



Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries

CFIA Organic Certification Overview

June 15, 2026

CFIA Organic Certifications

Section A: CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Organic Certification

Effective May 26, 2025, importers must provide an organic certification. This is a document proving that a product meets the organic standards set by CFIA. It is required for all organic imports into Canada and must be issued by an accredited certification body. All importers must be able to present a valid organic certification upon request.

Purpose

- Reduce the risk of organic food fraud.
- Meet expectations of trading partners.
- Strengthen oversight of organic import requirements.
- Enables more reliable data on imported organic products.
- Improves traceability of imported organic products.
- Creates a level playing field for organic products in Canada.

Responsibilities of the Supplier

- Ensure that all imported organic products meet the Canadian Organic Standards set by CFIA.
- Provide Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries with a valid certification to CBSA/CFIA prior to product arrival at the border.
- Maintain up-to-date records.

Section B: VALID ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

When is a Certification Required?

- Must have a valid organic certification for imported products that:
 - Claims to be “organic.”
 - Claims to be “made with “X% organic ingredients.”
- If the product has a label claiming this, an organic certification is required to support it.

Requirements for a Valid Certification

- Have the organic standard listed.
- The name of the product must be clearly identified and match the product label.
- The date of certification must be listed.
- Specify the standard to which the products are certified.
- The certification must be recent.

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- The certification must be issued by the Certification Body of the last certified operator/exporter.

Renewal of Certificates

- Typically, valid for 1 year from the issue date. Expiration/renewal date will appear on all certificates.
- If it expires, a new certificate must be sent to MBLL before the next shipment.

Organic Equivalency Agreements

The organic certificate must be issued by a certified body that is accredited by the CFIA or by an accredited certification body recognized under an existing international organic equivalency agreement:

- US Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (USCOEA)
- EU Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (EUCOEA)
- Japan Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (JCOEA)
- Taiwan Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (TCOEA)
- Switzerland Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (SCOEA)
- Costa Rica Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (CRCOEA)
- United Kingdom-Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement (UKCOEA)
- Mexico-Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement
- South Korea –Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement

Verify the Legitimacy of an Organic Certificate

- This is an organic certification flowchart provided to verify legitimacy:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-labels/organic-products/organic-claims-enforcement>

Section C: LABELLING OF PRODUCT

Criteria for Labelling a Product as Organic

- To be labelled or advertised as organic, a product must:
 - Contain organic content greater than or equal to 95%.
 - Be certified under part 13 of the SFCR.

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-108/page-20.html#h-846236>

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Label Requirements

- Products with $\geq 95\%$ organic content can be labelled as:
 - “Organic”
 - “Organically grown”
 - “Organically raised”
 - “Organically produced”
- Products with $\geq 95\%$ organic content can bear the Canada organic logo if the product complies with SFCR Part 13.
- The “organic” claim must appear in both English and French.
- The name of the certification body must be clearly printed anywhere on the product, except the bottom of the container.
- When an ingredient list is required, the organic contents must be clearly identified within the list.



Label for Imported Products

If the product is imported and uses the Canada Organic Logo, it must include:

- The statement “product of,” immediately before the country name
- The word “imported,” placed in close proximity to the organic logo.
 - Both statements must appear in French and English

Section D: EFFECTS OF INCOMPLETE INFORMATION

Missing Certificate

- No URN or certification = immediate system rejection
- MBLL will receive a reject message in the system.
- Your shipment will not be processed further until the proper documentation has been gathered.
- Shipments will not be automatically refused, but delays will occur which can result in carrier fees, which will be forwarded to the supplier.
- Inability to present a current and valid certificate could result in the shipment being refused.

CFIA Review

- CFIA will review the certificates after importation to check if they are:
 - Invalid, incorrect, expired, fraudulent.
 - CFIA will contact the importer and investigate if any of these occur.
- If there are any issues, CFIA may:
 - Ask for supporting documents.
 - Request clarification of what went wrong.

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- Require the product to be relabeled at the importers' expense which will be forwarded to the supplier.
- Initiate compliance or enforcement action if there is a serious non-compliance issue or fraud is found.

References

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-labels/organic-products/organic-claims-enforcement>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/importing-food-plants-animals/airs>

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-108/page-20.html#h-846236>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-labels/organic-products/organic-claims-enforcement>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-labels/organic-products>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-labels/labelling/industry/organic-claims>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-labels/organic-products/certification-bodies/list-certification-bodies>

[Organic claims on food labels - inspection.canada.ca](https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-labels/organic-products/certification-bodies/list-certification-bodies)