



Organic Agriculture

Since 2009 Canada has had regulations that require agricultural products sold in Canada as "organic" to be certified to the Canadian Organic Standards. These standards are developed by a committee operating under the Canadian General Standards Board.

Standards committees consist of representatives from all sectors - industry, government, academia and consumers. Consumer Interest Alliance Inc. (CIAI) is represented on this committee.

The Canadian organic agriculture standard consists of two separate documents. One explains how the system must operate with sections outlining requirements for the various types of production - crops, livestock, etc. - CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015. The other document - CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015 - lists all the substances that are permitted for use in an organic system.

Standards are considered "living documents" that require review and possible revision at least every 5 years but more often if required. The organic standards were reviewed and revised in 2015. The latest versions of the standard are available for download at no cost to consumers by following the links below:

- [*CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015 Organic production systems - general principles and management standards*](#)
- [*CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015 Organic production systems - permitted substances lists*](#)