GUIDE TO ORGANIC EQUIVALENCY

Navigating International Organic Equivalency Arrangements

www.pro-cert.org
Background

Countries with similar organic regulatory programs are entering into “Equivalency Arrangements” to facilitate trade of essentially similar organic products. These “arrangements” are usually bilateral undertakings whereby two countries accept each other’s program and products with or without exception. This document serves as a Guide to these arrangements and the rules and critical variances associated with each. Up to date information pertaining to these arrangements is also available at www.pro-cert.org.

Canada/US Equivalency Arrangement (COR/NOP)

Effective: June 30, 2009

A “two-way” import-export agreement whereby products certified to either country’s organic program can be represented and sold as organic in either country.

Critical Variances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products Exported to the United States</th>
<th>Products Exported to Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. of plant origin</td>
<td>1. of plant origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) no restrictions</td>
<td>(a) cannot be produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with Chilean Nitrate (NaN03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Cannot be produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>via hydroponic or aero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ponic techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. of animal origin</td>
<td>2. of animal origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Animal products treated</td>
<td>(a) Agricultural products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with antibiotics shall not be</td>
<td>derived from non-ruminant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marketed as organic in the United</td>
<td>animals must be produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States.</td>
<td>according to livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stocking rates as set out in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAN/CGSB-32.310-2006-32.310-2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Country of Product Origin: Organic products may originate from any country in the world.

Scope of Arrangement:
The scope or range of products which can be certified under the COR is substantially narrower than that permitted under the NOP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Scope</th>
<th>COR</th>
<th>NOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In Scope</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONLY food and drinks intended for human consumption and food intended to feed livestock. Also applies to the cultivation of plants. (See Organic Products Regulation (OPR) Section 2),</td>
<td>ALL products of agricultural and aquacultural origin used for human food and livestock feed as well as others such as: e.g. body care and cosmetics, pet food, “Natural” health products, fibre and textiles, fertilizers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Scope</th>
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<th>NOP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Out of Scope</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other products such as: cosmetics, pet food, natural health products, body care, textile, fertilizers, crop production aids, and products from aquaculture. (See NOP Handbook Policy Memo 11-12)</td>
<td>Products not of agricultural origin and products from aquaculture.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An organic aquaculture standard is available in Canada under the auspices of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) but is not incorporated as part of the Organic Products Regulations 2009 (OPR). See http://www.pro-cert.org/en/certification/standards-regulations. A separate NOP standard for aquaculture does not exist at this time but is under development.

American organic products outside the scope of the NOP are automatically outside the scope of the COR and hence cannot be certified to the COR for sale in the USA, Canada or elsewhere.

Certification & Paper Work:
Certification/Attestation of compliance with the COR/NOP Equivalency Arrangement by a CFIA or USDA accredited certifying body is the sole requirement.

Labeling Rules:
COR and NOP logos may be used on products originating in either country for products with 95% or more organic content. Importing country organic and other product labeling requirements must be complied with.

Canada/European Union Equivalency Arrangement (COR/EU)

Effective: June 21, 2011

A “two-way” import-export agreement whereby products certified to either country’s organic program can be represented and sold as organic in either country.

Critical Variances: NONE!
Country of Product Origin:
Products certified to the EU organic program originating from a European Union member country can be exported to Canada under this arrangement.
Products and ingredients certified to the COR, originating in Canada, can be exported to the EU under this arrangement.
All ingredients in a single or multi-ingredient food or feed product must have been grown in Canada.

Scope of Arrangement:
Products outside the scope of either the COR or the EU cannot be certified/attested to comply with the COR/EU. Examples of products outside the scope of this arrangement are: multi-ingredient products with ingredients not grown in Canada, pet food, aquaculture, cosmetics, textiles and furniture.

Labeling Requirements:
Labeling requirements must be complied with.

