

CERTIFICATION 101

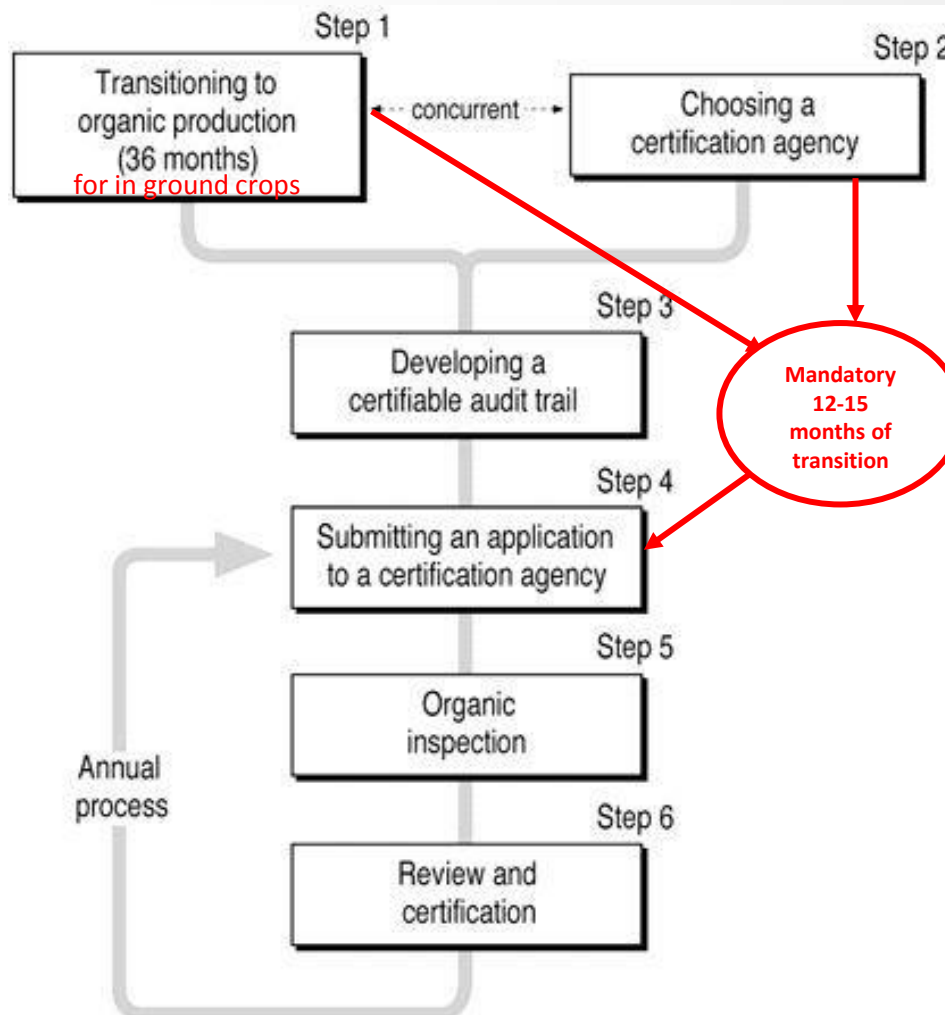
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Resilient
**SOLUTIONS
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*providing analyses and solutions
for sustainable food systems and
stronger communities*

The certification process



What standard?

Canadian Organic Standards:

- Made up of 2 volumes
 - [CAN/CGSB 32.310 General Principles and Management Standards](#)
 - [CAN/CGSB 32.311 Permitted Substances Lists](#)

Transition

Varies:

- Land can take up to 36 months
- Ruminates, bees must transition for a year
- Sprout, mushroom, and greenhouse container operations and processors, are certified once verified as compliant

Choosing your CB

Accreditation	Certifier	Scope ¹	Entry Window ²	Office Hours ³	Geographic Area ⁴	Standard ⁵	Other Services ⁶
ISO	BCARA, BC Assoc. for Regenerative Agriculture	F, P/H	AA new AD renewal Mar31	PT	Fraser Valley/Canyon, Sunshine Coast, Gulf Islands, Okanagan, Vancouver Island	C	G
ISO	FVOPA, Fraser Valley Organic Producers Association	F, P/H, OFP	AA	FT	Canada Wide	C	G
ISO	PACS, Pacific Agricultural Certification Society	F, P/H, OFP	AA	FT	Canada wide	C	
Regional	BIO D, Biodynamic Agricultural Society of BC	F	AD Mar 31	PT	E	C, Demeter International	
Regional	BOPA, Boundary Organic Producers Assoc.	F, P/H	AA new AD renewal Mar 31	PT	Boundary (mostly)	C	
Regional	IOPA, Island Organic Producers Assoc.	F, OFP, P/H	AA	PT	Vancouver Island and the other Gulf Islands	C, Guidelines available at: www.iopa.ca	G, ES, listserve, resource directory
Regional	KOGS, Kootenay Organic Growers Society	F, P/H, OFP	AD Mar 31	10 hrs per month	East of Creston, Kootenay South, Nakusp South	C	G, FT, mid- season gatherings
Regional	LEOGA, Living Earth Organic Growers Assoc.	F	AD Mar 31	V	Okanagan & Similkameen up to Peachland, Naramata and Oliver	C	
Regional	NOOA, North Okanagan Organic Assoc.	F	AA	PT	E	C	G, ES, M
Regional	SOOPA, Similkameen Okanagan Organic Producers Association	F, OFP	March 31	PT	Mainly Similkameen & south Okanagan Valleys	C + whole farm policy	
Regional	STOPA, Shuswap Thompson Organic Producers Assoc.	F, OFP	AA AD renewal Mar 31	V	Thompson/Nicola, Fraser Canyon	C	G,M

Other fundamentals

- Parallel production – not allowed
- Transition plan – required
- Buffers – required (were applicable)
- Commingling – not allowed
- Sufficient records – required
- Approved inputs – required
- Approved labels – required