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Date: December 16, 2016

**Attention: All Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) designated Conformity Verification Bodies (CVB) and accredited Certification Bodies (CB)**

**Re: Implementation of revised Canadian Organic Standards - Amended**

Revised versions of the Canadian Organic Standards (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB 32.311) were published on November 25, 2015. As per ISO 17065, when a certification scheme introduces new or revised requirements that affect the client, the CB shall ensure these changes are communicated to all clients. The CB shall verify the implementation of the changes by its clients and shall take actions required by the scheme. As per section C.5.1 of the Canada Organic Office (COO) Operating Manual, the CB is required to notify all its operators of any amendments to the regulations or standards within two months after publication.

In order to clarify the process of implementing changes to the 2015 revised standards, a CFIA memo was issued on February 23, 2016 stipulating that the CBs could grant a period of up to 12 months to previously certified operators to comply with changes. The memo stated that those operators were required to demonstrate conformity to the new requirements by November 25, 2016.

The Canadian Organic Standards published in 2015 needed additional revision in order to clarify the scope of certain clauses or to make some clauses compatible with the industry practices.

Revised versions of the Canadian Organic Standards are expected to be published by the Canadian General Standards Board early in 2017.

In light of the anticipated revisions, starting on November 25, 2016 until publication of the 2017 amendments of the CGSB standards (CGSB 32.310 and CGSB 32.311), CBs shall classify findings to the revisions to the clauses outlined below, as opportunities for improvement. In addition, CBs should reclassify any pending NC issued against the current (2015 version) standard related to the clauses below to opportunities for improvement.

Clauses:

CAN/CGSB-32.310:  
Greenhouse Crops, clause 7.5.5 b), c) and d)

CAN/CGSB-32.311:  
Table 4.2 Digestate, anaerobic



Canadian Food  
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d'inspection des aliments

Table 4.2 Sulphur, elemental

Table 4.3 Biological organisms

Table 4.3 Formulants

Table 5.2 Acids for water treatment

Table 5.2 Amino acids – only related to the use of DL-methionine, DL-methionine—hydroxy analog and DL-methionine—hydroxy analog calcium 15 (CAS#'s 59-51-8, 853-91-5, 4857-44-7, and 922-50-9) in hog production

Table 6.5 Ascorbic acid (vitamin C)

Permitted substances lists for cleaners, disinfectants and sanitizers, clause 7.1.3

Table 8.2 Diatomaceous Earth

The CFIA will issue a memo outlining the implementation timeframes of the new 2017 version at time of publication.

If any additional clarity is required in specific situations, please follow the established communication channels.

Sincerely,

Valeriya Staykova

Lead Auditor Canada Organic Regime

Food Import Export and Consumer Protection Directorate