Certification & Paper Work:
Certification/Attestation of compliance with the COR and or EU organic regulations by a CFIA or EU accredited certifying body is a common requirement for both countries.
Canadian organic products exported to the EU under the COR/EU must be accompanied by a “Certificate of Inspection for Import of products from Organic product into the European Community” (the ‘Certificate of Inspection’) as per Article 13 and Annex V of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008. This document must be completed by the exporter and approved by the CFIA approved Certification Body certifying the product as organic. Organic products imported into Canada from an EU country only require a Certificate of Compliance to the EU regulations (EC) No 834/2007.

Labeling Rules:
CROP and EU logos may be used on products originating in either country for products with 95% or more organic content. Importing country organic and other product labeling requirements must be complied with.

US/Japan Equivalency Arrangement (NOP/JAS)

Effective: June 1, 2012
A “two-way” import-export arrangement whereby products certified to either country’s organic program can be represented and sold as organic in either country.

Critical Variances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products Exported to the United States</th>
<th>Products Exported to the European Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics may not be exported to the U.S.</td>
<td>1. Organic crops produced using antibiotics (streptomycin for fire blight control in apples and pears) may not be exported to the EU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Organic aquatic animals (e.g. fish, shellfish) may not be exported to the U.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Country of Product Origin:
The arrangement is limited to organic products of EU or U.S. origin. This includes products that have been either (1) produced within the U.S. or EU or (2) products whose final processing or packaging occurs within the U.S. or EU.
Products processed or packaged in the U.S. or EU that contain organic ingredients from foreign sources that have been legally imported as organic into the U.S. or into the EU are also covered by the arrangement.

Scope of Arrangement:
Includes all organic products of agricultural origin included within the scope of the USDA-NOP and EU Regulations with the exception of aquaculture.

Certification & Paper Work:
Certification/Attestation of compliance with the NOP and or EU organic regulations by an NOP or EU accredited certifying body is a common requirement for both countries.
U.S. organic products exported to the EU under the NOP/EU must be accompanied by a “Certificate of Inspection for Import of products from Organic product into the European Community” (the “Certificate of Inspection”) as per Article 13 and Annex V of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008. This document must be completed by the exporter and approved by the NOP Accredited Certification Body certifying the product as organic.
All EU organic products exported to the US under the NOP/EU Equivalency Arrangement must be accompanied by an “NOP Import Certificate”. This document must be completed by the exporter and approved by the EU Accredited Certification Body certifying the product as organic.

Labeling Rules:
NOP and EU logos may be used on products originating in either country for products with 95% or more organic content. Importing country organic and other product labeling requirements must be complied with.
products, and animal based processed products may not be certified as JAS equivalent, however can still be exported to Japan as NOP certified only.

**Certification & Paper Work:**
When exported to Japan, USDA Organic plant and plant based products must be accompanied by an Export Certificate (TM-11) issued by the exporter’s Certifying Agent. An Export Certificate is also required for alcohol products which bear the word “organic” in the Japanese language. An Export Certificate is not required for organic animal or animal based processed products or alcohol products which bear the word “organic” in English only.

Japanese products exported to the U.S. must be accompanied by a USDA NOP Import Certificate completed in Japan by a MAFF recognized or USDA accredited certifying body.

**Labeling Rules:**
All organic plant or plant based products sold in Japan must bear the JAS seal, and be labeled in compliance with JAS requirements and may bear the USDA organic seal. Exporters may apply the JAS seal if they have a contract with a JAS certified importer in Japan or if they are certified by a JAS recognized certification body in the US. US exporters not meeting this requirement must export to a JAS certified importer which must apply the JAS logo to the product prior to sale in Japan.

USDA Organic products exported to Japan may be labeled as “Organic.” Japan does not have a category for “100% Organic.” However, such products may still be sold in Japan as “Organic.” Japan also does not have a category for “Made with” organic products containing less than 95% organic content. These products may not be labeled as organic in Japan. Organic animal and animal based processed products must not bear the JAS seal and may be labeled in compliance with NOP requirements.

Japanese products exported to the U.S. must be labeled in compliance with NOP requirements. All traded retail product labels or stickers must state “Certified Organic by (insert name of Japan recognized or USDA accredited certifying body)” below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the product.

