources only.</u>
<u>Sodium hydroxide (lye or caustic soda)</u>	

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Table: 6.4 Non-organic Ingredients Not Classified as Food Additives

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Enzymes	<p><u>Enzymes:</u> Any preparations of enzymes normally used in food processing derived from edible, non-toxic plants, non-pathogenic fungi, or non-pathogenic bacteria, excepting micro-organisms from genetic engineering or enzymes derived from genetic engineering.</p> <p><u>Animal enzymes:</u> Rennet—animals derived; Catalase—bovine liver; <u>Animal lipase; Pancreatin; Pepsin; and Trypsin.</u> Animal-derived enzymes shall be guaranteed free of specified risk materials including the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia (nerves attached to the brain), eyes, tonsils, spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia (nerves attached to the spinal cord) of ruminants aged 30 months or older; and the distal ileum (portion of the small intestine) of ruminants of all ages. Shall be from an organic source unless not commercially available.</p> <p><u>Egg white lysozyme.</u></p> <p><u>All enzymes shall be water, alcohol, acid and base extracts permitted by this standard only and shall not contain substances prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, <i>Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards</i>, or not permitted by this standard.</u></p>

Table: 6.6 Processing Aids

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
<u>Argon</u>	
<u>Carrageenan (Irish moss)</u>	<u>Water, alcohol, acid and base extracts permitted by this standard only.</u>
<u>Caustic potash (potassium hydroxide)</u> <u>Potassium hydroxide (caustic potash)</u>	For pH adjustment only. Prohibited for use in lye peeling of fruits and vegetables.
Cellulose	As a filtering aid (non-chlorine bleached) <u>and for use in inedible regenerative sausage casings.</u>
<u>Potassium carbonate</u>	
<u>Silicon dioxide</u>	
<u>Sodium hydroxide (lye or caustic soda)</u>	Prohibited for use in lye peeling of fruits and vegetables.

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Table: 7.3 Food-Grade Cleaners, Disinfectants and Sanitizers That Are Allowed Without a Mandatory Removal Event

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Hydrogen peroxide	Shall be a hydrogen peroxide based solution for food use (hydrogen water).
Peracetic (peroxyacetic) acid	On equipment. <u>For use in wash or rinse water for food or plants or on food contact surfaces.</u>
<u>Sodium carbonate (soda ash)</u>	<u>Only non-synthetic sources may be used on food or food contact surfaces without a mandatory removal event.</u>
Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)	On equipment. <u>Only non-synthetic sources may be used on food or food contact surfaces without a mandatory removal event.</u>
<u>Sodium hydroxide (lye or caustic soda)</u>	

Table 7.4: Cleaners, Disinfectants and Sanitizers Allowed on Food Contact Surfaces, including Equipment and in Facilities Provided That Substances Are Removed From Food-Contact Surfaces Prior to Organic Production.

Common Name(s)	Origin and Usage
Caustic potash (potassium hydroxide) <u>Potassium hydroxide (caustic potash)</u>	For growing facilities (e.g. greenhouse) and structures.
Lye	For greenhouses only.
Sodium hydroxide	See Lye.
<u>Sodium carbonate (soda ash)</u>	
<u>Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)</u>	