

Use of the Canada Organic Logo on imported organic products

Date: August 7th, 2015

To: Certification Bodies accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Conformity Verification Bodies designated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Subject: Use of the Canada Organic Logo on imported organic products

The purpose of this memo is to clarify when an organic product is considered an imported organic product in accordance with Section 25(c) of the OPR.

Section 25(c) of the *Organic Product Regulations* (OPR) requires any imported product certified under the OPR and bearing the Canada Organic Logo on the label to have the statement "Product of "immediately preceding the name of the country of origin or the statement "Imported" in close proximity to the legend. The intent of Section 25(c) of the OPR is to prevent consumer confusion regarding the country of origin of the product, as the logo contains a maple leaf and the words "Canada Organic".

Imported Products under the section 25 (c) of the OPR

Under the OPR, imported organic products are those wholly produced and processed outside of Canada. No processing steps that modify the nature of the product are performed in Canada. The addition, removal or combination of one or more ingredients, physical or chemical processing including grinding and blending, are examples of processes that modify the nature of a product.

Packaging and labelling activities performed in Canada, including certification of those activities, are not considered to modify the nature of the product.

Examples of imported products under the OPR:

- Taco seasoning packaged in the same container it will be sold to the consumer.
- Nuts imported in bulk (already roasted and salted) and are only canned in Canada.

Examples of products not considered imported under the OPR:

- Macademia nuts imported in bulk and are then roasted, salted and canned in Canada.
- Chocolate imported in bulk and blended with other products, packaged and labelled in Canada.

Please note that the requirements concerning the identification of the country of origin when using the Canada Organic Logo on a label are different than the requirements found in the Guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" Claims. These latter requirements can be found at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/food-labelling-for-industry/origin/eng/1393622222140/1393622515592>.

Requirements for these latter requirements are not verified by the CFIA-accredited Certification Bodies under the Canada Organic Regime.

Valeriya Staykova
Lead Auditor/ Vérificatrice principale
Canada Organic Regime/Regime Bio-Canada
Valeriya.Staykova@inspection.gc.ca