

NEW AND NOTABLE REVISIONS TO THE CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS FOR CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION*

CAN/CGSB-32.310 ORGANIC PRODUCTION SYSTEMS: GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

Organic principles updated.

PROHIBITIONS

1.4 b Nanotechnology: exceptions better defined.

ORGANIC PLAN

4.4.4 Preventing GE contamination: new risk management plan required.

MAINTAINING ORGANIC INTEGRITY

(Clause 8) Product preparation/ Facility management requirements: Crops (5.8/5.9), Livestock (6.9./6.10) and Specialty Crops (7) cite clause 8.

ORGANIC PRODUCT COMPOSITION

Moved to Clause 9 and rewritten to improve clarity. 32.310 Annex A helpfully summarizes clause 9 in a single table.

CROP PRODUCTION - CAN/CGSB-32.310

4.4.4 and 5.1.4/5.2.2 d

Protecting against GE contamination:

Risk management plans and strategies (see p. 11).

5.5.2.6 Animals/Manure in cropping fields:

Manage livestock so as to protect against human pathogen contamination of crops.

Maple Production

7.2.11.3 New and replacement stainless steel storage tanks: tin-lead soldered joints prohibited.

7.2.13.2 Reverse osmosis units: Cleaning requirements defined.

Greenhouse Production

7.5 Containerized greenhouse production: soil media volume /content defined.

5.2.2 **Fence posts:** Use alternatives to treated posts (CCA), subject to commercial availability.

5.7 **Irrigation:** Precaution required to prevent contamination of land and organic products with prohibited substances.

Mushroom Production

7.3.2.1-7.3.2.3 Production substrates defined.

7.4 "Sprout Production" title changed to:

"**Sprouts, shoots and micro-greens production;**" covers all crops harvested within 30 days of imbibition.

7.5.3 **Hydroponics** remains prohibited, to be reviewed in 2020.

8.1.5 **Grain bulk storage:** Requirements to prevent commingling added.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION - CAN/CGSB-32.310

6.1.3 a ii **Feed:** Spring/summer grazed forage must rise above 30%.

6.1.6 Production activity must promote **animal welfare.** Related plans and necessary corrective actions must be demonstrated and documented.

6.2.4 **Breeding:** Clarity added regarding adding non-organic animals.

6.3.3 **Herbivores:** Clarity added regarding the use of transitional pasture and feed.

6.4.3 **Young mammals/newborns:** Specific requirements provided.

6.4.3 g **Extraordinary weather events** exception permits increased grain ration.

6.7.4 **Cleaning substances** suitable for livestock facilities outlined.

6.11-6.15 **Living conditions:** Additional requirements provided for livestock (see related article, page 19).

6.12. **Dairy barns:** Electric trainer use limited. Existing tie-stalls allowed, if winter exercise rules are met. Farms that cannot comply have a year to present new construction plans (see page 28).

Poultry (see p. 25)

6.13.1 b Layer flock size limited to 10,000 birds.

6.13.1 c Outdoor runs must be used as outlined; protection from predators shall be provided.

6.13.1 h Meat birds: ages defined for required access to the outdoors.

6.13.2 Pullets must be trained to go outdoors and to be used to daylight.

6.13.5 Popholes: Number, size and location defined.

6.13.8 Natural lighting requirements elaborated.

6.13.9 Poultry densities (indoors/outdoor runs) defined.

6.13.10 Multi-level aviaries: Space restrictions defined.

6.13.11 Pasture based operations with mobile units: stocking density and movement of pens defined.

6.14 **Rabbits:** Requirements added.

6.15 **Pig farrowing crates** prohibited. Specifics added regarding restraint.

Bees

7.1.9 Queens and replacement colonies should be from organic sources.

7.1.10 Hive location and buffer zones: specifics added regarding limiting exposure to prohibited substances.

PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS FOR CROPS - CAN/CGSB-32.311

4.1.3 GE prohibitions spelled out for substances sourced using substrates and growth media.

TABLE 4.2

Soil Amendments and Crop Nutrition

New listings

- Biochar
- Anaerobic Digestate
- Meat meal

Revised listings

- Zinc and Iron - sulphuric acid sources permitted
- Potassium sulphate: ion exchange is acceptable
- Minerals re-organized
- Fish products: New pH adjustment allowed
- **Compost feedstocks**
Testing limited to persistent compost contaminants; source-separated yard debris (grass clippings and leaves) and paper yard waste bags allowed. Manure used as a feedstock is no longer exempt from testing requirements.

TABLE 4.3

Crop Production Aids and Materials

New listings

- Chitin
- Salt for mushroom production
- Clove oil for controlling sprouting in potatoes
- Minerals from seawater
- Acetic acid (as an herbicide)

Revised listings

- **Biodegradable mulches:** must be 100% bio-based. Temporary exemption lets operators use up existing inventory of non-compliant mulches without end-of-season lifting (see p. 8).
- Rotenone deleted

PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION - CAN/CGSB-32.311

5.1.2 GE prohibitions spelled out for substances sourced using substrates and growth media.

TABLE 5.2

Feed, Feed Additives and Feed Supplements

New/revised listings include:

- Enzymes
- Hay or silage preservation products
- Molasses - must be organic
- Probiotics

TABLE 5.3

Health Care Products and Production Aids

New/revised listings include:

- Non-synthetic acids for drinking water treatments
- Formulants (inerts, excipients) can be used with Table 5.3 substances
- Micro-organisms and yeasts
- Paraffin: food grade, for use in hives
- Physical teat seals: for post-lactation use
- Prebiotics, Probiotics
- Sodium hydroxide for use in dehorning paste
- Sedatives such as xylazine permitted
- Rotenone deleted

PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS - CAN/CGSB-32.311 **NEW Annex A** provides a complete, alphabetized PSL



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