



1400 Merivale Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9

Date: January 26, 2023

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

Subject: Implementation of the United States Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program (USDA NOP) requirements regarding imports from India to clarify documentation requirements, including Canada Organic Regime (COR)-certified products

This letter issued by the CFIA is intended to inform the CFIA designated CVBs and the CFIA accredited Certification Bodies of the recent USDA NOP clarification on documentation requirements, including COR-certified products exported to the U.S.

The USDA NOP has recently revised their [webpage](#) to provide further clarification on the documentation requirements for imports from India including Indian COR-certified products.

All COR certified organic products exported to the U.S. must be accompanied by an organic certificate issued by a COR-accredited CB recognized under the terms of the U.S.-Canada equivalence arrangement. The organic certificate issued by the CFIA accredited CB must include the following attestation statement:

“Certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S.-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement.”

For all COR-certified organic products produced and/or handled in India that are exported to the U.S directly or via Canada:

- COR CBs and operations are responsible for verifying the organic integrity of all shipments coming into the U.S. under the equivalency arrangement. TraceNet certificates are a [Government of India requirement \(pdf\)](#) for products to be exported as organic, and are an important tool in this verification.
- COR CBs and operations are to require and maintain any other documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance of the full supply chain, which may include COR and USDA organic certificates, and other supply chain documentation (e.g., load quantities, lot numbers, production sources, other supply chain records, traceability documents), and the required TraceNet certificates.
- The NOP Import Certificate, currently required for all certified USDA organic products imported to the U.S. from India, is also an important tool that can help assess compliance. The NOP Import Certificate will become mandatory for all imports including those from Canada to the U.S with the implementation of the now-published Strengthening Organic Enforcement final rule when it comes into effect in 2024.

To view the full page please use the following link: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/international-trade/Canada>



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

All CFIA accredited CBs are required to incorporate these revised requirements into their policies and procedures no later than March 1, 2023.

As per clause 7.10.1 of ISO 17065, the CFIA accredited CBs must ensure that all operators are informed of the revised requirements.

The CVBs are required to verify the implementation of the revised requirements by the CBs during the 2023 scheduled audits.

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 Division

