



## Canadian Food Inspection Agency Official Notice

Date: August 22, 2011

### **Re: Export of Canadian organic products certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement**

On June 17, 2009 the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) exchanged letters confirming the equivalency of the two countries' organic programs.

The Arrangement covers the accreditation system of both regulations in its geographical entirety meaning that agricultural products certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement by a CFIA accredited Certification body are eligible for sale as organic in US. This certification is considered equivalent to a NOP certification.

The US Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement reads:

*Agricultural products produced and handled in Canada in conformity with the Canada Organic Regime , as in effect on June 30, 2009 shall be deemed to have been produced and handled in accordance with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 et seq.) and USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) and may be sold, labeled or represented in the United States as organically produced, including by display of the USDA organic seal as well as the Canadian organic logo."*

Therefore, such Canadian organic products or ingredients, certified by a CFIA-accredited certifying body, are considered equivalent to NOP certified products or ingredients, and can be used in organic products destined for the US market or for final NOP certification.

Operators seeking further clarification or requesting NOP certification can be directed to the Canada Organic Office who will confirm that products exported to the US no longer require NOP certification.

Michel Saumur  
National Manager Canada Organic Office  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