Products certified as “organic” in Japan may also be sold as “organic” in the U.S. and may bear the JAS logo or USDA Organic seal. Japanese “organic” products to be sold as “100% Organic” in the U.S. must contain 100 percent organic ingredients and processing aids and may bear the JAS logo or USDA Organic seal.

Japanese products exported to the U.S. to be sold as “Made with” organic products must be certified in compliance with the NOP requirements as there is no corresponding category in Japan. These products must not bear the JAS logo or USDA Organic seal.

**Canada/Japan Equivalency Arrangement (COR/JAS)**

**Effective:** January 1, 2015

A new “two-way” import-export arrangement whereby products certified to either country’s organic program can be represented and sold as organic in either country.

**Critical Variances:** NONE!

**Country of Product Origin:**
The arrangement is limited to organic products of Canadian or Japan origin. This includes products that have been either: (1) produced within Canada or Japan; or (2) products whose final processing or packaging occurs within Canada or Japan.

**Scope of Arrangement:**
The scope or range of products which can be certified under the JAS is narrower than that permitted under the COR. The JAS program permits the certification of organic plant and plant based products only. Animal products, and animal based processed products may not be certified as JAS equivalent, however can still be exported to Japan as COR certified only.

**Certification & Paper Work:**
When exported to Japan, Canadian Organic plant and plant based products must be accompanied by a Verification of Organic Status (VOS) or equivalent document issued by the exporter’s Certifying Agent. An Organic Certificate is also required for alcohol products which bear the word “organic” in the Japanese language. Japanese products imported to Canada must be accompanied by an organic certificate issued by a Japanese registered Certification Body.

**Labeling Rules:**
All organic plant or plant based products exported to Canada must comply with the Japanese labeling requirements, the Food Sanitation Act and other related registration. Canadian exporters who have a contract with a JAS-certified importer may apply the JAS logo to their products directly for sale in either Japan or Canada. Canadian exporters who do not have a contract with a JAS-certified importer may not apply the JAS logo to their products prior to export. A JAS-certified importer must import the product, and the importer must apply the JAS logo to the product prior to sale within Japan. All Japanese organic products covered under this arrangement imported into Canada must meet Canadian labelling requirements and may bear the Canada Organic logo. All the foods imported to Canada must meet the regulatory requirements under Canada Agricultural Products Act and Regulations, Food and Drug Act and Regulation and Consumer Packaging and labelling Act and Regulations applicable to the food.
US/Taiwan Export Arrangement

Effective: March 18, 2009

A “one-way” export arrangement whereby raw or processed agricultural products (including livestock products) from US operations certified to the USDA NOP can be represented and sold in Taiwan as organic.

Critical Variances: NONE!

Country of Product Origin: The USA.

Scope of Arrangement: This trade arrangement includes all USDA organic products produced in the United States or its territories. USDA organic products produced outside the United States are not included in this arrangement.

Certification & Paper Work: When exported to Taiwan, USDA Organic products must be accompanied by an organic transaction certificate (TM-11). The TM-11 verifies that the product complies with the terms of the trade arrangement. Certifying agents must be approved by the USDA to issue TM-11 certificates.

Products and crops produced under this arrangement must be accompanied by documentation that includes the statement “Organic agricultural products and organic processed products, accompanied by this certificate, were produced or processed using zero prohibited substances.” Livestock and meat products must be accompanied by documentation that includes the statement “Organic livestock products accompanied by this certificate, were managed and produce without the use of systemic pain killers or analgesics, including the use of Lidocaine or Procaine”.

Labeling Rules: NONE!

US/Korea Equivalency Arrangement (US/Korea)

Effective: July 1, 2014

A “two-way” import-export arrangement whereby products certified to either country’s organic program can be represented and sold as organic in either country.

