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All Clients sending NOP product to Canada, or COR product to the US

NOP Clients:

Please note that the NOP recently clarified its position on the terms of the US/Canada Equivalency Agreement. A statement was made by the NOP in June, 2009 indicating that processed products were exempt from verification with the requirements of the Agreement. This interpretation of the Agreement was different from that of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which always maintained that the whole supply chain is relevant and needs to be verified.

On November 4, 2010, the NOP acknowledged that they share the same interpretation of the US/Canada Equivalency Agreement as the CFIA, and that the whole supply chain will need to be verified.

The three requirements of the equivalency agreement for NOP product going to Canada are:

1. Each product/ingredient is produced without the use of Chilean (sodium) nitrate;
2. Products/ingredients are not produced hydroponically/aerophonically;
3. Animal ingredients are from animals that have stocking rates that are equal to or greater than those set out for animals in the Canadian standard.

For NOP processors and distributors/producers of processed products, you will need to have a plan of action to come into compliance with these requirements over the next two years. As we understand that supply chains can be extensive, we are providing you this information as soon as possible, so that you may make operators in your supply chain aware of these requirements.

NOP and COR Clients:

In order to keep both NOP and COR clients apprised of the latest updates to the equivalency agreement, QAI has created the *US/Canada Equivalence Verification Program* document. This four question document outlines the requirements for clients on both sides of the border relative to the Agreement.

If you are an NOP client shipping product to Canada, or a Canadian client shipping product to the US, you will be asked to fill out this form at the time of renewal. This document will be provided in renewal emails starting in January 2011. You may, of course, request this document from your Certification Project Manager at any time, and fill it out prior to your annual renewal.

If you have any questions about the US/Canada Equivalency Agreement, please contact your Certification Project Manager, or QAI Canada Specialist, Kasey Moctezuma at Kasey@qai-inc.com