

Essential Elements of Organic Certification Standards

The essential elements of the OC/PRO International Organic Standards and The National Standard of Canada for organic processors are as follows:

- 1. Pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides, and genetically modified organisms (GMO's), or products derived thereof are prohibited from use.*
- 2. The processor must maintain and update an Organic Processing and Handling Plan.*
- 3. The processor must maintain a listing of all raw materials and other ingredients used in the processing, handling and storage of organic produce.*
- 4. All raw materials processed by a wholly organic plant or processed during an organic interval in a multiple use plant must be assessed by OCPP Ontario Inc., in the context of necessity and intended use.*
- 5. The producer has adopted soil and crop management practices which minimize soil degradation and which can be sustained on an ongoing basis, the processor has functional recycling/waste management programs.*
- 6. Organic commodities must not be contaminated at any point during interim storage and transportation, including residues from previous cargo(es).*
- 7. Produce storage facilities must be maintained and cleaned on a regular basis and must be free of pesticides. Storage buildings and bins must be identified with permanent numbers or letters.*
- 8. All organic products must be physically separated from non-organic products in such a way that co-mingling cannot occur.*
- 9. The processor must monitor soil and/or water quality on a periodic basis and in a manner appropriate for their processing.*
- 10. The processor must maintain detailed records from raw materials to finished products and production disposition with appropriate lot identification.*

The complete OC/PRO standard may be obtained from the OCPP Ontario Inc. office (address on reverse). The National Standard may be obtained from the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) document # CAN/CGSB-32.310-99.

Conformity and Accreditation

OCPP Ontario Inc. standard operating policies and procedures (SOP's) conform with the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Guide 65:1996(E).

The OCPP Ontario Inc. SOP's and standard also conform with European Economic Community (EEC) Regulation # 2092/91 which is the EEC organic standard.

OCPP/Pro-Cert Alliance

OCPP Ontario Inc. and Pro-Cert Organic Systems have entered into a formal alliance whereby they become Eastern and Western Canadian divisions respectively of OCPP/Pro-Cert Canada Inc. The alliance agreement includes reciprocity of certification, harmonization of operating systems and the utilization of the same internationally harmonized standard.