Critical Variances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products Exported to the United States</th>
<th>Products Exported to Korea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Animal products treated with antibiotics shall not be marketed as organic in the United States.</td>
<td>1. Organic crops produced using antibiotics (streptomycin for fire blight control in apples and pears) may not be exported to Korea.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Country of Product Origin: All organic products produced and/or processed within the US or Korea are included in the arrangement so long as they fall within the scope of the importing countries organic program. Final processing of the products must occur in the US or Korea respectively.

Scope of Arrangement: This trade arrangement includes all US and Korean “processed products” as defined by the Korean Food Code. Products not meeting this definition must be certified to the importing countries organic program directly and are not covered by this equivalency arrangement. Products must contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients.

Certification & Paper Work: All US organic products exported to Korea under the NOP/Korea Equivalency Arrangement must be accompanied by a “NAQS Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods” (the “Certificate of Inspection”). This document must be completed by the exporter and approved by the NOP Accredited Certification Body certifying the product as organic. The document must include the statement: “Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Korea Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”

All Korean organic products exported to the US under the NOP/Korea Equivalency Arrangement must be accompanied by an “NOP Import Certificate.” This document must be completed by the exporter and approved by the Korean Accredited Certification Body certifying the product as organic.

Canada/Taiwan Export Arrangement

Effective: 2011

A “one-way” export arrangement whereby raw or processed agricultural products within the scope of the COR grown in Canada and certified to the COR can be represented and sold in Taiwan as organic.

Critical Variances: NONE!

Country of Product Origin: Canada

Scope of Arrangement: This trade arrangement includes all organic products produced in Canada within the scope of the COR. Organic products certified to the COR produced outside of Canada are not included in this arrangement.

Certification & Paper Work: When exported to Taiwan, COR certified organic products must be accompanied by an organic transaction certificate or Verification of Organic Status (VOS) document which includes the following information:

1. The name and address of the agricultural product business operator;
Labeling Rules:
NOP and Korean logos may be used on products originating in either country for products with 95% or more organic content. Importing country organic and other product labeling requirements must be complied with.

Canada/Switzerland Equivalency Arrangement (COR/Swiss)

Effective: December 18, 2012

A “two-way” import-export arrangement whereby products certified to either country’s organic program can be represented and sold as organic in either country.

Critical Variances: NONE!
Country of Product Origin: All organic products produced and/or processed within Canada or Switzerland are included in the arrangement so long as they fall within the scope of the importing countries organic program.

Scope of Arrangement:
This trade arrangement includes all Canadian and Swiss organic products produced and processed in the respective country using ingredients of Canadian, Swiss or EU member state origin.

Certification & Paper Work:
Canadian organic products exported to Switzerland under the COR/Swiss must be accompanied by a “Certificate of Inspection for Import of Products from Organic Production (the ‘Certificate of Inspection’) as per Article 24 of the Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance. This document must be completed by the exporter and approved by the CFIA Accredited Certification Body certifying the product as organic.

Labeling Rules:
COR and Swiss recognized logos may be used on products originating in either country for products with 95% or more organic content. Importing country organic and other product labeling requirements must be complied with. EU requirements regarding certifier code numbers also apply in Switzerland.

Canada/Costa Rica Equivalency Arrangement (COR/Costa Rica)

Effective: March 28, 2013

A “two-way” import-export arrangement whereby products certified to either country’s organic program can be represented and sold as organic in either country.

Critical Variances: NONE!
Country of Product Origin: Products exported to Costa Rica must be produced and certified in Canada. Products exported to Canada must be produced and processed in Costa Rica.

Scope of Arrangement:
This trade arrangement includes all Canadian and Costa Rican organic products produced and processed in the respective countries.

Certification & Paper Work:
Canadian organic products exported to Costa Rica must be accompanied by an organic certificate issued by a CFIA accredited Certifying Body. Costa Rican organic products exported to Canada must be accompanied by an organic certificate issued by a Costa Rican accredited Certification Body.

Labeling Rules:
COR and Costa Rican recognized logos may be used on products originating in either country for products with 95% or more organic content. Importing country organic and other product labeling requirements must be complied with.

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